

Legislative Document No. 16.

REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF KENTUCKY

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR LESLIE,

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

FRANKFORT, KY.:
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REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FRANKFORT, November 30, 1871. }

To His Excellency PRESTON H. LESLIE, Governor and Commander-in-Chief:

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following Report of the operations of this office:

Since my appointment, in September, there has been comparatively little done in the office beyond the ordinary routine work, which consists, to a large degree, in making examinations and furnishing information to the various Departments at Washington, and to parties interested, in relation to the history and services of citizens of Kentucky in the Army of the United States, mainly with reference to the allowance of bounty, pension, and other claims against the General Government; and of furnishing the Quarter-Master General with information from the records bearing upon the claim of the State against the General Government for moneys advanced during the late war. Owing to the necessarily imperfect records, consequent upon the haste with which troops were thrown into the field, and the inexperience, and perhaps incompetence and neglect of many of the mustering and other officers, and the failure, during long and active campaigns, to make regular and necessary reports of the various commands, the examinations required to obtain the desired information not unfrequently require much time and trouble; and in some instances I have been unable to furnish the facts desired.

This has been the case more frequently in relation to the soldiers of the war of 1812, the records of which are very meager, incomplete, and unsatisfactory.

THE RECORDS.

Prior to 1861 Kentucky, for some time, had substantially no military establishment and no organized Militia. This office was merely nominal and complimentary. Hence, when the late war burst upon the country, and the necessity for the organization of forces on a large scale was suddenly sprung upon the State, no experienced man was found, familiar with the work in hand, with a system of records arranged, and drilled force, to keep them; but both the head of the Department and his hastily-improvised corps of assistants and

clerks were alike unfamiliar with the work to be done. Amid the rush of war and the din of battle there was no time for perfecting systems of record. Armies were required, and at once, and companies and regiments were organized and thrown into the field with all possible dispatch, with no time to observe the particularity with reference to the perfection of the records and papers, which, with the experience of the present, we find very important. As stated above, the necessary result is confused, incomplete, and unsatisfactory records, entailing great labor and annoyance. The material is on file in the office from which, with proper time and labor, the records might be made reasonably methodical and complete. And very much has been done since the close of the conflict to arrange and systematize this material. But much remains yet to be done in this direction. The Legislature, properly desirous of curtailing the expenses of the State after the fearful drainage upon her resources growing out of the war, I think, unfortunately, reduced the clerical force of the office too soon, and prevented the completion of such records as, if it had been otherwise, would have been of incalculable advantage for many years yet to come. The number of citizens of the State who are interested in these records is very large, and information concerning the services of the soldiers in the late war will probably be important to them and their descendants for more than half a century yet to come. The number of inquiries yet made concerning the services of the soldiers of the war of 1812 would be quite surprising to those uninformed on the subject; and the disadvantages of incomplete records can be appreciated only by those who have knowledge of the facts. Therefore, I feel it due to the many thousands of the citizens of the State interested, and to those who shall come after them, to direct attention to the facts, and to suggest that, while yet the data are available, the military records and history of the Kentucky troops in the late war should be made as nearly complete as possible.

THE ENROLLED MILITIA.

Under the existing Militia law of the State, it is made the duty of the assessors of the various counties to list, and of the clerks of the county courts to report to the Adjutant General and Auditor, all persons liable to military duty. It seems to be a matter of impossibility to secure these reports; and without them no correct estimate of the available military strength of the State can be arrived at. For the present year we have no returns from twenty-nine of the counties, or

one fourth of the entire number of counties. I would respectfully call the attention of county officers to the fact, that a heavy penalty is attached to the neglect of this duty (*Myers' Supplement, page 328, section 6*).

The following are the returns received at this office for 1871:

Adair	1,449
Allen	1,430
Anderson	1,178
Ballard	
Barren	2,410
Bath	1,404
Boone	1,544
Bourbon	1,675
Boyd	1,843
Boyle	
Bracken	2,164
Breathitt	839
Breckinridge	
Bullitt	1,091
Buttler	1,536
Caldwell	
Calloway	1,817
Campbell	
Carroll	1,171
Carter	1,370
Casey	1,194
Christian	4,217
Clark	1,070
Clay	1,447
Clinton	782
Crittenden	1,322
Cumberland	1,632
Daviess	3,529
Edmonson	815
Elliott	679
Estill	1,210
Fayette	1,818
Fleming	1,375
Floyd	1,034
Franklin	1,573
Fulton	968
Gallatin	686
Garrard	1,170
Grant	1,879
Graves	
Grayson	
Green	

Greeneup	
Hancock	
Hardin	
Harlan	
Harrison	
Hart	
Henderson	
Henry	
Hickman	
Hopkins	
Jackson	
Jefferson	
Jessamine	
Johnson	
Josh Bell	
Kenton	8,1
Knox	1,45
Laclede	1,187
Laurel	1,065
Lawrence	1,282
Lee	
Letcher	
Lewis	1,581
Lincoln	
Livingson	1,250
Logan	2,460
Lyon	870
Madison	
Magoffin	693
Marion	
Marshall	1,495
Martin	314
Mason	2,632
McCracken	2,003
McLean	1,104
Meade	1,395
Menifee	395
Mercer	1,543
Metcalf	1,113
Monroe	1,181
Montgomery	
Morgan	946
Muhlenburg	2,341
Nelson	
Nicholas	
Ohio	
Oldham	
Owen	
Owsley	560

Pendleton	2,115
Perry	
Pike	1,418
Powell	340
Polaski	2,244
Robertson	990
Rockcastle	1,004
Rowan	
Russell	1,061
Scott	1,312
Shelby	1,601
Simpson	
Spencer	781
Taylor	1,325
Todd	
Trigg	1,816
Trimble	1,085
Union	2,193
Warren	3,288
Washington	
Wayne	
Webster	1,420
Whitley	
Wolfe	538
Woodford	714

ACTIVE MILITIA.

The Active Militia of the State, under the present arrangement, amounts to very little. There are several companies nominally in existence, but there are few of them which have any active practical organization. The following table will present the Active Militia as the records of this office show it at present:

List of Commanders, Service, Station, Strength, and date of Organization of the different Companies.

Officers.	Rank.	Service.	Station.	County.	Strength of Co.	No. of Arms Issued.	Date of Muster-in.
Louisville Battalions:							
J. W. Reubin	Major	Infantry	Louisville	Jefferson	65	65	May 28, 1868.
G. L. Clark	Captain	Infantry	Louisville	Jefferson	60	60	April 1, 1868.
W. H. Meade	Captain	Infantry	Louisville	Jefferson	83	80	November 4, 1868.
Martin Enright	Captain	Infantry	Louisville	Jefferson	82	80	March 19, 1869.
Blue-grass Battalion:							
J. W. H. Reynolds	Major	Infantry	Frankfort	Franklin	65	60	August 11, 1870.
Thos. J. Ennis	Adjutant	Infantry	Frankfort	Franklin	51	60	July 23, 1870.
Sorensen M. Handricks	Captain	Infantry	Lexington	Fayette	50	60	July 15, 1868.
Stephen G. Sharp	Captain	Infantry	Lexington	Fayette	60	100	July 30, 1870.
W. G. Thompson	Captain	Infantry	Frankfort	Franklin	62	60	July 4, 1868.
E. M. Wallace	Captain	Infantry	Versailles	Woodford	65	60	August 11, 1870.
Geo. Reynolds	Captain	Infantry	Hanley	Jessamine	51	60	July 23, 1870.
S. T. Leary	Captain	Infantry	Midway	Woodford	50	60	July 15, 1868.
C. J. Walker	Captain	Infantry	Richmond	Madison	60	100	July 30, 1870.
A. H. Ford	Captain	Infantry	Shopsesville	Bullitt	62	60	July 4, 1868.
L. H. Ellis	Captain	Infantry	Richmond	Jessamine	61	60	July 23, 1870.
Thos. L. Ennis	Captain	Infantry	Harrodsburg	Meade	70	100	August 11, 1870.
P. B. Thompson	Captain	Infantry	Harrodsburg	Meade	130	130	August 30, 1870.
W. S. Miller, Jr.	Captain	Infantry	Leicester	Carroll	58	60	November 20, 1870.
J. H. Carter	Captain	Cavalry	Bryant's Station	Fayette	52	64	July 25, 1870.
Dudley Tribble	Captain	Cavalry	Foxtown	Madison	55	60	July 30, 1870.
Asa McConathy	Captain	Cavalry	Frogtown	Fayette	50	60	August 13, 1871.

Under the law, as it now stands, we cannot expect an effective and active Militia organization. The State makes no provision for them beyond simply supplying them with arms. All other expenses, such as uniform, music, banners, armories, and other necessary expenses, are required to be borne by the members of the companies, which soon become so onerous that they are unable to meet it, and gradually the companies are disintegrating. There is not that *esprit de corps* which is necessary to keep alive an effective force of citizen soldiery.

Appended to this report is a memorial of the "Camp Rifles," one of the companies located at Louisville (which, since its organization, has been called upon to perform a good deal of hard service, and always cheerfully responded), accompanied by a statement showing that, since the formation of the company, the individual members have served the State at a cost to themselves of over \$3,000. It cannot be expected of citizens to long continue in so expensive a service. They ask to be made good on account of this outlay, and to be assured against it in the future.

MILITIA FUND AND TAX.

If it be deemed desirable to maintain a Militia organization at all, there must be provided a fund out of which to meet the necessary and reasonable expenses attending it. Not only must the State supply the men with arms, but with all other necessary appurtenances, including uniforms. This can readily be done without any increase of taxation or any draw upon the Treasury, by simply restoring the 11th section of article 2, of the present Militia law (*Myers' Supplement, page 329, subsequently repealed*), which provides a tax in lieu of military service in the following words:

"On every enrolled militiaman, who does not become, within twenty-five days after the passage of this act, a member of the Active Militia, there shall be assessed, in lieu of military service, the sum of fifty cents annually, to be collected in the same manner, and by the same means, as are provided for collecting the county levy. All sums thus collected shall be paid into the State Treasury in the same manner as other taxes, but shall be kept as a distinct military fund, to be used and disbursed only as hereinafter provided for."

With this provision restored and executed, there will be ample means provided to maintain an effective and creditable battalion of

Active Militia in each Congressional District. I would recommend that such act be passed. It is certainly necessary to keep up a force of Active Militia, not only as a matter of State pride, but to be subject to the call of the civil authorities in case of trouble; and this cannot be done unless the Commonwealth will provide for the necessary expenses.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. A. DAWSON,

Adjutant General of Kentucky

MEMORIAL OF THE CAMP RIFLES.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY "C," CAMP RIFLES,
KENTUCKY NATIONAL LEGION,
LOUISVILLE, January 25, 1872.

General Jas. A. Dawson, Adjutant General of Kentucky:

Sir: The undersigned, Committee of the "Camp Rifles," a company of the Kentucky National Legion, beg leave to call your attention to the following facts, and to request that you will bring the subject to the attention of the Legislature now in session:

This company was organized June 17th, 1868, and has since continually been in existance, during which time it has, on several occasions, been ordered into active service; at one time was on duty several weeks, under the direction of the civil authorities of the State. From the formation of the company to the present, the entire expense necessarily incurred in keeping up the organization has been borne by the members of the company, amounting in the aggregate to \$3,348, an itemized statement of which is herewith presented.

On behalf of the company we respectfully submit that this is a hardship which the members of the company can ill afford. In fact, unless some provision be made whereby they can be reimbursed for this outlay, and guaranteed against such expenditure in the future, the company will be compelled to disband.

The members are perfectly willing to serve the State in any manner they can; but cannot afford to give their time and furnish the money necessary to keep up the company.

No possible benefit can result to any member of the Active Militia; on the contrary, it requires much valuable time, to say nothing of the personal risk incurred in case of any serious riot or public disturbance, when they may be called into service. The time and hazard, however, the members of this company willingly give the State, but must insist upon being relieved from the expense.

Very respectfully,

C. L. CLARK, *Captain,*

E. J. KENNY, *1st Lieutenant,*

L. B. GORLEY, *Sergeant,*

Committee.

CAMP RIFLES.

LOUISVILLE, KY., January 25, 1872.

Expenses for the past five years, viz:	
Uniforms for 184 men, at fifteen dollars	\$2,760 00
Rent for eighteen months	219 00
Gas bill for eighteen months	25 50
Advertising	6 00
Drums	30 00
Gun racks	18 00
Locks and keys	3 00
One flag	25 00
Repairing flag	7 00
By-laws	17 00
Repairing arms	11 25
Five sergeants' swords	15 00
Battal of J. B. Praxton	21 00
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	\$3,348 00
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L. B. GORLEY,
Sec. and Sergt., Co. C, K. N. L.