



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No.: HRHS- 82

COLLECTION TITLE: Harrisonburg Guards Minute Book

DATES: 1877-1883

SIZE: 1 (one) folder

DONOR: unknown

PROCESSED: Processed 12/13/2014 by K. Craun and R. Wright. Very fragile, pages loose.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Harrisonburg/Rockingham County's military history dates back to 1758 when settlers were paid for provisions, shelter, and horses furnished in fighting the Indians as members of the county militia. It furnished at least one company in Dunmore's Indian War, taking part in the famous battle of Point Pleasant in 1774.

Company C from Harrisonburg/Rockingham County took part in the first Battle of Manassas, McDowell, Port Republic, Cedar Run, Second Manassas, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Petersburg and Appomattox. On May 12, 1898, Company C Harrisonburg Guards of the 2nd Virginia Infantry left for Cuba after being organized in Harrisonburg with Captain John Paul in command. Company C is still active in Harrisonburg.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Harrisonburg Guards were a volunteer militia company organized by Mr. J.K. Smith who worked at the *Old Commonwealth*.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Minute book for 'regular meetings' of Harrisonburg armory guards dated 1877-1883, 300 pages written by secretaries, C.H. Williams (p.18), John Harris (p.86), and C. H. Chandler (p. 225).

See pgs. 60-62 for appointments within the company.

Includes roll call of names in several places (p.41, 43, etc.). For example, on p.43: O.B. Roller, S.C. Myers, B.P.M. Quaide, C.B. Miller, J.C. Bowman, G.D.?Anthony, John

Grattau_?, John Kavenaugh, _H. Kur, W W. Meantz? H. H. Van Pelt, H. White, J.G? Yancey, J.E. Braithwaite, C.A. Braithwaite, J.H. Bramer, W. H. Carpenter, Allen, G.D.Anthony, J.W?Bear, etc.).

Approval signatures by Captain O.B. Roller, commander of the Guards, at end of the minutes for each meeting.

Newspaper clipping “Celebration of the third anniversary of the Harrisonburg Guards” (p. 134-135). The article describes program events, including drill exercises performed by the Guards in Harrisonburg on March 13, 1880. Many names are mentioned.

See page 154 for an 1881 newspaper clipping announcing Rockingham County Court’s ruling to dismiss a failure to attend as Grand Juror for W. H. Ritenour, entitling Ritenour to exemption from jury duty and from service as grand juror due to being “such a contributing member of the Volunteer Militia Company at Harrisonburg”.