

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2015-FIA-03

G.A.R. - George H. Ward Post 10 Collection

Processed by Robert Marchetta
September 2015

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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains biographical materials concerning Civil War veteran members of the George H. Ward G.A.R Post 10, (Worcester, MA).

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in archives 2015. No record of donation or gift and no previous accession number.

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was founded in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Benjamin F. Stephenson. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The community level organization was called a "Post" and each was numbered consecutively within each department. Most Posts also had a name and the rules for naming Posts included the requirement that the honored person be deceased and that no two Posts within the same Department could have the same name.

Post 10 in Worcester, Massachusetts was named for George H. Ward, a Worcester native who had formally commanded the Worcester City Guards, a local militia unit. Ward enlisted in the Union Army and on July 24, 1861, he was mustered into the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. On October 21, 1861, he was wounded in action at the Battle of Ball's Bluff and his left foot was amputated. 1863 he took command of the 15th Massachusetts, then a part of the Army of the Potomac. On July 2, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg, Ward's regiment was heavily engaged on the Union left-center along Cemetery Ridge and Colonel Ward was mortally wounded when struck by a shell fragment. He died the following day and is buried in the Rural Cemetery, Worcester, Massachusetts.

On April 13, 1867, Post 10 was organized and chartered. By 1870, the post claimed over 900 members. Though much of the organizational history for the post was destroyed by fire, it is known that the post was unusual for the era with its acceptance of black veterans. At least eighteen are thought to have belonged to the post and a few are represented in this collection. By 1937, the post, though the largest in Massachusetts, had only 8 remaining members. On October 30, 1937, the last commander, George E. Frissell, surrendered the Grand Army of the Republic charter and the George H. Ward Post 10 closed.

Scope and Content

The collection represents individual biographical notes of Civil War veterans who were members of George H. Ward Post 10 (Worcester), Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Department of Massachusetts. These records were compiled by Benjamin F. Clough in 1899 and stored in a tin box as noted on the original manuscript collection form. The notes, for the most part, list the veterans name, place and date of birth, Civil War unit assignments with dates, rank(s), as well as discharge date and reason.

The collection was found in archives and there is no other information available regarding the collection.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Individual Veteran Biographical Notes

G.A.R. - George H. Ward Post 10 Collection
2015.FIA.03.01
Series 1, Individual Veteran Biographical Notes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2015.FIA.03.1.1-20	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "A"
1	2	2015.FIA.03.1.21-99	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "B"
1	3	2015.FIA.03.1.100-151	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "C"
1	4	2015.FIA.03.1.152-179	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "D"
1	5	2015.FIA.03.1.180-196	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "E"
1	6	2015.FIA.03.1.197-220	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "F"

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2015.FIA.03.1.221-.257	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "G"
1	8	2015.FIA.03.1.258-.318	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "H"
1	9	2015.FIA.03.1.319-.322	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "I"
1	10	2015.FIA.03.1.323-.333	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "J"
1	11	2015.FIA.03.1.334-.353	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "K"
1	12	2015.FIA.03.1.354-.389	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "L"
1	13	2015.FIA.03.1.390-.453	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "M"
1	14	2015.FIA.03.1.454-.470	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "N"
1	15	2015.FIA.03.1.471-.478	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "O"
1	16	2015.FIA.03.1.479-.528	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "P"
1	17	2015.FIA.03.1.529-.559	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "R"
1	18	2015.FIA.03.1.560-.625	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "S"
1	19	2015.FIA.03.1.626-.648	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "T"
1	20	2015.FIA.03.1.649	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "U"
1	21	2015.FIA.03.1.650-.651	Biographical notes, Surname ending in "V"

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	22	2015.FIA.03.1.652-.705	Biographical notes, Surname ending in “W”
1	23	2015.FIA.03.1.706-.707	Biographical notes, Surname ending in “Y”
1	24	2015.FIA.03.1.708	Numerical inventory of biographical notes