

History of the Scott Valley Guard, California Militia 1863

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SCOTT VALLEY GUARD (Continued)

Scott Valley Guard, Fifth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 5

Location: Fort Jones, Scott Valley, Siskiyou County

Mustered in June 24, 1863

Mustered out _____

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
D. H. Shaw, Captain (Resigned November 14, 1863)	June 20, 1863	July 9, 1863
R. S. Green, First Lieutenant	June 20, 1863	July 9, 1863

Activities:

Fort Jones was established and for many years occupied by troops of the Federal Service. The town was known by various names, Scottsburg, Scottville and Ottitiewa. The last name was bestowed on the Post Office in 1860, and is an Indian name for the Scott Valley branch of the Shasta tribe of Indians. In 1862, the residents petitioned the Postal Department for the town to be designated as Fort Jones, and the request was granted.*

During the War of the Rebellion many newly organized volunteer companies were added to the State Militia in a patriotic fervor to maintain a home guard that would be training men for service if necessity arose, and at the same time provide for home protection. The regular legal procedure of posting notices for ten days was followed and the first meeting of the citizens for the purpose of organizing a company of Light Infantry was held at the Crystal Creek Church of Scott Valley, June 20, 1863. Forty-seven men signed the Muster Roll from which thirteen men were selected for officers. Brigadier-General Thomas J. Butler of the Fifth Brigade gave his approval of the volunteer company. Commissions were issued for the four officers, Captain Shaw, First Lieutenant R. S. Green, Senior Second Lieutenant J. T. Motley, and Junior Second Lieutenant Oliver Matthews, Since Captain Shaw had seen service in the Mexican War the men elected him to command the new volunteer group believing that he had more ability to lead the military unit. The first three elected officers accepted their commissions and qualified with the prescribed oath, but Oliver Matthews, Junior Second Lieutenant, refused to accept his commission. Captain Shaw was at a loss to know how to act in the matter, but upon advice from Adjutant General Kibbe the commission was returned to Headquarters and placed on file with the company papers. Sergeant A. Perry Van Duzer communicated on June 27, 1863, with Adjutant General Kibbe regarding

*History of Siskiyou County, D. J. Stewart & Company, Oakland, 1881, page 212.

Activities: (Continued)

some instructions as to the furnishing of arms and uniforms. His first question to the General was, "What kind of arms (musket or rifle) did they receive, and how soon could they be procured?" The second question was, "What manual of arms was appropriated for their instruction and were they procurable from the General's Office?" The third question was, "What was the probable cost per man of uniforms and could they be obtained in Sacramento immediately?" The Sergeant concluded by stating that, "A reply to the foregoing at the earliest convenience of the Adjutant General would confer a great favor on the members of the organization."

General Kibbe answered this missive, July 6, 1863, informing the Sergeant that, "The company would receive improved Rifle Muskets as soon as some were turned over to the State. The tactics then in use were "Casey's", procurable from San Francisco; and the probable cost per man for uniforms would be twenty-five dollars, obtainable from Sacramento at any time."

It is evident that the organizing of the Scott Valley Guard never went beyond the embryotic stage, as Captain Shaw again communicated with Adjutant General Kibbe on August fifteenth informing the General that five meetings had been called and the number of members responding was never over fifteen. Considering that forty was the required quota for attendance at meetings, it was the Captain's opinion that it would be impossible to complete the organization. He tendered his resignation at that time, which was accepted by Governor Leland Stanford on August 29, 1863.

The names of the officers were recorded in the Fifth Brigade Book with the notation of one word "Disbanded."* The History of Siskiyou County carries the statement that the company never progressed beyond the election of officers.**

In the Fall of 1863, Company F of the First Battalion of Mountaineers, California Volunteers, was raised at Fort Jones for the purpose of fighting the hostile Indians and in all probability many of these public spirited volunteers joined into the active duty so as to give their services to their country's needs. It might also be assumed that Captain Shaw resigned for this reason and that the Scott Valley Guard was disbanded very shortly after the company's organization.

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*Historical Record Fifth Brigade 1861-1864, page 13, on file Adjutant General's Office.

**History of Siskiyou County, D. J. Stewart & Co., 1881, Oakland, page 191.