Finding aid for the Amasa B. Watson Post #395 records Collection 007
Finding aid prepared by Richard H. Harms

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
September 07, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

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<th>Repository</th>
<th>Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Amasa B. Watson Post #395 records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1888-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.67 Linear feet Two boxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The Amasa B. Watson Post #395 records include minutes, membership documents and adjutant or quartermaster records. The Watson Post was 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. It's 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 in this collection detail the social aspects of the post along with memorial efforts on 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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Historical/Scope and Contents

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.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department May 1990

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Accession Numbers: 00.000 + S13: BH1.1 + misc. ephemera, 1984.009.1-3, 00.[3376]; Donor: unknown and various

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection 224 Box 32 - Three oversized items. 1) Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1950 photograph. 2 and 3) 6th District, WRC Convention, 1941, photographs.

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.
Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Grand Army of the Republic. Amasa B. Watson Post #395 (Grand Rapids, Mich.).

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

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Wycoff, John R. - No. 187
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### Collection Inventory

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<tr>
<th>Original Finding Aid Items.</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<td>Meeting minutes, 1888-1936</td>
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<td>Membership roll, 1888-1928</td>
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<td>Descriptive book, 1888-1923</td>
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<td>Adjutant records, 1891-1916</td>
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<td>Quartermaster records, 1904-1907</td>
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<td>Membership applications, 1912-1914</td>
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<td>Membership certificates, 1911-1914</td>
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<th>Additions</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>Envelope labeled: Record of Civil War Veterans in the Oak Hill Cemetery.</td>
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<td>Includes maps of cemetery from Charles H. Fox’s Records</td>
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Cemetery Records of Veterans, 1913. (1 red leather notebook). S13:BH1.1
[Charles H. Fox]

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<th>Yearbooks (Including 00.[3376])</th>
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<td>1910</td>
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<td>1933</td>
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<td>Amasa B. Watson Women’s Relief Corps, 1923 Yearbook. 2002.01</td>
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<td>13</td>
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