13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company B
Last Man Club Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY
Collection number: B517, Accession # 2019.001.0001-2019.001.0007
Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Collection title: 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company B Last Man Club Collection
Dates: 1898-1974
Extent: 6 boxes, 1 oversized folder
Creator: Company B Last Man Club and other members of the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry
Language of the Material: English
Processed by: Jennie Walker Knoot

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY
The Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry served during the Spanish American War of 1898 as well as the first year of the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). The regiment was originally the 1st Infantry Regiment of Minnesota Militia, which fought during the Civil War of 1861-65. After the 1898 call to arms, an official order dictated the militia regiments renumber from the last volunteer regiment of the Civil War. In this way, the 1st Infantry Regiment of Minnesota Militia became the 13th Minnesota U.S. Infantry Regiment. Charles McCormick Reeve was appointed Colonel. Although three other Minnesota regiments were mustered during the war (the 12th, the 14th, and, eventually, the 15th), the 13th was the only one that was deployed overseas and saw combat during the war.

The regiment consisted of 12 companies, including 5 Minneapolis companies of which Company B was one. In total, there were 50 officers and 979 enlisted men. On May 16, 1898, the 13th Minnesota left Camp Ramsey, St. Paul, where they had rendezvoused with the 12th and 14th for training. It traveled by train to San Francisco for further training at Camp Merrit. On June 26th the troops set sail aboard the City of Para bound for Manila, landing on August 7th.

On August 13th the regiment took part in the Battle of Manila and helped American forces capture the city. The 13th sustained the heaviest casualties of any American unit in the attack, with 23 members of the regiment being wounded or killed. Between 50 and 60 American soldiers were killed in the battle and 225 were wounded. Approximately 2,000 Filipinos were killed as a result of the military action. Unbeknownst to the soldiers involved, one day before the battle, Spain and the United States had signed the Paris Peace Treaty. Among other things, the
treaty ceded control of the Philippines to the United States (a decision hotly contested in the U.S. Senate as a policy of imperialism).

After the Battle of Manila, which ended the Spanish-American War, the 13th was required to serve as a police unit, battling Filipino forces who did not recognize U.S. sovereignty over their islands. Disillusioned by this second round of fighting, this time against the people for whose independence they had fought, soldiers in the 13th began a letter writing campaign requesting to return home and expressing concerns about the continued occupation. In August 1899, the unit boarded the Sheridan for the journey back to Minnesota. In all, 74 men were wounded and 44 were killed during the regiment's time in service. On October 12th the unit arrived home to a reception at the Minnesota State Capital attended by thousands of well-wishers and family members, as well as President William McKinley and members of his cabinet.

Company B Last Man Club was an organization of Spanish-American War Veterans from Company B of the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The first meeting of the Last Man Club took place on December 4, 1926 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Those who could not attend in person were asked to respond by letter. Of the original 111, 108 members of Company B were still living at the time of the club’s founding. Approximately 75 members kept in regular contact with the club. The objectives of the club are as follows:

1. To uphold the Constitution of the United States
2. To continue the good fellowship and comradeship
3. To perpetuate the memory of the departed
4. To assist each other in peace and, as direct successors of Company B of the first Minnesota to perpetuate and carry on the custom, and to meet annually until a lone survivor remains, who will consume the bottle of pre-war champagne furnished for this purpose

The Last Man Club held its final meeting in 1963 when the sole survivor, Clarence E. Keatley, drank to the memory of his comrades.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The material in this collection was donated by the members of Company B Last Man Club of the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The collection includes meeting minutes, notices of upcoming meetings, and club newsletters both for Company B Last Man Club and the 13th Minnesota Regimental Association. It also includes letters written by various club members, as well as books written by John Bowe, a member of Company B, a book about Company I, a history of the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and other published materials. Additionally, the collection contains newspaper clippings and articles, annual rosters, and a personal scrapbook.

The collection is arranged in seven series with no sub-series. The series include:

Series 1: Organizational Records (Company B Last Man Club)
Series 2: Clippings (Company B Last Man Club)
Series 3: Correspondence
Series 4: Personal Manuscripts
Series 5: Organizational Records (13th Minnesota Regimental Association)
Series 6: Published Materials
Series 7: Clippings (13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry)

ACCESS
The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions.

COPYRIGHT
The researcher assumes responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIAL
Additional items on 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company B Last Man Club can be found in these other collections.

- The Minnesota Historical Society has two flags belonging to the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
- Hennepin County Library James K. Hosmer Special Collections – Minnesota Infantry Regiment, 13th (1898-1899)
- McCleod County Historical Society and Museum Photographic Collection – Call #: 1988-1414-001
- Hennepin History Museum – Call # S 1.8. Scrapbook in memoriam to Private Sidney Pratt
- Hennepin History Museum – Call #: B 62.35. Company B Last Man Club signatures of members, 1926
- Hennepin History Museum – Call #: C 6.34. Dance program for a reception to North Side 13th Regiment Minnesota volunteers
- Hennepin History Museum – Call #: B 69.30. Welcome home banquet menu for the 13th Regiment Minnesota volunteers

ACQUISITION
Material in this collection was donated by the Company B Last Man Club.
## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### Series 1: Organizational Records (Company B Last Man Club)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Folder No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Company B Last Man Club organizational information</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Company B Last Man Club notices of meetings, 1926-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Company B Last Man Club meeting minutes and newsletters, 1926-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Company B Last Man Club meeting minutes and newsletters, 1926-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Hand stamp depicting logo of Company B Last Man Club (sent to museum 3D collection 05/09)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Hand stamp depicting bugle boy (sent to museum 3D collection 05/09)</td>
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### Series 2: Clippings (Company B)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Company B Last Man Club newspaper clippings, 1930-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Jack E. Newton diary – Spanish-American War, 1898-1899</td>
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### Series 3: Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Correspondence – Samuel O. Abrams, 1951-1957, undated</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Carl Albrecht, 1952</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence – John M. Alsford, 1929-1962</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Correspondence – James C. Baker, 1931-1952</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Sep. A. Balzark, 1953</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Frank A. Bates, 1953-1954, undated</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Correspondence – George Blend, 1923-1941</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Correspondence – Harry R. Blend, 1941</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Correspondence – Fred L. Bogart, 1953</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Correspondence – John Bowe, 1926-1953</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Correspondence – Charles F. Brackett, 1934-1957</td>
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<td>Correspondence – William I. Broberg, 1941-1955</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Howard P. Budge, 1935-1937</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Francis A. Campbell, 1938-1944</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Correspondence – Alva G. Catlin, 1927-1948</td>
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<td>Correspondence – James J. Coats, 1923-1941</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Harry W. Collins, 1923-1936</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Correspondence – John B. W. Corey, ca. 1928-1947</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Correspondence – Herbert H. Cornell, 1925-1955, undated</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Correspondence – David E. Ehle, 1926-1946</td>
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Correspondence – John Ehlinger, 1926-1949
Correspondence – Lyndon K. Emory, 1933-1960
Correspondence – Dan F. Fitzgerald, 1952-1956
Correspondence – Henry Foss, 1933
Correspondence – Charles A. Foster, 1941
Correspondence – Thomas P. Graham, 1926
Correspondence – Albert G. Hale, 1933-1944
Correspondence – Philip R. Hamilton, 1943
Correspondence – Eugene A. Harvey, 1926-1955
Correspondence – Allen C. Hemphill, 1926-1962
Correspondence – Hennepin County Historical Society, 1960-1967
Correspondence – Hennepin County Historical Society, L. J. Bedard Collection, 1937-1963
Correspondence regarding House of Representative Bills 6995 and 2904, 1935-1938
Correspondence – Charles J. Johnson, 1926-1960
Correspondence – Clarence E. Keatley, 1905-1958
Correspondence – George B. Knowles, 1926-1946, undated
Correspondence – Charles H. Law, 1926-1937
Correspondence – Henry A. Lyngaas, 1948
Correspondence – John F. McCarren, 1934-1941, undated
Correspondence – Archy McGinnis, 1940-1954
Correspondence regarding Albert A. Miles by widow Mary Plunkett, 1932
Correspondence – Fred M. Mitchell, 1926-1959
Correspondence – Lindley I. Moses, 1933-1944
Correspondence – John E. Newton, 1931-1957
Correspondence – Thomas A. Patterson, 1932-1937
Correspondence – J. B. Pattison, 1951
Correspondence – Otto N. Raths, 1936-1944
Correspondence – Charles McCormick Reeve, 1939-1949
Correspondence – George P. Rising, 1932-1952
Correspondence – Wilson L. Robinson, 1933-1951
Correspondence – Magnus Salinger, 1934-1957
Correspondence – Joseph M. Scallen, 1926-1927, undated
Correspondence – Frank D. Scott, 1933-1943
Correspondence – George J. Seymour, 1941
Correspondence – Mike P. Shaughnessy, 1926-1933
Correspondence – George G. Shumway, 1953-1962
Correspondence – George Simard, 1937-1962
Correspondence – Wallace Skidmore, 1928-1948, undated
Correspondence – Martin E. Smeby, 1929
Correspondence – Horace Smith, 1923-1946
Correspondence – Albert E. Snyder, 1926-1938
Correspondence – A. Otto Snyder (previously Schneider), 1929-1947
Correspondence – Matilda K. Strachan, wife of Joseph C. Strachan, 1933
Correspondence – Thomas F. Thomsen, 1938-1961
Correspondence – Unidentified, 1954
Correspondence – John E. Upson, 1943-1946
Correspondence – C. A. Van Valkenburg, 1926-1955
Correspondence – Dirk J. Vos, 1929-1949
Correspondence – Arthur Walker (Company H), 1946
Correspondence – Martin J. Welch, Jr., 1934-1960
Correspondence – George H. Wilcox, 1934-1961, undated
Correspondence – Lewis R. Williams, 1934-1940, undated
Correspondence – Hugh Worden, 1936
Correspondence – William E. Wyman, 1933-1950

Poem – I am proud to be a Spanish-American War veteran, undated
Poem – The execution of James Bird, War of 1812, 1944
Poem – The Roosevelt Creed, undated
Booklet and scrapbook – Souvenir of the 13th Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, ca. 1899

13th Minnesota Regimental Association notices of meetings and meeting minutes, 1925-1962
13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company A annual roster of members, 1928-1960
13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company B annual roster of members, 1928-1960
13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company C annual roster of members, 1928-1960
13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company D annual roster of members, 1928-1960
13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company E annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  90  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company F annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  91  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company G annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  92  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company H annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  93  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company I annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  94  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company K annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  95  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company L annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  96  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, Company M annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4  97  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, non-company staff annual roster of members, 1928-1952
4  98  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, field and staff annual roster of members, 1928-1952
4  99  13th Minnesota Regimental Association, annual roster of guests, 1928-1953
4  100 13th Minnesota Regimental Association reunion and dinner, Portland, Oregon, 1938

Series 6: Published Materials

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>13th Minnesota Regimental Association Volunteers Historical Record in the War with Spain, 1900</td>
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<tr>
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<td>102</td>
<td>Invitation to the reception to the President of the United States and the Welcome Home of the 13th Minnesota Regiment, 1899</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Excerpts from Muskets to Missiles: A Military History of Minnesota by Virginia Brainerd Kunz, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Essay – Archie Patterson – as I knew him, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Book – With the Thirteenth Minnesota by John Bowe, 1905 (copy 1 of 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Book – With the Thirteenth Minnesota by John Bowe, 1905 (copy 2 of 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Book – Soldiers of the Legion by Legionnaire Bowe, 1918 (copy 1 of 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Book – Soldiers of the Legion by Legionnaire Bowe, 1918 (copy 2 of 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>109a</td>
<td>Book – Jungle Patrol by Vic Hurley, 1938</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>109b</td>
<td>Jungle Patrol book club reading list, ca. 1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Book – 3, 5, and 7 by John Bowe, 1930</td>
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Company I First Infantry Minnesota National Guard: Its History and Achievements in Peace and War, 1909

Series 7: Clippings (13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry)

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13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry newspaper clippings and articles, 1898-1974

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