

History of the Mechanics Rifles (McKenzie Guard), California Militia/National Guard of California 1864-1868

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MECHANICS RIFLES (Continued)

(McKENZIE GUARD)

Mechanics Rifles, Company H, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 3
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
Mustered in July 19, 1864
Mustered out July 13, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. S. Loveland, Captain	July 19, 1864	
George H. Wilder, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 27, 1865)	July 19, 1864	Aug. 5, 1864
Stillman H. Davenport, Captain	April 25, 1865	May 2, 1865
Francis B. Harrington, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 20, 1865)	May 27, 1865	Aug. 4, 1865
Francis H. Harrington, Captain	Oct. 24, 1865	Nov. 15, 1865
Robert H. Choate, First Lieut.	Nov. 30, 1865	Dec. 13, 1865
Robert G. Gilmore, Captain	Aug. 31, 1866	Sept. 28, 1866
James Durnin, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 7, 1868)	Aug. 31, 1866	Sept. 28, 1866
Charles W. Mulloy, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1868	June 9, 1868

Activities:

Fifty-five citizens signed the call for the formation of a military company and on July 19, 1864, the Mechanics Rifles of San Francisco was organized and H. S. Loveland elected Captain and George H. Wilder, First Lieutenant. On August 22, 1866, the unit decided to change the name of Mechanics Rifles to that of McKenzie Guard in honor of Brigadier-General McKenzie, commanding the Second Brigade.* This was merely a redesignation and the Mechanics Rifles was not mustered out of the service of the State. The Bond was approved and the company received their arms and supplies. They also received fifteen rifles, muskets, and accoutrements, complete, from the commanding officer of Company D, Liberty Guard by order of the Commander-in-Chief.

Aside from drills and parades of annual and special occasions there was no further activities recorded in which the Mechanics Rifles took part.

a letter Captain Gilmore to Gen J. B. Bow

*From Muster Roll, dated August 22nd, 1866, on file Adjutant General's Office.

MECHANICS RIFLES (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In a letter dated June 29, 1868, from J. W. McKenzie, Brigadier-General of the Second Brigade, to Adjutant General James W. Allen at Sacramento, the General stated that the company known as the McKenzie Guard, Company F, Second Infantry, was to be immediately disbanded, and that the arms and clothing in their possession be possessed and forwarded to Sacramento, for the following reasons: First, they had failed to comply with any of the requirements of the Military Law for the past three months. Secondly, they failed to have target practice as the law directed, but endeavored to have it on Sunday, and finally they paraded through San Francisco with but eighteen rank and file. The Brigadier-General further stated that the company was demoralized and a fraud upon the State. In compliance with the above recommendation the organization was discontinued and the McKenzie Guard, mustered out of the service of the State by First Lieutenant E. Irving Smith, Second Infantry, Second Brigade, July thirteenth of that year.

Activities: (Continued)

On July 4, 1864, a petition signed by fifty-six citizens of Lassen County, requesting that the necessary legal steps be taken to organize a company of State Militia, was presented to the Honorable I. J. Farver, County Judge of that County. All legal formalities were complied with and the company, designated as the Honey Lake Rangers, was organized and mustered into the service of the State, on the twentieth day of July 1864 as a company of Cavalry.

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The organization was named after Honey Lake and the famous Honey Lake Valley, in the south-eastern part of Lassen County, where during the late fifties and the early sixties there were serious disputes over the State boundary line and considerable trouble with the Indians of the Washoe, Pah-Wee and Pit River tribes.*

About four months subsequent to its organization, arms and equipment were received and the company became active in drill and target practice. The members established a considerable reputation as marksmen. Although not called into active service, the enrollment held up well until 1866 when the membership was reduced to

.000.

*History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties, California--Fariss and Hatch, 1882, page 378.