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**University of Memphis Libraries
Preservation and Special Collections Department**

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**Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Regiment, record
book**

Title: Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Regiment, record book
Collection No: MSS.219
Extent: 0.2 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1898-1899, 1918

Abstract: The collection comprises a record book of Company C, 2nd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1898-1899, and correspondence from George L. Chighizola of Memphis to Senator Kenneth McKellar in 1918.

Donor: Charlotte E. Elam, Memphis, Tennessee, April 1972.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, October 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Regiment, record book, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: October 2014

Administrative history

Tennessee contributed four regiments (more than 4,200 men) to the Spanish-American War in the spring and summer of 1898. Of the four, only the First saw combat in the Philippines. The Second and Third were discharged before they saw action, and the Fourth served with the occupying forces in Cuba after the war was officially over. The Second Tennessee, raised mostly from men in Memphis and West Tennessee, trained for war but were discharged at Camp Fornance, Columbia, South Carolina, on February 8, 1899. Its officers were Colonel Kellar Anderson, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Patterson, and Majors Frank H. Deffrey, Mark A. Walker, and George W. Seay.

George Lazarro Chighizola was born in Memphis, Tennessee on January 1, 1869, the son of Augustine and Amelia Podesta Chighizola. He was educated in public school and at Christian Brothers College, graduating master of accounts in May 1885. He was a theatrical stage employee and later a book-keeper, and married Hattie L. Thomas on February 12, 1896. A Democrat, Chighizola was elected state congressman for Shelby County in 1902 but resigned to become city tax assessor in 1904. He served with the state militia during the Coal Creek uprising of 1891-1892, and as 1st sergeant in Company G and later captain of Company C, 2nd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry in 1898-1899.

Scope and contents

The collection includes a record book of Company C, 2nd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment, from June 1898 to January 1899, listing alphabetically the names of non-commissioned officers and enlisted men. The notations include when the man was assigned, promotions, absences due to sickness, and when he was discharged. They also include infractions, such as being absent without leave and desertion, and the punishments.

Also included in the collection are copies of four letters written between May and November 1918 from George L. Chighizola of Memphis, Tennessee, to Kenneth Douglas McKellar, U.S. Senator for Tennessee from 1917 to 1953. Chighizola volunteered for officer training camp during World War I at 48 years of age and expected to receive a commission but was discharged for “inadaptability”. He requested McKellar’s help in obtaining a commission, was encouraged by McKellar to apply for a captain’s commission, and subsequently was turned down.

Provenance

It is possible the Company C record book was retained by George Chighizola, a captain of the company from April 1899 to February 1899 when it was stationed at Camp Meade, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, after the 2nd Regiment was discharged in 1899 because the correspondence was donated with it.

Subject terms

Chighizola, George Lazarro.

McKellar, Kenneth Douglas, 1869-1957.

United States. Army. Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 2nd.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Record book: Company C, 2nd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1898-1899.
- 2 Correspondence: George Lazarro Chighizola, Memphis, Tenn., to Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, Washington, D.C., 1918. Handwritten drafts, typed copies.