

Company I, 111th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard,
Records, 1876-1941

Manuscript Collection 109

Arranged and described by

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The Chester County Historical Society
West Chester, PA

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Collection Title:

Company I, 111th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, Records, 1876-1941

Donor: Company I, 111th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard

General Description and Arrangement:

The collection consists of materials related to the Company's history and early years, enlistment and discharge papers, duty description booklets, general and special orders, miscellaneous reports, and papers from other companies, also under the command of Capt. Joseph M. Reilly. Also contained in the collection are bank books, receipts, and other financial papers, including two large folders belonging to Lester R. Moffatt, relating to "Other Funds".

Background Note:

The National Guard has the longest continuous history of any military organization in the United States, tracing its origin to the colonial militias. Pennsylvania's first state militia, known as the "Associators", was organized Nov. 26, 1747 by Benjamin Franklin. The name "National Guard" was not used until 1824, when it was applied to New York's state militia, and other states soon followed. With the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916, the National Guard was fully recognized and made to conform to army regulations.

The "Wayne Fencibles" were active during the Civil War, as Company F, 10th Regiment, and became Company I, 11th Regiment in 1875. The Company combined with other companies of the 11th and 16th Regiments to become the 6th Regiment of the National Guard on September 23, 1878. The Sixth served in the Spanish American War (1898) and on the Mexican Border (1917). It was mustered into federal service in 1915 and joined the 18th Regiment to form the 111th Infantry. During World War I, the 111th sailed for Europe in May 1918 and took part in the fighting overseas.

Following World War I, the Pennsylvania National Guard was again reorganized, with the 3rd and 6th Regiments combining to form the 111th Infantry, under the command of Colonel Brookfield. On June 15, 1933, a federal act created a new component of the army, the "National Guard of the United States".

In addition to Company I, West Chester, the 111th Infantry was comprised of Company A (Pottstown), Company B (Phoenixville), Company C (Norristown), Company D (Doylestown), Company M (Media), Company K and Company L (Chester), and Headquarters (Philadelphia). Papers from these Companies are included in the Collection, under "Other Companies".

Sources for above:

National Guard Armory, West Chester

[Additional National Guard material located in the Manuscript Collection]

West Chester Organizations – National Guard Company I

- Company record book, 1900-1907, Ms. 78087
- Company record book, 1908-1915, Ms. 78088
- Company record book, 1916-1922, Ms. 78089
- Cornwell, Gibbons Gray: letters to Uriah H. Painter, dated 1898, Ltr. 24696-704
- Correspondence, memorandums, reports, vouchers, and other misc. data, Ms. 78092
- Discharge records, enlistment records, letters, reports, special orders, vouchers, and other misc. data, Ms. 78091
- Inspection roll, 1895-1896, Ms. 5791
- Miscellaneous papers, Ms. 5794-5805
- Minute books, 1875-1902; General order books, 1879-1889; Membership record and constitution and by-laws, 6 vols., Ms. 78090

West Chester Organizations – National Guards Company M

- Muster-in and inspection rolls, 1898-1899, Ms. 5792-5793

West Chester Organizations – National Guards

- Minute book, 1851-1858, Ms. 3033

[Additional National Guard material stored on shelf with Box 3 – Other Companies]

- Scrapbook, Capt. West E. Blain, National Guard of Pennsylvania, Company C, 6th Infantry – includes newspaper clipping, orders, lists of officers and enrolled men, daily roll-call and muster and payroll, morning reports, duty rosters, guard reports, programs, letters, and other misc. data
- Enlistment and Descriptive Book, 1887-1892, National Guard of Pennsylvania, Battery "C" Regiment
- General Order Book, 1891-1893, 111th Infantry, includes general and special orders
- Company roll, Battery C, 1873-1876
- Ledger/ Account Book, Battery C, 1876-1877, includes purchases, fines, and sketches (by name)
- General Order Book, Griffen Battery, 1878-1887, includes general and special orders
- General Order Book, Griffen Battery, 1887-1890, includes general and special orders

Series Title: Materials Related to the Company's History and Early Years

Dates: 1877-1934

Quantity: 11 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Includes newspaper clippings, Sheppard's commission certificate, miscellaneous correspondence, pamphlets, and Old Home Week publication.

Box 1.

Folder 1. n.d. ca. 70 items

Assorted collection of invitations, announcements, tickets, programs, many addressed to or stamped with McCormick.

Folder 2. n.d. 1 item.

Scrapbook, George Harris Rupert, Company I, 6th Regiment.

Folder 3. 1877, 1883, 1892. 3 items.

Special order (handwritten, July 23, 1877) detailing Private William H. Turner as acting Sergeant Major of Co. I, and original commission certificate (Sept. 19, 1883) for Charles R. Sheppard, First Lt. Co. I, 6th Reg., signed by W.S. Stenger (Secretary of Commonwealth), order dividing 6th Reg., 1st Brigade into 2 battalions.

Folder 4. 1883, 1895, 1898, 1899, 1900. 9 items.

Miscellaneous general orders from the Adjutant General's Office, Harrisburg.

Folder 5. 1886. 1 item.

Speech recounting the history of the Wayne Fencibles, read by Lt. Charles R. Sheppard at reunion (typescript).

Folder 6. 1887. 2 items.

Military code, Act of Assembly (approved April 13, 1887) to "provide for the organization, description, and regulation of the National Guard of Pennsylvania," and general orders no. 16 (loose sheet).

Folder 7. 1877-1891, 1900. 7 items.

Miscellaneous correspondence: company order (July 25, 1877) reducing Corp. Henry W. Robinson to rank of private, condolence letters (Jan. 1887) on death of Capt. Charles R. Sheppard, letters (1891) to Capt. Paxson requesting permission to be excused from camp, and a memorial for Private Alfred D. Cooper (Nov. 19, 1878), letter to George B. McCormick

Folder 8. 1896, 1899, 1915, 1934. 11 items

Miscellaneous orders: 6th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Brigade.

Folder 9. n.d, 1911, 1913. 6 items.

Newspaper clippings (n.d.): rosters of Co. I and 103rd Ammunition Train and "History of Co. I Dates Back to 1875". Circular letter asking for support of bill providing Federal Pay for the organized Militia. Special edition of "Our State Army and Navy: A Journal of our Volunteer Soldiers" devoted to Co. I, 6th Reg. in an effort to elicit funds for a modern headquarters.

Folder 10. 1918-1919. 1 item.

Typescript journal: Paul L. Comptom's experiences in France (beginning May 1918).

Folder 11. 1925. 6 items.

Old Home Week: letters requesting 3 days to commemorate Co. I's golden anniversary and funds for celebration, schedule of events, booklet with schedule and a history of West Chester and the Pennsylvania National Guard (2 copies).

Series Title: **Enlistment Papers, Discharge Papers, and Rosters**

Dates: 1877-1940

Quantity: 6 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Includes enlistment and discharge papers, rosters, and notices of promotion.

Box 2.

Folder 12. 1877-1890. 72 items.

“Application to Enlist” (Form No. 2) for Co. I, 11th Reg.

Folder 13. 1880-1881. 13 items.

“Enlistment Paper” (Form No. 4) for Co. I, 11th Reg. and Co. I, 6th Reg.

Folder 14. 1888-1899. 26 items.

“Enlistment Paper” (Form No. 18 AGO) for Co. I, 6th Reg. and one (Form No. 39 AGO) for Co. L (1899).

Folder 15. 1899, 1923, 1930-1941. 18 items.

Includes honorable discharges, 1 discharge due to imprisonment, change of status forms, and order relieving enlisted men (28th and 29th divisions) from duty with School for Bakers and Cooks.

Folder 16. n.d, 1904, 1922, 1938-1940. 10 items.

Includes rosters of Co. I, roster of companies in 111th Inf. (1917-1918), letter to The Daily News listing promotions of enlisted men (1940), and enlistment record for Walter S. Barron (1940).

Folder 17. 1940. 2 items.

Redesignation certificate for Co. I and list of other redesignations, orders for officers to special 30 day training, and lists of honorable discharges.

Series Title: **Training Materials**

Dates: 1892-1940

Quantity: 12 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Assorted training manuals, plans, and duty descriptions.

Box 2.

Folder 18. n.d., 1892, 1904. 7 items.

Includes sentinel's orders, orders for sentinels on post (2 copies), duty description booklets M and W, manual of guard duty, pamphlet on "The Training of the Organized Militia".

Folder 19. 1896. 3 items.

Pamphlet, titled "Military Maxims," with questions relating to U.S. Army regulations (3 copies).

Folder 20. 1915. 1 item.

Appendix A, military map reading manual.

Folder 21. 1917

Training camps and locations.

Folder 22. n.d., 1928. 10 items.

Correspondence course: Weapons (Lester R. Moffatt's papers).

Folder 23. n.d., 1929. 8 items.

Correspondence course: Map Reading, Troop Movements, and Shelter (Lester R. Moffatt's papers).

Folder 24. n.d., 1929. 10 items.

Correspondence course: Military Sanitation and First Aid (Lester R. Moffatt's papers).

Folder 25. n.d., 1929. 10 items.

Correspondence course: Mobilization and Administration (Lester R. Moffatt's papers).

Folder 26. 1929, 1931, 1937. 4 items

Miscellaneous correspondence courses (Lester R. Moffatt's papers).

Folder 27. 1936. 3 items.

Officer's School training memorandum: map problem and revised schedule.

Folder 28. 1938-1940. 9 items.

Mobilization plan (March 30, 1940), with special sub-plan, appendages, and organizational tables.

Folder 29. 1939. 3 items.

Plan of Armory Defense (Feb. 1939).

Series Title: Reports

Dates: 1876-1941

Quantity: 17 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Includes committee, inspection, and drill reports; muster and payroll lists; and blank forms.

Box 3.

Folder 30. n.d. 1 item.

Ration table.

Folder 31. n.d. 21 items.

Miscellaneous blank forms, including enlistment and physical examination papers.

Folder 32. n.d., 1876-1877. 5 items.

Includes reports by committees on by-laws, on status of the company, and on individual member accounts.

Folder 33. 1876-1880. 1 item.

Inspection roll book (C.B. Sheppard) with additional lists on loose sheets in book.

Folder 34. 1877. 1 item.

Muster-in-roll of volunteers.

Folder 35. 1894, 1895. 2 items.

Muster and payrolls (Capt. Sharpless M. Paxson)

Folder 36. n.d., 1894. 2 items.

Inspection rolls.

Folder 37. 1916. 1 item.

Quarterly return.

Folder 38. 1928-1933, 1939. 28 items.

Annual armory training reports for HQ, 3rd Battalion

Folder 39. 1930-1936. 18 items.

Quarterly inspection reports by battalion commander (3rd battalion) and 111th infantry reports for companies HQ, I, K L, and M

Folder 40. 1934, 1935, 1937. 19 items.

Armory training inspection reports made by Major Joseph M. Reilly, Companies I, K, L, and M.

Folder 41. 1937. 2 items.

Results of small arms (pistol and rifle) competition at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (June 27, 1937).

Folder 42. 1937, 1938. 7 items.

Drill attendance reports (Dec. 1937, March-May 1938, and July-Sept. 1938.)

Folder 43. 1938. 3 items.

Bonaffon Cup Match: program, regulations, and results.

Folder 44. 1939. 5 items.

Drill schedules for Jan. 9- Feb. 6, 1939.

Folder 45. 1940. 4 items.

Morning reports, daily sick report, and duty roster for Aug. 1940 and armory drill payroll.

Folder 46. 1941. 4 items.

Drill and instruction reports (Jan. 1941).

Series Title: **Financial Documents**

Dates: 1876-1941

Quantity: 14 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Includes bank books, checks, balance sheets, and receipts.

Box 3.

Folder 47. Nov. 21, 1876. 2 items.

Manuscript sheets noting balances due and balances against the Company.

Folder 48. 1876, 1878. 2 items.

Auditing committee reports.

Folder 49. 1897, 1898. 2 items.

Loose pages from account book.

Folder 50. 1898. 2 items.

Receipts and thank you notes to M.H. Painter.

Box 4.

Folder 51. 1899-1904. 1 item.

Bank book (John T. Clark, Treasurer Armory Association).

Folder 52. 1907?, 1917, 1922. 11 items.

Two Company Fund bank books (Georgia Railroad Bank and National Bank of Chester County), cancelled checks, paid receipt, and song sheet.

Folder 53. 1916-1918. 1 item.

Account book (Company Fund).

Folder 54. 1917. 8 items.

Statement (National Bank of Chester County) and checks (Company Fund).

Folder 55. 1917. 27 items.

Miscellaneous grocery receipts (Standard Grocery Co. and P.F. Brink & Co.); also includes correspondence.

Folder 56. 1917. 39 items.

Miscellaneous receipts (Capt. John Groff) -- glued, dated, and numbered on backs (missing number 12).

Folder 57. Sept. 1, 1935. 2 items.
Baggage detail payroll roster and balances paid.

Folder 58. 1938. ca. 90 items.
Received in folder labeled:
"Property of: Capt. Lester R. Moffatt, Co. I 111th Infantry PNG, West Chester, PA
Other Funds – vouchers O-1 to O-48 inc. – deposit vouchers, bank statements".

Box 5.

Folder 59. 1938. ca. 80 items.
Received in folder labeled:
"Property of: Capt. Lester R. Moffatt, Co. I 111th Infantry PNG, West Chester, PA
Other Fund – vouchers O-49 to O-107 inc. – deposit vouchers".

Folder 60. 1940-1941. 6 items.
Miscellaneous receipts and vouchers.

Series Title: **Personal Files**

Dates: 1931-1941

Quantity: 2 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description:

Included in folders labeled as "Personal Files" are correspondence, training materials, bank books, checks, and receipts.

Box 5.

Folder 61. n.d., 1931-1937. 25 items.

Major Joseph M. Reilly: correspondence to Reilly, training program and schedule, commendation, transfer papers, typescript comments on "What is Wrong with the Administration" (1931), receipts.

Folder 62. 1937-1941. 90 items.

Lester R. Moffatt: bank books, receipts, antique show fund checks, principles of offensive combat.

Series Title: **Other Companies**

Dates: 1880, 1938

Quantity: 5 folders

Arrangement: alphabetical by Company

Contents Description:

Includes miscellaneous memorandums for other companies in 111th Infantry (also serving under Major Moffatt).

Box 5.

Folder 63. n.d. 1 item.

Roster of Company B, 103rd Ammunition Train, with history included.

Folder 64. 1880. 1 item

Company E – 6th annual ball program.

Folder 65. 1938. 7 items.

Company K – misc. memos related to audit reports and other funds.

Folder 66. 1938. 10 items.

Company L – misc. memos related to audit reports and other funds.

Folder 67. 1938. 10 items.

Company M – misc. memos related to audit reports and other funds.

Records related to other Companies also filed in “Reports”.

Additional materials stored on shelf with Box 3:

- Scrapbook, Capt. West E. Blain, National Guard of Pennsylvania, Company C, 6th Infantry – includes newspaper clipping, orders, lists of officers and enrolled men, daily roll-call and muster and payroll, morning reports, duty rosters, guard reports, programs, letters, and other misc. data.
- Enlistment and Descriptive Book, 1887-1892, National Guard of Pennsylvania, Battery “C” Regiment.
- General Order Book, 1891-1893, 111th Infantry, includes general and special orders.
- Company roll, Battery C, 1873-1876.
- Ledger/ Account Book, Battery C, 1876-1877, includes purchases, fines, and sketches (by name).
- General Order Book, Griffen Battery, 1878-1887, includes general and special orders.
- General Order Book, Griffen Battery, 1887-1890, includes general and special orders.

Series Title: **Miscellaneous Records**

Dates: ca. 1934-1940

Quantity: 7 folders

Arrangement: chronological

Contents Description: miscellaneous memorandums, orders, papers, reports, etc.

Box 5.

Folder 68. n.d. 1 item.

Index to unknown volume.

Folder 69. 1934, 1936-38, 1940. ca. 30 items

Miscellaneous memos, reports, regulations, and orders from the Dept. of Military Affairs, Adjutant General's Office, Harrisburg.

Folder 70. 1936. 7 items.

Events of March 21-24, 1936 (flood in Harrisburg): strength of return, report of mobilization and tour of duty, telegrams, diary.

Folder 71. 1937-38. 17 items.

Miscellaneous memos from Headquarters, 28th division, Harrisburg: training, undeliverable paychecks, small arms competition, violations of regulations.

Folder 72. 1937-1940. 29 items.

Miscellaneous bulletins, memos, general and special orders, etc.: training programs, inspection reports, drill reports.

Folder 73. 1938-1940. ca. 30 items.

Miscellaneous memos, special order, reports, etc.: training, budgets.

Folder 74. 1938. 1 item

Letter from Kay Harris in Hawaii to Leslie Moffatt.