

CALIFORNIA MILITARY DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL PROGRAM  
North Highlands Annex, Joint Forces Headquarters  
3900 Roseville Road  
North Highlands, California 95660

# **The History of The First California Guard: The First Private Military Organization in California**

Compiled by Walter C. Allen  
Edited by Hellen S. Giffen

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PUBLICATION  
of  
The Society of California  
Pioneers



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*For the Year 1946*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# A History of The First California Guard

## The First Private Military Organization in California

*Compiled by*

WALTER C. ALLEN

*Edited by*

HELEN S. GIFFEN

**I**N 1890, RICHARD H. SINTON, a Life Member of the Society of California Pioneers, presented to this Society minutes, letters and other documents (1) pertaining to the First California Guard. These papers, together with contemporary newspaper accounts, give the history of this first independent military company in San Francisco, which counted among its members the town's most prominent and public-spirited citizens.

San Francisco, in 1849, presented a picture of unprecedented activity in contrast to the quiet Mexican Pueblo of Yerba Buena, which it had been three years before. The streets were crowded with humanity from every section of the globe. Every ship entering the bay brought hopeful men straining their eyes to catch their first glimpse of San Francisco, impatient to set foot on shore that they might be on their way to the newly discovered gold fields of California. Englishmen, Australians, Frenchmen, Chilenos, staid Yankees, and frock-coated New Yorkers mingled with red-shirted miners fresh from the diggings. Not all of these men were honest and upright characters, some being fugitives from the justice of other countries who soon became members of lawless mobs, the scourge of San Francisco, such as the Sydney Ducks and the Hounds.

There was no regard for law and order, and San Francisco's more stable inhabitants, continually plagued by bands of hoodlums and hardened criminals, especially the Hounds, decided to do something about it. Since there was no provision for the organization of a State Militia, (2) it remained for the more substantial citizens to band together for self-protection. Their first act was to bring the Hounds to justice, and as an outgrowth of this effort there came about the formation of San Francisco's first independent military company whose initial meeting was held in the School House on Portsmouth Plaza. The minutes read as follows:

"At a meeting convened at the School House in San Francisco, California, on the evening of Friday, the 27th of July, 1849, & which was organized by calling Mr. William Hooper to the Chair and appointing Mr. Frank Turk Secretary. The Chairman stated the object of the meet-

FIRST CALIFORNIA GUARD



Majr Jacob R. Snyder

Has been elected an HONORARY Member of this Corps

Thomas S. Johns  
CAPTAIN  
J. Ellis  
SERGEANT



SAN FRANCISCO CAL

Elected July 4th 1847

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE POSSESSION OF THE SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

ing to be to take into consideration the propriety of forming a military company of volunteers to be under officers commissioned by the Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the Territory.

"A roll of names containing the signatures of 88 persons was submitted to the meeting and on motion was RESOLVED,

"That the Chair do appoint a committee of five to frame a constitution and bye laws for such company & that the same be submitted for approval or otherwise at the next meeting.

"The Chair appointed Messrs. Naglee, Haven, Wadleigh, Howard and H. A. Harrison such committee.

"Further RESOLVED, that the list of names composing the company be now closed and in future that all members applying for admission shall be balloted for.

"RESOLVED, that this meeting do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday evening next at the same time & place.

"FRANK TURK, Sec."

Frank Turk, who acted as the Secretary of the first meeting was a native of Connecticut, and had studied law in New York City, where he became a clerk in the post office. When President Polk sent John W. Geary to serve as Post-Master at San Francisco, in 1849, Turk was named as his assistant. Arriving in San Francisco Bay, May 29th, 1849, on board the Revenue Cutter *Editb*, Turk immediately found himself caught up in the vortex of events. It was not long before he was appointed Captain of the volunteer force formed to apprehend the Hounds. Soon after that he became law partner in the firm of Lippitt, McAllister and Turk. Francis J. Lippitt had been in California since 1847, when he arrived with Stevenson's First Regiment of New York Volunteers, while Hall McAllister arrived on the Steamer *Panama*, in June of 1849, and became one of San Francisco's ablest lawyers. All three of these men were present at the first meeting of the Guard.

On Tuesday evening, July 31st, 1849, the second meeting of the new organization was held at the "Public Institute" as the school house was often called.

"On motion of Joshua P. Haven the report of the Committee appointed . . . to draft bye laws was called for & submitted.

"After a prolonged debate which was participated in by Messrs. Haven, Spofford, Priest, and Flint, the bye laws, as amended were approved & adopted."

Mr. McAllister then offered a suggestion for a simple uniform and it was "moved that the uniform of the corps be a citizens dress—with

A meeting convened at the School House in San Francisco California on the evening of Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1849, & which was organized by calling Mr. William Hooper, and to the Chair, and appointing Mr. Frank Fink Secretary ~~it was~~. The Chairman stated the object of the meeting to be to take into consideration the propriety of forming a Military company of volunteers to be under officers commissioned by the Governor or Commander in Chief of the Territory.

A roll of names containing the signatures of 88 persons was submitted to the meeting and on motion it was Resolved

That the Chair do appoint a committee of five to frame a Constitution and bye laws for such company & that the same be submitted for approval or otherwise at the next meeting.

The Chair appointed Messrs Staglee, Heaven, Madleigh, Howard and H. A. Harrison such committee.

Further Resolved that the list of names composing the company be now closed and in future that all members applying for admission shall be balloted for.

Resolved That this meeting do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday evening next at the same time & place.

Frank Fink  
Secy

the addition of a belt and musket—the motion not being seconded it was withdrawn and the meeting adjourned. . . .”

The men who signed the Preamble to the Constitution of the First California Guard were forty-one of San Francisco’s most influential citizens: (3)

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| *H. M. Naglee       | W. L. Robinett      | *R. Julius Stevens  |
| *W. D. M. Howard    | *R. H. Sinton       | E. Mickle           |
| *J. W. Austin       | Samuel Ward         | *D. T. Bagley       |
| Myron Norton        | Benj. Reynolds      | *Hall McAllister    |
| E. L. Sullivan      | W. C. Cleeman       | C. Melhado          |
| Joseph Hobson       | *Wm. H. Davis       | *Frank Turk         |
| *James C. Ward      | W. H. Tillinghast   | *A. J. Ellis        |
| *Charles H. Johnson | *S. Russell Gerry   | *Richard M. Sherman |
| E. H. Harrison      | W. E. Spofford      | *A. G. Randall      |
| *A. G. Abell        | Eugene Musson       | A. Priest           |
| *J. P. Haven        | *H. F. Teschemacher | Gustav Beck         |
| Wm. Sim             | *Saml. Price        | John Sime           |
| *Hiram Grimes       | Wm. Hooper          | James Creighton     |
| Wm. L. Hobson       | *Edward A. King     |                     |

*\*Members Society of California Pioneers*

Some of these men, a year later, were present at the organization of the Society of California Pioneers, which meeting took place August 31st, 1850, in the brick warehouse of Howard and Mellus on the southwest corner of Clay and Montgomery Streets.

All the men interested in the First California Guard were busily engaged in laying the foundations of their personal fortunes, yet they found time to attend the meetings and engage in the drill, at frequent intervals.

The third meeting of the Guard took place on August 4th, 1949, at which time the election of officers was postponed to Tuesday evening, August 7th. At this later meeting Mr. Joshua P. Haven, acting Chairman, moved the election of officers, which election was described in the minutes, as “spirited,” and with the following results:

- Captain*—H. M. Naglee  
*First Lieutenants*—W. D. M. Howard, Myron Norton  
*Second Lieutenants*—Hall McAllister, D. T. Bagley  
*First Ord. Sergeant*—R. H. Sinton  
*Second Ord. Sergeant*—W. E. Spofford  
*Third Ord. Sergeant*—Frank Turk  
*Fourth Ord. Sergeant*—E. E. Dunbar  
*First Corporal*—E. L. Sullivan  
*Second Corporal*—Gustavus Beck  
*Third Corporal*—W. H. Tillinghast  
*Fourth Corporal*—J. W. Austin  
*Surgeon*—S. R. Gerry  
*Treasurer*—William Hooper, Esq.

*First California Guard*  
18

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

FIRST CALIFORNIA GUARD,

INSTITUTED, JULY, 1849,

AS

REVISED, APRIL, 1850.

SAN FRANCISCO:

PRINTED AT THE ALTA CALIFORNIA OFFICE.

1850.

BY-LAWS OF THE FIRST CALIFORNIA  
GUARD—FACSIMILE OF COVER



"On motion it was RESOLVED, that the bye laws be submitted to Brev. Brig. Gen. Riley, Governor of Cala., for his approval with request that he will commission the officers."

General Riley was also requested to aid in the furnishing of arms and other equipment, including uniforms, all of which was to be paid for by the Guards. They also offered their services to the Governor in any way that he might desire.

The minutes of Saturday evening, August 11th, 1849, state that the place of meeting was the Colonnade House. (4) At this meeting, Captain Naglee was the presiding officer and Mr. W. E. Spofford acting secretary in the absence of the First Orderly Sergeant, R. H. Sinton. Several matters were brought up for discussion, among them the forming of a Committee on Fines (5), and also one to look for permanent headquarters for the Guard.

Since there was no building in San Francisco suitable for an armory, it was proposed to form a Joint Stock Company composed exclusively of Guard members, stock to be divided into 300 shares of \$100.00 each to provide the necessary funds for buying a lot and erecting a building. A lot was purchased on the northeast corner of Dupont and Jackson Streets, and a two and one-half story building, forty feet square, was begun in the early fall of 1849. (6)

Pending the completion of their building the Guard met once more in the Howard and Mellus warehouse, on October 2nd or 3rd, when it was proposed that the Committee on Fines, who failed to submit a report, would be fined \$50.00 apiece if they did not submit a report at the next meeting. These were the first minutes to be signed by R. H. Sinton, First Orderly Sergeant, who had arrived in California in 1847, and was now a partner in the banking firm of Naglee and Sinton, located in the Parker House.

The meeting of November 3rd, 1849, was at the warehouse of Cross-Hobson & Co., Commission Merchants, on Sansome between Jackson and Pacific. William Hooper, who had occupied the Chair at the initial meeting of this organization, was an associate of this firm.

"The report of the Committee on Fines was read by Lt. Norton and adopted without amendment."

All went smoothly with the building of the armory and on December 4th, 1849, the Guard assembled in their new quarters. At this meeting it was decided to amend the Constitution so that members to the number of 250 might be elected, provided the number of active members should not exceed the original limit of 113. (7)

At this same meeting Mr. Tillinghast moved that a committee be appointed by Captain Naglee to superintend the furnishing of Military Hall.

The first of San Francisco's great fires occurred on December 24th, 1849, and since the minutes for the meeting of December 4th happened to be in the office of Mr. Sinton in the Parker House, they were partially destroyed. This fire consumed the whole line of buildings on the south side of Washington Street, between Montgomery and Kearny, as well as structures facing the Plaza.

In the minutes of January 5th, 1850, a note of discord becomes evident among the members of the Guard, as may be seen from the following:

"The roll being called and a quorum found present, the meeting proceeded to business . . . Mr. Tillinghast from the Com. on furnishing Military Hall, reported that 'the committee were unable to procure suitable furniture for a want of funds.' Whereupon a very general discussion took place in regard to the course pursued by the Treasurer in collecting the first assessment of \$50 per member— (8) after the close of which Mr. Howard moved the dismissal of the present Treasurer and that the meeting proceed to the election of another in his place—which upon motion of Mr. Mickle was laid on the table.

"On motion of Mr. Reynolds, the Capt. was directed to call a special meeting of the Company in order to hear the report of the Treasurer."

Resignations were also submitted at this meeting by Messrs. C. V. Gillespie, Chas. J. Warner, and G. S. Oldfield. A motion of reconsideration of these resignations was made by Mr. Sinton and they were laid on the table.

It is quite evident that there was some misunderstanding about the \$50.00 assessment levied on each member, for "on motion of Mr. Reynolds it was carried, that the Treasurer be instructed to inform Messrs. Oldfield & Warner that the \$50.00 assessment *was not* intended to give a public dinner."

The Constitution and By-Laws which had been printed were lost in the fire of December 24th, having been in the office of Mr. Sinton in the Parker House.

Things were not going too smoothly with the Guard at this time. They were having some difficulty in collecting the \$50.00 assessment (9) on each member; and at the meeting held on February 2nd, 1850, in Military Hall, Mr. Hooper resigned as Treasurer after submitting his report.

"Mr. Spofford called on the Treasurer for information why so small an amount of money had been collected. The Treasurer answered by reading the returns of the collectors, who reported that many of the gentlemen called upon declared themselves not members, some were

absent, and others declined paying—whereupon, on motion of Mr. Woodworth, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

“RESOLVED, that the Secretary be directed to notify all delinquent members that unless the initiation fee of \$50.00 (10) ordered in August last be paid to the Treasurer on or before the first day of March next, they shall be considered no longer as members of this Company.”

The expenditures of the Treasurer were then heartily approved and a committee was appointed to remodel the Constitution and By-Laws. A committee was also appointed to “suggest a new and proper uniform to be ordered from the United States.” On motion of Mr. Woodworth it was “RESOLVED, that a collation on the evening of the 22nd of February at 9 o’clock P. M. be given at the Armory.”

This was the Guard’s initial excursion into the realm of social functions. No doubt the ladies had brought pressure to bear upon their husbands, being anxious to view the new Military Hall, about which they had been hearing so much.

The Daily *Alta California*, on Monday, February 4, 1850, printed the following: “We have deferred a notice of this Corps [California Guard] indulging in the hope of being able to furnish our readers the history of a military organization in California which is at once as creditable to the energetic members who have through a succession of discouraging events, sustained that organization, as this company now firmly united, will be to San Francisco. It numbers about one hundred muskets, and is composed of the first citizens of the place.

“The California Guard was formed and elected officers last fall, since which, upon a very limited capital, the purchase of a valuable centrally located building site, and erection thereon of a beautiful and commodious edifice, have been effected. Shares in this structure have all been taken up by the Guard and the fine drill room, billard saloons, reading room, etc., are being elegantly furnished for the exclusive comfort of its members who are to be congratulated on the possession of this delightful place of resort.”

A few days later, the *Alta* carried a further description: “Yesterday we visited the elegant suite of apartments fitted up for the First California Guard. . . . The Drill Room of the company is a magnificent apartment beautifully furnished and ample for the training of a large body of men. . . . We understand that preparations are now being made by the Guard for a ball during this month or next.”

The ball of February was well attended by both the members of the Guard and their guests. The celebration of Washington’s Birthday was further enhanced by the arrival of the steamer *Oregon*, which brought news from the East. A salute was fired by the California Guard, from the

Plaza, and the supper served at the new Armory was a fitting conclusion to the day's festivities.

Unfortunately, there was an unpleasant flavor to the aftermath of this brilliant ball. A special meeting of the Guard was called for the day following, February 23rd, with Lieutenant Myron Norton occupying the Chair. The occasion was designated as "Special Business," the same being the consideration of the conduct of a certain gentleman, who, at the height of the festivity, being somewhat overcome by punch and exuberance, directed what were termed "insulting remarks" to Lieutenant Norton, who was presiding officer at the ball. After sober contemplation on the morning after the affair, the offender realizing the extent of his actions addressed a letter of apology to Lieutenant Norton, which was read in the meeting of the Guard, by the Secretary. The Lieutenant, expressing himself satisfied with the "Amende Honorable," it was decided "that said reparation be considered sufficient and that no further action be taken in the premises."

The next stated meeting was held on March 2nd, 1850. At this meeting Lieutenant Norton asked "that the Captain be requested to make a requisition upon Brev. Brig. Genl. Riley, late Govr. of California, for such arms & accoutrements as he may be willing to furnish this Company.

"On motion of Lt. Norton it was RESOLVED, that the Furnishing Com. be instructed to purchase suitable lamps & that the person appointed to take charge of said rooms be ordered to have the same lighted & kept open every evening for the accomodation of the members of the Company. . . .

"On motion of Lt. Bagley it was RESOLVED, that the use of the Hall be tendered to the subscribers to a Ball to take place on the 13th. . . ."

At the April 6th, 1850, meeting "A report from the Committee on Uniforms was read by Mr. Tillinghast recommending a certain fatigue dress, which on motion of Mr. McDuffie was amended to read: "That the fatigue dress of the officers be the same as the fatigue dress of the same rank in the U. S. Army, and that of the non-commissioned officers and privates be made in conformity with the U. S. Regulations, substituting *dark* cloth instead of *light* blue, and chevrons of gold lace instead of worsted braid for non-commissioned officers."

At the meeting of April 15th, 1850, Mr. McDuffie presented the Guard with a copy of *Scott's Tactics*, "a gift from Colonel J. D. Stevenson." (11)

The new Constitution was taken up by Mr. Emmett and it was finally passed as a whole after some debate, and two hundred copies were ordered printed for the use of the corps.

On the evening of the day that marked San Francisco's second fire, May 4th, 1850, a stated meeting of the Guard was held at Military Hall. Those present and answering the roll call were J. W. Austin, D. T. Bagley, Jas. Creighton, W. V. Cleeman, J. E. Durivage, Geo. H. Ensign, S. R. Gerry, S. J. Gower, Wm. Hooper, Geo. H. Howard, E. A. King, E. Mickle, A. J. McDuffie, Myron Norton, Benj. Reynolds, Wm. Robinet, R. H. Sinton, John Sime, R. J. Stevens, R. M. Sherman, Wm. H. Tillinghast, Jas. C. Ward, F. A. Woodworth, Robt. Wells, Geo. H. Ward, and Wm. Zimmerman.

Owing to the confusion arising from the fire the Secretary was unable to produce the minutes of the previous meeting. . . . "A bill from the Steward for expenses incurred at the fire was laid before the meeting" and it was decided that this bill be paid by the Guard, they to be reimbursed by the Joint Stock Company for the amount expended. These expenses covered "refreshments," which were probably served to the fire fighters, and other costs involved in saving Military Hall from the flames.

In spite of the fact that the Guard had just passed an exciting day, they proceeded to the election of officers, with the following results: Captain, Francis J. Lippitt; First Lieutenants, W. D. M. Howard and Myron Norton; Second Lieutenants, R. H. Sinton and F. A. Woodworth; Sergeants, A. J. McDuffie, W. E. Spofford, James Creighton and E. C. Kemble.

"The rules were now suspended, when on motion of Mr. McDuffie, it was RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of this meeting be instructed to wait on Francis J. Lippitt and inform him officially of the result of the election for Captain of this Corps, held this evening."

From this meeting of May 4th, 1850, to September 17th, 1853, the minutes of the First California Guards' meetings are missing. However, this organization did not cease to function during this period as is shown by events recorded in the *Daily Alta California* and other newspapers of San Francisco.

The ashes were scarcely cool from the fire of May 4th, before San Francisco was visited by another catastrophe. The fire occurring June 14th, 1850, destroyed all the buildings that had been spared on May 4th, and also many of those in process of reconstruction. The loss was estimated between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000, with some three hundred buildings burned, among them the bank of James King of William, on Commercial and Montgomery Streets. This tragic event, however, did not dampen the enthusiasm of San Francisco's celebration of July 4th, 1850, when the populace turned out in full force on the plaza to witness the raising of the flagpole presented to the City by the citizens of Portland, Oregon. Colonel John W. Geary, Mayor of San Francisco, did the honors,

and it is safe to assume that the First California Guard was present in force.

Shortly after this came the Guards' first opportunity to see action. On August 15th, news arrived in San Francisco of the Squatter Riots that had occurred in Sacramento the day before, when holders of Sutter's title to certain lands clashed with the squatters who refused to recognize the legality of these titles. Fearing still further violence, Governor Peter Burnett ordered General A. M. Winn of the 2d Brigade, First Division of California Volunteers, to the scene; and Lieutenant Howard, of the First California Guard, was requested by Lieut. Gov. McDougall, to loan their muskets to the volunteers. However, the Guard preferred to carry their arms in person, and at 8 o'clock on the morning of August 15th, 1850, the order was issued to the Guard, and two hours later eighty men had answered the call and were ready "armed and equipped as the law directs." They boarded the steamer *Senator* which was loaned for the emergency, and at noon the cheering crowd on the waterfront watched the steamer pull away from the dock for her journey up the Sacramento River.

The Guard arrived at their destination an hour before midnight of the same day, only to find the excitement over and the situation well in hand. They grounded their arms, but remained in Sacramento until the 17th, enjoying the hospitality extended to them by the grateful citizens of Sacramento, who so deeply appreciated their prompt response to a call of distress from their sister City.

Scarcely had they returned from Sacramento than the Guard members were called upon to participate in the funeral procession, held in memory of the late Zachary Taylor, President of the United States. This parade occurred on August 29th, 1850, and in it marched all the civic, military and fraternal organizations of San Francisco. On August 31st, a number of the Guard attended the meeting called at Howard and Mellus' warehouse, for the forming of the Society of California Pioneers.

Two disasters struck the Corps in the year 1850. One affected their former Captain, H. M. Naglee, who suffered serious financial reverses when his bank was forced to suspend payments, during the panic of 1849-1850; and on September 14th, another fire swept the City, this time destroying Military Hall. However, the Guard appeared to be undismayed, and immediately engaged John Sime to erect another on the same site, this time to be fire proof.

In all the fiery disasters that had swept San Francisco the Guard had assisted in policing the burned areas, and they now offered their services to the City as a permanent fire guard, (12) and this offer was accepted after some debate by the Board of Aldermen, as to possible conflict with the fire department.



First California Guard.

---SECRET---

*A. Sloves* Meetings of the  
First California Guard will be held at the Academy  
on *Saturday* Evening; the  
instant, at *8* o'clock.

*G. E. Durango*  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

*San Francisco, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1850*

—COURTESY CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CALIFORNIA  
GUARD OCTOBER 4TH, 1850



No more soul stirring news ever reached California in general, and San Francisco in particular, than the information of her admission as the Thirty-first State. This word was brought by the mail steamer *Oregon*, on September 18th, 1850. It was the cause of general rejoicing, and on September 29th, a parade was held in San Francisco to celebrate the event, with representatives from all organizations and civic bodies taking part. Speeches were made, and the *Ode*, written by Mrs. Elizabeth Maria Bonney Wills, (13) to commemorate the occasion of the Admission of California as a State, was sung by a choir.

That same evening a grand ball was held where Mrs. Wills appeared with a head ornament of "a beautiful silver wreath of grapes and wheat, presented to her by the Committee on Invitations, which gave a classic air . . . well becoming her position. Her dress was of pina, or pineapple cloth, as delicate as gossamer, looped up in front with a bouquet of silver, to match the wreath. A string of pearls fastened her sleeves on the shoulders, and another, passing around her neck . . . supported the beautiful and chaste gold medal, (14) presented to her by the Council of the City in token of their admiration of the ode written by her on the occasion of our celebration." (15)

The medal referred to is said to be the only one made in pure gold. It is  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches in diameter and weighs 41 pennyweights. On the front it bears a circle of thirty stars with a star in the center, each point of which carried a letter to spell the word EUREKA, while the star holds in its center a gold nugget. On the reverse is the inscription, "California Admitted Sep. 9, 1850, presented to Mrs. E. M. Wells, (16) Authoress of the Ode, by the City of San Francisco, Oct. 29, 1850." This medal was purchased, in 1944, by the Board of Directors of the Society of California Pioneers, who contributed the funds to secure it for the Society. It was sold to the Society by the Security Bank of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, having been given to the bank as collateral by Henry O. Granberg.

In spite of the disasters that befell San Francisco during 1850, the citizens refused to allow it to dampen their spirits. On January 1st, 1851, the Society of California Pioneers held their semi-annual meeting in conjunction with the First California Guard, at Military Hall. The affair was in the nature of a banquet "and other pagentry and exercises" and invitations were extended to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, members of the Legislature, officers stationed on the U. S. vessels in San Francisco Bay, and other U. S. Army and city officials. The Committee on Arrangements included Edwin Bryant, Samuel Brannan, J. Mead Huxley, R. M. Sherman and Robert Wells.

The *Herald* of January 3d, 1851, carried a three column account of the celebration: "Yesterday, according to previous announcement, the



Pioneer Association held their first semi-annual celebration. At a quarter past eleven o'clock the California Guard formed on Montgomery Street . . . and at 12 o'clock precisely the line was formed. . . . The procession moved a few minutes past twelve. It was led by the Grand Marshal, Colonel George McDougal . . . next to the Marshal and his aides came the California Guard, the escort of the procession, commanded by Captain W. D. M. Howard. They were dressed in uniform and presented a dashing, soldierly appearance.

"The body of the pageant was composed of the Pioneers . . . headed by Mr. Grayson, costumed in a complete suit of buckskin and bearing the banner of the Society. The Marshals were Major Jacob R. Snyder, S. Brannan, Esq., and J. Meade Huxley, Esq. (sic) Mead."

The oration of the day was given by Captain John B. Frisbie, who addressed the gathering from the adobe building on the plaza.

That evening the Guard, the Pioneers and their guests held a banquet in the rooms of the Guard, "The spacious hall, which was filled, was decorated with the National Flag festooned gracefully about the walls."

W. D. M. Howard was master of ceremonies and speeches were given by General M. G. Vallejo, Myron Norton, Captain Gibson, U. S. A., Talbot H. Green and Lieut. James Blair.

"This," said the *Herald*, "is the first gathering of California Pioneers; may many future assemblings testify to their continued presence among us."

On the first anniversary of San Francisco's second great fire, May 4th, 1851, there occurred another, which marked the fifth such catastrophe experienced by the City in a year and a half. This conflagration was far worse than any of the others, probably because there was now more to burn, and during its height the California Guard was functioning in its capacity of Official Fire Guard. The *Alta* of May 7th, said: "This soldiery was on duty with full ranks on Sunday and Monday nights, patrolling the city for the purpose of protecting the property of our citizens. Many of their number were gentlemen who had lost their all during the fire or sustained very heavy losses and their promptitude in being out under such circumstances entitles them to great praise from their fellow citizens. This is a source of great pride to us that we have so spirited and excellent a corps who can be relied on in time of need."

On the night preceding this fire, May 3rd, 1851, the "First California Guard met in their armory and the following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year:" (17)

*Captain*—W. D. M. Howard  
*First Lieutenant*—F. W. Woodworth  
*Second Lieutenant*—W. E. Spofford  
*Sergeants*—A. J. McDuffie, T. J. West, T. J. Gower, J. E. Durivage  
*Corporals*—C. R. Bond, A. G. Randall, J. A. Clark, A. G. Abell  
*Surgeon*—S. R. Gerry  
*Quarter Master Sergeant*—John Lime (sic) Sime  
*Treasurer*—A. G. Randall  
*Secretary*—John Benson  
*Assistant Secretary*—Samuel Flower

The following June 22nd, fire again destroyed the armory of the Guard, which had been rebuilt after the fire of September 14th, 1850. But on July 25th, a notice appeared in the *Alta* stating that the building was being reconstructed.

California's Admission Day, September 9th, 1851, was of particular importance as this was the first celebration held on the exact date. The news of this great event had not reached San Francisco until October 18th, of 1850. Special preparations were made for this celebration, and the First California Guard under command of Captain W. D. M. Howard, "determined that the anniversary of our admission into the Union hailed with such enthusiastic demonstrations of joy one year ago, should not pass entirely unnoticed this year. They decided, therefore, to fire a National salute in commemoration of the occasion. Accordingly a detachment under command of Orderly Sergeant Lippitt, was detailed for the duty and marched from their new armory . . . at noon, to the Plaza, where, by the politeness of the U. S. officers, at the Presidio, two cannon had been provided for the occasion. The Guards are an artillery company and performed the services devolved upon them with great precision. . . . The detachment in charge of each piece, commanded respectively by Sergeant West and Corporal Durivage, fired their gun at an interval of 30 seconds. The two guns alternating made the discharges every 15 seconds. One of the guns missed fire four times, but such was the admirable drill of the company, that without the slightest check the other gun performed double duty for the time. . . . This is certainly rapid firing and would do credit to much more experienced troops. The Guards number now some sixty active members, composed of some of our best citizens. Their Orderly Sergeant, Lippitt, . . . as a drill officer has no superior in California." (18)

The *Daily Alta* of September 12th, 1851, chose to take a somewhat humorous attitude toward the firing of the salute and its reporting by some rival newspaper. It headed its column "The Salute of a Thousand Guns," and said: "The memorable 'Senate of a Thousand Drinks' must

have filled a considerable space in editors' minds when the following paragraph was indicted: 'One thousand guns were fired on the morning of the anniversary of the admission of this State into the Union. The California Guards fired a salute at noon and evening.'

"The Guards fired a salute of thirty-one guns at noon, on the day named. The detachment that fired the 'morning salute' was marshalled in the fuddled brain of some 'obfuscated' member of the city press. A good time they had of it too: 'commencing at sunrise (6 o'clock) and firing two guns a minute, or hundred and twenty an hour, in nine hours they completed the Salute of a Thousand Guns.' At this juncture the aforesaid brain was so 'thick with armed men' and the aforesaid guns so tremendous in their recoil, that the 'members' after performing several military revolutions, including right and left oblique, laid down on his arms."

In spite of the fact that the Guard was organized as a purely military organization, they were willing to cooperate in all matters of a social or civic nature. They lent their armory for the exhibition of the famous picture of George Washington (19) painted by Steuart, "presented by Miss Steuart, daughter of the celebrated artist, and purchased by a club of old Californians to be presented to the State. An invitation is extended to the public to visit the hall where the picture is to be seen for the present, gratis." (20)

In December, 1851, the Guard once more heard the call for active duty. Indian disturbances had been occurring in San Diego, and a call was sent out for troops to handle the situation. Colonel Hitchcock's command of regular U. S. troops were busy in the north with the same nature of disturbances, and the Governor authorized the calling out of Volunteers. (21)

The First California Guard were among those offering their services to form the San Francisco Rangers, with Colonel John W. Geary as Captain, and Colonel John C. Hays, as Commander-in-Chief. However, before they were started south, word came that all was well and no outside aid was needed.

Journeying along the plank road to the Mission was one of the favorite pastimes of San Franciscans. There were several reasons for this trip, one of them being the milk punches served by Bob Ridley at his Mansion House, in one corner of the old building of the Mission Dolores. The toll gate to the plank road was situated at Union Square Avenue and Kearny Streets, the road then making a wide curve at Geary to cut around the sand hill that rose on the present site of the Hearst and Spreckels Buildings.

Out this road on January 8th, 1852, marched twenty-five muskets of the First California Guard, resplendent in new uniforms, and keeping step to a good band playing martial music. They were bound for Hayes Valley near the house of Thomas Hayes, which was situated on the west side of the present Van Ness Avenue, between Hayes and Grove Streets. "Here the medal was to be given to the best shot was presented to the Company by Captain Howard." (22)

This medal was to be won in open target competition by some member of the Guard, and to be retained by him for one year. "After presentation of the medal, the company proceeded to shoot for it." (23)

It was won by Private Joseph Porter, and was given to him by Colonel John W. Geary. The trophy was of gold, oval-shaped, and designed by John W. Tucker. (24) On one side appeared the inscription "Presented to the First California Guard," and on the reverse, "Organized July 29, 1849."

After this ceremony was concluded there were refreshments served which the newspapers described as a "cold collation." The Guard then marched back to town where they partook of a "very elegant collation" served by a Mr. Brown of the San Francisco Club rooms. The day ended with the Company attending the Jenny Lind Theatre, where they witnessed the first performance of "New York in Slices," (25) a benefit for Mrs. J. B. Booth.

For some months after its organization the First California Guard was the only military company in San Francisco. In the latter part of 1850, another Company was formed, which bore the name "Washington Guards." This was but the beginning of the private guard companies (26) which flourished in San Francisco for several years.

By the spring of 1852 the first enthusiasm of the California Guard for their organization had decidedly diminished, and they were lax about attending drill. However, their energies appeared to revive in May of that year, largely on account of the formation of rival organizations and the *Alta* of May 18th, 1852, remarked their renewed interest, saying: "Some forty of the members who have been luke warm for a few months back . . . have agreed to attend regularly. By the Fourth of July we anticipate that this Artillery Corps, which is the oldest in the State, will turn out as numerous and as well drilled as any in the City."

On May 19th, 1852, an official notice was published calling the Guard together. This meeting was held in the offices of Captain Howard, and its purpose was the reorganization of the First California Guard on a *strictly military* basis. It would appear as if the club features and social affairs of this company had proved its undoing.

"The Corps," said the *Alta*, "is composed of our most respectable citizens, merchants and mechanics, and it may be timely advice to those young men who do not belong to either of the volunteer companies, now forming in the city, to state that a membership will exclude the performance of that much dreaded obligation to the State, *military duty*, which is demanded by the terms of the new militia law."

At this meeting, held May 20th, 1852, the following officers were elected:

*Captain*—R. H. Sinton  
*First Lieutenant*—F. A. Woodworth  
*Second Lieutenant*—A. A. Selover  
*Second Lieutenant*—E. C. Kemble  
*Surgeon*—S. R. Gerry  
*First Sergeant*—C. F. Lemon  
*Second Sergeant*—George Watson  
*Third Sergeant*—C. R. Bond  
*Fourth Sergeant*—John A. Clark  
*First Corporal*—A. G. Randall  
*Second Corporal*—J. E. Ellis  
*Third Corporal*—J. F. Curtis  
*Fourth Corporal*—R. M. Stevenson  
*Quarter Master Sergeant*—John Syme (sic) Sime  
*Treasurer*—E. Gilbert

A new uniform was adopted, a coat and trousers of blue with the red stripe of an artillery corps on the trousers and a red trim on the coat.

It was necessary for the Guard to look to their uniforms and equipment if they were to play a presentable part in the Fourth of July celebration of 1852. It is evident that they were not idle in this regard, for on the morning of the Fourth, they marched in the parade as the first military division, "The oldest and one of the best organized in the city, they presented an extremely neat and military appearance, and elicited the admiration of all by the precision and exactness of their drill."

Prior to this Fourth of July parade, the Committee on Arrangements of the Military Companies and the City Council had their difficulties in securing musicians for the procession. These men had demanded the outrageous sum of \$50.00 each to play in the parade. For ten men this would have brought the expenditure for music to \$500.00. An agreement was finally reached to pay them \$35.00 each, and then the trumpeters came forward for the money in hand before they would sound a note. "The Committee told them that they were not accustomed to doing things that way, but if the musical gentlemen would not trust them, they would have warrants drawn and deposited in the hands of Mr. James

King of William, and they could get them from him when they had faithfully performed their work. They were not satisfied with this proposition, and the Committee told them, very properly and plumply, that they had no idea of being imposed upon, and rather than stand any imposition, they would have no music at all. . . . There are certainly more than ten musicians in town; and one thing is certain, if no San Francisco bands can be procured for a reasonable sum, the Council can and will send to the towns in the interior for music." (27)

Evidently this threat brought the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion for no further mention is made of a lack of martial music to enhance the spirit of the day.

At the next election of officers of the Guard, held on May 3rd, 1853, the following officers were elected:

*Captain*—F. A. Woodworth

*First Lieutenant*—John S. Ellis

*Second Lieutenant*—R. M. Stephenson

*Third Lieutenant*—W. H. Watson

*Fourth Lieutenant*—J. G. Pearson

*Quarter Master Sergeant*—A. S. Ellis

*Corporals*—T. Elliott, E. W. Crowell, J. C. Briggs, B. R. Woodworth

*Treasurer*—Wm. H. Watson

*Surgeon*—S. R. Gerry

Dr. S. Russell Gerry had served as Surgeon of the Guard since its organization. He had had a distinguished career as a physician and surgeon, first in South America, where he went on graduating from the College of Medicine of Harvard, in 1838, and later, after he arrived in California he was Health and Quarantine Officer of the Port of San Francisco. He had the distinction of attending the first cholera victim in San Francisco, in October of 1849. This was George W. Chesley, who lived to become a prominent merchant in Sacramento.

At this time the Guard was anxious to make a check on its scattered equipment. At the meeting of June 7th, 1853, A. J. Ellis, Quarter Master Sergeant reported on the arms of the company. He stated that he had obtained most of the arms, consisting of "three muskets from Mr. C. Dexter, five from the jail, three from Messers. Watson & Co., thirty from the armory of the San Francisco Blues, in all forty-one, with bayonets. Also five bayonets, leaving a deficiency of five muskets." (28)

Since the annual celebration of July Fourth was not far off, a meeting of the Officers of San Francisco's Volunteer Companies was held on June 8th, 1853. At this meeting it was proposed that each branch of the service, artillery, infantry, dragoons, and rifles, should unite in the parade. An invitation was extended to the Sutter Rifles of Sacramento



to participate in the ceremonies as the guests of the Marion Rifles of San Francisco.

Preparations were begun to clear the plaza, for the *Alta* stated that "two men employed by the city (with recklessness of expense that is quite in keeping with the occasion that calls it forth) have so nearly reduced the hillocks of clay, carrion, and offal, to a dead level, or inclined plane, that it will be (with a little rolling) suitable for military purposes on the 4th." (29)

On the morning of Independence Day the First California Guard under the command of Captain Woodworth, assembled on the Plaza with the other military companies: The Lancers (Cavalry), Eureka Light Guard (Cavalry), San Francisco Blues (Infantry) and the Marion Rifles, and the Sutter Rifles, who had accepted the invitation to be present, and were under the command of Captain Fry, and with General Sutter and his staff in attendance. "The beloved old pioneer was received with acclamation by the crowd. . . . His benevolent face beamed with martial enthusiasm as he rode through the ranks, and his warm eye seemed to light up with something like the old-time spirit which kindled it. . . . He was attended by a brilliant staff." (30)

The Plaza was alive with movement and color, from the varied hues of the uniforms of the military to the gowns of the ladies, whom the *Alta* states were present in full force.

The parade moved out of the Plaza about 1 o'clock P. M. after the firing of a 32 gun salute at noon, by the California Guard, followed by the drills of the various companies. From Portsmouth Square the procession marched to the site of the encampment at Russ' Gardens, a mile and a half out of town. Arrived at their destination the military drew up in a line preparatory to receiving the colors which were to be presented by Mrs. Catherine Sinclair. (31) "At three o'clock the lady appeared, drawn in a handsome barouche. . . . She was received with a military salute, and a detachment of each company ordered to the front, with the General and his staff a few paces distant. . . . Mrs. Sinclair rose from her seat and delivered the presentation speech." (32)

Being a dramatic actress, Mrs. Sinclair did full justice to the occasion, and the *Alta* regarded her speech as "one of the most beautiful little gems that ever borrowed the light of such an occasion to reflect diamond-like its many brilliant fires." (33)

At the conclusion of the ceremony General Sutter tendered the thanks of the Companies to Mrs. Sinclair, and a banquet followed. Late in the

afternoon the Battalions returned to town and in the evening attended the San Francisco Theatre. (34)

Some idea of the costliness of the arrangements which made this affair both "imposing and grand," according to the newspapers, may be gathered from the expenses of the *California Guard* for this occasion:

Paid to J. R. West, as the Guards' quota for the dinner at Russ' Gardens .....	\$ 634.00
To Schmeidsneider & Co. for band of 11 instruments @ \$25.00....	275.00
To Crim & Sturgeon for one 4-horse team to the Presidio.....	40.00
To J. R. Smith for hauling artillery pieces from Presidio, and returning same.....	45.00
To Chas. G. C. Plummer for one load of powder to Presidio.....	5.00
To M. Scott for fuses.....	12.00
To Gibbons & Lammont for ½ keg of cannon powder.....	12.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,023.00

Festivity followed festivity during this year. On Wednesday, July 27, 1853, the First California Guard made an excursion to Oakland for their annual target shoot. Marching from the armory to the dock, they boarded the especially chartered boat *Kate Hayes*. The hour spent in crossing the bay passed in laughter and song; and upon arrival at the Oakland shore the Company marched to the place selected for the shoot.

"The scene was rendered more attractive by the presence of several ladies, with a number of gentlemen, who had that morning ridden 18 miles to be present on this occasion. They were the family and relatives of Dr. Tennant (sic) Tennent, (35), who was formerly a member of this company, and now is a resident of Martinez."

Toasts were offered to everyone from the President of the United States to the Sutter Rifles, and then came the award of medals for the of the Villa."

The first prize, a heavy gold medal, was won by Corporal Crowell. "The Corporal received it, made a few remarks and retired. When Hon. Frank Soule, in a very happy and spicy speech, presented Private George A. Simmons with a splendid heavy gold cross, for second best shot. Private S. being a *very* young man, and exceedingly embarrassed, withal was kindly relieved by the Hon. Selim Woodworth, who disposed of the task in a manner very appropriate to the occasion." (36) Private Thos. P. Everett won the leather medal, and the party broke up. The Guard then returned to the boat, escorted by members of Company B, and by the party of Doctor Tennent from the Rancho Pinole.



The cost to the Guard for this target excursion was not small. Some of the major items were:

*Contra Costa Ferry Co.*

54 passages, members and invited guests.....\$ 54.00

*J. J. Knowlton*

Furnishing target..... 20.00

*John P. Zane*

One leather medal..... 2.50

*Paul & Talbot—Villa Hotel, Oakland*

75 guests.....\$225.00

8 ladies..... 24.00

12 breakfasts..... 18.00

267.00

*Smith & Downes*

*Fisk, Patton & Loring*

6 baskets of Champagne @ \$12.00..... 72.00

½ doz. old sherry..... 18.00

½ doz. brandy cocktails..... 9.00

25 lbs. ice..... 6.00

3 bottles (gin) cocktails..... 4.50

1 doz. dark brandy..... 18.00

200 cigars..... 20.00

Cartages..... 1.50

77.00

*M. Schmeidsneider*

10 pieces music @ \$12.00..... 120.00

\$612.50

On September 17th, 1853, the minutes of the Guard are resumed. The assembly on this date was held at the offices of Lieutenant Randall, as was the one on October 4th following. At the latter meeting the Auditing Committee reported the accounts of members "rather loose." Lieutenant Randall notified the members of the Guard present that the new armory was almost completed, and "would probably be ready for occupation before the next meeting & moved the commissioned officers be appointed as a committee to render it proper for the Company's entrance."

The building which the Guard had erected after the fire of September 17th, 1850, was completely destroyed by the fire of June 22, 1851. In the fall of 1852 the San Francisco City Council passed an ordinance appropriating \$500.00 a month for the rental of an Armory which was to be used by all the volunteer military companies of the City. Sam Brannan's four story building which he erected on the northeast corner of Sacramento and Montgomery Streets, was to be the new home of the volunteer organizations. Each company was to have a separate meeting room on the third floor and the use of the drill room on the floor above.

The meetings of the California Guard in the last months of 1853 and the first months of 1854 were marked by the resignations of members. Very few of the letters stated any definite reason for what appears to have been a concerted withdrawal from the ranks of the Corps. However, these actions may be explained by the fact that the First California Guard, early in 1854, changed the method of drill, forming a horse battery, while, heretofore, it had been an artillery unit specializing in the standing drill and drill with muskets. The thought of a mounted Guard seemed to cause general dissatisfaction, and many of those who withdrew formed a new artillery company under the name of the San Francisco City Guard, organized March 31, 1854, with John A. Clark, a former officer of the First California Guard, as Captain.

One of the last celebrations participated in by the Guard, before its mass resignations, was the Admission Day parade of September 9, 1853, at which time the Society of California Pioneers, the German Turner Versang Verein and the various military companies joined together in a gala event.

"At 11 o'clock A. M. the ceremonies began. The Pioneers formed into a procession in Bush Street near Montgomery, and were escorted into the Musical Hall by the California Guard . . . The procession moved through the principal streets. . . The different companies all appeared to great advantage. The Marshal and his aides were mounted and their wide scarfs of white and red silk gave . . . a fine appearance. . . The Blues, with little of the appearance of holiday soldiers, looked as though in case of need, they would be among the first to reap the laurels. The California Guard, composed of Pioneers, made a very prepossessing appearance. The Pioneers numbered above two hundred, and contained in their ranks many of those who led the American emigration over the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas." (37)

The First California Guard continued to hold its own despite its numerous resignations. At the time of the shooting of James King of William, May 14th, 1856, by James P. Casey, and the consequent forming of the second Vigilance Committee, the *Evening Bulletin* of which the late James King of William had been editor, carried a notice that nearly all the military companies of the city were broken up, and that "if called upon to oppose the Vigilance Committee, but very few members of each company would appear." (38)

During 1857, the First California Guard, now formed into a Light Battery, participated in the usual parades with the other independent military organizations of the City. The Guard had been in the same position as the other companies during the activities of the Vigilance Committee, and their Captain, Thomas D. Johns, in 1856, had run into

difficulties with the State Military officers over his refusal to use his company in action against the Vigilance Committee. The *Daily Alta* of May 17th, 1858, carried an item about the Guard: "This company will hold their annual election of officers this evening at the rooms of the Society of California Pioneers. (39) . . . The 'Old Guard,' although deprived of their arms, are making arrangements to parade on the coming Fourth of July, and their re-appearance in the streets of San Francisco will be hailed with satisfaction by their numerous friends and the citizens generally."

An echo of the Vigilance Committee difficulties with the Guard was carried by an article in the *Evening Bulletin* of June 19th, 1858. "We see that an August Court Martial is to be held on the 22nd of June in this city, for the trial of Captain Thomas D. Johns, and such other persons as may be brought before it, for their conduct during the Vigilance Committee times, in not obeying the orders of Gov. Johnson when he called them out to kill the people. It will be recollected that Johns commanded an independent Volunteer Company, when the Vigilance excitement occurred."

It is interesting to note that in the trial mentioned Colonel Joshua P. Haven served as Judge Advocate. This was the same Joshua P. Haven who played a prominent part in the organization of the Guard, in 1849. In the Court Martial proceedings not only the honor and integrity of Captain Johns was at stake, but it appears that the "legal existence" of the Guard was also on trial. The *Evening Bulletin* during the time of the trial devoted several columns and much language to the proceedings, being violently prejudiced in favor of Captain Johns, and even more vitriolically opposed to the military members of the Court. The matter ended in vindication of the accused Captain and the adjournment of the Court *sine die*.

The Captain appears to have lost none of the prestige he enjoyed, or the Guard, either, for the following September 29th, 1858, Johns led the parade in honor of the laying of the Atlantic Cable, and on October 12th, the First California Guard, under his command, fired a salute of 200 guns on the Plaza in honor of the arrival of the Overland Mail; while on February 21st the Captain went out to the Presidio, where he borrowed the brass cannon from the commanding officer, in order that the Guard might, the following day, fire three 33 gun salutes, in honor of the birthday of George Washington.

The Annual Report of the Quarter Master and Adjutant General, William C. Kibbee, (40) of December 15th, 1854, gives a clear picture of the status of the independent military companies of California:

"The Commander-in-Chief is aware that, apart from our volunteer force, no troops of the State bear arms or do any active duty. Our citizens form companies and tender their services to the civil authorities of the State, yet they can claim no right or privilege, excepting such as may be granted them by Legislative enactment. They create an element of power by which order is to be maintained, and protection afforded, when all civil force has failed. They are a part of the government and give vitality to law. These organizations are prompted by a sense of patriotic duty, and our volunteers have a right to expect the State to pay expenses incident to the service. . . . I would recommend, therefore, the propriety of adopting measures which would encourage our volunteer companies, by relieving them of the great pecuniary embarrassment under which they now struggle."

In a communication to the Legislature accompanying the above report, the Adjutant-General said:

"The State of California has now within her limits twenty-four volunteer companies, numbering an aggregate rank and file of sixteen hundred men. Most of these companies are duly organized, armed, equipped and ready for immediate service.

"The expenses incident to these organizations are large and onerous. . . . These expenses should be borne by the citizens of the State entitled to do military duty, and I would most respectfully suggest the propriety of imposing a per capita tax . . . the same to be appropriated for the benefit of our volunteer troops."

As time passed the volunteer companies were rendered less and less independent and the system was more and more consolidated and centralized. 1855 an act was passed ordering a parade of the companies twice a year. In 1862 another act was passed to further develop the military system. The Civil War had brought to the minds of the citizenry, in general, a new idea as to the value of the militia companies. In time the system of manifold divisions was replaced by the single division system, consisting of six brigades. Each Company was to be known by a particular letter or number of its regiment. No one was allowed to belong to more than one company at a time.

Thus the volunteer companies were deprived of their independent character, and, for the first time, the State militia assumed the form of a little army. As time advanced discipline became more rigorous and lines were more finely drawn. The San Francisco companies were compelled to hold drills weekly, and the old spirit of camaraderie which had so distinguished the first volunteer companies was lost in the Manual of Arms. Gone were the days of carefree excursions to the Contra Costa, and Fourth of July picnics at Russ' Gardens. However, the idea of the

volunteer military organization as formed by the First California Guard was really the incentive and the root from which sprang the National Guard Companies of California.

## NOTES

- 1—The Society of California Pioneers has—Minutes of the meetings from the organization to May 4, 1850. Minutes of the meetings, Sept. 17, 1853, to May 4, 1854. Numerous vouchers and paid bills, 1852, '53, '54. Letters from members, March 1, 1853, to March 4, 1854.
- 2—In accordance with the State Constitution the first act organizing a State Militia was passed April 10, 1850. It established an enrolled Militia of all free, white, able-bodied male citizens from 18 to 45 years of age and exempted all members and officers of independent companies in the State. *Golden Era*, Dec. 1855.
- 3—*Annals of San Francisco*, P. 702.
- 4—Colonnade House of Wm. Conway, on Kearny Street, in 1849. Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. VI, P. 188.
- 5—The By-Laws of 1850 provided fines on a varying scale for failure of officers and members to perform their duties.
- 6—Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. VI, P. 182.
- 7—The Constitution of July, 1849, Art. 2—"The number of members shall not exceed one hundred and thirteen exclusive of those on the honorary and absent list."
- 8—By-Laws, Law I, Sec. 1—"Each person elected shall . . . pay an entrance contribution of fifty dollars." There were also provisions for collection of fines, etc.
- 9—Special assessments were levied from time to time.
- 10—By-Laws 1850.
- 11—Colonel J. D. Stevenson, Commanding Officer First Regiment New York Volunteers, who arrived in California in 1847.
- 12—*Daily Alta*, Dec. 21, 1850.
- 13—Mrs. Wills (afterwards Mrs. Walton) was principal of the female department of the French College, NE corner of Mason & Jackson Streets. S. F. Directory, 1860.
- 14—Eureka Medal.
- 15—*Daily Alta*, Sept. 30, 1850.
- 16—Mrs. E. M. Wills (Mrs. Walton) died in San Francisco, April 20, 1892.
- 17—*Daily Alta*, May 18, 1851.
- 18—*San Francisco Herald*, Sept. 10, 1851.
- 19—The *Report* of the San Francisco Mercantile Library Association for the year 1857, P. 11, mentions the "full length portrait of Washington, copied from Steuart's original painting by the daughter of the artist." It hung in the rooms of the Association.
- 20—*Daily Alta*, Sept. 29, 1851.

- 21—In February, 1851, the Legislature authorized a loan of \$500,000 to meet expenses of expeditions against the Indians. Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. VII, P. 456.
- 22—*Daily Alta*, Jan. 10, 1852.
- 23—Ibid.
- 24—John W. Tucker, Importer of watches and jewelry, and Prop. of Tucker's Academy of Music. S. F. Directory, 1860.
- 25—J. H. McCabe, "*Diary of San Francisco Theatrical History*," Vol. 1, Mss. Library, Society of California Pioneers.
- 26—Washington Guards, Empire Guards, Marion Rifles, Eureka Guards, etc.
- 27—*Daily Alta*, May 19, 1852.
- 28—Note on back of minutes of June 4th, 1853: "June 7th meeting, report of Q. M. Sgt. Ellis."
- 29—*Daily Alta*, June 9, 1853.
- 30—Ibid, July 6, 1853.
- 31—Mrs. Sinclair, former wife of Edwin Forest, English actor. She opened the Metropolitan Theatre in San Francisco, Christmas Eve, 1853, playing the part of Lady Teazle, in *The School for Scandal*.
- 32—*Daily Alta*, July 6, 1853.
- 33—Ibid.
- 34—San Francisco Hall, Washington near Montgomery, 1853. Conducted by Mrs. Sinclair.
- 35—Samuel J. Tennent, an English physician, arrived in California September, 1848. He married Rafaela Martinez and settled on the Pinole Rancho, Contra Costa Co. A member of the Society of California Pioneers.
- 36—*Daily Alta*, July 28, 1853.
- 37—*Daily Alta*, Sept. 10, 1853.
- 38—*Evening Bulletin*, June 2, 1856.
- 39—Pioneer Hall, Washington and Kearny Streets, S. F. Directory, 1858.
- 40—Appendix, Assembly Journal, 6th Session, 1855.



# Members of the First California Guard

*This is not a complete list of the membership,  
but has been taken from all available sources.*

- \* Abell, Alex.
- Allen, W. R.
- Austin, E. G.
- \* Austin, Joseph W.
- Ayres, F. C.
- \* Bagley, D. T.
- Baker, William
- Beck, Gustavus
- \* Beckford, Jas. M.
- \* Benson, John
- Bent, S. W.
- Benton, N. K.
- Blecker, A. L.
- \* Bluxome, Isaac
- \* Bond, Charles R.
- Briggs, Jas. C.
- Bright, Jas.
- Bulger, E.
- Bush, A. White
- \* Cardoza, J. N.
- Carter, E. O.
- Chaviteau, J. J.
- \* Clark, John A.
- Cleeman, Frederick V.
- Cleeman, W.
- \* Conner, John W.
- Cook, George L.
- \* Cook, Henry D.
- Corrigan, J. P.
- Crane, D. N.
- Creighton, James
- \* Crowell, E. W.
- Curtis, G.
- Curtis, J. F.
- \* Davis, J. H.
- \* Davis, Wm. H.
- Dexter, Chas.
- Dickisson, F.
- Dimmock, E. R.
- Dunbar, E. E.
- Durivage, J. E.
- \* Eigenbrodt, Chas. S.
- Elliott, T.
- \* Ellis, A. J.
- \* Ellis, A. Van Horne
- Ellis, J. Stoneacre
- Emmett, C. Temple
- \* Ensign, George H.
- Everett, S. H.
- Everett, Thomas P.
- \* Ewer, F. G.
- Finley, John M.
- \* Flower, Samuel
- \* Folsom, J. L.
- Garber, E. W.
- Gardner, J.
- Gearry, John W.
- \* Gerry, S. R.
- Gibson, Lewis
- Gilbert, Edward
- \* Gillespie, C. V.
- Goddiffray, Alfred
- \* Gould, Thos. F.
- \* Gower, Samuel
- Graham, Jas.
- \* Green, Talbot H.
- \* Grimes, Hiram
- \* Gummer, F. C.
- Gwin, Wm. M.
- \* Hanna, John
- Harper, Thos. W.
- \* Harrison, E. H.
- \* Haven, Joshua P.
- \* Hawes, Horace
- Height, S. W.
- Henriques, Jos.
- Heyman, Adolphus
- Hilton, E. G.
- Hooper, Wm.
- Howard, George H.
- \* Howard, W. D. M. (Capt., 1851)
- \* Hyatt, Caleb
- Johns, Thomas D. (Capt., 1854-56)
- \* Johnson, Chas. H.
- Johnson, S. D.
- Jones, Wm. H.

- \*Kemble, E. C.
- \*Keyes, Wm. E.
- \*King, Edward A.
- \*Laffan, E.
- Lammott, H. D.
- Lammott, R. S.
- Laurencil, — —
- Leland, Warren
- Lemon, Frank
- Lilley, Sextus
- Lippitt, Francis J. (Captain, 1850)
- Loring, Asa
- Loring, Samuel
- \*McAllister, Hall
- McCarty, (John)
- McDuffie, A. J.
- McGrath, Fennel
- Macdonald, D.
- \*Meeks, W. N.
- Meldola, Wm. S.
- Melhado, C.
- Meredith, G.
- Mersch, C. F.
- Mickle, E.
- Miller, Morley
- \*Mudge, B. W.
- Musson, Eugene
- \*Naglee, H. M. (Captain, 1849)
- Nichols, George
- Norris, Wm.
- Norton, Myron
- Palmer, Chas. F.
- Parker, Thomas B.
- Pendleton, J. A.
- Pendergast, John
- Penniman, J. F.
- Pierce, G. H.
- \*Pollard, Aaron
- Porter. — —
- \*Post, G. B.
- Prettyman, W. F.
- \*Price, Samuel
- Priest, Albert
- \*Randall, A. G.
- \*Randolbh. Edmund
- Reynolds, Benj.
- \*Roach, Thomas J.
- \*Sharp, G. F.
- Schultz, Julius
- \*Sherman, Richard M.
- Sillern, Wm.
- Sim, Wm.
- Sime, John
- Simmons, B.
- Simmons, George
- \*Sinton, Richard H. (Captain, 1852)
- Sloat, L. W.
- Smith, A.
- Smith, Wm. M.
- Spence, (r) J. F.
- Spofford, W. E.
- Stephens, R. Julius
- Stevens, F. P.
- Stuart, W. M.
- Styles, Wm. C.
- Sullivan, E. L.
- \*Sutter, John A.
- Symons, D.
- \*Teschemacher, H. F.
- Thompson, D. W. C.
- \*Thompson, Joseph R.
- Tillinghast, W. H.
- Townsend, Frederick
- \*Turk, Frank
- \*Turner, W. R.
- Wadleigh, — —
- Wadsworth, H. Frank
- Wallen, H. D.
- Ward, George R.
- \*Ward, James C.
- Ward, Sam
- \*Warner, Chas. J.
- Watson, George F.
- Watson, W. H.
- \*Wells, Robert
- \*West, T. J.
- Winston, F. B.
- Withered, James S.
- Woodworth, Benj.
- Woodworth, F. A. (Captain, 1853)
- Zimmerman, Wm.