



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."

Preferred citation: Washington Light Infantry (Charleston, S.C.). Washington Light Infantry records, 1820-1936. (0555.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Container Listing:

BOX 1

- 1 The Constitution and Rules of the Washington Light Infantry, [1842]; bound with The Constitution and Rules of the Washington Light Infantry as altered and revised 22nd August 1843.
- 2 Constitution of Company A and B 1864 (Charitable Association).
- 3 The Constitution and Rules of the Washington Light Infantry Adopted 5th February, 1874.

- 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.
- 12 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Nov. 22, 1831-Feb. 17, 1840.
- 13 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Feb. 21, 1840-Feb. 12, 1849.
- 14 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry May 1849-Mar. 1850.
- 15 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry from Feb. 21, 1849-Feb. 24, 1862.
- 16 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Jan. 22nd, 1884-June 4th, 1886.
- 17 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry Sept. 22, 1889-Oct. 22, 1891.
- 18 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry, Nov. 3, 1891-May 5, 1896.
- 19 Minutes of Washington Light Infantry May 22, 1896-June 22, 1899.
- 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.
- 22 "Historical Sketch of the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, Sou. Car." Prepared by Louis F. Ostendorff, Secretary. Use photocopy.
- 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."