

History of the Mokelumne Light Dragoons, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1867

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

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El Dorado Mountaineer MOKELUMNE LIGHT DRAGOONS 4th Cavalry Battalion, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 6
 Mokelumne Light Dragoons, Third Brigade.
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 4
 Location: Lokeford, San Joaquin County
 Mustered in September 5, 1863
 Mustered out August 31, 1867

Commanding Officers		
Name	Rank	Commission
G. C. Holman, Captain	Sept. 5, 1863	Oct. 23, 1863
J. M. Henderson, First Lieut.	Sept. 5, 1863	Oct. 23, 1863
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G. C. Holman, Captain (Re-elected May 6, 1865)		
Robert Taylor, First Lieut.	May 6, 1865	June 7, 1865
Thomas P. Heath, Captain	April 27, 1867	July 23, 1867
S. L. Baird, First Lieut.	April 27, 1867	July 23, 1867

Activities:

In a meeting held in Lokeford, San Joaquin County, September 5, 1863, under the supervision of D. J. Locke, the Mokelumne Light Dragoons was organized and mustered into the service of the State of California, under the command of Captain Holman. This unit was composed of fifty-five of the most loyal Union men to be found in Lokeford during the Civil War. The members were ever ready to aid the authorities in maintaining law and order, or to quell any Secessionist activities in San Joaquin County. After the close of the Civil War, when California was readjusting her militia system and disbanding companies no longer needed the Mokelumne Light Dragoons was reorganized and mustered again into the State Service August 24, 1866, as part of the National Guard of California.

However, in a letter dated August 15, 1867, Captain Heath, who was then in command of the company, informed George S. Evans, the Adjutant-General, that the members of his company in a meeting had unanimously voted not to continue the organization. The principal reason for their decision to disband was the lack of suitable officers to instruct them in drilling. The Adjutant-General ordered Major W. L. Ustick, to assemble the Mokelumne Light Dragoons in the Armory at Lokeford on August 31, 1867, and muster the company out of the service of the State.