

Finding Aid for the Camp Lee guard reports Collection 106

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

October 1989

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Camp Lee guard reports
Date [inclusive]	1863-1864
Extent	1.21 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	Camp Lee was a Civil War era encampment in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection contains one volume of original guard reports from 1863-1864. The records were kept by Captain Sheldon, who was stationed at the camp at that time. The reports show a day-to-day record of guards on duty and recruits under arrest and the reason(s) for their arrests.

Biographical/Historical note

Camp Lee was a Grand Rapids, Michigan marshalling place during the Civil War, located in what is now the Central High School area, corner of Fountain and College NE. Men from Grand Rapids and the surrounding Western Michigan area gathered there for a short time before being sent to other camps to be mustered into service. This camp also served as a temporary holding place for recruits under arrest for a variety of crimes, such as absent without leave, drunkenness, theft, etc.

S.A. Sheldon is one of the signatories at the bottom of some pages, as First Lieutenant. No research has yet been done to determine if he is the Captain Sheldon who later is said to have kept these documents and passed them on to Dr. A.C. Sheldon.

A document authored by Colonel N.J. Hall was previously attached to the inside back cover of this Guard Report. Colonel Norman Jonathon Hall was born in New York in 1837, but moved with his family to East Raisinville, Monroe Co., Michigan. He was an 1859 graduate of West Point Military Academy. He served with distinction during the Civil War, in spite of chronic health problems. He died in 1867. See the fuller biography by David Dorsey Finney, Jr., included in this collection. Hall's brief time in Grand Rapids is mentioned in this biography.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains one volume, Post Guard Reports, for Camp Lee, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The volume contains records of guards and prisoners, 1863-64. Because of the time period most of the recruits were draftees and not volunteers. It is unknown if additional such volumes were kept for other time periods or the possible location of these.

A letter from Colonel N.J. Hall, previously attached to the inside back cover of the volume with twine (?), has become detached, and has been placed in an acid free folder. (Dec. 2004)

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department October 1989

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Sue Silliman, 1920 (no accession number). In addition, accession number 2005.001.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 242, the Grand Rapids Public Library Civil War Documents Collection: see Coll. 242, for fuller documentation of other Civil War related materials

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- government records

Geographic Name(s)

- Camp Lee (Mich.)
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Military camps -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Post Guard Reports Nov. 7, 1863 – Apr. 3, 1864	1	1
<p>Scope and Contents note</p> <p>Photocopy is available in Box 2 - use of original document with permission of the archivist or department head only.</p> <p>Pages after the Apr. 3, 1864 posting have a variety of information scribbled on them, some scratched out, either from contemporary or later usage of the pages for note-taking.</p>		
Preservation photocopy of Post Guard Reports	2	1
[Letter] Head Quarter Draft Rendezvous. Grand Rapids, Michigan December 19, 1863	2	2
<p>Scope and Contents note</p> <p>Special order no. 2, Paragraph: VIIth. The Posts and duties of the Camp Guard from Revielle until Retreat will be as follows: ... No fire will be allowed on or near the Post of any Sentinal. By Order of Colonel N.J. Hall.”</p> <p>This document/letter was previously attached inside the back cover of the volume with twine, which has not become detached. The letter is written in black ink on 12.5 x 7.5 in. sheets of lined paper, with a 5th sheet (fragment, 5 ins. X 7.5 in., attached at the back with the Colonel’s</p>		

signature. Other notes in pencil or blue ink on the first page may be from later hands/use.

Portions of the top right cover of the pages are torn and lost. The left sides of the pages are torn and folded. A watermark can be seen in the upper corner of the first sheet has: Parsons Paper Col. Union, with a Union shield symbol.

Colonel Norman Jonathon Hall of the 7th Michigan Infantry, 1837-1867 :
a biographical sketch / David Dorsey Finney, Jr.

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