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Confederate Historical Association records

Title: Confederate Historical Association records
Collection No: MSS.42
Extent: 2.75 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1861-1935

Abstract: The Confederate Historical Association records contain copies of membership applications, cash, minute and receipt books, and newspaper clippings which document the activities of the Memphis, Tennessee, Confederate veterans' organization.

Processed by: John Terreo, 1980; Cathy A. Evans, 1993; Gerald Chaudron, 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Confederate Historical Association records, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: February 2014

Administrative information

The Confederate Historical Association (CHA) was established in 1866. Its purposes were (1) to preserve artifacts and records of the Confederacy, (2) to provide aid to former Confederate soldiers and their families, and (3) to assist charities in the community.

In 1870, the organization incorporated under the title Confederate Relief and Historical Association. At this time membership included such distinguished former Confederates as President Jefferson Davis, Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and Admiral Raphael Semmes. Other prominent members were U. S. Senator from Tennessee William T. Bate, former Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris and Memphis Judge John Preston Young (Young was also a founder of the Memphis Historical Society, predecessor to the West Tennessee Historical Society.).

During the 1878 yellow fever epidemic in Memphis, the operations of the association became irregular, yet a few determined members continued to hold meetings. In Spring 1884 they reorganized under a new charter and name, the Confederate Historical Association. By the early 1900s with membership over a hundred, the CHA joined the United Confederate Veterans as the Memphis chapter.

The CHA drew members mainly from Memphis and its surrounding areas, but also took in men from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. The records seem to indicate that the CHA had dissolved by the 1930s.

Scope and contents

The Confederate Historical Association records contain membership applications; cashbooks, 1894-1935; receipt books, 1894-1908; minute books, 1894-1925 and newspaper clippings. The membership applications supply brief notes about each member's Civil War service. The minutes document the organization's purpose, business affairs, and special events such as annual reunions, drill competitions, bivouacs, and fund-raising projects. (These special events were often held jointly with other veterans groups and local community organizations.)

Company A, Confederate Veterans Drum and Bugle Corps of Memphis, Tennessee, created its own minutes, which are also part of the collection.

Often included in both the CHA and Company A, Confederate Veterans Drum and Bugle Corps meeting records are correspondence, reminiscences, tributes and biographies of members.

Note: Riley Gunter deposited the collection, which included original documents and copies, in March 1971. In July 1993, he removed the originals for placement in his planned Confederate museum. Thus, all the materials in the collection are copies only.

Subject terms

Confederate Historical Association.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Veterans.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

Series 1. Confederate Historical Association.

Membership applications:

- 1 Albright - Brown, James T.
- 2 Brown, Thomas - Culberson
- 3 Delese - Foss
- 4 Gaulding - Hall
- 5 Hamblet - Huff
- 6 Ingram - Jordan

Box 2

- 1 Kerr - London
- 2 McDowell - Newman
- 3 Oswald - Pool
- 4 Ray - Stephenson
- 5 Stewart - Vickory
- 6 Wager - Yates

Box 3

- 1 Membership book
- 2 Rosters, 1915 - 1919
- 3 Pensioners list, 1927
- 4 Roster: Company D, 6th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 1861
- 5 Cash book, 1902 -1911

Box 4

Unfolded Cash book, 1894 -1906

Box 5

Unfolded Cash book, 1908-1917

Box 6

- 1 Cash book, 1907 -1935
- 2 Receipt books, 1891-1898

3 Receipt books, 1894-1902

Box 7

- 1 Tributes and biographies of several members
- 2 Newspaper clippings
- 3 Correspondence
- 4 Confederate Relief and Historical Society constitution, undated
- 5 List of chapters of the United Confederate Veterans, undated
- 6 Proclamation by Governor of Wisconsin, Warren K. Knowles, re: 2nd Wisconsin
 Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1966
- 7 Miscellaneous rosters, receipts and correspondence
- 8 Typescripts: 2 letters, Mary Richardson, Memphis, Tenn., to Mary Virginia Austin, 1862
 (unknown month, June?) 7 & 1862 June 9; "A Historical Reminiscence"

Box 8

Unfolded Minutes, 1894 - 1908

Box 9

Unfolded Minutes, 1908 - 1925

Series 2. Company A, Confederate Drum and Bugle Corps of Memphis.

Box 10

- 1 Minutes, 1903 – 1906
- 2 Minutes, 1907 - 1922

Box 11

- 1 Personnel and equipment roster, 1902 - 1904
- 2 Membership applications, 1910 – 1921
- 3 Rosters
- 4 Committee reports, resolutions, receipts, 1902 – 1922
- 5 Miscellaneous correspondence and newspaper clippings