

MILITARY RECORDS COLLECTION

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

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NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

Grant Number 79-124

PROVENANCE:

The Military Records of different eras housed in this storage group were acquired in various ways through the efforts of members and associates of the Institute. Originally housed in the Historic Documents File, they were assigned inventory numbers in the U-Series during the 1960s Collections Inventory. This storage group was brought together during the Collections Identification Project of 1978-1979, when basic archival controls were applied to previously unassorted materials.

Revolutionary Era through Civil War materials were acquired singly or in small groups as gifts of Institute members and associates. The papers of the G.A.R. post were acquired through the efforts of Gail Schneider, Archivist. During WWI, the Institute Archives were recognized by local officials as an appropriate repository for records of borough participation in the Great War. Institute officers and trustees were actively involved in the efforts to create the memorial in Hero Park, as well as other monuments and memorials; their correspondence and clipping files are included here. During WWII, a systematic effort was made by SIIAS staff to preserve a representative selection of war materials reflecting local conditions for civilians: rationing, war bond drives, patriotic publications of various military units. In an effort to keep the record complete a place-holder for records of the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict has been established; materials may be added. Materials pertaining to military sites, history and bibliography are likewise gifts of SIIAS staff, members and associates.

A listing of accession and inventory numbers will be found on the collection cover sheet.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES:

The bulk of this material was acquired through the efforts and influence of Charles W. Leng, Borough Historian and Director of the Institute. An outline of his life and work can be found with the Leng Collection (44.cwL).

SCOPE & CONTENT:

The Military Records received an overall chronological arrangement into seven subgroups. The type and quality of holdings for each era differ considerably, hence each group is briefly described below.

- I. Revolutionary Era: 1776-1799: contains manuscript materials including letters and militia muster rolls.
- II. 1800-1814; 1848: manuscript and partially printed items pertaining to militia on Staten Island; one printed broadside.
- III. Civil War Era: 1861-1865: manuscript and printed materials including enlistment and recruitment record series for S.I.; also, narrative accounts of participation by Staten Islanders.
- IV. Late 19th Century: Civil War veterans and Spanish American War: contains Xerox copies of the ms records of the Civil War Veterans' Association "Grand Army of the Republic, Post 524"; photographs of the members; a printed newsletter and ms letter and ephemeral items from the Spanish American War.

- V. World War I: 1913-1920: includes a series of printed government publications arranged chronologically; an alphabetical series of ms/ts records from the Selective Service Boards #186, 187, 188, 189; an alphabetical series of Board of Elections records of Federal War Registration; Federal Reserve Publications; publications of the Navy Mine Sweeping Division stationed at Tompkinsville; a manuscript series, alphabetically arranged, of correspondence with the next of kin of all Staten Island war dead, generated during the preparation of the "Hero Park" monument; other commemorative papers and clippings; and finally a series of newspaper clippings regarding Staten Island participation in the war effort.
- VI. World War II: 1942-1945: contains a series of printed materials from the Office of Price Administration regarding rationing; a series of The Minute Man, the monthly field publication of the War Finance Division; a series of War Bond Drive materials subdivided into forms, citations, S.I. campaign material and posters.
- VII. Korea and Vietnam: 1953: at present, contains only the discharge papers of SIIAS associate Richard Boulton Dickenson; additional materials may be acquired.

The above chronological series of subgroups is supplemented by three additional subgroups.

- VIII: Military Sites: manuscript and printed materials, articles and research notes pertaining to S.I. sites including Ft. Richmond, Ft. Wadsworth, Great Kills, Lemon Creek and Ward's Point. Sources include government publications as well as local researchers. Inclusive dates 1703-1975.
- IX: Military History: 1848-1961: secondary works deposited in the study collections of the Institute included these articles and pamphlets. They are arranged alphabetically by author's name in two groups: Staten Island and non-Staten Island.
- X: Bibliography: 1977: at present contains two pamphlets on sources for military information housed in the National Archives: veteran's benefits (one item); additional material may be acquired.

The materials in this Storage Group range from 1799-1977 and occupy five one-cubic-foot storage container and one 16"x20" print box.

RELATED MATERIAL:

- Revolutionary War:

New-York Historical Society Collection

Major General Smith, Staten Island (from) A. Willard, October 1, 1780

"Sir.

I beg leave to inform you that I have purchased a number of cattle on Staten Island for the supply of the Army Hospitals at New York &c. and am directed by the Comisary General to request your permission for Mr. Journeay, the bearer hereof who is to acquaint you that it

has been always found much more convenient to supply any wants when they happen, of fresh provisions, for the sick in Regimental Hospitals at Staten Island immediately from New York than any other way by reason of a surplus which will always happen when cattle are killed for any determined number of men which must be sent to the provision store in New York to avoid loosing it and by the trouble any given quantity can be sent from New York when ordered.

I have the pleasure to be your obedient servant.

Copy. [From his letter book].

With this sheet of paper are two reports, the first dated October 25, 1780, the second dated November 12, 1780. These list the number of pound cattle and sheep meat sent to the Royal Hospitals in September and October 1780. In addition to the amount of meat on hand is listed. The following Royal Hospitals for the Army are listed:

British General Hospital

Hession Hospital

Naval Hospital

Hospital for the several regiments in New York, Brooklyn and Flushing

Richmond County Standard newspaper, January 27, 1883

States: In a History of the Negro Rage In America written by the honorable George W. Williams, (colored) it is stated that a negro regiment of colonial troops was organized on Staten Island in 1776.

- French and Indian War

New-York Historical Society Collection

Letter sent by the future Governor of New York State George Clinton at "Little Britain," [Staten Island] to his son James.

This letter is very hard to read, so I think what follows below should be considered the gist of the letter, excepting the parts put in quotes.

Hugh Powell/02

"To Capt. James Clinton in the New York Regiment of Provincials in Oswego or elsewhere. Little Britain August the 21, 1761. "

"Dear Son,

I have had no letter from [you] left but two. The first was dated at Albany as soon as

you arrived there, the other at Canada Creek. I have waited long to hear where you would be stationed, but have not heard. I think that one of our newspapers mentions that Col. Shady Quaton (spelling??) was at Oswegata but no mention was made of his companion He had with him. I send you this by post directed in the best manner as I can at such uncertainty. All friends here are well. Yr. brother Charles came this week to see us and (I) left your brother in good health. There is an offer made to Charles to go as one of the Surgeon's mates in the King's Hospital with the Army now encamped here in Staten Island upon the expedition. "---A Mater's pay is five shillings...(However)"..he shall go, as he is very earnest to enter that service to improve in surgery. I am unwilling to hinder him, tho' I fear this climate will not suit his constitution, and the enterprise will be attended with danger. However, if he lives it will be the most likely place to make him an expert surgeon. If I hinder him to go..(He) says he will sell his farm and go to the Farm in England awile."

I have no news."

To the above superscription of the letter there is an addition in another hand:
"Received it Sept. 25, 1761."

MILITARY RECORDS COLLECTION
Box Inventories:

Box 1/5

Folders 1-6 (1.1-1.6)	Revolutionary Era: commissions, letters, articles of agreement, muster roll	1776-1799
1-8 (1.7-1.14)	Muster roll, broadside, commissions, letters, exemption from military services	1800-1848
1-10 (1.15-1.24)	Civil War Period: enrollment lists, list of volunteers, letters, relief funds report, recruitment receipts, enlistment records, narrative of privations	1861-1864
1-8 (1.25-1.32)	Civil War Veterans; Spanish- American War records; letters	1890-1936

Box 2/5

Folders 1-9z (2.1-2.44)	World War I: Selective Service letters; local board registrants; Federal War Registration letters	1913-1920
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Box 3/5

Folders 10-19b (3.1-3.31)	World War I: Liberty Loan; Mine Sweeping Division, Navy; Vital statistics of war dead for Hero Park	1918-1920
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Box 4/5

Folders 1-15 (4.1-4.39)	World War II: OPA, War Production Program; transmittal summaries; registration of retailers and wholesalers; War Finance Committee; <u>Minute Man</u> series	1942-1945
1 (4.40)	Korea and Vietnam: discharge papers	1953

Box 5/5

Folders		
1a-1g (5.1-5.7)	Fort Wadsworth	1703-1975
2a-3 (5.8-5.9)	Fort Richmond	1910-1937
42-5 (5.10-13a)	Lemon Creek & Great Kills	1912-1938
A.1-A.3 (5.17-5.16)	Military History, S.I.	1900-1951
B.1-B.7 (5.17-5.23)	Military History, New York State	1898-1948
1-3 (5.24-5.27)	Bibliography	1977-1979

Over-sized Storage

P.1	Articles of Agreement	1779
	Broadside	1806
	Commission: James Johnson	1811
	Enrollment List	1861
	Camp Stores List	1862
	Connecticut War Record	1865
	Broadside: President Lincoln	1864
	Sheet Music: Welcome Wilson	1914
	War Finance Committee for NY	1944
P.2	War Posters	1942-1944