

Minneapolis Memorial Day Committee Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B536, Accession # 2021.205-0001 and 2021.205.0002

Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection title: Minneapolis Memorial Day Committee

Dates: 1905-1968

Extent: 2boxes (1 Paige box, 1 flat box)

Creator: Minneapolis Memorial Day Committee

Language of the Material: English

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Minneapolis Memorial Day Committee (MMDC), also referred to as the Minneapolis Memorial Day Association, was comprised of members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), United Spanish War Veterans (USWV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), as well as the auxiliaries and allied organizations of each, according to their by-laws. Each organization provided either 2 or 4 delegates for MMDC.

The MMDC actively carried out the principles of the GAR as they related to Memorial Day from approximately 1888 to 1968. Prior to 1888, G. A. R. No. 3 organized and oversaw proceedings for the holiday, however the formal committee didn't appear (in Minneapolis newspapers) until 1888. The organization's by-laws state that those principles were "non-political, non-racial, and non-sectarian" in their observance of the holiday.

Various G.A.R. committees worked with businesses and organizations in the community to garner support for Memorial Day events. G.L. Morrill, pastor of the People's Church, often held services in his church's sanctuary on Memorial Day, inviting the public as well as the GAR to those services.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The material in this collection was donated by Felix Phillips, former HHM (HCHS) board member. The collection includes incoming and outgoing correspondence from members of different G.A.R. Posts, MMDC meeting minutes from 1925-1943, as well as the years 1903, 1955, 1957, and 1958. There are Memorial Day program rosters of the war dead from services

from the following years: 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930,1934, 1937, 1939,1941-1944, 1950, 1952-1954, and 1958.

There are membership cards from auxiliary organizations and receipts as well as MMDC account deposit slips and parade memorabilia.

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

- Series 1: Correspondences
- Series 2: Administration
- Series 3: Publications
- Series 4: Minutes
- Series 5: Offices & Auxiliaries
- Series 6: Membership
- Series 7: Clippings
- Series 8: Finance
- Series 9: Memorabilia

ACCESS

The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions.

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RELATED MATERIAL

Additional items on the Grand Army of the Republic can be found in these other collections.

- Grand Army of the Republic. Department of Minnesota. Departmental Records. Minnesota Historical Society
- Hennepin County Library Special Collection, Digital Collection – Minneapolis
Newspaper Photograph collection: ID P43431
- Hennepin History Museum – B101, Military Clubs and Organizations; B25.16db, G.A.R. Meeting minutes

ACQUISITION

Material in this collection was donated by Felix Phillips, former HHM (HCHS) board member.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Correspondence

Box Folder

1 1 Correspondence – internal, 1906-1907, 1910, 1929-1952, 1959

- 1 2 Correspondence – external, 1953-1968
- 1 3 Correspondence – parade, 1955-1958
- 1 4 Administration - parade documents, 1957, 1959: documents related to the
planning of the Memorial Day Parade.
- 1 5 Publications - internal, 1905, 1953, 1957, 1960-1961: General orders,
circulation letters, and by-laws
- 1 6 Publications -external, 1958, 1959: brochures, event programs, radio
script, speech
- 1 7 Roster supplements
- 1 8 Minutes, 1903, 1955, 1957, 1958: Memorial Day Association minutes
- 1 9 Minutes, 1931: Patriotic Instructors' club
- 1 10 Minutes, 1925, 1932: Memorial Hall Committee,
- 1 11 Minutes, 1932, 1943: Memorial Hall Committee
- 1 12 Offices and Auxiliaries, 1951, 1952, 1960: Auxiliary organizations
- 1 13 Membership, 1952: Membership cards
- 1 14 Membership, 1952: Membership cards
- 1 15 Membership, 1942: Membership ledger
- 1 16 Clippings/Photo, 1956, undated: clippings related to Memorial Day fund;
photo of a G.A.R. Post whose members are unidentified.
- 1 17 Finance, 1933-1956: receipts and invoices
- 1 18 Finance, 1959-1966: receipts and invoices
- 1 19 Finance, 1959, 1960: deposit slips
- 2 Publications – Rosters: 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930,1934, 1937, 1939,1941-
1944, 1950, 1952-1954
- 2 Publications – Rosters: 1947, 1948 - Binders, Binders of MDA rosters and
supplements
- 2 Memorabilia, undated: Parade badge and delegates' ribbon