

# 13<sup>th</sup> 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:** 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment of Minnesota Militia became the 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota U.S. Infantry Regiment. Charles McCormick Reeve was appointed Colonel. Although three other Minnesota regiments were mustered during the war (the 12<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup>, and, eventually, the 15<sup>th</sup>), the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota left Camp Ramsey, St. Paul, where they had rendezvoused with the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> for training. It traveled by train to San Francisco for further training at Camp Merrit. On June 26<sup>th</sup> the troops set sail aboard the City of Para bound for Manila, landing on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

On August 13<sup>th</sup> the regiment took part in the Battle of Manila and helped American forces capture the city. The 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The collection includes meeting minutes, notices of upcoming meetings, and club newsletters both for Company B Last Man Club and the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 (13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association)

Series 6: Published Materials

Series 7: Clippings (13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company B Last Man Club can be found in these other collections.

- Minnesota Historical Society – Call #: 145.B.16.5B, 145.B.16.6F, 145.B.16.7B 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association Records
- Minnesota Historical Society – Call #: I.508.1-88. Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment sound and visual collection.
- 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, 13<sup>th</sup> (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 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment Minnesota volunteers
- Hennepin History Museum – Call #: B 69.30. Welcome home banquet menu for the 13<sup>th</sup> 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)**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	1	Company B Last Man Club organizational information
1	2	Company B Last Man Club notices of meetings, 1926-1960
1	3	Company B Last Man Club meeting minutes and newsletters, 1926-1962
1	4	Company B Last Man Club meeting minutes and newsletters, 1926-1963
<b>3D</b>	<b>3D</b>	Hand stamp depicting logo of Company B Last Man Club (sent to museum 3D collection 05/09)
<b>3D</b>	<b>3D</b>	Hand stamp depicting bugle boy (sent to museum 3D collection 05/09)

**Series 2: Clippings (Company B)**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	5	Company B Last Man Club newspaper clippings, 1930-1964
3	81	Jack E. Newton diary – Spanish-American War, 1898-1899

**Series 3: Correspondence**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	6	Correspondence – Samuel O. Abrams, 1951-1957, undated
1	7	Correspondence – Carl Albrecht, 1952
1	8	Correspondence – John M. Alsdorf, 1929-1962
1	9	Correspondence - James C. Baker, 1931-1952
1	10	Correspondence – Sep. A. Balzark, 19t53
1	11	Correspondence – Frank A. Bates, 1953-1954, undated
1	12	Correspondence – George Blend, 1923-1941
1	13	Correspondence – Harry R. Blend, 1941
1	14	Correspondence – Fred L. Bogart, 1953
1	15	Correspondence – John Bowe, 1926-1953
1	16	Correspondence – Charles F. Brackett, 1934-1957
1	17	Correspondence – William I. Broberg, 1941-1955
1	18	Correspondence – Howard P. Budge, 1935-1937
1	19	Correspondence – Francis A. Campbell, 1938-1944
1	20	Correspondence – Alva G. Catlin, 1927-1948
1	21	Correspondence – James J. Coats, 1923-1941
1	22	Correspondence – Harry W. Collins, 1923-1936
1	23	Correspondence – John B. W. Corey, ca. 1928-1947
1	24	Correspondence – Herbert H. Cornell, 1925-1955, undated
2	25	Correspondence – David E. Ehle, 1926-1946

2	26	Correspondence – John Ehlinger, 1926-1949
2	27	Correspondence – Lyndon K. Emory, 1933-1960
2	28	Correspondence – Dan F. Fitzgerald, 1952-1956
2	29	Correspondence – Henry Foss, 1933
2	30	Correspondence – Charles A. Foster, 1941
2	31	Correspondence – Thomas P. Graham, 1926
2	32	Correspondence – Albert G. Hale, 1933-1944
2	33	Correspondence – Philip R. Hamilton, 1943
2	34	Correspondence – Eugene A. Harvey, 1926-1955
2	35	Correspondence – Allen C. Hemphill, 1926-1962
2	36	Correspondence – Hennepin County Historical Society, 1960-1967
2	37	Correspondence – Hennepin County Historical Society, L. J. Bedard Collection, 1937-1963
2	38	Correspondence regarding House of Representative Bills 6995 and 2904, 1935-1938
2	39	Correspondence – Charles J. Johnson, 1926-1960
2	40	Correspondence – Clarence E. Keatley, 1905-1958
2	41	Correspondence – George B. Knowles, 1926-1946, undated
2	42	Correspondence – Charles H. Law, 1926-1937
2	43	Correspondence – Henry A. Lyngaas, 1948
2	44	Correspondence – John F. McCarren, 1934-1941, undated
2	45	Correspondence – Archy McGinnis, 1940-1954
2	46	Correspondence regarding Albert A. Miles by widow Mary Plunkett, 1932
2	47	Correspondence – Fred M. Mitchell, 1926-1959
2	48	Correspondence – Lindley I. Moses, 1933-1944
2	49	Correspondence – John E. Newton, 1931-1957
2	50	Correspondence – Thomas A. Patterson, 1932-1937
2	51	Correspondence – J. B. Pattison, 1951
2	52	Correspondence – Otto N. Raths, 1936-1944
2	53	Correspondence – Charles McCormick Reeve, 1939-1949
2	54	Correspondence – George P. Rising, 1932-1952
3	55	Correspondence – Wilson L. Robinson, 1933-1951
3	56	Correspondence – Magnus Salinger, 1934-1957
3	57	Correspondence – Joseph M. Scallen, 1926-1927, undated
3	58	Correspondence – Frank D. Scott, 1933-1943
3	59	Correspondence – George J. Seymour, 1941
3	60	Correspondence – Mike P. Shaughnessy, 1926-1933
3	61	Correspondence – George G. Shumway, 1953-1962
3	62	Correspondence – George Simard, 1937-1962
3	63	Correspondence – Wallace Skidmore, 1928-1948, undated
3	64	Correspondence – Martin E. Smeby, 1929
3	65	Correspondence – Horace Smith, 1923-1946

3	66	Correspondence – Albert E. Snyder, 1926-1938
3	67	Correspondence – A. Otto Snyder (previously Schneider), 1929-1947
3	68	Correspondence – Matilda K. Strachan, wife of Joseph C. Strachan, 1933
3	69	Correspondence – Thomas F. Thomsen, 1938-1961
3	70	Correspondence – Unidentified, 1954
3	71	Correspondence – John E. Upson, 1943-1946
3	72	Correspondence – C. A. Van Valkenburg, 1926-1955
3	73	Correspondence – Dirk J. Vos, 1929-1949
3	74	Correspondence – Arthur Walker (Company H), 1946
3	75	Correspondence – Martin J. Welch, Jr., 1934-1960
3	76	Correspondence – George H. Wilcox, 1934-1961, undated
3	77	Correspondence – Lewis R. Williams, 1934-1940, undated
3	78	Correspondence – Hugh Worden, 1936
3	79	Correspondence – William E. Wyman, 1933-1950

#### **Series 4: Personal Manuscripts**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
3	80	Poem – I am proud to be a Spanish-American War veteran, undated
3	82	Poem – The execution of James Bird, War of 1812, 1944
3	83	Poem – The Roosevelt Creed, undated
6	112	Booklet and scrapbook – Souvenir of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, ca. 1899

#### **Series 5: Organizational Records (13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association)**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
4	84	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association notices of meetings and meeting minutes, 1925-1962
4	85	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company A annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	86	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company B annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	87	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company C annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	88	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company D annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	89	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company E annual roster of members, 1928-1960

4	90	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company F annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	91	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company G annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	92	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company H annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	93	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company I annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	94	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company K annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	95	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company L annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	96	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, Company M annual roster of members, 1928-1960
4	97	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, non-company staff annual roster of members, 1928-1952
4	98	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, field and staff annual roster of members, 1928-1952
4	99	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association, annual roster of guests, 1928-1953
4	100	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association reunion and dinner, Portland, Oregon, 1938

### Series 6: Published Materials

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
4	101	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regimental Association Volunteers Historical Record in the War with Spain, 1900
4	102	Invitation to the reception to the President of the United States and the Welcome Home of the 13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regiment, 1899
4	103	Excerpts from Muskets to Missiles: A Military History of Minnesota by Virginia Brainerd Kunz, undated
4	104	Essay – Archie Patterson – as I knew him, undated
5	105	Book – With the Thirteenth Minnesota by John Bowe, 1905 (copy 1 of 2)
5	106	Book – With the Thirteenth Minnesota by John Bowe, 1905 (copy 2 of 2)
5	107	Book – Soldiers of the Legion by Legionnaire Bowe, 1918 (copy 1 of 2)
5	108	Book – Soldiers of the Legion by Legionnaire Bowe, 1918 (copy 2 of 2)
5	109a	Book – Jungle Patrol by Vic Hurley, 1938
5	109b	Jungle Patrol book club reading list, ca. 1938
5	110	Book – 3, 5, and 7 by John Bowe, 1930

5                    111                    Company I First Infantry Minnesota National Guard: Its History  
and Achievements in Peace and War, 1909

**Series 7: Clippings (13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry)**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
7	113	13 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry newspaper clippings and articles, 1898-1974



*"This publication was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Any views, findings, opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee."*