

Grand Army of the Republic John H. Chipman, Jr. Post 89 Records,

1869 - 1960

MSS: # 017

Processed by: Amanda Ferrante, April 2015

Volume: 54 books, 1 box

1. Abstract:

The collection consists of records and items created and collected during the daily activities of the John H. Chipman, Jr. Post 89 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the John Low Camp 6 of the Sons of Union Veterans. Both groups were based in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Formed in 1866, the GAR was a fraternal organization comprised of Civil War veterans who had served in the Union army or navy. Its auxiliary organization, the Sons of Union Veterans, was comprised of male descendants of GAR members. Beverly, Massachusetts GAR Post 89, most recently located at 8 Dane Street, housed members from Beverly, Salem, Hamilton, and other local municipalities. The collection spans the years from 1869 to 1960, with the bulk of the records created between 1882 and 1908. The collection consists of 47 bound books, 4 gummed stub files, 3 scrapbooks, and 14 folders containing loose items found in various books. The material is predominantly administrative in quality. The collection also includes a number of brass name tags.

2. Collection Creator:

Grand Army of the Republic Post 89, Sons of Union Veterans Camp 6.

3. Provenance:

The records in this collection were presented to the Beverly Historical Society as a gift in 1983 by the John Low Camp 6 of the Sons of Union Veterans, an affiliate of the GAR's Post 89. GAR Post 89 voted to transfer ownership of all property to the John Low Camp 6 as of 07/03/1924 on the condition that ownership of the property would be transferred to the Beverly Historical Society should Camp 6 ever cease activity.

4. Conservation/Processor's Note:

Of the 47 bound books in this collection most are paper- and/or leather-bound, though several are

cardboard and paper composition notebooks. Among the bound books, the majority have red rot and crumbling spines, and in the most unfortunate instances the covers and pages are nearly detached from one another. A significant portion of the books exhibit water damage, and many interleaved newspaper clippings were acidic and have left brown marks on the surrounding paper. Of the scrapbooks in the collection, there is widespread acidification and much of the newspaper clippings are crumbling. The 19 photos affixed into one of the scrapbooks are in good condition; they seem to be minimally affected by the acidic paper in the book.

The GAR Memorial Record, a large, illuminated tome of special significance, has a detached French binding; this book in particular is stored separately for safekeeping. The remaining bound books regardless of their varied conditions were placed in acid-free manila folders with Velcro closures. Not only will this protect those books in poor condition from further deterioration due to use, movement, and environment, but it will also protect any books in fair condition from contact with red rot. The scrapbooks and gummed stub files were also secured in manila wrapping. Any pins, paperclips, or extraneous metal was removed from the collection, though in several cases metal clips affixing newspaper clippings to pages could not be removed without further damaging the item, and so were left in place. Of the loose items found within the collection, the majority were removed and placed in acid-free folders. Any newspaper clippings in the folders were separated by other records with acid-free paper to protect from further acidification. These folders were placed in a box, along with the brass name and member number tags taken from the GAR photographic portrait collection (see: Related Materials). The entire collection, absent the GAR Memorial Record, is stored on 2 shelves in the vault of the Beverly Historical Society.

5. Copyright:

Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections at the Beverly Historical Society and Museum.

6. Preferred Citation:

Title of Document, Grand Army of the Republic Records Collection, Beverly Historical Society and Museum, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

7. Historical Note:

The Grand Army of the Republic, an American fraternal organization, was formed in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, and consisted exclusively of Union veterans who served during the Civil War. As a matter of principle, they were committed to the support of Union veterans and recognition of their service. At the GAR's peak in 1890, membership numbered at 409,489 and approximately 200 posts were reported. The GAR is notable for its political and social activism; they were the first completely integrated fraternal organization in the United States, and advocated extensively for veterans' benefits and aid for veterans' families. The organization was inherently nonpartisan, but nonetheless had extensive political influence; at one time, its endorsement was considered necessary to win the United States presidential election. In 1868, GAR Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan established May 30 as Memorial Day by calling for organization-wide observance and remembrance of fallen comrades. The organization dissolved when the last surviving member, Albert Woolsen, passed away in 1956.

The John H. Chipman, Jr., Post 89 of Beverly, Massachusetts was organized on June 10, 1869 and consisted of about 40 members at its inception. John Hale Chipman, Jr., the post's namesake, was local to Beverly and served as a captain during the Civil War. The post's charter members included William Driver, Isaac Edgett, Edward Giddings, Clarence Harris, William Millett, William Parker, Alfred Porter, Francis Porter, Joseph Stocker, and Charles Webber. The post was last located at 8 Dane Street in Beverly, in what is known as the Grand Army Hall, but prior to that point was located at 254 ½ Cabot Street in Beverly. Post 89 met for over 60 years and during that time served over 500 members, reaching its peak in 1915 with 111 members.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, created in 1881, is an affiliated fraternal organization; their membership was initially limited to male descendants of GAR members, though in more recent years this requirement has been overlooked. Their purpose is to preserve the ongoing legacy of Union veterans and of the GAR. The SoV is still active; as of 2015, membership was reported at over 6,360 brothers at over 200 camps. The John Low, Camp 6 of Beverly, Massachusetts was organized on June 19, 1882 and, although the Massachusetts department still supports camps across the state, Camp 6 is no longer active.

8. Scope and Content Note:

The Grand Army of the Republic Records Collection is comprised of records and items created by and otherwise related to GAR Post 89 and Sons of Union Veterans Camp 6. The collection spans the years from 1869 to 1960, with the bulk of the records created between 1882 and 1908. It consists of 47 bound books, 4 gummed stub files, 3 scrapbooks, 14 folders containing loose items, and a number of brass name tags.

The bulk of the collection is administrative in quality, including but not limited to meeting minutes, member records, organizational correspondence, and monetary/property ledgers. The majority of the administrative records are bound books, though any correspondence from GAR/SoV headquarters is stored in gummed stub files or scrapbooks. The remainder of the collection represents the GAR's documentation of veterans and veterans' services; much of these are newspaper clippings, both loose and affixed into scrapbooks. There were a number of loose items stored in books; any that were found to be directly relevant to the book's subject matter were left interleaved, and any that were irrelevant or unnecessary to the provision of context were placed in folders and stored in a box. A number of brass name tags, removed from frames while processing the GAR Portrait Collection (see: Related Materials), were placed in an envelope and stored in the box as well.

The collection is arranged into five series. Series I and II represent records created exclusively by GAR Post 89, SoV Camp 6, respectively. These series were organized into subseries based on the type of records (Meeting Notes, Member Records, Ledgers, Headquarter General Orders, and Miscellaneous) and organized chronologically within their subseries. Series I consists of 31 bound books, 3 gummed stub files, and 1 scrapbook, and Series II consists of 16 bound books and 1 gummed stub file.

Series III contains 2 scrapbooks originating with GAR Post 89. They both contain newspaper clippings and photographs- one book regarding the GAR and its related activities, the other regarding the Spanish American War and SAW veterans. Series IV consists of the various loose

items found throughout the collection, including newspaper clippings, hand/typewritten correspondence, and ceremony notes. These items are organized based on the books they were originally housed in; each Loose Items folder corresponds to a book in the collection. The folders are arranged based on their corresponding series/subseries order. Series V consists of the brass name tags removed from frames during the processing of the GAR Portrait Collection. There are 23 name tags with accompanying member number tags, 4 name tags without accompanying member number tags, and 2 member number tags without accompanying name tags. The brass tags are housed in an envelope and stored in the box along with Series IV.

9. Related Materials:

G.A.R. Portrait Collection, Beverly Historical Society and Museum, Beverly, MA

10. Series List:

This collection is arranged into 3 series:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Series I: | Grand Army of the Republic Records, 1869-1934 |
| Subseries A: | Meeting Notes, 1882-1934 |
| Subseries B: | Ledgers, 1869-1912 |
| Subseries C: | Member Records, 1869-1910 |
| Subseries D: | Headquarters General Orders, 1881-1918 |
| Subseries E: | Miscellany, 1890-1932 |
| | |
| Series II: | Sons of Union Veterans Records, 1882-1950 |
| Subseries A: | Meeting Notes, 1882-1943 |
| Subseries B: | Member Records, 1906-1950 |
| Subseries C: | Miscellany, 1889-1939 |
| | |
| Series III: | Scrapbooks |
| Series IV: | Loose Items |
| Series V: | Brass Name Plates |

11. Container List:

Series I: Grand Army of the Republic Records

Series/Arrangement Note: Sorted by type of record, then arranged chronologically within the respective subseries. Contains administrative records and varied miscellany created and collected by GAR Post 89. The series consists of 31 bound books, 3 gummed stub files, and 1 scrapbook.

| Subseries | Content | Unit-Shelf | Date(s) |
|------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 03/09/1882-05/08/1884 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 01/07/1892-12/28/1893 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 01/04/1893-01/02/1896 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 01/09/1895-12/28/1899 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 11/05/1903-11/22/1906 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 09/06/1906-05/05/1910 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 05/13/1910-12/18/1913 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 01/01/1914-10/18/1917 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 10/25/1917-11/17/1921 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 12/01/1921-12/24/1925 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 01/07/1925-06/06/1929 |
| A | Meeting notes | 7-C | 06/20/1929-08/18/1934 |
| B | Ledger - Funds Received (by Member) | 7-C | 06/10/1869-1879 |
| B | Ledger - Funds Received (by Member) | 7-C | 01/01/1879-1884 |

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| B | Ledger - Funds Received (by Member) | 7-C | 01/01/1885-1891 |
| B | Ledger - Funds Received (by Member) | 7-C | 01/01/1891-1906 |
| B | Ledger – Relief Fund | 7-C | 01/01/1879-12/15/1887 |
| B | Ledger – Cash Received & Expended | 7-C | 08/01/1890-08/29/1895 |
| B | Ledger – Relief Fund | 7-C | 01/02/1896-1912 |
| B | Ledger – Relief Fund | 7-D | 01/03/1913-11/15/1932 |
| B | Ledger – Cash Received & Expended | 7-C | 01/01/1902-03/31/1908 |
| C | Muster Roster | 7-C | 1869 |
| C | Muster Roster | 7-C | 1869 |
| C | Register of Members/Black List 1-280 | 7-C | 06/15/1869-12/23/1886 |
| C | Black List 279-721 | 7-C | N/A |
| C | Memorial Record | BHS Research Room | 1887 |
| C | Roster of the Department of Massachusetts GAR | 7-C | 1910 |
| D | Headquarter General Orders – Scrapbook | 7-C | 09/14/1881-12/27/1883 |

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------------|
| D | Headquarter General Orders – Gummed Stub File | 7-D | 04/15/1896-11/18/1903 |
| D | Headquarter General Orders – Gummed Stub File | 7-D | 12/21/1903-03/04/1908 |
| D | Headquarter General Orders – Gummed Stub File | 7-D | 05/16/1908-10/30/1918 |
| E | Souvenir 24 th National Encampment | 7-D | 1890 |
| E | North Shore Monthly Meeting Notes | 7-D | 10/12/1925-03/14/1932 |
| E | Member Grave Sites Record | 7-D | N/A |
| E | Grand Army War Songs | 7-D | N/A |

Series II: Sons of Union Veterans Records

Series/Arrangement Note: Sorted by type of record, then arranged chronologically within the respective subseries. Contains administrative records and varied miscellany created and collected by SoV Camp 6. The series consists of 16 bound books and 1 gummed stub file.

| Subseries | Content | Unit-Shelf | Date(s) |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 06/18/1882-0/27/1887 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 07/12/1887-12/31/1889 |

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------------|
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 01/07/1890-12/01/1891 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 12/15/1891-10/02/1894 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 10/09/1894-01/26/1897 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 02/02/1897-06/20/1899 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 07/18/1899-11/17/1903 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 12/01/1903-05/21/1907 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 01/08/1917-12/15/1922 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 01/08/1923-10/18/1929 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 11/01/1929-11/06/1936 |
| A | Meeting Notes | 7-D | 11/20/1936-12/17/1943 |
| B | Attendance Ledger | 7-D | 01/1906-06/1950 |
| B | Descriptive Member Roster (Note: Loose newspaper obituaries inside) | 7-D | N/A |
| C | Camp Property Ledger | 7-D | 10/10/1889-02/16/1921 |
| C | Headquarters General Orders – Gummed Stub File | 7-D | 02/26/1923-04/27/1939 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| C | Member Register (Unused) | 7-D | N/A |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|-----|

Series III: Scrapbooks

Series/Arrangement Note: Arranged chronologically. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings and photographs pertaining to military history, organization activity, politics and government, and domestic life. The series consists of 2 scrapbooks.

| Subseries | Content | Unit-Shelf-Folder | Date(s) |
|-----------|--|-------------------|-----------|
| N/A | Newspaper clippings re: GAR veterans, GAR activity, politics and government | 7-D | 1863-1886 |
| N/A | Newspaper clippings and 19 photographs re: Spanish American War veterans (8 th infantry), domestic life | 7-D | N/A |

Series IV: Loose Items

Series/Arrangement Note: This series consists of loose items (newspaper clippings, correspondence) that were found interleaved in various bound books. It is important to note that the items in this series were not found to be germane to the respective books where they were housed; in the event that loose items were especially relevant to the book, they were kept in place. The items are stored in acid-free folders that were labeled with the years contained in their respective books and then arranged in a box in the order of the series/subseries they were found with. The series consists of 14 folders, which are stored in a box with Series V.

| Subseries | Content | Unit-Shelf-Folder | Date(s) | Book where Previously Housed |
|-----------|---|-------------------|---------|---|
| N/A | Call & Response card for muster-in ceremony | 7-D-1 | N/A | Series I, Subseries A Meeting Notes 01/07/1892- |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|------------------|--|
| | | | | 12/28/1893 |
| N/A | Treasurer's Report of Memorial Committee | 7-D-2 | N/A | Series I, Subseries A Meeting Notes 01/09/1895-12/28/1899 |
| N/A | "Report of Committee in Case of Comrade Wm. Northend" (typewritten) | 7-D-3 | 09/07/1905 | Series I, Subseries A Meeting Notes 11/05/1903-11/22/1906 |
| N/A | Call & Response sheet for Memorial Service | 7-D-4 | N/A | Series I, Subseries A Meeting Notes 05/13/1910-12/18/1913 |
| N/A | Note on Post 89 letterhead (handwritten) | 7-D-5 | N/A | Series I, Subseries A Meeting Notes 01/01/1914-10/18/1917 |
| N/A | (10) Post Historian questionnaires for transcription to Member Records book | 7-D-6 | N/A | Series I, Subseries C Member Records Black List 279-721 |
| N/A | Newspaper clipping re: GAR activity; "A Birthday Testimonial" WRC/GAR pamphlet | 7-D-7 | N/A; 06/28/1897 | Series I, Subseries C Headquarter General Orders 09/14/1881-12/27/1883 |
| N/A | Empty Aetna envelope; addressed to "Mr. Joseph P. Devine, Beverly, Mass." (typewritten) | 7-D-8 | N/A | Series I, Subseries C Headquarter General Orders 12/21/1903-03/04/1908 |
| N/A | Newspaper clippings re: GAR, Memorial Day; list of Post 89 member deaths (handwritten); | 7-D-9 | 05/21/1910; N/A; | Series I, Subseries C Headquarter General Orders 05/16/1908- |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|---------------------------|---|
| | Special Orders #78 (handwritten) | | 01/01/1916 | 10/30/1918 |
| N/A | Miscellaneous newspaper scraps | 7-D-10 | N/A | Series II, Subseries A Meeting Notes 06/18/1882- 06/27/1887 |
| N/A | Letter from Division Commander re: “irregular action” (typewritten); note re: brother’s death (handwritten) | 7-D-11 | 01/27/1919; 05/16/1919 | Series II, Subseries A Meeting Notes 01/08/1917- 12/15/1922 |
| N/A | Repayment note on Post 89 letterhead (handwritten) | 7-D-12 | 08/1932 | Series III Ledger of Organizational Funds 01/03/1913- 11/15/1932 |
| N/A | Newspaper clippings re: SAW veterans, veteran activities, domestic life | 7-D-13 | N/A | Series IV Spanish American War Scrapbook |
| N/A | Newspaper clippings re: SAW veterans, veteran activities, domestic life | 7-D-14 | N/A | Series IV Spanish American War Scrapbook |

Series V: Brass Name Plates

Series/Arrangement Note: This series consists of stamped brass name tags that originated with the BHS’ GAR Portrait Collection. The name tags were removed from a number of picture frames during the collection’s preservation process. There are 23 name tags with accompanying member number tags, 4 name tags without accompanying member number tags, and 2 member number tags without accompanying name tags. The name tags are held in an envelope and stored in the box containing Series IV.

| Subseries | Name/Member Number | Unit-Shelf | Date(s) |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| N/A | Thissell, John B./17 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Theodore P. Ober/120 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | John Varnum/131 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Henry F. Stone/187 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Benjamin F. Cressey/257 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | John H. Dennis/261 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Benjamin Carrico/263 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | William H. Burchstead/267 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Benjamin Larcom/269 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Thomas H. Dunham/270 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Martin Murray/271 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Alfred B. Fowler/273 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Jesse A. Blake/275 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Isaac F. Day/276 | 7-D | N/A |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| N/A | Nathanial Freeman/283 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Edwin Barker/285 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | John E. Foster/286 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Andrew J. Clark/287 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | N/A/288 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Henry S. Lovett/291 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Thomas F. Whiting/292 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | N/A/294 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Henry B. Wallis/300 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | George S. Bradstreet/302 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | John Hanners/304 | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | Charles R. Allen/N/A | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | George F. Goldthwait/N/A | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | John F. Howard/N/A | 7-D | N/A |
| N/A | David L. Story/N/A | 7-D | N/A |

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