Manuscript 50
Records pertaining to the
Worcester State Guard,
1867-1888: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Call Number: Manuscript 50
Extent: 29 items (1 linear foot)
Preferred Citation Style: Item number. Manuscript 50. Records pertaining to the Worcester State Guard, 1867-1888. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.
About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.
Abstract: This collection contains records and newspaper clippings pertaining to the Worcester State Guard from 1867-1888.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains 29 items pertaining to the Worcester State Guard in the period immediately following the United States Civil War. They are a mix of logbooks, administrative documents, correspondence arranging the attendance of the State Guard at memorial events, and related newspaper clippings. The two logbooks contain attendance records, descriptions of each meeting, tallies of fines accrued by members, and glued-in newspaper clippings of coverage related to the State Guard. The administrative documents include the original handwritten bylaws adopted on June 21, 1867, and a list of signatures of new members.
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Worcester State Guard was incorporated in 1863. It was formed by men older than the draft age limit of forty-five as a way to assist wartime efforts. Its primary function was to attend military funerals of Worcester soldiers who had died in the “War of the Rebellion,” as the Civil War was then known in the North. The State Guard also drilled regularly and was occasionally called upon to keep the peace or to serve as an escort for officials or new enlistees.

In 1866, the act that incorporated the State Guard was repealed, and the Guard was disbanded. However, former members petitioned to reinstitute it, and the legislature decided in 1867 to permit their continued existence. Members continued to drill and commemorate the Civil War. The State Guard was dissolved in 1875 with the reorganization of the State Militia.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The items are arranged in three series, as follows:

Series I: Administration, 1867-1879
Series II: Ephemera, 1888
Series III: Newspaper Clippings, 1867-1868

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department’s regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Detailed Series Description and Container List

Series I: Administration, 1867-1879

Scope and Content
This series contains items that reveal the administrative structure and function of the reconstructed Worcester State Guard, including its logbooks, administrative bylaws, letters regarding the attendance of the State Guard at memorial functions, and form letters requesting attendance at drills or accepting new members.

**Arrangement**
The materials have been arranged in chronological order where possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Handwritten logbook containing attendance records, detailed entries for each meeting, records of fines, and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1863-1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Handwritten logbook containing attendance records, detailed entries for each meeting, records of fines, and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1866-1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Handwritten letter from Adjutant General James Cunningham to Samuel Houghton, Esq., clerk of Worcester State Guard, regarding the appointment of officers to the State Guard</td>
<td>May 9, 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>List of signatures of new members of State Guard. Penciled meeting notes on back, dated “Oct 5” and “Oct 7”</td>
<td>Undated; probably 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Handwritten document, “By laws of the State Guards of Worcester Adopted June 21st 1867.” Amendments from Aug. 6, 1869 added</td>
<td>June 21, 1867-August 6, 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Handwritten letter from J. Pickett on behalf of Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.) organizing committee to Captain Ivers Phillips requesting State Guard at Civil War memorial event and procession to be held May 30, 1868. Notes in pencil and pen on back</td>
<td>May 22, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Handwritten letter from Captain Ivers Phillips to Colonel J. Pickett accepting invitation on behalf of State Guard to May 30 memorial event</td>
<td>May 23, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-13</td>
<td>Six copies of handwritten form letter on company letterhead from Samuel Houghton, clerk, to guardsmen requesting attendance at May 27 drill and May 30 memorial event</td>
<td>May 22 and 23, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Handwritten form letter on company letterhead from Samuel Houghton, clerk, to guardsmen requesting presence at meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Handwritten resolution of mourning on the death of Hon. Levi Lincoln (1782-1868) to be presented to his family on behalf of the Worcester State Guard. Penciled note at top</td>
<td>Undated; probably June 1868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>