

**United Spanish War Veterans
Records, 1904-1962
MSA 789**

Introduction

This collection contains four ledgers from the United Spanish War Veterans, Vermont Department, for the period 1904-1962. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by the Vermont Veterans Militia Museum and Library, Herman “Charlie” Brown, curator, in 2017. They are housed in one archival box and consume .5 linear feet of shelf space.

Institutional Notes

The United Spanish War Veterans were organized in 1904 as a fraternal organization to commemorate the service of the soldiers and sailors that served in the war. The group is an amalgamation of several independent veterans’ groups. Members pledged to promote the principals of Freedom, Patriotism, and Humanity. The group also maintained the graves of fallen comrades, assisted comrades and their families, kept the memories of the war with Spain and campaigns in the Philippines and China alive, supported the military of the United States, provided education in national defense, and prepared to provide possible aid to the military in any future war. Members had to have served in the active military during the war between April 21, 1898, and July 4, 1902. Members had to possess an honorable discharge or could still be in the service to the United States. Honorary membership could be conferred on servicemen that served honorably in any war including the Civil War, either Union or Confederate. Honorary members could attend, but not participate, in the meetings of a camp. The term camp referred to the local membership group; members could only belong to one camp at a time.

Scope and Content

This collection contains four ledgers from the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV), Vermont Department, for the period 1904-1962.

The first ledger in the group contains typical receipt and disbursement information common to any veterans’ organization. Auditors reviewed the books regularly and signed off on the books as needed. This ledger provides the most complete look at the USWV organization in Vermont as it contains a list of camps and covers the period 1904 to 1962.

The second ledger comes from the Lamson Camp #2 in Barre, Vermont. The ledger contains much receipt and dispersal information. The financial information ceases and the middle part of the ledger contains pages pertaining to the membership and their financial obligations to the group. This ledger has the names and addresses of the camp members as well as their status, from active to deceased. This ledger covers the period between 1933 and November of 1956.

The third ledger contains meeting minutes, rosters of camp members, and lists of officers of Lamson Camp #2. The group had members from central Vermont as well as several

surrounding states and one member from Quebec. The minutes are sparse in some years but in others the note taker produced lengthy minutes. These minutes address typical fraternal organization concerns as well as items particular to a veterans group. The ledger covers a ten year period between 1952 and 1962 with the final few sets of minutes detailing the demise of the camp as its members became too old and too few to carry on.

The last ledger came from the James W. Flynn, Camp #9, in Burlington, Vermont. The ledger contains meeting minutes from November 1934 and July 1959. The minutes are not as detailed as the Lamson Camp minutes and the volume lists the officers but not the individual members. Unlike the Lamson Camp minutes, there is no indication of the camp preparing to close up even though they have the same dwindling membership issues. Many pages in this ledger have been cut out, typed on, then loosely inserted back into the ledger.

Related Collections

- Book: Heller, Paul, *More Granite City Tales: Writing on the History of Barre, Vermont*, 2014. Contains a chapter on Company E and its participation in the Spanish American War, Call no. 974.31 B274heLL2.
- Book: Johnson, Herbert T., "Vermont in the Spanish American War," prepared and published under the direction of Herbert T. John, the Adjutant General, by authority of the General Assembly, 1929. Call no. 929 V59w 1898.
- Book: "The Green Mountain Boys at Chickamauga (Georgia) 1898." Views and rosters, call no. 973.89 V1h.
- Book: "50th Anniversary of the Muster of the First Regiment, Vermont Volunteer Infantry ..." Call no. 973.896 V592.
- Pamphlet: "Roster of the Regiment: Vermont Boys Who Will Become a Part of the United States Army to-day ..." From the Burlington Free Press dated May 16, 1898. Call no. 929 V59spb.
- Manuscript, "James E. Mitchell Spanish American War papers, 1926 – 1954." Mitchell became a member of the Lamson Camp, USWU, Barre, Vermont. MSA 283:6
- Manuscript, "First Vermont Infantry Regiment, Company E scrapbook, 1898 – 1899," assembled by Gertrude E. Lang. XMSC 37:10.
- Manuscript, "George W. Sharpley papers, 1897-1898, 1909." Papers and photos belonging to Spanish American War veteran, George Sharpley. MSC 211:10.

Inventory

- MSA 789:01: United Spanish War Veterans, Department of Vermont Accounts Journal, 1904 – 1962.
- :02: _____, Harry Lamson Camp #2, Barre, Vt., Cash Receipts and Expense Journal, 1933 – 1956 (smallest ledger)
- :03: _____, _____, Adjutant's (Journal) Record of Meetings, 1952 - 1962
- :04: _____, James W. Flynn Camp #9, Burlington, Vt., (Journal) Records, 1934 – 1959

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