

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the

United States Army 32nd Michigan Infantry  
Co. H. Papers

Collection # 005

November 2007 version

Abstract

United States Army 32nd Michigan Infantry Co. H. Papers include records, correspondence, and other documents of this unit which was part of the National Guard. Previous research indicates that this unit was mobilized in May 1898 during the Spanish-American War, but due to transportation problems never got to the action, and was mustered out in October of that same year. Additional research, including a review of documents in a separate John Schouten (donor) collection, may confirm or change this information. The Company's membership resided primarily in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and began holding reunions in 1908. Papers of the annual reunions during the 1940's, Schouten's tenure for organizing these event, are included here.

Collection #: 005  
Accession #: 1984.004 ; 1986.193  
Donor: John Schouten  
Span dates: 1895-1971, n.d.  
Original archival processing date: July 1990.  
Size: 1 cu.ft. ; x linear ft.

Related Collections

Coll. 090. John H. Schouten Photograph Collection, and including Michigan National Guard / Custer Guard documents.

Box Summary

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>	<u>Box Description</u>
1	papers	standard
2	papers	gray lid 3x10x13

### History

Company H, was part of the 32nd Michigan Infantry National Guard Unit. In May 1898 the company was mustered into federal service. Due to U.S. War Department mismanagement, the unit suffered from numerous transportation problems and was only able to get as far as Tampa, Florida by the time hostilities in Cuba ended. The unit mustered out of federal service in October 1898.

The unit's members began holding annual reunions in 1908. During the late 1930s and 1940s John Schouten took charge of organizing these reunions.

For biographical information on donor & unit member John Schouten, see Coll. 090.

### Scope and Content

Contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings of the company activities during 1895 and 1896. The units federal service in 1898 is documented through payroll records, mustering in and mustering out records, correspondence, vouchers, furlough and expenditures kept by Captain Covell. The payroll records contain name, rank, enlistment date, and pay data.

The bulk of the reunion material appears to have been collected by John Schouten, and consists of correspondence about the annual reunions and missing or deceased members. Also included are some financial records of the reunions and a handful of photographs.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		<b>Papers</b>
1	1	Muster rolls, 1898.
1	2	Miscellaneous payroll records and papers, 1898.
1		Correspondence, 1898
	3	A-S.
	4	T-W.
1		Reunion Correspondence, 1938-1949
	5	A-J, 1939-1949.
	6	K-R, 1938-1944.
	7	S-W, 1938-1943.
1	8	Miscellaneous reunion papers, 1942-1971, n.d.
1	9	Miscellaneous manuscript materials, accompanying book: "32d Infantry Division, World War II" Formerly M940.5425.B58it. This book is shelved with the Local History Book Collection. [March. 26, 2001]
2	2	vol. 1 Roster Company H, 1898-1944
2	3	vol. 2 Annual Encampment Michigan National Guard, 1901.
2	4	vol. 3 Meeting Minutes, 1942.
2	5	vol. 4 Company Funds ledger, [1898].
2	6	vol. 5 Scrapbook, 1895-1896.
		<b>Images (10 photographs + 1 postcard)</b>
2	1	5-2-1.1 [Practice drill, Fall 1897] L-R: George Bowen, Ergensinger, Hugh Kaufman, Unknown, Tracy  Photo by R.W. Swift, attached to at Peerless Electric Co. Test Report card, with Swift's note on the back. Shown: Exterior view of 5 men standing before a line of trees or a hedge. Three in the center are wearing uniforms and have real or practice rifles at their shoulders.
2	1	5-2-1.2 Ergensinger, William J. William J. Ergensinger, Capt, Sheriff's Reserve Adjutant. "307" Shown: Elderman in uniform, seated a desk in an office, wearing badge, with "Los Angeles ... Sheriff"

32<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry, Co.H. Papers  
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- 2      1      5-2-1.3 to 5-2-1.8 Set of 6 snapshots, June 14, 1942. San Fernando, Calif.  
"053" Exterior views.  
.3 Five men 2 seated, 3 standing behind
- Harry Holdeman
  - George Jacobs
  - Karl Folosth
  - Frank Schuman
  - Charles Strickland
- .4 Variant of image .3  
.5 "The old bunch and respective wives"[sic wives] 5 women seated, 5 men standing behind  
.6 Old bunch. 4 men seated, 5 women & 1 man standing behind.  
.7 K.L.F. "Am puttering with an orange grove, and do get tired. ..." [Karl L. Folosth, exterior view.  
.8 Flag flying on a pole seen above trees.
- 2      1      5-2-1.9 & 5.2.1.10  
.9 Group of 6 men squatting, in uniform, with bare bottoms, landscape in background.  
.10 Group of 4 men, squatting, in uniform, with bare bottoms, landscape in background.
- 2      1      5-2-1.11 Postcard: The Cut, North Entrance Bagnell Dam Highway, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. 27. Bagnell Dam Highway, Missouri, 1944.