



BHC-MSS 0248

Guide to the Records of the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps Collection

By Jaime Pettit

October 2023

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps

Title: Records Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps Collection

Dates: 1882-1938

Quantity: 18 pamphlet boxes, 1 slim document box [6.96 linear ft]

Abstract: Contained in this collection are various rolls and proceedings of the national and state conventions and encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps, as well as related miscellaneous materials spanning from 1882-1938.

Collection Number: BHC-MSS 0248

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was a fraternal organization for veterans of the Union Army that was formed in 1866. The soldiers formed this organization in order to maintain contact with and connect with their former comrades. The City of Bridgeport hosted its own Chapter of the G.A.R., the Elias Howe Chapter. The G.A.R. did not typically accept women who had participated in the war efforts into their ranks. As a result, the Women's Relief Corps was founded in 1883 as an Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The final encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949, and officially dissolved 1956 following the death of its last member. The Women's Relief Corps is still in operation to this day, dedicated to collecting and preserving information about their predecessors and the GAR.

Scope and Content Note

The collection focuses on the annual conventions of the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps, on both a national and state level. Within these materials are rolls with member names, proceedings, conduct, and portraits of high-ranking officials within both groups. The Grand Army of the Republic hosted yearly national and statewide encampments for its members every year from 1866 to 1949, and journals recorded the opening proceedings. The Women's Relief Corps. Rolls recorded the names of the attendees. Genealogy researchers may find these

documents valuable sources of information when researching family members that were in attendance. The rule and ritual books in this collection give insight into how both groups were formed and conducted themselves. Programs that are featured in this collection often hold a description of the location that they were held at, and may give an insight into what a host city was like during the period, as well as how it developed overtime into present day.

Arrangement Note

This collection is arranged into two series and eight sub series. Series I contains materials relating to the Grand Army of the Republic, with three sub series for materials relating to the Connecticut GAR, Non-Connecticut state departments, and programs of GAR events alongside testimonials and portraits. Series II contains materials relating the Women's Relief Corps. The first two sub series consist of the journals and rolls of the national conventions. The following two series are materials related to gatherings of the Connecticut state department and non-Connecticut state departments. The final sub series is assorted materials, including conduct and ritual books. Arranged chronologically.

Provenance

Unknown, found in the collection. This material was acquired over the years.

Related Materials

Civil War Book Collection

Name and Subject Tracings

Personal Names

Beers, Alfred Bishop, 1845-1920

Hosley, George A.

Howe, Elias, 1819-1867

Price, George A.

Corporate Names

Grand Army of the Republic

Grand Army of the Republic. Department of Connecticut

Grand Army of the Republic. Department of New York

Grand Army of the Republic. Elias Howe Jr. Post #3

Women's Relief Corps (U.S.)

Women's Relief Corps (U.S.). Department of Connecticut

Women's Relief Corps (U.S.). Department of Massachusetts

Women's Relief Corps (U.S.). Department of Minnesota

Women's Relief Corps (U.S.). National Convention

Subject Names

Veterans

American Civil War (1861-1865)

Clubs

Administrative Information

Preferred citation

Records of the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps, (BHC-MSS 0248), Bridgeport History Center.

Box and folder listings

SERIES I. Grand Army of the Republic

Box 1

1. Journal of the Forty-Sixth National Encampment (1912)
2. Journal of the Forty-Seventh National Encampment (1913)
3. Journal of the Forty-Seventh National Encampment - Paperback (1913)

Box 2

4. Journal of the Forty-Seventh National Encampment – Paperback Copy (1913)
5. Journal of the Forty-Eighth National Encampment (1914)
6. Journal of the Fifty-Second National Encampment (1918)
7. Journal of the Fifty-Fourth National Encampment (1920)

Box 3

8. Journal of the Fifty-Fifth National Encampment (1921)
9. Journal of the Fifty-Sixth National Encampment (1922)
10. Journal of the Fifty-Seventh National Encampment (1923)
11. Journal of the Fifty-Eighth National Encampment (1924)
12. Journal of the Fifty-Ninth National Encampment (1925)

Box 4

13. Journal of the Sixtieth National Encampment (1926)
14. Journal of the Sixty-First National Encampment (1927)
15. Journal of the Sixty-Second National Encampment (1928)
16. Journal of the Sixty-Third National Encampment (1929)

Box 5

17. Journal of the Sixty-Fourth National Encampment (1930)
18. Journal of the Sixty-Fifth National Encampment (1931)
19. Journal of the Sixty-Sixth National Encampment (1932)
20. Journal of the Sixty-Seventh National Encampment (1933)
21. Journal of the Sixty-Eighth National Encampment (1934)

Box 6

22. Journal of the Sixty-Ninth National Encampment (1935)
23. Journal of the Seventieth National Encampment (1936)
24. Roll of the Seventy-First National Encampment (1937)
25. Roll of the Seventy-Second National Encampment (1938)
26. Address of the Commander in Chief – Seventy-Third National Encampment (1939)

Sub Series A:**Box 7**

1. Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1882)
2. Roll of the 50th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1917)
3. Roll of the 50th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR - Copy (1917)
4. Roll of the 59th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1926)
5. Roll of the 63rd Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1930)
6. Roll of the 64th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1931)
7. Roll of the 64th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1931)
8. Roll of the 65th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1932)
9. Roll of the 66th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1933)
10. Roll of the 67th Annual Encampment of the Department of Connecticut GAR (1934)

Subseries B: Non- Connecticut State Department**Box 8**

1. Roll of the Department of New York GAR (MISSING)
2. Register of the Department of California GAR (1886)
3. Complimentary Dinner to Past Commander George A. Price on His Seventy Fifth Birthday – Department of New York GAR (1914)

Sub Series C: Programs**Box 9**

1. Grand Army of the Republic National Memorial Hall (1891)
2. 47th National Encampment – Grand Army of the Republic (1913)
3. 56th National Encampment – Grand Army of the Republic (1922)
4. 57th National Encampment – Grand Army of the Republic (1923)
5. 7th Annual Dinner for the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (1927)
6. 64th National Encampment – Grand Army of the Republic (1930)

Testimonials

7. Strong Vincent at Gettysburg (1901)
8. Civil War Incidents on Signal Mountain (1915)

Menus with Portraits

9. Menu with Portrait of Alfred B. Beers (1911)
10. Menu with Portrait of Alfred B. Beers – Second Copy (1911)

11. Menu with Portrait of George A. Hosley (1912)
12. Menu with Portrait of George A. Hosley – Second Copy (1912)

SERIES II. Women's Relief Corps.

Sub Series A: National Convention Journals

Box 10

1. Journal of the Twenty Eighth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1910)
2. Journal of the Thirtieth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1912)
3. Journal of the Thirty First National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1913)
4. Journal of the Thirty First National Convention - Women's Relief Corps - Copy (1913)

Box 11

5. Journal of the Thirty Second National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1914)
6. Journal of the Thirty - Second National Convention - Women's Relief Corps- Copy (1914)
7. Journal of the Thirty Fourth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1916)
8. Journal of the Thirty - Fifth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1917)

Box 12

9. Journal of the Thirty - Sixth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1918)
10. Journal of the Thirty - Seventh National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1919)
11. Journal of the Thirty Eighth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1920)
12. Journal of the Thirty Ninth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1921)

Box 13

13. Journal of the Thirty Ninth Annual Convention - Women's Relief Corps- Copy (1921)
14. Journal of the Forty - Second National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1922)
15. Journal of the Forty - Third National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1923)

Box 14

16. Journal of the Forty - Third National Convention - Women's Relief Corps - Copy (1923)
17. Journal of the Forty - Third National Convention - Women's Relief Corps – 2nd Copy (1923)
18. Journal of the Forty - Fourth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1924)

Box 15

19. Journal of the Forty - Fifth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1925)

Sub Series B: National Convention Rolls

Box 16

1. Roll of the Thirtieth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1912)
2. Roll of the Thirtieth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1912)
3. Roll of the Thirty First National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1913)
4. Roll of Thirty First National Convention and Reports (1913)

5. Roll of the Thirty Fourth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1916)
6. Roll of the Thirty Fifth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1917)
7. Roll of the Thirty Seventh National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1919)
8. Roll of the Thirty Eighth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1920)
9. Roll of the Thirty Eighth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps – Copy (1920)

Box 17

10. Roll of the Thirty Ninth National Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1921)
11. Roll of the Forty First Annual Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1923)
12. Roll of the Forty Second Annual Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1924)
13. Roll of the Forty Third Annual Convention - Women's Relief Corps (1925)

Sub Series C. Women's Relief Corps. Connecticut State Department

Box 18

1. Journal of the Thirty Fourth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1917)
2. Journal of the Thirty Fifth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1918)
3. Journal of the Thirty Seventh Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1920)
4. Journal of the Thirty Eighth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1921)
5. Journal of the Thirty Ninth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1922)
6. Journal of the Fortieth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1923)
7. Journal of the Fortieth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT- Copy (1923)
8. Journal of the Forty First Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1924)
9. Journal of the Forty Second Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1925)

Box 19

10. Journal of the Forty Third Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1926)
11. Journal of the Forty Fifth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1927)
12. Journal of the Forty Seventh Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1928)
13. Journal of the Forty Eighth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1929)
14. Journal of the Fiftieth Annual Convention - WRC Department of CT (1931)

Sub Series D. Non-Connecticut State Departments

Box 20

1. Journal of the Forty-Fourth Annual Convention - WRC Department of MA (1923)
2. Journal of the Twenty Ninth Annual Convention - WRC Department of MN (1913)

Sub Series E: Assorted Materials- *Conduct & Related Materials*

Box 21

1. Roster Department of Connecticut Women's Relief Corps (1932-1933)
2. The National Women's Relief Corps Red Book (1922)
3. The Grand Army Blue Book (1882)
4. Ritual of the Women's Relief Corps (1917)

5. Twenty Fifth National Convention Daughters of Veterans (1915)
6. Tactics at Gettysburg (1910)
7. Official Souvenir and Program of Monument First Connecticut Heavy Artillery and Dedicatory Exercises in Hartford (1902)