



Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Bronwyn Schell

Creator name: Daughters of Union Veterans, Tent #62

Inclusive Dates: 1927-1965

Physical Description: 1 half box, (0.5 linear feet)

Provenance:

The Daughters of Union Veterans Records, Tent #62 were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a national organization, with an overall governing structure, a sub-set of governing bodies by state, and internal officer structure for each local club, which they refer to as 'tents.' Each Tent is named after a Union nurse active during the Civil War, or other important women on the Union side. The Champaign club was Tent #62, named for Union nurse Catherine Bradley Rogerson. Tent #62 was founded in 1924 by a group of local women, including Eleanor Balnum and Effie Church, who would both go on to be president of the club.

The local branch was involved with the Grand Army of the Republic, and its successor organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The members were involved in various community efforts while the club was active, including many of the national branch initiatives. The local branch collected donations for Flower Fund every meeting, to fund sending flowers to Union War veterans, and later to their families. The club was occasionally involved in petitions and motions to protect the use of the Bible in schools. The club began to dissolve around 1963, as meeting attendance and frequency began to drastically decrease, with the last meetings occurring in 1965.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection appears to have been compiled from the papers of Nettie Anderson, who was a previous president of the Champaign branch, and secretary at the time of the club's dissolution. Most of the materials included appear to have been handed down or produced by Anderson herself. The largest collections of materials therefore relate to meeting minutes, and membership records, both of which Anderson was responsible for. Also present are a fairly large collection of official materials given to attendees of the regional Grand Army of the Republic conferences, during the 1930s-1950s. The contents of these booklets indicate that members of Tent #62 were regular attendees of these conference events throughout this period, although not when they first started attending, or when/if they stopped in later years. The most complete part of the collection are the Meeting Minutes books, which appear to span every meeting from the foundation of the club in 1927 until 1965, including



Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Records

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notations made for budgetary matters handled at the meeting, reference to changes in officers, and notes made if a meeting was cancelled. Some meeting locations are noted. The materials are written in several different hands, earlier entries made exclusively in pencil with some pen in later entries. Multiple hands are present, mostly written in cursive.

Arrangement:

Materials are arranged in two series: 1) Local Personnel and Membership Materials and 2) Official and National Publications. They are listed chronologically.

Subjects Terms:

Clubs--Records and Correspondence
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865
Genealogy--Societies, Etc.
Hereditary Societies
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Societies, etc.
Women--Societies and Clubs
Women--Societies and Clubs--Champaign--Records and Correspondence
Women--Societies and Clubs--Records and Correspondence

Names:

Anderson, Nettie
Balnum, Eleanor
Church, Effie
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Champaign Chapter

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Local Personnel and Membership Materials

Folder 1: Roll of Officers Books 1924-1928, 1944-1966
Folder 2: Membership Books c.1920s, c.1960s, 1952-1961
Folder 3: Meeting Minutes Book, bound black hardcover 1927-1935
Folder 4: Meeting Minutes Book, bound red and black hardcover 1935-1944
Folder 5: Meeting Minutes Book, bound red and black hardcover 1944-1965

Box 2

Folder 6: Attendance Book, red and black hardcover 1941-1951
Folder 7: Membership Reports 1944-1945, 1957-1966
Folder 8: Secretary's Correspondence 1955, 1959, 1962-1965
Folder 9: Champaign Personnel Records, c. 1950s

Series 2: Official and National Publications

Folder 10: Grand Army of the Republic Programs 1927, 1935, 1937, bulk 1941-1951
Folder 11: Official Membership Booklets, National and Regional c. 1950-c.1960
Folder 12: Journal of the Seventy-Third National Convention, yellow softcover 1963
Folder 13: Newsletters, National and Regional 1963-1965, 1970