

# **History of the Tuolumne Guard (Montezuma, Tuolumne County), California Militia 1862-1866**

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Bloomfield Guard, Company C, First Infantry Battalion  
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 8  
 Location: Bloomfield TUOLUMNE GUARD  
 Mustered in October 29, 1862  
 Mustered out \_\_\_\_\_ 1866

Tuolumne Guard, Company E, Third Brigade.  
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 6, File 2.  
 Location: Montezuma, Tuolumne County.  
 C. A. Mustered in October 11, 1862. Oct. 29, 1862 Commission Dec. 9, 1862  
 E. B. Mustered out July 10, 1866. Oct. 29, 1862 Commission Dec. 9, 1862  
 (Resigned Mar. 19, 1864)

C. R. Arthur, Capt. Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u>                 | <u>Rank</u>          | <u>Commission</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| George Rodden, Captain      | Lieut. Oct. 11, 1862 | Nov. 18, 1864     |
| Alpheus Young, First Lieut. | Oct. 11, 1862        | Nov. 18, 1864     |

Activities: Bloomfield Guard, Company C of Bloomfield, Sonoma County.  
 The Tuolumne Guard, Company E, was formed in Montezuma, Tuolumne County, October 11, 1862, under the command of Captain Rodden. This company like so many others was formed in Tuolumne County during the Civil War to aid the authorities to protect the peace and welfare of the county from attacks by the Secessionist element which was so strong in that part of the State.

There was little information on file concerning this company's activities, but one record shows that on June 29, 1866, a fire destroyed the town of Montezuma and the armory belonging to the Tuolumne Guard was among the buildings lost, together with their arms and accoutrements. was filed in August 1865, to cover the cost of arms and equipment.

It was at that time Adjutant General George S. Evans, was re-adjusting the California Military System, and thinking it unadvisable to incur the additional expense of rearming the company, he recommended that it be mustered out of the service of the State, which was done on July 10, 1866. was infested with Secessionists and undoubtedly the residents felt military protection was necessary. In 1844 the Mexican Government issued to Captain Fitch eleven leagues of land in Sonoma Valley designated as the Late Tom's Ranch. Aft-000- Captain Fitch's death in 1849, his heirs quickly dissipated the immense fortunes their father had accumulated and also contracted large debts. During the subsequent influx to the County from the Middle Western States in 1849 to 1852 inclusive, the farmers settled on what they supposed to be land belonging to the Government. Matters went quietly along until 1854 when a Mr. Baillache married one of Captain Fitch's daughters. About this time, Mr. Fitch who was sole administrator of the estate, in order to appease the creditors