

# **Finding Aid for the John H. Schouten collection of Michigan National Guard remembrances Collection 090**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard H. Harms**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
November 1988  
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## Table of Contents

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> .....          | 3 |
| <u>Biographical/Historical note</u> ..... | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....      | 4 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> .....   | 5 |
| <u>Related Materials</u> .....            | 5 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....   | 5 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> .....         | 7 |
| <u>Series I. Manuscript papers</u> .....  | 7 |
| <u>Series II. Photographs</u> .....       | 9 |

## Summary Information

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|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department   |
| <b>Title</b>            | John H. Schouten collection of Michigan National Guard remembrances  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1882-1929  |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 2.4 Linear feet Three boxes  |
| <b>Language</b>         | English  |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | <p>John H. Schouten (1870-1961) was active in the Michigan National Guard from 1889 through 1933. This collection originally contained twelve photographic prints of various groups in the Michigan National Guard, 1882-1929. The images include group shots and show uniforms, equipment, camp facilities and the Company K Indoor Baseball Team. The collection continues to grow as more items associated with Schouten are identified. Also included is personal and biographical data related to Schouten, additional photographs, two enlistment books from circa 1883 and 1890, material related to the Custer Guard and an 1895 publication on the Innes Rifles, Prize Drill.</p> |

## Biographical/Historical note

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A native of Drenthe, Ottawa County, John H. Schouten (1870-1961) joined the Michigan National Guard in 1889 as a private. He rose through the ranks and became a Brigadier General in 1926. He saw action in the Spanish-American War, along the Mexican border in 1915 under Pershing and ten months overseas during World War I. He likewise rose from bank bookkeeper (Michigan Trust Company) in 1900 to bank president (American National Bank) in 1929. Schouten was active in the Michigan National Guard until retiring in 1933 and is credited with helping to reorganize the Michigan Guard following World War I and with building the National Guard Armory that stood on Michigan Avenue, opposite the Grand Rapids Brewing Company.

Grace & John H. Schouten addresses per City Directory

Some earlier addresses under his name only include: 116 Spring, 21 Cass, 102 James, 221 Calkins Ave.

1914-1926 739 Fairview Ave.

1927 Mackinaw Dr. SE

1928-1940 927 Iroquois Dr. SE

1941-1942 324 Orchard Hill SE

1943-1948 319 Auburn Ave. SE

1949-1960 2134 San Lue Rae Dr. SE. EGR

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## Scope and Contents note

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Contains twelve photographic prints of various groups in the Michigan National Guard, 1882-1929. The prints are both group shots as well as composites and feature uniforms, equipment and camp facilities. Also included is a photo of the Company K Indoor Baseball team from the turn of the century. Apparently the original collection consisted of more prints, as is evidenced by a numbering scheme, but the current collection is all that remains.

Added to the collection June 1999 are 11 photographs, 2 enlistment books, ca. 1883, ca. 1890, one volume, Custer Guard Veteran's Association Minutes, 1923-1931, and six folders of material relating to the Custer Guard.

Added to the collection Jan. 2001, is one publication, 1895 on the Innes Rifles, Prize Drill.

Added 2001.114, 1 Christmas card from General & Mrs. J.H. Schouten, with the image of their house at 927 Iroquois SE, on the cover, n.d., ca. 1928-1940.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department November 1988

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

John H. Schouten, circa 1940. Accession numbers include C17:BH1-5; 00.[596].1; 2001.114.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Coll. 005. the United States Army 32nd Michigan Infantry Co. H. Papers. Also donated by Schouten.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Michigan. National Guard.

### **Genre(s)**

- records (documents)

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

**Personal Name(s)**

- Schouten, John H, 1870-1961

## Series I. Manuscript papers

## Collection Inventory

| <b>Series I. Manuscript papers</b>   |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| General and Mrs. Schouten Christmas Card, image of 927 Iroquois SE, GR, ca. 1928-1940. 2001.114                | 1          | 1             |
| Personal and biographical material [Moved from P and B file]   | 1          | 2             |
| <b>Minutes</b>   |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Volume</b> |
| Minutes, Custer Guard Veteran's Association, 1923-31. [Tan "University Looselead Notebook", with metal rings.] | 3          | 7             |
| <b>Record Books</b>  |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Vol. 8, Enlistment Book, ca. 1883 [Formerly C17:BH.3] + Loose items  | 1          | 14            |
| Vol. 9, Enlistment Book, ca. 1890 [Formerly C17:BH16.2]  | 1          | 13            |
| Enlistment records, ca. 1893   | 1          | 6             |

**Organization of the association, 1896. C17:BH4.1-5+**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Custer Guard Annual Meeting, secretary's report, 1889-1890. | 1 | 5 |
|---|---|---|

**Organization of the association, 1896. C17:BH4.1-5+**

|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| BH4.1 Minutes of Organization meeting, n.d. Mimeo   | 1          | 7             |
| BH4.2 Articles of Association, Custer Guard, [May 21, 1896], certificate with red seal attached. Mimeo copy                                     | 1          | 7             |
| BH4.3 Articles of Association, [March 17, 1896], Grand Rapids Cadets. Mimeo   | 1          | 7             |
| BH4.4 Certificate with red seal. Apr. 3, 1896 Mimeo   | 1          | 7             |
| BH4.5 Articles of Consolidation, [May 7, 1896] Mimeo. Plus legal sized original manuscript notes with organization purpose, articles, etc. n.d. | 1          | 7             |
| Constitution and By-laws, n.d.  | 1          | 8             |

**Roster Custer Post #5, GAR, Grand Rapids, Mich. N.d., formerly MKG369.15.G76**

|                    | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1896 (00.[3296].1) | 1          | 10            |
| 1897 (00.[3297].1) | 1          | 11            |

## Series II. Photographs

|   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| 1908 (00.[3295].1)  | 1          | 12            |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Correspondence, 1888-1943, n.d.   | 1          | 3             |
| Ephemera, 1888-1937, n.d. Including reunion ribbons, programs, invitations, and notes.  | 1          | 4             |
| Program. Innes Rifles : prize drill, 1895. Formerly M355.In6, 00.[0596].1   | 1          | 9             |
| <b>Series II. Photographs</b>   |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| .10 [CoK—on shirts], Indoor Baseball Team, about 1900 [15]  | 1          | 15            |
| .13A: 7 men in tent: A.W. Seymour, Henry Bennett, J.S. Knox, Fred J. ?, Standing: G.H. DeGraff, Chas Bennett, Eric Bennett.           | 1          | 16            |
| .13B: 8 men in front of tent: Fred Powers, John Riley, Van Buskirk, J.S. Knox, Sid Pixley, Ed Bennett, John Gilbertson, Fred Degraff. | 1          | 16            |
| .16 Custer Guard Prize Drill Squad, Washington, D.C. May 28, 1887 [Neg. #3844]  | 1          | 17            |
| .22 Camp George Washington, May 23-30, 1887 [#1]  | 1          | 18            |
| 2nd Regiment composite group photo. Found at the back of the Enlistment Book for the regiment. 10/27/2007                             | 1          | 19            |

**Oversized.**

| <b>Oversized.</b>  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|--|------------|---------------|
| .1 Co[mpany] K, [3?]2nd Mich[igan] [in] camp, 1890 [#23] FRONT   | 2          | 1             |
| .2 Innes Rifles Drill Squad, 1890 [Includes Schouten and "little" person]<br>BACK  | 2          | 1             |
| .3 NCO [Noncommissioned officers] Co[mpany] K, [3?]2d Michigan in<br>camp], 1890 FRONT   | 2          | 2             |
| .4 Company K, 32nd Michigan at camp, 1890 BACK   | 2          | 2             |
| .5 Drill Squad, Custer Guard, 1896 FRONT   | 2          | 3             |
| .6 Co[mpany] K nonComs [Noncommissioned officers] about 1899 [#21]<br>BACK   | 2          | 3             |
| .7 Custer Guard, about 1890 / Noble, artist [composite photo/drawing]  | 2          | 4             |
| .8 Co[mpany] K 32 Mich[igan] about 1900 [#11]  | 2          | 5             |
| .9 Camp Eaton, Officers G.R. Battalion, May 1898 [18]  | 2          | 6             |
| .11 Encampment Views of Camp Jerome. 1st Brigade Michigan State<br>Troops, at Island Lake, Brighton, Aug. 10th to 14, 1882 / H.H. Hunter,<br>photo Detroit [#20] | 2          | 7             |

**Transferred from Coll. 054-19-27**

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| .12 Reunion Custer Guard Veterans, 1924 / Hesselink & Phillips, photographers G.R. [#4]        | 2 | 8  |
| .14 Officers, 2nd Michigan, 1895 [Neg. #3842] FRONT  | 2 | 9  |
| .15 2nd Regt [regiment] Field Staff, [1895] [Neg. 3843] BACK                                   | 2 | 9  |
| .17 Non-commissioned officers of Custer Guard, about 1887 [#16] [Neg. #3845]                   | 2 | 10 |
| .18 Custer Guard, Co[mpany] S, 2nd inf[antry], about 1890 [#13] [Neg. #3746]                   | 2 | 11 |
| .19 Custer Guard at camp, about 1887-1890 [#12] [Neg. #3847 [African-American seated at front] | 2 | 12 |
| .20 Custer Guard, mess tent, about 1889 [#1?] [Neg. #3848]                                     | 2 | 13 |
| .21 Custer Guard, Camp Smith, Battle Creek Camp, Aug. 7-13, 1889 [#?] [Neg. #3849]             | 2 | 14 |

**Transferred from Coll. 054-19-27****Scope and Contents note**

These three images in a folder call the Michigan National Guard are labeled "Schouten Collection" on the back. They each have a number, but those numbers are already represented with different images in those given above. Thus, they are listed here separately, with the number in quotes. 11/28/2007.

**Box**                      **Folder**

**Photo Albums [All formerly M355.351.Sch68]**

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| “4” Camp Robinson. Four men seated on folding chairs in front of a tent.<br>ca. 1889.  | 1          | 20            |
| “7” Camp Robinson. Leland Lake, Mich. (or Illand Lake). Gibson,<br>photographer, Ann Arbor. Shows 7 men seated or standing at the entrance<br>of a tent. | 1          | 20            |
| “17” Custer Guard, Mackinac Island, 1888. Shows 8 men standing or<br>seated near the entrance of a tent.   | 1          | 20            |
| <b>Photo Albums [All formerly M355.351.Sch68]</b>  |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Volume</b> |
| Camp scenes, 1895-1916.  | 3          | 1             |
| Copper strike service, 1914.   | 3          | 2             |
| Island Lake, MI, 1898  | 3          | 3             |
| Spanish American War, 1898.  | 3          | 4             |
| Mexican War, c.1912 [In large “Postal Souvenirs” scrapbook]  | 3          | 5             |
| “Snap Shots of Mexican Border” Mexican War, c.1912 [Leather cover]   | 3          | 6             |