

History of the Union Guard (Copperopolis), California Militia/National Guard of California 1864-1868

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UNION GUARD

(Continued)

Union Guard, unattached, Third Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 2

Location: Copperopolis, Calaveras County

Mustered in August 30, 1864

Mustered out January 31, 1868

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| James Oliphant, Captain | Aug. 30, 1864 | Sept. 9, 1864 |
| William Pike, First Lieut. | Aug. 30, 1864 | Sept. 9, 1864 |
| William Pike, Captain* (Elected 1866) (Resigned Dec. 16, 1866) | | |
| James Kendall, First Lieut.* | | |
| James Kendall, Captain | Dec. 16, 1866 | Dec. 26, 1866 |
| Thomas W. Chaloner, First Lieut. (Resigned June 14, 1867) | Dec. 16, 1866 | Dec. 26, 1866 |
| George A. Carlon, First Lieut. | June 30, 1867 | July 23, 1867 |

Activities:

The Union Guard was organized August 30, 1864, at Copperopolis, Calaveras County. The location of the town in the mining vicinity was such that the citizens felt that military protection was necessary. A foreign element composed of Mexicans and Chileans moved from place to place, following the opening of mining claims. They were of a treacherous nature and carried on a campaign of general lawlessness, terrorizing the settlers. Also Indian hostilities frequently occurred during those years.

The necessary Bond was filed and the company's arms were received in October 1864. They were shipped by way of Stockton and arrived in good condition. In November, Captain James Oliphant sent in his request to the Brigadier-General for eighty uniforms and twenty additional stand of arms. The company built there own armory, which was constructed of brick and was fire proof, at a cost of \$8,000. This was a heavy burden financially for the newly organized corps and Captain Oliphant was anxious for the State to bear the expense of the above mentioned uniforms. He also requested copies of the Military Law. This unit gave every indication of becoming an

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*Officers are listed in records but no rank or commission dates appear. Historical Record, Third Brigade, 1864-1866, page 114.

UNION GUARD (Continued)

Pilot Hill Rangers, Company F, Second Infantry Battalion, First
Division, Fourth Brigade
Office File, Row 4, File 7

Activities: (Continued)

efficient and well officered company.

Under the Military Law of 1866, the Union Guard was one of the companies recommended by Brigadier-General George S. Evans, to remain in the military service of the State, and was reorganized as an unattached company July 30, 1866, with sixty-two men as members. A Bond for \$2,600 was posted at the time.

A disastrous fire September 1867 destroyed the company's books and vouchers and some of the equipment, and in as much as the Union Guard was mustered out of service January 31, 1868, it is assumed the unit lost interest after the fire, as with the prevailing peaceful times the need of military protection was not required. The arms and accoutrements belonging to the State were repossessed April twenty-ninth and stored in Ford Hardy's Building, Copperopolis.

The Pilot Hill Rangers was organized September 1, 1864, at Centerville as there was no available hall at the town of Pilot Hill to accommodate the men desiring to form the volunteer militia company. At the meeting James Kemp was elected Captain and J. D. Donaldson, First Lieutenant and the members designated their organization as Pilot Hill Rangers, befitting such a group from the town of Pilot Hill.

This company of Rangers was organized primarily to maintain law and order and was kept in readiness at all times, for the purpose of quelling any difficulty arising within this county. The population of Pilot Hill was composed of many well-to-do men which often led to anti-racial riots, and it being the duty of the company to maintain law and order the members were always prepared to be called out on short notice.

Captain Kemp was re-elected in 1865, with John S. Martin elected as First Lieutenant. They held their ranks until the disbandment and mustering out of the company July 28, 1866, in accordance with the Military Law passed that year by the State Legislature.