

History of the Templar Guard (Sherman Guard), California Militia 1864-1866

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TEMPLAR GUARD

(SHERMAN GUARD)

Activities:

Templar Guard, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 6, File 8

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in June 16, 1864

Mustered out August 3, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James Shepard, Captain (Resigned Aug. 13, 1864)	June 16, 1864	June 27, 1864
Samuel Rounds, First Lieut.	June 16, 1864	June 27, 1864
Samuel Rounds, Captain (Resigned Feb. 17, 1865)	Sept. 1, 1864	Sept. 26, 1864
Stephen Barker, First Lieut.	Sept. 1, 1864	Sept. 26, 1864
Stephen Barker, Captain	Feb. 17, 1865	April 17, 1865
Samuel Rounds, First Lieut.	April 14, 1865	April 28, 1865
Stephen Barker, Captain (Re-elected June 6, 1866)	_____	_____
Samuel Rounds, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 6, 1866)	_____	_____

Activities:

In San Francisco, San Francisco County on June 16, 1864, a volunteer militia company known as the Templar Guard, was organized and sworn into the service of the State, as an unattached company of the Second Brigade. This company was composed of forty-eight well drilled men under the leadership of Captain James Shepard.

The Templar Guard, on July 25, 1864, posted a \$3000.00 penal Bond, and received their arms and accoutrements which consisted of the following items: sixty muskets, sixty bayonets, sixty bayonet scabbards, sixty cartridge boxes and plates, sixty cap boxes, sixty cone picks, sixty gun slings, sixty screw-drivers, sixty tampers, sixty extra cones, sixty tumbler punches, sixty ball screws, six spring vices, four Sergeants swords, four Sergeants sword belts and plates, two arm chests, and two bullet molds.

On September 1, 1864, Samuel Rounds was elected Captain to succeed James Shepard, and after appearing before a Notary Public to take the following oath: "I, Samuel Rounds, do solemnly swear

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Second Brigade

(SHERMAN GUARD)
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Activities: (Continued)

that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of California, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Captain to the best of my abilities so help me God," he was officially declared Captain of the Templar Guard. In a meeting held January 5, 1865, the members voted unanimously to change the name of the company to Sherman Guard, Company E.

In 1866, it was decided to reorganize the military system of the State. The military force was not to exceed eighty companies in all and said companies were to compose the new National Guard of California. The State Legislature created a Board of Location and Organization, having the power to reorganize or disband companies with reference to the military needs.* The Sherman Guard, Company E, was one of the companies that the Board decided there was no further need for, so on August 3, 1866, they were honorably mustered out of the State service.

John Snider, Captain May 22, 1861
George Santos, Captain May 29, 1861

Activities:

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The Liberty Guard, Company D, was organized in San Francisco, April 17, 1864.

The meeting was not conducted with the customary procedure, inasmuch as a First Lieutenant was elected immediately while the Captain was not elected until June third of that year. The company had a membership of fifty-four volunteers. When the required bond was filed, fifty stand of arms were shipped the unit by the Steamer "Yosemite" July 22, 1864.

In 1866, after the enactment of the Military Law when the National Guard was materially reduced, the Board of Location and Organization was responsible for the reorganization of the Liberty Guard, changing the company's letter from F to E. This change occurred September third of the same year.

There is no doubt of the corps efficiency from the increased membership of fifty-four members at organization to eighty-nine in 1866. In its early years the company was loyal, active and filled with the spirit of patriotism. However, with the con-

*California Statutes 1865-1866, Chapter DXLI, page 722.
that the company be disbanded. In accordance with Captain Dixon's request Special Order No. 70 was issued mustering the Liberty Guard, Company D, out of the State service. The arms and accoutrements were returned to the State soon after disbandment.

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