

McCarthy Light Guards

In addition to abolishing the office of the Adjutant General, the legislature also cut all funding for the militia. Therefore, the companies that did exist were able to do so only because of local support. Despite pleas from every governor, the legislature did not appropriate any money for the militia until 1896 when they authorized the payment of \$839.40 for expenses incurred by the militia when it was called out during the railroad strike of 1894.

One unit that was highly thought of was the Quapaw Guard. The company was formed August 6, 1880 in Little Rock. In the midsummer of 1881 it spent three weeks in Perryville where the county judge had reported a general spirit of lawlessness throughout Perry county. The unit also distinguished itself when it won the drill competition at the state fair, against companies from Memphis and St Louis. The Quapaw Guard's armory was located at the corner of Markham and Chester and was the scene of many of the cities most elegant dinners and balls.

The McCarthy Light Guards were organized in Little Rock in October of 1887. They were named for James H. McCarthy, a prominent local businessman, who provided the funds for the units uniforms. And what uniforms they were! Made of blue broadcloth, they were trimmed in red and white. The helmet was red, capped off with a white plume. Each man carried a patent leather knapsack with the company's name inscribed on the back..

The McCarthy Light Guards developed quite a reputation as a competitive drill company. In their first event they took third prize in the Interstate Competitive Drill at Galveston, Texas in 1888. They won second prize at Atlanta in 1889, but were disqualified in the 1890 competition at Indianapolis. The company again took second prize in 1891 at Omaha. After not competing in 1892 the McCarthy Light Guards won first prize in the Interstate Competitive drill at Nashville, Tennessee. After that competition, they traveled to Chicago and participated in several parades and exhibition drills at the World's Fair. The unit took forth prize in the 1894 competition at Little Rock. That competition was one of the largest gatherings in Arkansas history, with up to 10,000 people a day paying to watch the drills.

However much pride these performances brought the citizen's of Arkansas, they were no indicative of the state of the militia as a whole. The lack of professional leadership and absence of funds left the militia ill-prepared for the events of the late 19th century.

ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION

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McCARTHY LIGHT GUARDS MINUTES BOOK: 1887-1890.

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1. 1887-1890.

Organization and Minutes of Meetings
of McCarthy Light Guards Militia
Company, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Meeting called to order in the office of Mr. J. P. Hughes. By Allen M. Johnson the temporary Chairman, with the gentlemen present.

Allen M. Johnson, Wm D. Hughes, J. P. Rawlings, Jno M. Dungan, C. M. Wang, C. A. Anderson, E. O. Clark, J. P. Rawlings, by proxy, J. P. Rawlings, J. M. Tucker, Jno Waters, J. P. Bateman, W. R. Hughes, Jno A. Mitchell, A. R. Rutland, Louis Park, and Geo Davis

Motion made by Mr. C. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Dungan, to organize a Militia Company in the City of Little Rock, Ark, and to have the name of the same to be known as the Little Rock Light Guards of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Company then went into permanent organization and the following civil officers were elected by ballot.

Allen M. Johnson	President
Wm D. Hughes	Vice President
Thos D. Rawlings	Secy & Treasurer

A communication was then read from Mrs. J. H. McPartter, offering to furnish uniforms for Company. The offer being gratefully and unanimously accepted, and the best thanks were to acknowledge receipt of letter and of the generous offer to donate uniforms to be provided at next meeting of the Company.

Motion made seconded by Mr. Dungan, to adopt the by-laws of the Company. Resolved to accept the same.

and a committee composed of Ed Clark
W. B. Hughes and Mr. Am. were appointed
to make some report at early N. Comm.

The following names were ordered entered on
the Roll as ^{acting} members.

Jno. Watson, J. M. Funder, Allen St. Johnson, W. B. Hughes,
J. S. Pomeroy, Jno. M. Durgan, C. W. King,
C. H. Andrews, E. C. Clark, R. B. Kendall, J. B. Rawlings,
J. B. Dutton, W. S. Rawlings, Geo. Davis, Jno. Mitchell,
A. A. Rutland, Louis Pelt, Zeb Ward Jr., Ferd. H. Abney,
Jno. Deane, Ed Joyce, W. C. Quintrell, G. N. Peay,
H. P. Davis, Horace Smith, L. A. Stainback,
J. M. Brown, J. G. Hart, W. McCaranough, Geo. Speller,
W. J. Holt, W. M. Cahoon Jr., R. C. Little, Harry Edwards,
Rayburn Peay, Sid. L. Johnson, Walter Hall, R. P. Perkins,
Milton Rumbough, C. H. Sayle, Eugene Bell, Bow Harris,
W. H. Ragland, H. H. Dean, Robt. P. Atwell

Meeting adjourned to meet at some place
on Tuesday Dec 27th to complete organization
to elect line officers

J. B. Rawlings
Secretary

(Signed) Approved
Allen St. Johnson President

December 27th 1887

No Meeting on account of absence of
presiding officers

J. B. Rawlings
Secretary

(Not approved)

by Am. Am.

Little Rock, Jan'y 12th 1878

Meeting called to Order By President Allen Johnson
minutes of previous meeting read and approved

Roll of Members Present was ordered taken by
Society and parties signifying their willingness to
become members of Company, the names
thus taken were and are the Charter members
of The McCarthy Light Guards.

Persons See our Constitution and By Laws
now enabled to report and were granted
further time.

Resignation of Allen H. Johnson was accepted
and E. C. Clark was elected as President in
his stead.

The Company then went into election of its
line officers with the following results:-

1st Major Captain C. W. Tucker, 1st Lieut
J. M. Dugan, 2nd Lieut R. P. Hood
Quartermaster (Sergeant) W. J. H. Genov, Surgeon

On Motion of Allen H. Johnson the line officers
were empowered to appoint the complement
of non-commissioned officers necessary to
correctly officer the company.

A Committee composed of W. M. P. Hughes Esq. C. A.
Auduon, was appointed to secure if possible
the use of the House of Representatives as
a drill room until such times as proper
and suitable arrangements could be made
elsewhere.

Society was ordered to notify Adjutant Genl of
State of Arkansas of the completion of company
and to get information as to whether Co
as State Troop

Messrs Dungan, Fisher & Adams, were appointed a Committee to make inquiry concerning the uniforms for the Company. Both directed by J. J. J. to correspond with the various leading manufacturers who make Co uniforms as to prices and to confer with Mr McCreethy as to the Company Colors, and the probable cost to him in the premises.

It was then decided to make the next drill night on Wednesday Jan'y 4th and on every Monday night thereafter until after the report of Constitution Committee or other changes made another night more convenient.

Meeting adjourned to meet on Monday Jan'y 9th 1888 —

J. J. Rawlings, Secy

Approved

President

Little Rock Jan 1st 1880

(Meeting called to order by Vice President
W B Hughes, minutes of previous meeting
read and approved.

Resignation of M W S W Tucker as 1st Lieut
accepted and Jno M Dungan elected in his
stead.

Election of 2nd Lieut resulted
in the selection of Mr C H Gayle for
that position.

Committee on Uniforms reported that
communication had been sent to several
manufacturing houses, but that no selection
had been made. Committee was granted
further time.

Committee on drill and meeting room reported
that permission had been granted the
Company to use the Hall of the House
of Representatives till other arrangements
could be made -

on motion the initiation fee for membership
was ordered fixed at 50¢ and the monthly
dues at 50¢ ^{per month} beginning with Jan 1st 1880

Moved and seconded; that a fine of (25¢)
twenty five cents, be imposed on each
member absent from drill and that
if fine thus imposed be not paid
within 30 days after made, the member
be expelled from the Company unless
excused by the Captain ^{or} ^{major} Lieutenants.
Carried.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the
rolls membership of company consist of
the names on list and published in Gazette
of Jan 5th ~~and~~ with the company
at that of Mr C E Wythe -

The following were Elected as members
of the Company. J. W. Linder, Geo. S. S.
Roth McVain. W. E. Stanton, W. A. Canell.

Meeting adjourned subject to call of
president,

J. P. Rawlings
Secretary

Lake Rock Jan'y 16th

(Meeting Called to order by Vice President)
 W. S. Hughes, minutes of last meeting were
 read.

The applications for membership, from
 Jas. D. Lee, C. E. Mytinger, J. D. Calif.
 Roy Thompson, Jas. A. Watts, J. H. Doyle
 & Walter Bolk, were read, and laid on
 the table until after the adoption of the
 Constitution.

Adjourned subject to call.

C. H. Sayle

Secy, Pro Tem

Approved -

Little Rock Jan 25/08

Meeting called to order Mr. E. C. Clark in
Chair. Minutes of the two previous meetings
read and approved.

Report of Committee on Uniforms, was
read stating that committee had selected
style of uniform, and presented specific
citation at same, for the Company's approval.

Report of Committee, ~~with~~ was ordered
laid upon table for one week, and
specimens of clothe with cuts and styles
of uniform ordered left at the store
of Messrs Wood & Fabine for the inspection of
the members.

Committee on Bylaws, presented their report,
being the bylaws, recommended by
them for the government of Company.

After reading same, it was taken up
by sections, and amended and adapted
up to and including Section 1 of article
4.

On motion, of Mr A. S. Johnson, which
comprehended, article 4 section 1, The
initiation fee, for all applicants, was fixed
at received previous to this date of Jan'y
24, was fixed at 50¢.

Applications from G. R. McPrine, R. L. Ralings,
Cunray Scott, H. C. P. Pallock, & C. L. Vickers
properly endorsed for, were filed with
the secty, and action continued until the
adoption of Bylaws.
Meeting adjourned until next Monday
Jan'y 30th

C. Ralings

Secty

Little Rock Jan'y 20/88

Meeting called to order by Mr. A. J. Johnson
elected to preside in the absence of both President
and Vice President.

Minutes of previous meeting read and reports
of committees and unfinished business made the
special order of business.

The adoption of By-Laws taken up ~~where~~
at section 1 of article 4 and adopted by section
to the end. The By-Laws were then ordered
read in full and in motion were adopted as
a whole.

They are as follows:
Preamble

The object and purpose of this organization shall
be to acquire knowledge of military tactics; the
duties of a soldier in the infantry, arms of service,
the regulations of the army and physical development,
and to afford a place of amusement and social intercourse
between the gentleman members of the Company, and

the discussion of military events: to study improve
methods in fire arms, projectiles and Etc. To inculcate
and foster a proper military spirit, so necessary in a
country largely dependent on its volunteer soldiers
in the event of a war: to aid the civil authorities
in any emergency: to promote habits of regularity,
promptness and self reliance so essential in life -
assuming as a cardinal principle that obedience
is the first duty of a soldier.

Article 1

Name

Sec 1. This organization shall be known as the
McCauley Light Guard of Little
Rock Arkansas -

Art. 2

Art

Memberships

1. Applicants for active membership must be citizens of the state of Ark, not over 45 years of age nor under 18, not less than five feet 4 in in height of good standing, deposit, and of good physical constitution.

Sec

2. Applicants for honorary membership need not be citizens of the state of Ark nor prescribed in age or stature.

Sec

3. Elections for membership, both active and honorary, must be by Ballot, 2 black balls shall reject.

4. Application for membership both active and honorary must be made in writing, recommended by two members of the Company and accompanied by the admission fee; said fee to be returned where applicant is rejected.

5. Every active member on receipt of notice of his election, or after election in active roll, shall within ten months, sign the Company Roll, agreeing to be governed by the Constitution and bylaws of the company so long as he may be a member thereof.

6. Every active member shall attend, without notice, the regular meetings of the Co; Any failure to comply with this section shall subject the member to a fine of 50¢ unless excused by the commanding officer.

7. Any active member who has joined or enlisted will not be allowed to withdraw from the active roll of members the Company.

of the commanding officer or a majority of the members. And any active member who fails to discharge his duties or who undertakes to withdraw without the consent, or who refuses to pay his fines dues or other indebtedness, or to obey orders of the commanding officer, shall be stricken from the roll of the Company altogether. And shall not be eligible for re-election to membership again under two years.

Sec 8 Every honorary member may have full and equal enjoyment of the privileges of the Company with active members. And conform alike to all the By Laws, Rules and Regulations pertaining to the same. But may be exempt from all drill and Military duty.

They shall have an equal vote for the admission of ^{honorary} members, and for the election of members of the Board of Directors elected at the annual meeting. But shall have no vote on question relating exclusively to the Military Branch of the Co. nor for officer or representatives in the Board from the active military.

Sec 9 Any application for membership who has been voted upon and rejected a second time shall not be eligible for membership until six months after his second rejection.

Sec 10 The active membership shall be limited to 60 members.

A. H. 3

I Meetings

Art 1 The annual meeting of the Company shall be held on the second Monday of January in each year.

Sec 2 Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board.

of twelve members, addressed to him in
writing, five days notice being given of the
same, and the purposes for which they
called.

Sec 2

Sec 3. Twenty five members shall constitute a
quorum of the Company for the transaction
of business but on questions confined strictly
to the active or military branch, to be
acted upon by them only, seventeen members
shall be a quorum.

Sec 4. * No member will be permitted to with-
draw from any meeting unless excused by the
presiding officer, any violation of this section
will subject the offender to a fine of 50 Cents.

Art § 4

Sec 1. The officers of this Company shall consist
of one Captain one First Lieutenant one
second Lieutenant, five sergeants, four
corporals one Quartermaster Sergeant one
surgeon and one Chaplain.

Sec 3

Sec 2. The duties of these officers shall be such as
usually pertain to such officers.
Special duty may be assigned to any officer,
at any time, by the commanding officer
or by the Co.

Sec 3. The civil officers shall consist of one
president one vice president, one Secretary &
Treasurer.

Art § 5

Sec 1. The administration of the affairs of the Co.
shall be confided to a committee among
whom shall be the three civil officers of
the commanding officer one active and
four honorary members elected annually
at a regular meeting in June who shall
meet as often as business may require, if not

6 shall constitute a quorum, and who shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur in the body. Or President to be Ex-officio

Sec 2 The Board of Directors shall be the representative of the Company, shall have general supervision and control of the armory and all profits of the Company shall appoint all employees and make all purchase and disbursements. In the absence or inability of the President and vice President, shall elect one of their own members to temporarily supply the vacancy, and shall generally do whatever in their discretion may be for the interest of the Company, but shall have no power to make the Company liable for any debt to an amount exceeding, at the time of contracting the same, the assets of the Company not subject to their liabilities.

Sec 3 They shall ^{also} take cognizance of any breaches of order, or violation of the rules of the Co. Should any differences arise between members, or acts of disorder occur in the armory, or any member be guilty there, or elsewhere of conduct unbecoming a gentleman, it shall be the duty of this Board to make inquiry into the same, and if they deem the offense or the violation of the rules sufficiently grave and sufficiently proved, they may by a vote of two thirds of the Board of Directors, suspend the member so offending and recommend his expulsion to a special meeting of the Company, and he may be expelled by a majority vote of such meeting.

Sec 4

President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the said Branch of the Company, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors: he shall exercise general supervision and control: he shall sign all papers necessary to be executed by the Company shall be bound thereby.

Sec 5

Vice President

The Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President during his absence.

Secretary

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Co; to cause all notices to be given and all publication to be made, which the interest of the Company may require: to collect all moneys and to deposit the same with the Treasurer: to keep correct accounts of receipts and disbursements, as well as of all property owned by the Co, and to keep record of all contracts made.

He shall be required on or before the 10 of each month, to furnish the Board of Directors with a statement made up to the 1st of each month, showing the number of members, the unpaid dues, outstanding obligations, receipts from sale, dues of all other sources, articles purchased during the month and remaining on hand, disbursements made and Cash on Hand.

He will make a similar report at the annual meeting of the Company, which shall embrace all transactions of the preceding year. He shall, in payment of current expenses, be empowered to make drafts on the Treasurer, which shall be countersigned by the President.

The books of the Secretary shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Board of

Sec 1

Sec 2

Sec 3