

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2015-FIA-01

Worcester Light Infantry Collection

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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains materials related to the Worcester Light Infantry and the Worcester Light Infantry Veteran Association.

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. Previous accession number of 1951.9L was written on a selection of the items but the number is non-traceable.

Historical/Biographical Notes

On June 6, 1803, Massachusetts Governor Caleb Strong signed a charter permitting the formation of an independent military company to be called the Worcester Light Infantry. On October 17th 1803, at Moore's Tavern in Worcester, Massachusetts, the company was organized and Levi Thaxter became the first Captain. In 1814, under the command of John W. Lincoln, the Light Infantry marched to the defense of Boston during hostilities with the British. During the Civil War, the unit, having been renamed Company G, 6th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, responding to President Abraham Lincoln's call for units to defend Washington, moved by rail to Baltimore, Maryland. In an event that has become known as the Baltimore Riot, the 6th Massachusetts suffered the first casualties of the Civil War as the unit was attacked by an angry mob. Unfortunately, most of the company records were destroyed on May 28, 1875 when a fire broke out in the Taylor building at 476 Main Street, Worcester. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, the unit deployed to Cuba as Company C, 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. In the years following the turn of the century, the unit participated in the Mexican Border Affair (1916) as Company C, 2nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard and also participated in World War I as Company C, 104th U.S. Infantry (Overseas) and Company C, 19th Regiment, Massachusetts State Guard. The unit's lineage finally passed to the 181st Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard where it now remains.

Scope and Content

The collection represents The Worcester Light Infantry and the Worcester Light Infantry Veteran Association. It contains letters, documents, organizational meeting minutes, photographs, newspaper articles and other ephemera relating to the activities and members of both organizations between 1820 and 1924. Well represented is information regarding the writing and publishing of *Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922*, a history book of the unit that was published in 1924.

The collection was found in archives and the only available information regarding the collection is a previous accession number of 1951.9L that is non-traceable.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Worcester Light Infantry

Subseries 1: Unit Correspondence

Subseries 2: Correspondence relating to historical militia companies of various states

Subseries 3: Unit Rosters

Subseries 4: Scrapbook

Series 2: Worcester Light Infantry Veterans Association

Subseries 1: Association Record Books

Subseries 2: Material relating to the publishing & sale of the *Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922*

The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
2015.FIA.01.1.1
Series 1, Worcester Light Infantry
Sub-series 1, Unit Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2015.FIA.01.1.1.1	Letter Book, Unit Correspondence (January 1880 – September 1890)

Contains incoming correspondence from other militia units and senior commands, local businesses and George H. Ward Post 10, G.A.R (Grand Army of the Republic) regarding routine business and event invitations. Also included are written orders issued by Unit Commanders Frank L. Child and Winslow S. Lincoln as well as Company attendance reports.

1		2015.FIA.01.1.1.2	Letter Book, Unit Correspondence (September 1890 – June 1905)
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Contains incoming correspondence from senior commands, local businesses and George H. Ward Post 10, G.A.R (Grand Army of the Republic) regarding routine business and event invitations as well as

information regarding the Spanish-American War. Also included is a large selection of correspondence from other militia units, the majority representing other States. Commanders represented during this period are Captains Fred G. Davis, H. B. Fairbanks and Phineas L. Ryder.

Documents of Note:

TLS, American Red Cross to Capt. P.L. Rider, regarding boxes loaded for shipment to Clara Barton, Santiago, Cuba, dated August 4, 1898.

TLS, War Department, QM General's Office, Wash. D.C. to Capt. P.L. Rider regarding sending a party to Santiago, Cuba to exhume bodies of soldiers from the 2nd Massachusetts Regt., dated January 27, 1899.

ALS, Fred P. Dean (U.S. Army Burial Corps) Manila [Philippines] to Capt. Rider, Wartime Content, dated March 20, 1900.

TLS, Fred L. Ward to Capt. P.L. Rider, regarding donating the Red Cross Flag that flew over the Red Cross HQ's, Chickamauga Park, GA during the "Spanish War", dated 9 May, 1900.

TLS, Phillip J. O'Connell (Mayor of Worcester, MA) to Capt. P.L. Rider, Invitation to have Worcester Light Infantry to march in a parade on June 27, 1901, to escort President McKinley on his visit to Worcester, dated 28 May, 1901.

The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
2015.FIA.01

Series 1, Worcester Light Infantry
Sub-series 2, Correspondence Relating to Historical Militia Companies of Various States

Correspondence between James Logan and various State Adjutants General, State Militia units and individuals regarding the identification of the oldest militia units in the United States, their date of organization and the compilation of a seniority list. The majority of the material is from units themselves and contains information regarding individual unit histories. This correspondence became the data from which James Logan compiled the Historical Roster of Militia Companies, which was included in the program for the Worcester Light Infantry 100th Birthday celebration on June 6, 1903 and was printed in a larger form and distributed to each unit named on the roster as well as their State Adjutants General.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	2015.FIA.01.1.2.1	Letter to Adjutant General of Alabama from James Logan, 4 July, 1894 with Adjutant General endorsement on verso.
2	1	2015.FIA.01.1.2.2-.3	Correspondence regarding Connecticut militia units, (1892-1894).
2	1	2015.FIA.01.1.2.4-.7	Correspondence regarding Delaware militia units, (1891-1894).

2	2	2015.FIA.01.1.2.8-.35	Correspondence regarding Georgia militia units, (1891-1903).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.36	Letter to James Logan from Irwin Robbins, Adjutant General, Indiana, 9 July, 1894.
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.37-.38	Correspondence regarding Kentucky militia units, (1891-1894).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.39	Correspondence regarding Louisiana militia units, (1891).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.40-41	Correspondence regarding Maine militia units, (1891-1894).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.42-43	Correspondence regarding Maryland militia units, (1891-1894).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.44-.55	Correspondence regarding Massachusetts militia units, (1897-1903).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.56-.58	Correspondence regarding Mississippi militia units, (1894).
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.59	Letter to James Logan from A.D. Ayling, Adjutant General, New Hampshire, 17 Nov., 1891.
2	3	2015.FIA.01.1.2.60-.61	Correspondence regarding New Jersey militia units, (1891-1894).
2	4	2015.FIA.01.1.2.62-.86	Correspondence regarding New York militia units, (1891-1903).
2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.87	Letter to James Logan from James D. Glenn, Adjutant General, North Carolina, 30 Nov., 1891.
2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.88	Correspondence regarding Ohio militia units, (1891).
2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.89-.91	Correspondence regarding Pennsylvania militia units, (1891-1894).
2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.92-.95	Correspondence regarding Rhode Island militia units, (1891-1894).
2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.96-.110	Correspondence regarding South Carolina militia units, (1891-1903).

2	5	2015.FIA.01.1.2.111-.112	Correspondence regarding Tennessee militia units, (1891-1894).
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.113	Letter to James Logan from T.S. Peek, Adjutant & Inspector General, Vermont, 14 Nov., 1891.
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.114-.115	Correspondence regarding Virginia militia units, (1891-1894).
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.116	Letter to James Logan from Adjutant General, District of Columbia, 7 Dec., 1891.
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.117	Working copy of roster of State Military Organizations, contains corrections and notes in red identifying southern units not allowed to bear arms during Reconstruction. Attached to the roster was a note from Thomas Wentworth Higginson dated 30 May, 1903.
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.118	Draft copy of typed letter sent by James Logan to military units explaining his militia roster project. Handwritten corrections, dated 15 July, 1897
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.119	Original folder label describing correspondence, (June 1903).
2	6	2015.FIA.01.1.2.120	Notebook, 3 ½" x 5 ½", undated, containing handwritten notes regarding State units and dates.

The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
2015.FIA.01
Series 1, Worcester Light Infantry
Sub-series 3, Unit Rosters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	7	2015.FIA.01.1.3.1	Militia Company Roll Book Cover, verso contains printed directions to use the book and properly enlist soldiers.

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| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.2 | Roll book page, Worcester Light Infantry, Sixth Regiment, First Brigade, Seventh Division, One sided, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates names are written in, (May 1820). 10 ½" x 12 ½". |
| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.3 | Roll book page, unit not filled in and undated, Private's names are written in and the page seems to be a continuation of May 1820 page. 10 ½" x 12 ½". |
| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.4 | Roll book page, Worcester Light Infantry, Sixth Regiment, First Brigade, Sixth Division, Two sided, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates names are written in. (May 1821). 10 ½" x 12 ½". |
| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.5 | Roll book page, Worcester Light Infantry, Sixth Regiment, First Brigade, Sixth Division, Two sided, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates names are written in, (May 1822). 10 ½" x 12 ½". |
| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.6-.10 | Roll book page, unused, 10 ½" x 12 ½". |
| 3 | 7 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.11 | Roster, Captains of Worcester Light Infantry, (1804-1854) with service dates, 10 ½" x 16 ½". |
| 3 | 8 | 2015.FIA.01.1.3.12 | Annual Return, Light Infantry, Sixth Regiment, First Brigade, Sixth Division, commanded by Capt. Artemas Ward. Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates names are written in, (May 1825). 10" x 23 ½". |

The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
 2015.FIA.01
 Series 1, Worcester Light Infantry Veteran's Association
 Sub-series 4, Scrapbook

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	OVS BV	2015.FIA.01.1.4.1	Scrapbook, Oversized Bound Volume, 16" x 18 ½". (1822 – 1904), Contains Unit Rosters, Special Orders, and other documents as well as photographs, event tickets and programs, correspondence, newspaper clippings and other ephemera which have been pasted into the book. Noteworthy are the first few pages which contain original documents and letters relating to Artemas Ward (2 nd) and Levi Lincoln from 1820-1825.

The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
 2015.FIA.01
 Series 2, Worcester Light Infantry Veteran's Association
 Sub-series 1, Association Record Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4		2015.FIA.01.2.1.1	Ledger, 8" x 10 ½", Organizational Meeting Minutes (1877-1896).

This ledger book contains the minutes of the annual and special meetings of the Worcester Light Infantry Veteran's Association. Also included are other organization records and reports as well as newspaper clippings regarding annual anniversary celebrations. Pages 7-10 contain the hand written constitution for the association along with a printed copy. Pages 11-15 contain a roster of members, along with signatures, showing dues paid status from 1877 through 1896. Annotations have been made next to some entries indicating dates of death.

4		2015.FIA.01.2.1.2	Ledger, 8 ½"x14", Organizational Meeting Minutes (1897-1914).
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The Worcester Light Infantry Collection
 2015.FIA.01
 Series 2, Worcester Light Infantry Veteran's Association
 Sub-series 2, Material relating to the publishing & sale of *Worcester Light
 Infantry 1803-1922*

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4		2015.FIA.01.2.2.1	Scrapbook, 10"x12 1/2" containing documents and other materials relating to the funding, publishing and sale of the book <i>Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922</i> . Included are copies of picture plates used in the book.
2	9	2015.FIA.01.2.2.2-.35	Documents regarding orders for <i>Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922</i> , (1923-1925).
2	10	2015.FIA.01.2.2.36-.60	Correspondence regarding <i>Worcester Light Infantry 1803- 1922</i> , (1922-1925).

Documents of Note:

TLS, Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox to Hebert L. Adams, regarding Worcester Light Infantry History book, dated May 15, 1924.

TLS, Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox to Hebert L. Adams, regarding visit w/ Worcester Light Infantry Veteran Association, dated April 14, 1924.

TLS, Major General Clarence R Edwards, Headquarters First Corps Area, Boston, MA., regarding the 104th Infantry Regiment in World War I. This letter was used in forward portion of the book *Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922*, dated October 13, 1922.

TLS, Annie Russell Marble to Herbert Lincoln Adams, regarding literary review of *Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922*, dated April 29, 1924.

Library of Congress Card w/envelope completed and stamped card dated May 8, 1924 for receipt of *Worcester Light Infantry 1803-1922* at the Library of Congress.