

History of the Watsonville Guard, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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WATSONVILLE GUARD

Watsonville Guard, Second Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 6
Location: Watsonville, Santa Cruz County
Mustered in May 23, 1863
Mustered out January 15, 1868

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Jerome Porter, Captain	May 23, 1863	May 28, 1863
Charles Kidder, First Lieut.	May 23, 1863	May 28, 1863
Clement Smith, Captain (Resigned Dec. 8, 1864)	June 13, 1864	June 27, 1864
Amos Knowles, First Lieut.	June 13, 1864	June 27, 1864
W. A. Duchow, Captain	Dec. 20, 1864	Jan. 5, 1865
Richard Leland, First Lieut.	Jan. 9, 1865	Jan. 21, 1865
Samuel Thornton, Captain	June 12, 1865	June 24, 1865
Alexander Chalmers, First Lieut.	June 12, 1865	June 24, 1865
Jerome Porter, Captain	Nov. 5, 1866	Nov. 13, 1866
John Porter, First Lieut.	Nov. 5, 1866	Nov. 13, 1866

Activities:

A petition signed by fifty-five residents of Santa Cruz County was filed with County Judge R. F. Peekham, requesting that he appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to organize a volunteer military company. Judge Peekham named Jerome Porter as the person to open a book in which the names of persons wishing to volunteer in the company would be received, and set May 23, 1863, at Scotts Hall in the town of Watsonville as the time and place for organizing the corps. On that date the unit designated and known as the Watsonville Guard was duly organized with Jerome Porter as Captain. This company was composed of sixty-five loyal Union men who did much to check the activities of the Secessionists in Santa Cruz County during the War of the Rebellion.

There are no records of the Watsonville Guard having any unusual activities other than participating in the Brigade Encampments and company drills after the close of the Civil War.

Failure to keep their membership up to the standard required by the Military Law caused Adjutant General George S. Evans to recommend that the Watsonville Guard be mustered out of the State service, which order was complied with January 15, 1868.*

*Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, page 132.