



BHC-MSS 0038

Guide to the Records of Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 GAR

By Meg Rinn

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Elias Howe Jr. Post #3

Title: Records of Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 GAR

Dates: 1869-1930 [bulk 1900-1920]

Quantity: 3 manuscript boxes, unknown number of ledgers

Abstract: The Grand Army of the Republic was one of the first war veteran's associations in the United States. Formed in the aftermath of the Civil War, the GAR was organized by state, and then by smaller local organizations. Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 was Bridgeport's branch of the GAR, and the material in this collection offers insight into the organization's local presence and relation to the national organization.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History

The Grand Army of the Republic, or the GAR, was a Civil War veterans organization formed in 1866, and ending in 1956 with the death of its final member. It was a major advocacy group that enjoyed a wide influence in politics, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday in the United States and acting as a proto-lobby in the interests of veterans. It was organized by local groups (Posts), state level, and then the national organization.

Within Connecticut, the organization began in 1867 by General Edward Harland. The Bridgeport post, Elias Howe Jr. #3 (Howe was the first resident who signed up to serve in the city), began on April 15, 1867. At its height, it had 1,360 members, all local residents.

Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 participated in local memorial events, members gave speeches, and they interacted with the state and national level events every year as well.

Scope and Content note:

Most of the material in the collection comes from the time period of the 1900s to the 1920s, with a focus on the state and national encampments (meet-ups) of various GAR posts. The ledgers are likely to contain the most local information, but due to preservation concerns, they have not been reviewed yet.

Arrangement note:

The Records of Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 are arranged into 4 series to show the local and national reach of the organization. Series I, Elias Howe Jr. Post #3, focuses on the activities based in Bridgeport. The second series, State and National Encampments, contains material from state and national meet ups of various GAR groups, showing the power of the organization. The third series contains ribbons from these various meet ups, and the last series contain indexes for the ledgers that are in the collection, but have not been reviewed yet.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Unknown

Preferred Citation:

Records of Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 GAR (BHC-MSS 0038), Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings*Corporate names*

Grand Army of the Republic

Subject tracings

Bridgeport, Conn.

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

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

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I, Elias Howe Jr. Post #3, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Box 1

1. Anniversary memorial service programs May 29, 1869
2. Speeches, 1910s
3. Memorial exercises, 1884-1916
4. Material from GAR National Headquarters, 1912-1917
5. Correspondence, 1920
6. Biography of Samuel Burditt, 1915
7. GAR newspaper clippings, 1910s and undated
8. Photographs of GAR events, 1913-1918

Series II, State and National Encampments

9. Programs for Connecticut encampments, 1890-1924
10. Invitation to 26th National Encampment, September 27, 1892
11. Program for 47th National Encampment, September 15-20, 1913
12. Program for National Encampment, August 19-25, 1917
13. Program for 57th National Encampment, September 2-7, 1923
14. Program for 64th National Encampment, August 24-29, 1930
15. Clippings about GAR encampments, 1913-1915
16. Set of GAR postcards from parade in Washington DC, September 29, 1915

Box 2

1. Journal of the 47th National Encampment, September 18-19, 1913
2. Journal of the 48th National Encampment, September 3-4, 1914
3. Roll of the 59th National Encampment of the Department of Connecticut... May 6-7, 1926
4. Roll of the 63rd National Encampment of the Department of Connecticut, May 8-9, 1930

5. Library of Congress filing of copyright for GAR, 1911

Series III, GAR Ribbons

6. GAR Ribbons, 1882-1884
7. GAR Ribbons, 1900-1910
8. GAR Ribbons, 1920-1928
9. GAR Ribbons, 1891-1894
10. GAR Ribbons, 1913-1919
11. GAR Ribbons, Connecticut delegates, 1906-1918
12. GAR Ribbons, undated

Series IV, Ledgers and Index

Box 3

1. Index, War Memories, volumes 1-3
2. Index, War Memories and battles, volume 4
3. Index, War Memories, volumes 5 and 6
4. Index, War Memories, volume 6
5. Index, War Memories, volume 6 and 7

Ledgers are under review.