

History of the Santa Cruz Cavalry, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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SANTA CRUZ CAVALRY

Santa Cruz Cavalry,* Company F, First Cavalry Regiment, Second Brigade
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 8
 Location: Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County
 Mustered in June 23, 1863
 Mustered out January 16, 1868

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
	<u>Rank</u>		
Cornelius Cole, Captain	June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863	July 9, 1863
Albert Jones, First Lieut.	June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863	July 9, 1863
Orval Root, Captain	Nov. 9, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863
George Anthony, First Lieut.	Nov. 9, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863
Orval Root, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 11, 1865)	<hr/>		<hr/>
Jacob Parsons, First Lieut.	Feb. 11, 1865	Feb. 28, 1865	Feb. 28, 1865

Activities:

The Santa Cruz Cavalry Company was organized at a meeting held in the Court House, Santa Cruz, June 23, 1863, and the following officers were elected: Cornelius Cole, Captain; Albert Jones, First Lieutenant; Henry Jenkins, Senior Second Lieutenant; and Joseph W. Scott as Junior Second Lieutenant. Sixty-one persons joined the organization, and the papers were sent to Brigadier-General John S. Ellis, of the Second Brigade, for approval, July 6, 1863, and were sanctioned the following day with rank of officers-elect taking effect June 23, 1863.

Following is an illustration of the procedure adopted in forming military companies in the early days.**

"The first step taken at organization of Santa Cruz Cavalry was made September 7, 1861, by application of a sufficient number of citizens, fifty-eight, who signed a call for the organization of a Volunteer Company of Cavalry in Santa Cruz County and filed it

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*Designated as Company E, First Regiment of Cavalry, Second Brigade in Muster Roll of October 11, 1866.

**Proceedings of Organization Document dated September 19, 20, 1861. This seems to be an example of the procedure as required by California State Law for the organization of Military Companies.

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SANTA CRUZ CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

with the County Judge, who then nominated and appointed Albert Brown of this county to act as Superintendent of the organization of such a company."

"Pursuant to a public notice, given by posting notices for ten days previous in three public places in the County of Santa Cruz, of the time and place and purpose of a meeting to be held for the purpose of organizing a Volunteer Company of Cavalry; the Santa Cruz Volunteer Company of Cavalry, to be mustered into the service of the United States Army. This company met at the Court House in the town of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, on the nineteenth day of September, A. D. 1861, at four o'clock P. M., for the purpose of organization. The roll of the company was called and fifty-eight members appeared and answered to their names."

The first Muster Rolls were not submitted until the year of 1864. For some reason there was no Muster Report at all for 1863, and this fact was remarked upon in the Adjutant General's Report of that year. However, after March 1864, the Muster Rolls were made with regularity until the company was disbanded.

The men began early to perfect their military efficiency, and were determined to make a good accounting of their unit as a member of the State Militia.

A published letter from Santa Cruz addressed to the editor of the "Pajaro Times" under date of February 10, 1864, is very interesting. In substance, the Cavalry Company held weekly drill meetings and met for parade drill twice each month. The parade drill had an average attendance of about forty men who were becoming very proficient in their military evolutions. The members were uniformed in regulation fatigue dress, consisting of blue flannel trousers, military blouse, and regulation fatigue caps. The officers had provided their sabres and uniforms at their own expense. The writer further commented concerning the company's determination to go ahead, and that it was composed of the right kind of men to accomplish that end. The officers were attentive and energetic men and a credit to the company and the State.

The company had proposed to celebrate the twenty-second of February by a grand parade and drill. The members hoped to receive their arms by that time with the idea of making an impressive appearance, and thereby create a military ardor in the hearts of the civilians.

SANTA CRUZ CAVALRY (Continued)

Little York Union Guard, Company C,* First Division, Fourth Brigade

Activities: (Continued) File, Row 3, File 7

Location: You Bet, Nevada County

Bonds had been given and requisition made for arms and uniforms prior to March 1864. The arms were supplied promptly, but the uniforms had not been received when Captain Root filed his Muster Roll of March 8, 1864. On the Muster Roll he made a notation that having received no aid from the State as to uniforms, the members furnished themselves with good fatigue suits of regulation coat, cap, and blue trousers. According to requisition of December 31, 1866, uniforms were finally provided from headquarters, but evidently they were of inferior quality because Captain Root remarked on the same requisition, "materials bad, in bad order."

The unit maintained its tone and discipline throughout. However, during the last years of its activities there had been so many new recruits that company drill had fallen back as a consequence.

Notwithstanding the loyalty and pride of the members, the company had been a great expense to the officers. This fact seemed to be the reason for the steps taken to disband. Arms and equipment were returned to the Adjutant General's Headquarters promptly and in good order. Some of the uniforms were missing because they had become worn out due to poor quality. Accordingly the Santa Cruz Cavalry was mustered out of service, January 16, 1868.

was given its name in a humorous manner by some of its early residents. This small settlement was full of patriotic fervor during the War of the Rebellion, therefore, seventy-two of the residents petitioned Judge A. C. Miles of Nevada County, to give his permission for the organizing of a volunteer military company. On the twelfth of June 1863, Judge Miles appointed Edward Williams to open the enrollment book for the volunteers' names, at the same time calling a meeting to be held in Dall's Saloon at You Bet on Tuesday, June 23, 1863, at "Seven and one-half o'clock". This legal notice was properly posted by Inspector Williams and a copy of the same attached to the organization papers filed in the Adjutant General's Office. This company was reorganized on August 7, 1866, and became a part of the Fifth Battalion of Infantry of the Fourth Brigade, and was designated as Company C, Little York Union Guard. This change was necessary when the militia of the State was reorganized into the National Guard of California.

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*Designated as Company C under reorganization of 1866.

**Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, Special Order No 24, page 130.

***The Guard took the name of their company from the town of Little York—near which it was located as it was composed of residents from both Little York and You Bet mining settlements.