

UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS OF NEW YORK STATE**RECORDS, ca. 1904 - ca. 1975****SC18859****QUANTITY:** 6 Record Storage boxes and 32 Card File boxes (24 cu. ft.)**ACCESS:** Record group is open to research**ACQUISITION:** Transferred to the New York State Library in October 1983**PROCESSED BY:** Gregory G. McNall, Student Intern, College of Saint Rose, October 1989
Fred Bassett revised July 2001**Historical Note:**

The United Spanish War Veterans was founded in 1904 out of the union of several independent Spanish-American War organizations, including the National Army and Navy Spanish-American War Veterans, the National Association of Spanish-American War Veterans, and the Service Men of the Spanish War. Among later organizations to join were the Society of the Hispano-American War, the Legion of Spanish War Veterans (from Massachusetts) and the Society of the Veteran Army of the Philippines.

All military personnel who served during the Spanish-American War and had been honorably discharged or continued to serve were eligible to become members of the organization. In addition, non-military personnel who had served in the war were eligible to join. Among them were all contracted doctors, dentists, and veterinary surgeons; all members of the Philippine scouts and other organizations of native troops maintained by the War Department in the Philippines, and all paymaster clerks on duty in the field or aboard ship.

According to its constitution, the main objectives of the United Spanish War Veterans organization were "To unite fraternally members of the United States Military who served in the Spanish-American War. To honor the memory of the fallen comrades. To assist former comrades and their families (widows, orphans, etc.). To perpetuate the memory of the Spanish American War"¹ The organization prohibited the promotion of financial aid by the organization of any person seeking public office. It also prohibited discrimination on the basis of religion.

The structure of the organization was as follows: the national level which had its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the state level, called a department, and the local level, called a camp. Every year a national convention, called an encampment) was held in a pre-designated city. Just prior to the national encampment, the National Council of Administration held a meeting to discuss

¹ *Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the United Spanish War Veterans*. Pages x, xi.

organizational business. Those participating in the council of administration were the commander-in-chief, the senior and junior vice commanders-in-chief, and the various department commanders. On the state level, a department encampment was also held annually; it consisted of delegates from each camp in the state as well as the department officers and past department officers. Department councils of administration, consisting of elected officers of the department and camp delegates could be called by the department commander. It served the same purpose as a national council of administration. The department of New York consisted of roughly 120 camps. On the local level, camps were able to call meetings at their own discretion.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains material from the Department of New York Spanish-American War Veterans organization. It consists of 6 boxes of files, volumes, pamphlets, programs, membership cards, and other material ranging in dates from the early 1900s to the mid 1970s. There is also a card file that contains information about individual members of the organization.

Box one contains organizational material, including copies of the constitution and rules of the organization, which gives an in-depth review of the history of the Spanish-American War veterans organization. There are also histories of the department auxiliaries, which kept very concise documentation of their existence.

Box two contains minute books of the auxiliary department meetings, ranging in dates from 1911 to 1958, and also 1971. These mainly document organizational business that was discussed at the various meetings.

Box three contains financial books, including check books (with check stubs still attached), account books and membership dues books. These volumes documented such financial matters as the collection of camp dues, the logging of expenses during functions and encampments, and banking transactions.

Box four has files that mainly deal with financial matters in more recent years (1950s, 1960s, 1970s). They include a collection of bank statements and per capita tax reports, as well as bond reports and requisition forms for buttons, badges, books, and certificates.

Box five consists of files concerning department activities, including meetings, encampments, and councils of administration. There are also files containing such material as invitations to encampments, resolutions, muster rolls (camp membership files), and notices of deceased members (taps files). Disbanded camp information is also included; camps were often discontinued due to death of members.

Box six contains topical material ranging from membership rosters of other departments to a Holy Bible. There are cards that list past commanders of New York camps from around the state. The majority of material in this box consists of files containing correspondence and department papers from Arthur W. Higginbottom, Harry M. Startup, Warren Schenck, Samuel Selmer, and Charles S. Schilz, all officers of the department of New York.

The membership card files are housed in separately numbered containers with the contents filed in alphabetical order by surname. These cards are also divided as post-1920 and pre-1920. These cards contain standard directory information as well as information about an individual's military service.

Box	Folder	Item	Contents
			Organizational Material
1	1		Constitution and Rules and Regulations (1929)
	2		Constitution and Rules and Regulations (1930)
	3		Ritual, United Spanish War Veterans (1912-1929)
	4		Book of Ceremonies (1913-1925)
	5		Book of Ceremonies (1944)
	6		Book of Ceremonies (1952)
	7		Booklets: Constitution and By-Laws
	8		History of Auxiliaries, Department of New York (1908-1910)
	9		History of Peekskill Camp No. 119
	10		History of Department of New York Auxiliaries
			Minute Books (Department of New York), U.S.W.V. Women's Auxiliary
2	1		1911-1915
	2		1914-1920
	3		1920-1924
	4		1924-1927
	5		1927-1930
	6		1930-1936
	7		1937-1942
	8		1943-1958
	9		1971
			Financial Books
3	1		Check Book (empty) 1950-1954
	2		Check Book (empty) 1954-1959
	3		Check Book (empty) 1959-1967
	4		Account Book, 1967-1977
	5		Account Book, 1952-1953
	6		Account Book, 1953-1955
	7		Auxiliary Account Book, 1914-1922
	8		Relief and Flag Fund
	9		Camp Dues Book (Camp Nos. 41, 46, 66)
	10		Financial Journal, 1936-1961
	11		Expense Booklet, Memorial Day, 1941
	12		Dues Booklet
	13		Bank Book: National Commercial Bank and Trust Company, 1930
	14		Bank Book: The Citizens National Bank

Box	Folder	Item	Contents
		15	Dues Booklet
		16	Per Capita Tax Booklets (19), 1964-1972
			Financial Files
4	1		Bills Paid, 1971-1972
	2		Refunds, 1970-1971
	3		Bond Reports
	4		Requisitions Forms for Supplies
	5		Financial Records (Frank Saunders, Treasurer)
	6		Financial Statements
	7		State Vouchers
	8		New York State Travel Vouchers
			Bank Statements:
	9		December 1967-December 1968
	10		February-September 1968
	11		January 1968-February 1969
	12		December 1969-November 1970
	13		January 1970-November 1972
	14		October 1972-January 1973
	15		December 1974-May 1975
	16		April 1975-January 1978
	17		Notice of Unpaid per Capita Tax
			Per Capita Tax:
	18		1969-1970
	19		1 st half 1970
	20		1 st half 1971
	21		2 nd half 1971
	22-23		1 st half 1972
	24		National Reports for Per Capita Tax, 1967-1968
			Department Files
5			Council of Administration:
	1		1960-1961
	2		1961-1962
	3		1962-1963
	4		1963-1964
	5		1964-1965
	6		1966
	7		Council Meeting, 1970
	8		Council Meeting, 1970-1971
	9		Department Encampment, 1969-1970
	10		Department Encampment, 1972
	11		Council Meeting and Minutes of Encampment, 1972
	12		Department of Encampment, 1978
	13		National Encampment, 1969-1970
	14		Transcript
	15		Change of Address Data

Box	Folder	Item	Contents
		16	Camp Rosters, 1979/General Orders and Minutes
		17	Bulletins, May 1971
		18	Invitations, 1972
		19	Resolutions, 1971-1972
		20	Requisition Forms
		21	Installation Forms
		22	Forms
		23	Disbanded Camps, 1968-1970
		24	Disbanded Camps, 1971-1972
		25-26	Barked, 1968
		27	Membership List of Camps
		28	Membership
		29	1965 Rosters/Certificate of Membership
		30	Muster Roll, 1 st half of 1965
		31	Muster Roll, 2 nd half of 1965
		32	Muster Roll, 1965-1967
		33	Muster Roll of Members, 1966
		34	Deceased Past Department Commanders
			Taps:
		35	1967-1968
		36	1968-1969
		37	1969-1970
		38	1970-1971
		39	n.d.
		40	63 rd Annual National Encampment, 1961
		41	57 th Annual Department Encampment, 1960
		42	58 th Annual Department Encampment (2), 1961
		43	61 st Annual Department Encampment (3 proofs), 1964
		44	62 nd Annual Department Encampment, 1965
		45	63 rd Annual Department, 1966
		46	64 th Annual Department Encampment (2), 1967
		47	Council Meeting of Administration, 1964
			Topical Material
6			Membership Rosters:
		1	Department of Utah, 1961
		2	Department of Connecticut, 1960-1961
		3	Department of Connecticut, 1961-1962
		4	Department of Connecticut, 1962-1963
		5	Department of Connecticut, 1963-1964
		6	Department of Connecticut, 1964-1965
		7	Department of Connecticut, 1965-1966
		8	Department of Ohio, 1960
		9	Department of Ohio, 1961
		10	Department of Ohio, 1962
		11	Department of Ohio, 1969

Box	Folder	Item	Contents
		12	Holy Bible
		13	VA Health Care Training Legislation
		14	Proceedings, 1948
		15	Roster Book
			Department Cards
			Membership Cards
			Name Plates (2)
	1		Pamphlets
	2		Newspaper Clipping
			Topical Papers:
	3-13		Arthur W. Higginbottom
	14-22		Harry M. Startup
	23-24		Warren Schenck
	25		Samuel Selmer
	26		Charles S. Schiltz
	27		By Laws
	28		Utica Hotel
	29		Auxiliary Memos
	30		Memorandums
	31		Samples
	32-33		Topical Papers
			Package
			Picture: Annual entertainment and ball, February 9, 1935
			Picture: Testimonial dinner and dance tendered to John W. Green, May 25, 1935
			APPENDIX A
			Membership Card File, Post 1920 (Alphabetical by Surname)
	1		Aalst - Bechler
	2		Becht - Brown
	3		Browne - Clynes
	4		Coady - Dayton
	5		Dea - Ekstrome
	6		Elardo - Freyermuth
	7		Frick - Gyles
	8		Haag - Hixon
	9		Hoag - Jutting
	10		Kobat - Lake
	11		Lally - McCall
	12		McCann - Maxwell
	13		May - Myszks
	14		Nadeau - Peltz
	15		Pemberton - Rickert
	16		Riddell - Schring
	17		Schroeder - Smith
	18		Snell - Thomas

Box	Folder	Item	Contents
19			Thompson - Watson
20			Weaver - Zwoboda
			Membership Card File, Pre-1920
21			Aaronson - Brewer
22			Bricker - Crudden
23			Cuedek - Feulkner
24			Fialie - Hartzen
25			Hass - Kiethlen
26			Kelly - Malsch
27			Mamera - Moyer
28			Mudgett - Pond
29			Pope - Scurry
30			Seaford - Tatamore
31			Thaimas - Zwoboda
32			Miscellaneous Address Cards

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