Washington Light Infantry records, 1820-1936
SCHS #0555.00

Description: 0.5 Linear Feet (1 box)

Biog./Historical Note: The Washington Light Infantry (WLI) was a volunteer corps of citizen-soldiers formed in 1807 in Charleston, South Carolina, and incorporated in 1824. During the Civil War the WLI furnished companies A and B of the 25th South Carolina Infantry Regiment (Hagood’s Brigade, C.S.A.) and Company A of the Hampton Legion Infantry, Army of Northern Virginia. The WLI continued as a charitable organization after the war and in 1874 united with the Washington Rifle Club as a military and charitable organization. In 1877, the WLI was chartered by the South Carolina General Assembly as a military company in the 1st Regiment of Rifles, 4th Brigade, 1st Division of South Carolina state troops.

Scope and content: This collection chiefly consists of typewritten transcriptions of the records of the Washington Light Infantry created as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in 1935 and 1936. Records include constitutions and rules, minutes, histories of the organization, membership rolls, records of courts martial and a charitable organization, a list (1936) of the manuscript material kept at the WLI armory in Charleston, and other items. A page from a pamphlet entitled “Relics Lost During the War” mentions a jewel known as the “California Medal” which was stolen from Donald McQueen in February 1865 at Camden, S.C., by a Federal soldier “and has never been heard of since.”


Container Listing:

BOX 1


2 Constitution of Company A and B 1864 (Charitable Association).

4 Roll of Members, Constitution Washington Light Infantry, 1878.
5 Constitution and By-laws with a Roll of Members Courtenay Social Club of W.L.I., 1887.
6 Washington Light Infantry Trustees Agreement with Masonic Lodge, 1877.
7 History of Washington Light Infantry 1807-1846 by E. J. Pringle (?).
8 Visitors Register of the Washington Light Infantry December 6th 1877-Feby. 22nd 1900.
9 Records of W.L.I. Charitable Association, 1866.
10 Court Martial Records of Washington Light Infantry Jan. 1, 1820-Dec. 29, 1823.
11 Washington Light Infantry Minute Book November 1827-August 1831.
13 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Feb. 21, 1840-Feb. 12, 1849.
16 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Jan. 22nd, 1884-June 4th, 1886.
20 Rules as Revised in 1850; Rules as Revised February 1858.
21 Typescript draft of a history of the Washington Light Infantry by Louis F. Ostendorff.
23 “Manuscript Material in Safe of the Washington Light Infantry, Armory Building, King Street, Charleston. Captain Rugheimer. Listed January 20, 1936.” Also in folder, a page from a pamphlet containing a roll of the WLI in 1816, and an entry entitled “Relics Lost During the War.”