

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the

Amasa B. Watson Post #395, Department of Michigan,
Grand Army of the Republic. Records

Collection # 007

September 2009 version

Abstract

The Amasa B. Watson Post #395, Department of Michigan, Grand Army of the Republic, Records include minutes, membership documents, and adjutant or quartermaster records from one of five Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Made up of Civil War veterans, the GAR was an advocacy group. Its records were created after the War, and are not official government documents. The Michigan Watson post was chartered on November 15, 1888 with 27 members. The records detail the social aspects of the post along with memorial efforts in behalf of deceased veterans, and include some biographical data on post members in the Descriptive book. Also included are cemetery records compiled by Charles H. Fox. A few items from the ABW Woman's Relief Corp, no. 171 are also noted.

Sons of Union Veterans. Grand Army of the Republic Record Project.
<http://www.suvcwmi.org/gar/>

Library of Congress link
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/gar/>

National Archives Civil War link
<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/>

Collection #: 007

Accession #: 00.000 + S13:BH1.1 + misc. ephemera ; 1984.009.1-3 ; 00.[3376].

Donor: unknown & various

Span dates: 1888-1936

Processor: Richard H. Harms, May 1990 ; Inventory, Andrea Stadt, Sept. 1999.
Additions & revisions, R. Mayne 1999-2007.

Size: .67 linear ft. (8 in.)

Box Summary

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Description of Contents</u> | <u>Box Description</u> |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Minutes & Membership | Standard |
| 2 | Membership Cemetery Records Yearbooks | Slim legal |

Related Collections

- 224-32 3 OVERSIZED b/w housed in Coll. 224.
1. Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, June 7-9, 1950 / photo by Chas. I. Harshberger. Harshberger stamp on verso. [Panoramic view of women in evening dress, exterior view]
2-3 6th District, W.R.C. Convention, Oct. 1, 1941, Grand Rapids, Mich. / photo by Chas. I. Harshberger. His stamp on verso. (2 copies) [Panoramic view of women in street dress, outside "Maccabees" building] Womens Relief Corp.

See Coll. 242 Grand Rapids Public Library Civil War Documents Collection, for a list of the various GRPL archival collections currently known to have Civil War related materials. See also other holdings of the Department including the Civil War reference materials for Michigan and the U.S.

See also the **American Civil War Research Database**, available by computer.

Sons of Union Veterans list of Michigan records locations
<http://www.suvcwmi.org/gar/GARRecFnd.pdf>

History/Scope and Content

Included here are records of one of the five Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts in Grand Rapids. Chartered on 15 November 1888 with 27 members, the Watson post was the fourth post organized in Grand Rapids. The records detail the social aspects of the post, memorial effort in behalf of deceased veterans, as well as some biographical data on post members. Of note is the Descriptive Book which contains such biographical data on post members as: age, occupation, military service and in some cases death data and places of burial. The post seems to have disbanded in the late 1930s when the last of the members became too old to continue.

See also biographical information on Amasa B. Watson (Major A.B. Watson) in:

History of the City of Grand Rapids / Albert Baxter. Chapter 29 +

Excerpt from the Kent County GenWeb site. Includes information on mills, and a section on Amasa B. Watson. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mikent/baxter1891/39mills.html>

Contents

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Original Finding Aid Items. | | |
| 1 | 1-3 | Meeting minutes, 1888-1936. |
| 1 | 4 | Membership roll, 1888-1928. |
| 1 | 5 | Descriptive book, 1888-1923. |
| 1 | 6 | Adjutant records, 1891-1916. |
| 1 | 7 | Quartermaster records, 1904-1907 |
| 1 | 8 | Membership applications, 1912-1914. |
| 2 | 9 | Membership certificates, 1911-1914. |
| Additions | | |
| 2 | 10 | Envelope labeled: Record of Civil War Veterans in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Includes maps of cemetery from Charles H. Fox's Records |
| 2 | 11 | Cemetery Records of Veterans, 1913. (1 red leather notebook) S13:BH1.1 [Charles H. Fox] |
| 2 | 12 | [Yearbooks] 1910 00.[3376].1 Added 12/27/2004 1914 1915 00.[3376].2 Added 12/27/2004 |
| 2 | 12.5 | 1929 00.[3376].3 1930 00.[3376].4 1931 00.[3376].5 1932 00.[3376].6 1933 00.[3376].7 |
| 2 | 13 | Amasa B. Watson Women's Relief Corps, no. 171 Addendums 1923 Yearbook. 2002.017 7/3/2002 |

See also the Related Materials section above.

Coll. 007 Amasa B. Watson Post Index

Abbott, Sidney D. - No. 070
Alcott, John L. - No. 280
Allcott, John T. - No. 050
Arnold, Thomas C. - No. 188
Auble, James - No. 122

Babcock, Joseph P. - No. 061
Baird, James L. - No. 255
Baker, William H. - No. 236
Ball, Jessie - No. 287
Barby, William - No. 125
Barden, George D. - No. 253
Barnard, Theodore - No. 242
Beadle, J.R. - No. 304
Beard, John F. - No. 048
Beck, Jacob - No. 320
Beebe, David W. - No. 150
Beeber, Charles A. - No. 128
Belfort, William - No. 159
Bell, James H. - No. 014
Bell, James H. - No. 212
Bixby, John W. - No. 005
Blackwell Lewis M. - No. 270
Bolton, William E. - No. 137
Botruff, Isaac - No. 019
Bowers, J.H. - No. 155
Bowles, John W. - No. 009
Bradley, Hezekiah C. - No. 006
Brainard, Reuben W. - No. 285
Brancon, Joseph - No. 024
Brearley, Jonathan - No. 347
Breidenstein, W.N. - No. 153
Bright, James F. - No. 185
Brookfield, Edwin T. - No. 058
Brown, Ephriam E. - No. 225
Brown, Jefferson M. - No. 296
Brown, John - No. 077
Brown, John - No. 220

Brownell, Francis - No. 154
Brownell, James A. - No. 278
Bruxton, Charles A. - No. 202
Buck, Elijah S. - No. 260
Burns, Thomas - No. 217
Butler, James - No. 098

Campbell, William R. - No. 168
Carle, Francis T. - No. 367
Carlisle, George - No. 393
Caster, Frank - No. 183
Caster, Frank - No. 334
Chamberlain, Newton L. - No. 179 Chapman, Benjamin - No. 249
Chase, S.H. - No. 244
Child, Ebenezer - No. 384
Church, A.M. - No. 119
Churchill, J.V. - No. 174
Clapp, Andrew S. - No. 023
Clary, Albert D. - No. 232
Cole, Amos L. - No. 351
Cole, Ezra - No. 092
Cole, Theodore - No. 036
Coleman, Obediah P. - No. 017
Cook, William L. - No. 385
Corbin, Hiram - No. 245
Corner, Henry H. - No. 182
Cotton, Benjamin A. - No. 097
Crouch, Samuel A. - No. 139
Currey, James A. - No. 065
Curtis, Nelson H. - No. 387

Daly, Henry - No. 042
Daniels, George T. - No. 243
Danks, John S. (sp?) - No. 322
Darrin, Henry E. - No. 313
Dart, Benjaim J. - No. 040
Daugherty, Thomas - No. 160
Davis, James - No. 027
Davis, James - No. 321
DeLano, Dennis - No. 101
Devall, Charles E. - No. 295
Diamond, Henry W. - No. 343

Dickerson, Walter B. - No. 124
Dillenbeck, George W. - No. 012
[See also Unproc. Accessions]
Dimment, George A. - No. 237
Douthitt, Joseph - No. 055
Dowd, Jefferson G. - No. 262
Downs, Joseph - No. 035
Drake, Dwight S. - No. 201

Eddy, Abraham - No. 340
Eding, Charles H. - No. 246
Edson, Sylvester - No. 333
Elliott, Charles H. - No. 241
Esveld, Kommer - No. 267

Failing, George W. - No. 134
Failing, Jonathan F. - No. 003
Fairchild, Horace R. - No. 303
Falcott, Edward M. - No. 045
Fan, Vincent L. - No. 190
Farr, Vincent L. - No. 265
Fields, William - No. 209
Finch, Thomas S. - No. 263
Finton, Charles H. - No. 031
Fish, Sanford B. - No. 288
Forbes, Thomas - No. 113
Foster, G.B. - No. 194
Fox, Charles H. - No. 025
Fox, Olver L. - No. 329
Franger, J.H. - No. 081
Freeman, Edgar A. - No. 136
Freeman, Jeremiah - No. 138
French, James S. - No. 106
Friger, John C. - No. 166
Fuller, Homer - No. 224

Galezio, Charles A. - No. 002
Galland, George - No. 102
Galloway, William H. - No. 239
Galoway, A. - No. 163
Garrett, George W. - No. 297
Gass, Joseph P. - No. 016

Gatz, Jacob G. - No. 032
Gaudern, Austin - No. 114
Geelhoed, Jacob E. - No. 175
Gelock, William - No. 390
Gibson, John G. - No. 052
Gildersleeve, Hiriam S. - No. 030 Gilman, George W. - No. 181
Goodrich, Charles H. - No. 171
Gordon, James A. - No. 355
Gorman, Thomas - No. 345
Gossett, J.P. - No. 107
Gossett, James - No. 328
Graham, Jonathan C. - No. 221
Graham, Rosalva W. - No. 300
Gram, James - No. 352
Grant, William - No. 346
Graves, Lebbins P. - No. 123
Grayson, Henry - No. 145
Green, Charles A. - No. 330
Green, Edgar R. - No. 299
Gregg, Charles E. - No. 020

Hall, H.N - No. 389
Hallady, Genston (sp?) - No. 151 Hanes, Joseph L. - No. 088
Hanna, Alexander - No. 214
Hanna, Kennedy - No. 131
Hansehnan, David A. - No. 374
Hansered, John - No. 074
Hartisdell, George L. - No. 195
Hawkins, Wesley - No. 127
Hazen, Lavoisiar B. - No. 049
Heminger, Samuel - No. 391
Hendershott, Henry C. - No. 344
Hendricks, Henry - No. 277
Herenden, John - No. 376
Herrick, George D. - No. 059
Hill, Jonathan - No. 216
Hilliard, David L. - No. 388
Hilliard, William H. - No. 208
Hilton, Harvey - No. 332
Hines, John - No. 161
Hix, Henry - No. 051
Holland, Nichol - No. 148

Hollister, William F. - No. 383
Howard, Loren H. - No. 158
Hughson, Jacob D. - No. 316
Huizinga, Martin - No. 080
Hulbert, Leonard - No. 079
Huntley, Merritt G. - No. 110
Hynes, James - No. 358

Impson, Andrew J. - No. 103

Jewell, Charles A. - No. 117
Johnson, Henry L. - No. 087
Johnson, James - No. 177
Johnson, Levi M. - No. 289
Johnson, Ransom - No. 200
Johnston, William T. - No. 015
Jones, Alexander - No. 075
Jones, Charles C. - No. 250
Jowels, Alfred - No. 170

Keeney, James H. - No. 283
[See Also Col. 242]
Kellogg, William H. - No. 120
Kellogg, William H. - No. 373
Kershaw, George - No. 199
King, Julius A. - No. 371
King, Patrick - No. 189
Kingsley, Floyd W. - No. 364
Kirster, Joseph - No. 121
Kirtland, George H. - No. 162
Kirtland, George H. - No. 305
Kline, Daniel Z. - No. 062
Knowland, John - No. 133
Knowlton, Hiram - No. 378
Kronemeyer, Albertus - No. 279

Lagro, Lewis N. (sp?) - No. 228
Lamoreaux, Isaac V. - No. 011
Lawrence, Horace - No. 337
Leach, Corning L. - No. 326
Lee, Boswell H. - No. 028
Lee, Lewis D. - No. 210

Leffingwell, Henry H. - No. 276
Leonard, George S. - No. 073
Leshner, Jonathan - No. 205
Linn, Allen D. - No. 357
Loomis, Charles G. - No. 146
Lowell, John H. - No. 164

Mabin, Edmund - No. 115
[See Also Col. 242]
Madden, Joseph - No. 311
Mans, Charles - No. 336
Mans, Jacob - No. 274
Markham, Agro A. - No. 086
Markham, Oscar D. - No. 089
Markham, Oscar D. - No. 234
Marks, Warren L. - No. 068
Marston, William H. - No. 001
Martin, James H. - No. 372
Martin, Joseph - No. 257
Masten, Henry H. - No. 238
Mather, John A. - No. 319
McCaully, William A. - No. 082
McConnell, James - No. 083
McCormick, Thomas M. - No. 301
McDonald, Andrew - No. 339
[See Also Col. 242]
McDonald, Robert - No. 361
McGill, Edward - No. 317
McGovern, Frank - No. 290
McKee, James A. - No. 112
[See also Col. 242]
McLeod, Frank - No. 291
Miller, Charles E. - No. 076
Miller, Charles P. - No. 252
Miller, J.E.S. - No. 284
Miller, John A. - No. 338
Miller, John E.L. - No. 130
Moore, Oel B. - No. 325
Moore, Zepheniah S. - No. 392

Morgan, James H. - No. 026
Morley, John W. - No. 258
Moshier, George K. - No. 066
Murray, Joseph - No. 327
Mury, Alonzo - No. 172
Myers, Frederick A. - No. 206
Neal, Lucius J. - No. 060

Newhouse, Elwood - No. 309
Newton, Rayner H. - No. 294
Nichols, Hartwell C. - No. 254
Nixon, Thomas J. - No. 116
Nixon, Thomas J. - No. 323
Norman, Edward - No. 085
Norris, C.H. - No. 067
Noyes, Frank L. - No. 034

Oldfield, Levi A. - No. 379
Olmstead, James - No. 109
Osborn, G.W. - No. 192

Padden, Daniel E. - No. 095
Palmer, Henry C. - No. 178
Palmer, Judson - No. 342
Parks, William M. - No. 231
Parsons, D.W. - No. 177a
Patterson, John L. - No. 198
Patterson, Phillip - No. 090
Peck, Manser W. - No. 126
Peel, Thomas - No. 350
Peel, Thomas - No. 386
Pelton, Andrew J. - No. 093
Pennell, William - No. 046
Perry, Alexander - No. 381
Phillips, George R. - No. 069
Pierce, Henry J. - No. 176
[Possible Col. 242]
Pinckney, Charles A. - No. 064

Pond, Judson J. - No. 256
Porter, Asa L. - No. 377
Porter, Asa R. - No. 306
Potter, Benjamin F. - No. 039
Powers, Edward B. - No. 356
Pratt, Winfield S. - No. 043
Predmore, Jedediah - No. 173
Proper, Truman - No. 186
Proper, Truman - No. 264
Provost, Isaac S. - No. 227
Pult, Oliver (sp?) - No. 229
Putnam, Edward W. - No. 196

Rathbone, Legrande - No. 324
Reed, Seymour - No. 275
Reed, William - No. 091
Reiser, John J. - No. 395
Retan, Andrew E. - No. 282
Richmond, James K. - No. 222
Riddel, Leroy - No. 197
Rider, George W. - No. 235
Ritchart, J.B. - No. 108
Rockwell, Horace - No. 215
Rogers, Levi B. - No. 268
Root, Thomas B. - No. 226
Rose, Alexander L. - No. 105
Ross, Hiram N. - No. 353
Rouse, Charles C. - No. 302
Rouse, Shadrach - No. 223
Runyan, Charles W. - No. 104
Russell, William - No. 021
Ryder, George W. - No. 167

Sackett, James - No. 354
Sage, George A. - No. 308
Sager, Abram - No. 142
Savage, George L. - No. 314
Savage, John F. - No. 266
Schlamb, John - No. 054
Schofield, Edward H. - No. 149
Scutt, Wilford - No. 008

Seavers, Henry - No. 152
Sees, Robert D. - No. 272
Seymour, George - No. 359
Shaw, L.M. - No. 063
Shelcher, Henry - No. 018
Short, William - No. 375
Shoup, Levi - No. 203
Sibney, Nelson J. - No. 269
Sigourney, Andrew - No. 298
Simpson, George W. - No. 143
Skelcher, Henry - No. 218
Slitson, Melvill - No. 191
Smith, Alva - No. 207
Smith, Barnhart - No. 368
Smith, Henry L. - No. 111
Smith, William - No. 007
Smith, Wright W. - No. 056
Snyder Horace P. - No. 331
Snyder, Ezra - No. 259
Snyder, John D. - No. 165
Spencer, Lorenzo D. - No. 318
Spinner, Leon - No. 057
Staats, John - No. 038
Stebbins, William J. - No. 071
Stein, Edward H. - No. 033
Stevens, Peter - No. 010
Stewart Henry - No. 184
Stewart, Charles R. - No. 251
Stickles, Lyman S. - No. 041
Stilson, Melville - No. 273
Stoddard, Alvin - No. 362
Stoner, John - No. 366
Strochm, Daniel - No. 394
Stuart, R.M. - No. 307
Stuck, George - No. 084
Sturdevant, Stephen - No. 310
Swarthout, Jacob - No. 271
Swisher, Nathan - No. 349

Tando, William H. - No. 204
Taylor, John S. - No. 099
Thompson, Smith - No. 341

Tindall, Francis - No. 315
Traver, Tilley - No. 369
Travis, James A. - No. 129
Trill, Samuel - No. 293
Tucker, Horace D. - No. 140
Turner, Arthur E. - No. 380
Tuttle, Stephen A. - No. 047

Valentine, Julius S. - No. 286
VanDyk, Henry - No. 044
VanVleck, Granger - No. 078
VanWort, Thomas R. - No. 157
VandeLuystre, Marinus - No. 147
Vandewater, George W. - No. 370
Velzy, Wilton - No. 219
Virgil, James E. - No. 013

Walbridge, Nelson H. - No. 144
Waldron, Hanley A. - No. 261
Walker, William - No. 156
Walker, William - No. 211
Walter, John F. - No. 072
Walton, Francis - No. 118
Walton, Francis - No. 233
Watrous, Hugh O. - No. 037
Watts, Isaac - No. 004
Welling, Henry William - No. 135
Wells, George D. - No. 365
Wells, Robert L. - No. 292
Wescott, Lyman D. - No. 193
Westervelt, James H. - No. 247
Westervelt, James H. - No. 248
Weston, James W. - No. 169
Wheeler, Edgar W. - No. 213
Wheeler, Wesley - No. 348
Whinery, John - No. 100
Whitbeck, Franklin - No. 335
Whitcomb, Charles B. - No. 053
White, Wing A. - No. 363
Whitney, James V. - No. 281
Wightman, George W. - No. 180

Watson Post GAR. Records
Collection # 7

Wilcox, George L. - No. 240
Wilder, Marion - No. 382
Williams, Theodore - No. 360
Wilmington, W. - No. 141
Wilson, Charles S. - No. 094
Wood, Eugene W. - No. 230
Wood, J.M. - No. 096
Woodward, George - No. 022
Woodward, James M. - No. 312
Wright, Philo B. - No. 029
Wycoff, John R. - No. 187

Youngs, James H - No. 132