

Troop I, Post 665 Collection, circa 1917-2019 [bulk 1919-1980]

Administration Information

Creator

Troop I, Milton Klein, Elizabeth Miller, et al.

Collection Number

Buffalo Collection UA364 74th .N39I 1917-2019

Extent

7 Series - 10 document boxes, 6 manuscript boxes, 19 half boxes, 11 books (5 wrapped and tied), 2 framed items.

6 manuscript boxes (Wadsworth Gas Attack and The Trumpet)

3 clamshell boxes (Summary of Events)

4 half sized clamshell boxes (Meeting Minutes)

19 half boxes (Membership Cards)

9 volumes (Scrapbooks)

1 clamshell box (Dere Mabel Series)

1 half-sized box (Cavalry Rope)

Abstract

This collection primarily reflects Troop I during their WWI activities and follows the Troop members as they re-entered civilian life following the war's conclusion. The collection focuses on Troop I, Post 665 from their creation to the dissolution of Troop I, Post 665 following the Covid-19 pandemic. Materials within this collection include newspapers, organization events, membership activities, scrapbooks, and WWI memorabilia.

Terms of Use

The Troop I, Post 665 Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Description and dates], Box/folder number, Collection Title, dates, Central Library: Grosvenor Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

Acquisition

The Troop I/Post 665 Collection was donated to the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library by Elizabeth Miller, Troop I historian on November 8, 2022. Collection

materials were created by Troop I/Post 665 from 1917-2019, and maintained by the Troop until 2022.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Courtney Johnt, Special Collections Intern, March 2023.

When received, the collection consisted of 33 boxes, 9 scrapbooks, and many stand-alone materials, ranging from 1919-2019. The following materials had an existing arrangement order:

- Membership Boxes (19 boxes)
- Board Meeting Minutes (4 boxes)
- Wadsworth Gas Attack (1 box)
- The Trumpet Newspaper (5 boxes)
- Summary of Post 665 Events (3 boxes)

Due to the nature of the stand-alone materials, some have been combined and organized by series (on the basis of topic/subject) abiding by chronological order. The following are the series within the collection:

I: War Memorabilia (WWI)

II: WWII Publications

III: The Trumpet, 1928-2003

IV: Summary of Troop I, Post 665 Activities and Meeting Minutes

V: Scrapbooks

VI: Troop I, Post 665 Members and Visitors

VII: Supplementary Information

Materials within the collection have been kept together, with the consideration of original order in mind.

Biographical/Historical Note/Chronology

Focusing on the development and continuation of American Legion Troop I, Post 665, this collection contains materials which serve as physical markers for the ongoing service of veterans. Ranging from 1917-2017, the materials within this collection provides unique insight into the lives of Buffalonians during the First World War, and their subsequent transition into civilian life as veterans and members of the American Legion.

History of the Troop and Post:

Originally forming as a troop on May 7, 1912, Troop I began as 42 men temporarily serving under Colonel Oliver B Bridgeman (of the 1st Cavalry New York National Guard) and Captain Sherman S. Jewitt (of Company C 74th Infantry National Guard New York). In October of 1912, Captain William J. Donovan, 1st Lieutenant David T. Dunbar, and 2nd Lieutenant George B. Walbridge were formally elected to command the Troop. In June of 1916, Troop I was called into Federal Service for duty at the Mexican border. During their time at the Mexican border in Texas, the Troop was located at McCallen, Sterling Ranch, Point Isabel, Brownsville, and LaGloria. On March 5, 1916 the Troop was officially terminated, following the end of conflict at the Mexican-American border.

Following the U.S. entering World War I, Troop I was called into service once again officially on July 15, 1917. On July 21, 1917, the Troop was mustered, and consisted of 3 officers and 105 enlisted men, all originating from Buffalo, New York.

On August 13, 1917, Troop I left Buffalo, and formed a full regiment at Bay Ridge, New York. From there, the Troop traveled to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where the regiment was re-designated as the 102nd Trench Mortar Battery and was assigned to the 52nd Field Artillery Brigade of the 27th Infantry Division.

On June 6, 1918, the Battery left Newport News, Virginia for France, where they went on to train at Camp DeSouge (near Bordeaux), and serve at the front lines in France until the Battery was officially released from Federal Service on February 4, 1919.

Upon their arrival home, the members of Troop I went onto create American Legion Post 665, originally located at “Cavalry Farm” at 5980 Old Armor Duells Corners Road in Orchard Park, New York.

The Troop remained at Cavalry Farm until 1939, when the Troop began searching for a new club house and base of operations. Holding a Post meeting at the Elks Club on September 18, 1939, Post members unanimously approved the purchase of the “Hamlin House” at 432 Franklin Street in Buffalo, NY from the German Orpheus Singing Society.

Officially incorporated as American Legion Troop 1, Post 665 by the New York Department of State on November 28, 1939, the Troop remained at the Hamlin House until its sale in 2022, following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scope and Content

The Troop I, Post 665 Collection includes WWI era newspapers, Post 665 newsletters, scrapbooks, American Legion membership cards, correspondence, documents pertaining to American Legion Post 665 activities, organizational constitutions and by-laws, member photographs, visitor register lists, and meeting minutes. The collection focuses primarily on WWI and the activities of Post 665 from 1919-2019, materials within the collection are connected to veterans affairs, local military and organizational matters, local history, and genealogy.

While the collection focuses primarily on WWI and the activities of Post 665, it should be noted that some of the materials included in the collection relate to military history more broadly. Despite this slight deviation from exclusively Troop I materials, the collection provides context regarding the local importance of American Legion Troop I, Post 665, and displays the history of the Troop itself and the lives of its members.

The collection has been arranged in series, with seven series based on topics.

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into series by topic and further arranged by boxes and folders on the basis of chronology where applicable. The materials within each series has also maintained original order.

Series I: War Memorabilia (WWI)

Series I (4 boxes) covers the years 1918-1919, the series contains WWI memorabilia including a cavalry rope, commemorative poster, map of France's front lines, and WWI Liberty Bond posters.

Box 1: Cavalry Rope

Box 2: 102nd Battery Commemorative Framed Poster

Box 3: Troop I Map of France (1918)

Box 4: WWI Posters *

***Series 1, Box 4 (WWI Posters) will be stored in the Rare Book Room with the WWI Collection**

Series II: WWI Publications

Series II (2 boxes, 1 wrapped oversized book) covers the years 1917-1919, the series contains WWI publications including military base publications, a bound copy of the Stars and Stripes, and books from the Dere Mabel Series by Edward Streeter.

Box 1: Wadsworth Gas Attack (November 1917-May 1918)

Box 2: The Stars and Stripes (February 1918-June 1919)

Box 3: "Dere Mabel" Series, E. Streeter (1918-1919)

1. "Dere Mabel: Love Letters of a Rookie" (1918) (copy 1/2)
2. "Dere Mabel: Love Letters of a Rookie" (1918) (copy 2/2)
3. "Dere Bill: Mabel's Love Letters to Her Rookie" (Written by Elizabeth A. Summers) (1918)
4. "Dere Bill: Mabel's Love Letters to Her Rookie" (Written by Elizabeth A. Summers) (1919)
5. "That's Me All Over, Mabel" (1919) (1/2 copy)
6. "That's Me All Over, Mabel" (1919) (2/2 copy)
7. "Same Old Bill, Eh Mabel?" (1919) *

***Series II, Box 3, Item 7 will be added to the Rare Book Room.**

Series III: "The Trumpet" 1929-2003

Series III (5 boxes) covers the years 1929-2003, the series contains copies of The Trumpet, the American Legion Troop I, Post 665 publication.

Box 1: 1928-1939

Box 2: 1940-1949

Box 3: 1950-1969

Box 4: 1970-1989

Box 5: 1990-2003

Series IV: Summary of Troop I, Post 665 Activities and Meeting Minutes:

Series IV (7 boxes) covers the years 1920-2002, the series contains event tickets, member photographs, organizational certificates, local and national convention materials, newspaper clippings, newly elected post officer lists, and meeting minutes.

Box 1: Summary of Troop 1, Post 665 History and Events

Folder 1: 1920s **Box 1, Folder 1**

Folder 2: 1930s **Box 1, Folder 2**

Folder 3: 1940s **Box 1, Folder 3**

Folder 4: 1950s **Box 1, Folder 4**

Folder 5: 1960s **Box 1, Folder 5**

Folder 6: 1970s **Box 1, Folder 6**

Box 2: Summary of Troop I, Post 665 History and Events (continued)

Folder 7: 1980s **Box 2, Folder 1**

Folder 8: 1990s **Box 2, Folder 2**

Folder 9: 2000-2009 **Box 2, Folder 3**

Box 3: Summary of Troop I, Post 665 History and Events (continued)

Folder 9: 2000-2009 Continued, **Box 3, Folder 1**

Folder 10: 2010-2019 **Box 3, Folder 2**

Folder 11: Constitution and By-Laws **Box 3, Folder 3**

Box 4: Meeting Minutes, 1919-1947:

Folder 1: 1919-1922

Folder 2: 1923-1924

Folder 3: 1925-1926

Folder 4: 1927-1928

Folder 5: 1930-1939

Folder 6: 1940-1942

Folder 7: 1943

Folder 8: 1944

Folder 9: 1945

Folder 10: 1946

Folder 11: 1947

Box 5: Meeting Minutes, 1948-1979:

Folder 1: 1948

Folder 2: 1949

Folder 3: 1950-1951

Folder 4: 1952-1953

Folder 5: 1954

Folder 6: 1955-1956

Folder 7: 1960

Folder 8: 1961

Folder 9: 1962-1964

Folder 10: 1972-1973

Folder 11: 1974-1979

Box 6: Meeting Minutes, 1980-1992:

Folder 1: 1980-1985

Folder 2: 1986

Folder 3: 1987
Folder 4: 1988
Folder 5: 1989
Folder 6: 1990
Folder 7: 1991
Folder 8: 1992
Box 7: Meeting Minutes, 1993-2002
Folder 1: 1993
Folder 2: 1994
Folder 3: 1995
Folder 4: 1996
Folder 5: 1997
Folder 6: 1998
Folder 7: 1999-2000
Folder 8: 2001
Folder 9: 2002

Series V: Scrapbooks:

Series V covers 1919-2004, the series contains scrapbooks which feature membership photographs, photographs of Troop I activities, selected copies of The Trumpet, and scraps from Troop I events.

Vol. 1: Magazine clippings, Soldiers from 27th Battery (WWI)
Vol. 2: Milt Klein Scrapbook, Drum Corps (1919-1946)
Vol. 3: 1943 Baseball Cartoons
Vol. 4: Milt Klein Scrapbook, Milt's Organizations (1924-1990)
Vol. 5: International Veterans Association (1968-1989)
Vol. 6: Buffalo Cavalry Association (1968-1991)
Vol. 7: Troop 1, 665 Scrapbook (1985-1986)
Vol. 8: American Legion Troop I Scrapbook (2002-2003)
Vol. 9: American Legion Troop I Scrapbook (2003-2004)

Series VI: Troop I, Post 665 Members and Visitors:

Series VI (19 boxes) covers 1930-1979, the series contains American Legion membership cards and a Troop I visitor register.

Box 1: A-Br
Box 2: A-Cz
Box 3: Bl-Ch
Box 4: Ch-Go
Box 5: Da-Ni
Box 6: Do-Ga
Box 7: Ga-He
Box 8: Ga-Jo
Box 9: Hi-Mi
Box 10: Ka-Ma

Box 11: Kn-Ma
Box 12: Ma-Ne
Box 13: Me-Pu
Box 14: Ni-Re
Box 15: Qu-St
Box 16: Re-Sh
Box 17: Si-Ur
Box 18: St-Ur
Box 19: Va-Zw
Box 20: Troop I Visitor Register 1930-1979

Series VII: Supplementary Information:

Series VII covers 2016-2018, the series contains war service research requests from Troop I historian, Elizabeth Miller, to the NYS Archives, copies of war service records, and a spiral bound copy of the History of Horse Cavalry Units, 1912-1940.

Item 1: NYS Archives-Elizabeth Miller Correspondence (2016-2018)
Folder 1: War Service Research Requests
Folder 2: War Service Records, A-M
Folder 3: War Service Records, M-W
Item 2: History of Horse Cavalry Units, 1912-1940

Separated Materials

The following will be stored in the Rare Book Room:

-Series I, Box 4 (WWI Posters)
-Series III, Box 3, Item 7, "Same Old Bill, Eh Mabel"

The following will be added to another collection under the Grosvenor Room because they did not directly relate to the Troop I, Post 665 Collection:

-*Wright's Official History of the Spanish American War*
-*Grover Cleveland as Buffalo Knew Him*
-*Square That Hat* Armstrong, Arthur T. 1987

Related Materials

F129.B8 A23 1917

An Account of the Mexican Border Service of the 74th N.Y. Infantry, N.G.U.S., 3d N.Y. Field Artillery, N.G.U.S., Troop I, 1st Cavalry, N.G.U.S

Matthews-Northrop Works
1917

D570.AI M6

The American Legion Story

Moley, Raymond, Jr.
1966

Search Terms

- 610 American Legion Troop I, Post 665, Buffalo, N.Y.
- 610 American Legion. Department of New York. Erie County.
- 610 New York (State). National Guard. Regiment, 74th.
- 700 Streeter, Edward, 1891-1976.
- 700 Klein, Milton, E., 1897-1992.