

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 1977.13

Worcester Continentals

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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains meeting records, reports, correspondence, membership documents and general and special governing orders relating to the Worcester Continentals.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by Timothy G. Finnegan and Jasper Peairs.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Worcester Continentals was a semi-military organization begun in April of 1876 to commemorate the centennial of the United States. Members dressed as Revolutionary War soldiers and marched in parades on patriotic holidays. The club held annual balls and went on excursions where they were paraded and reviewed. The organization was incorporated in 1879 and enjoyed immense popularity during the latter part of the nineteenth century. During the twentieth century interest waned and the Continentals slowly faded out of existence.

Scope and Content

Collection contains meeting records, reports, correspondence, membership documents and general and special orders relating to the Worcester Continentals. The record books include roll books, records of meetings, account books, and a scrap book.

Most of the documents and volumes were part of accession# 1977.13; volumes 2 and 9 were part of accession 1978.9.

Series Descriptions

- Series 1: Governance Records (General and Special Orders), 1876-1915, with undated records at the end. Orders include appointing members to various ranks, determining parade and excursion schedules, and committee reports.
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1887-1927, the majority from members asking to be Discharged from the rolls and responses to invitations sent by William Swan in 1927, inviting various personages and groups to the Washington Day Military Ball the Continentals planned.
- Series 3: Membership Applications and Receipts for the payment of annual dues, 1878–1927.
- Series 4: Records of Balls and Parades, 1878-1891. Includes ticket stubs, and guest lists.
- Series 5: Excursion Records, 1877-1890, plus undated records at the end. Includes preliminary pricing for various trips, room assignment lists, minutes from special committees assigned to planning excursions.
- Series 6: Bills and Receipts from area merchants, 1876-1891. Includes tobacco, food and drink, etc.
- Series 7: Record Books, volumes 1-3. Includes more general and special orders. Volume 1: 1876-1885. Volume 2: 1886-1890. Volume 3: 1879-1886. Volume 3 contains a copy of the charter, by-laws, amendments to the bylaws, and the original list of members from 1876.
- Series 8: Meeting Minutes (volume 4), 1900-1907.
- Series 9: Roll books (volumes 5-6), 1880-1893. Volume 5 contains a list of regular members, 1880-1887. Volume 6 contains a list of honorary members, 1888-1893.
- Series 10: Visitor's Signing Book (volume 7), 1880-1893.
- Series 11: Account books (volumes 8-10), 1879-1927. Contain accounts of membership dues paid, and payments made.
- Series 12: Check stubs (volume 11), 1909-1915.
- Series 13: Scrap book (volume 12). Presented to Worcester Continentals as a souvenir of their reception and ball of January 5, 1883 by the Putnam and Davis Company. Contains invitations, listing of events and dances, tickets, and supper menu.

Worcester Continentals

1977.13
Series 1, Governance Records (General and Special Orders), 1876-1915

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1977.13.1	General and Special Orders (1876-1915)
1	2	1977.13.1	General and Special Orders (undated)

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 2, Correspondence (1887-1927)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1977.13.2	Handwritten and typed correspondence

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 3, Membership Applications and Dues Receipts (1878-1927)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	1977.13.3	Handwritten and Typed applications and receipts for dues issued by the Continentals.

Worcester Continentals

1977.13
Series 4, Records of Balls and Parades (1878-1891)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	1977.13.4	Ticket stubs and guest lists.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 5, Excursion Records (1877-1890)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	1977.13.5.1	Pricing and room assignments (1877-1879)
1	7	1977.13.5.2	Pricing and room assignments (1881-1890)

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 6, Bills and Receipts (1879-1891)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	1977.13.6	Handwritten bills from various local merchants.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 7, Record Books, volumes 1-3 (1876-1890)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1977.13.7.1	Includes more general and special orders. Volume 1: 1876-1885.
2	2	1977.13.7.2	Volume 2: 1886-1890
2	3	1977.13.7.3	Volume 3: 1879-1886.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 8, Meeting Minutes, volume 4, (1900-1907)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	4	1977.13.8	Meeting Minutes.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 9, Roll books, volumes 5-6 (1880-1893)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	5	1977.13.9.1	List of Regular Members
2	6	1977.13.9.2	List of Honorary Members.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 10, Visitor's Signing Book, volume 7 (1880-1893)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	7	1977.13.10	Book for visiting groups to sign.

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 11, Account books, volumes 8-10 (1879-1927)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	8	1977.13.11.1	Dues collected and bills paid, 1879-1886
2	9	1977.13.11.2	Dues collected, 1908-1927
2	10	1977.13.11.3	Dues collected and annual accounts, 1909-1926

Worcester Continentals
1977.13
Series 12, Check Stubs, volume 11 (1909-1915)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	11	1977.13.12	Handwritten check stubs.

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1977.13
Series 12, Scrap Book, volume 12 (1883)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	12	1977.13.13	Invitations, menus, tickets and dance cards for the Jan. 5, 1883 ball sponsored by the Continentals.