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**GUIDE TO THE
CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AMERICAN LEGION COLLECTION**

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&
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5 – (10" x 15" x 12") Record Storage Boxes
1 Document Box
& 16 Oversized Scrapbooks

CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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COLLECTION HISTORY

Over the past 60 or 70 years, the Society has received a number of papers, reports, articles, scrapbooks, and photographs concerning the local, county and state American Legion Departments. In 1940, the Society was designated the depository for County American Legion documents and a number of them were sent to the Society, as loans, by Edgar Danielson, County Historian. The Society also received American Legion Documents as outright gifts by Mrs. Dorothy Kessler and Louis M. Bergbauer

A few years ago we attempted to gather the American Legion materials together. Our objective was to professionally arrange the documents and reports, describe them, and write a guide describing the entire body of our American Legion reports. Before embarking on this labor intensive project, we attempted to obtain permanent title to all the materials. We discovered that the father of one of our Society Trustees was an active member of the Haddonfield Post. He quickly went about having our Deed of Gift signed by the County Commander, Thomas J. Gallagher, and then went on to help arrange and describe the collection and aid in writing the Guide.

INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN LEGION

When the World War ended in 1918 the soldiers who fought the war were reluctant to end the common bond which was created among them in fighting for the same cause. Consequently, meetings were held at the Paris Convention in 1919 where the American Legion was born to care for their comrades-in-arms, their families, widows and orphans.. It was chartered by the United States Congress the same year..

The American Legion is the largest veterans organization in the world serving other veterans, their widows and their orphans. The Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Administration, is universally recognized as the originator of the G.I. Bill of Rights and is constantly working to maintain the rights and benefits earned by veterans through service to their country. It is a community-service organization numbering approximately three million members-men and women in nearly 15,000 Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized in fifty-five (55) Departments; one for each state plus Washington, DC, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

National Headquarters of the American Legion is located in Indianapolis with all Departments reporting to that location. County Committees or Districts report to each Department with each Post reporting to their respective County Committee or District.

One purpose of the American Legion is to further a strong sense of patriotism and loyalty through their well-known Americanism programs which include:

High School Oratorical Competitions	Flag Education
American Legion Baseball	Scholarship Information
Boys State/Boys Nation	Junior Shooting Sports
School Awards	Patriotic Holiday Observations
Scouting Sponsorships	

The Children and Youth program has three main objectives; to strengthen the family unit, to maintain well-rounded youth programs and to support other agencies and organizations which serve children and youth. Other programs focus on Veterans Employment, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Legislative matters. The American Legion is the advocate of the veteran and is their liaison with the legislators of our states and country.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

The Department of New Jersey was chartered in 1919 and is responsible for all American Legion activities within the State of New Jersey. Headquarters is located in Trenton, NJ and is staffed by Department Officers as well as clerical employees. Operating expenses are controlled by an approved budget and funds are obtained by retaining a portion of each member's dues prior to forwarding the remaining portion to National Headquarters to be used to fund their operating expenses.

CAMDEN COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

When the Department of New Jersey was formed in 1919 it opened the gates for the veterans of the New Jersey to request charters for their individual Posts. In order to initiate a request for a Post to be chartered signatures of fifteen (15) veterans were necessary. As these Posts were chartered all over the state it became obvious that some control would be necessary requiring County Committees or Districts to keep track of the growth and to monitor the Post with regard to the principles of the American Legion. In New Jersey there are 21 County Committees or Districts; one for each county. Each operate on a budget approved by the County Committee members and, on an annual basis, assess each Post within their limits a specified per capita charge to offset their operating expenses.

POSTS

Officers of the Post are elected each year. Structure of the Post is similar to the County, Department and National in that each has a Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer with Historian, Service Officer and Sergeant at Arms. Each Post is autonomous and is responsible for its own budget and operating expenses. Budgets are approved by membership and funds are obtained by membership dues retained prior to a predetermined per capita amount sent to the Department to offset their operating expenses. Post officers are responsible for the membership authenticity and it is up to them to verify the eligibility of each new member. In order to be eligible a member must have served at least one day in any of our military services during wartime. National Headquarters sets forth eligibility dates for each war and the members service must fall within the start and stop dates of their respective war. When criteria has been met the Post votes on acceptance of each new member.

From the National Headquarters down to the Department, County and Post level it is incumbent for all entities to pursue the goals of the organization. All levels of command have committees to foster the purposes of the organization; Americanism, Children and Youth, Employment, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Legislative matters.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the American Legion you will find that there is a certain prescribed procedure to be followed in operating a Post. Post organizations are microcosms of the National Headquarters as are the structures at Department and County levels. Minutes are kept at all levels and remain in the possession of each individual Post, County or Department.

La Grande Voiture De La Department of New Jersey

La Societe des Quarante Hommes at Huit Chevaux is an independent fraternal organization of veterans known as the "forty and eight" and was organized in 1920 by American Legionnaires as a fun and honor society. It is now composed of veterans of both World Wars in addition to the Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm conflict. It draws its origin from World War I when young Americans were sent to France to fight a war to end all wars. They were transported to and from the front in boxcars which were built to carry forty men or 8 horses. Each car was plainly stenciled to show the capacity. If one could laugh at a train ride in a car recently vacated by horses they could surely adapt to the changes in life when they returned home. Membership in the Forty & Eight is by invitation only for recognition of service to the American Legion and/or its programs.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

I. American Legion – Articles & Press Releases

7 Folders

Box.folder 1.1 to 1.7

Page 5

This series consists of articles and miscellaneous information on the National American Legion. Included are biographies of National, State, and County Post Officers, (1942-44), suggested addresses and press releases, patriotic articles from the American Legion Magazine (1933-47), and Histories of the American Legion, national and county.

II. The New Jersey Department

27 folders

Box.folder 1.8 to 3.12

Pages 5 - 6

This series contains Histories of the New Jersey Department from 1919 to 1949 and photographs from the 22nd Annual Convention (1940).

III. American Legion of Camden County

19 folders and 16 oversized scrapbooks

Scrapbooks 1 – 16 & Box.folder 3.13 to 4.11

Pages 7 - 9

The folders in this series include histories of the activities Camden County Department and the Minutes of the County Executive Committee, from 1922 to 1953. The Scrapbooks contain articles from the Courier-Post and other newspapers on activities of the Camden County American League and the local posts (1945-63).

IV. American Legion of Camden County – Individual Posts

12 folders

Box.folder 4.12 to 5.4

Pages 9 - 10

This series includes histories of Individual Camden County Posts (1919-45)

V. La Grande Voiture De La Department De New Jersey La Societe Des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux

12 folders

Box.folder 5.5 to 6.6

Page 11

History of La Grande Voiture of New Jersey, from 1919 to 1963

VI. Miscellaneous

1 folder

Box.folder 6.7

Page 12

Miscellaneous Souvenir Programs for activities of other local patriotic organizations, Honor Roll of church members, who served in World War I., etc.

CONTAINER LIST DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

SERIES I: AMERICAN LEGION - ARTICLES & PRESS RELEASES

- Box–folder**
1.1 Articles from the American Legion Magazine, 1933-1947.
(Editorials by National Commanders & patriotic articles by Department Officials).
- Box–folder**
1.2 Biographies of National American Legion Officers, Circa 1942-43.
- Box–folder**
1.3 Biographies of New Jersey Department and Camden County Post Officers, A-C,
Circa 1942-44.
- Box–folder**
1.4 Biographies of New Jersey Department and Camden County Post Officers, D-Z.
- Box–folder**
1.5 American Legion, History of and American Legion in Camden County – Rowan
University Student Paper.
- Box–folder**
1.6 Suggested Addresses and Press Releases (Circa 1940's)
- Box–folder**
1.7 American Legion National Convention, Chicago, Il., 1944, Proceedings & Press
releases.

Also see

- TA .JON** Jones, Richard S. *History of the American Legion*. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill,
1946. Hardcover, 393 pp. (80.70.3)
- TLG .RUM** Rumer, Thomas A. *The American Legion, An Official History, 1919-1989*. New
York, M. Evans & Co., 1990. Hardcover, 610 pp.

SERIES II: NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT

History of the Department of New Jersey, American Legion, 1919-1943 & Supplements (M227) – (Box-Folder 1.8 to 3.3)

- Box–folder**
1.8 History, Vol. 1, 1919-1920, Pages 1-31. Includes list of reports for all volumes.
- Box–folder**
1.9 History, Vol. 2, 1920-1923, Pages 32-140
- Box–folder**
1.10 History, Vol. 3, 1923-1925, Pages 141 - 248.

- Box–folder**
1.11 History, Vol. 4, 1925-1928, Pages 249 - 343.
- Box–folder**
1.12 History, Vol. 5, 1928-1929, Pages 344 - 401 – C1 – C15.
- Box–folder**
2.1 History, Vol. 6, 1929-1931, Pages 402 - 487
- Box–folder**
2.2 History, Vol. 7, 1931-1933, Pages 488 - 591.
- Box–folder**
2.3 History, Vol. 8, 1933-1935, Pages 592 - 692.
- Box–folder**
2.4 History, Vol. 9, 1935-1936, Pages 693 - 775.
- Box–folder**
2.5 History, Vol. 10, 1936-1937, Pages 776 - 850.
- Box–folder**
2.6 History, Vol. 11, 1937-1939, Pages 851 - 936
- Box–folder**
2.7 History, Vol. 12, 1939, Pages 937 - 1020.
- Box–folder**
2.8 History, Vol. 13, 1939-1941, Pages 1021 - 2050
- Box–folder**
2.9 History, Vol. 14, 1941-1943, Pages 2051 - 2169
- Box–folder**
2.10 History, Vol. 15, 1943-1944, Pages 2170 - 2206; (1) – (3-R)
- Box–folder**
3.1 Supplement to Department History, 1943-44 & 1944-45, (A) Pages A to 2169X.
- Box–folder**
3.2 Supplement to Department History, (B) Pages 2169Y – 2256.
- Box–folder**
3.3 Supplement to Department History, (C) Pages 2257-3061.
- Box–folder**
3.4 History, Department of New Jersey, The American Legion, 1948-1949.
- Box–folder**
3.5 New Jersey American Legion, 1st Annual Convention, 1919 & 22nd Annual Convention, Aug. 22 – 24, 1940, Camden, N.J. – Reports.
- Box–folder**
3.6 – 3.12 New Jersey American Legion, 22nd Annual Convention, Aug. 22 – 24, 1940, Camden, N.J. – Photographs (originally in binder, removed & placed in folders).

SERIES III: AMERICAN LEGION OF CAMDEN COUNTY**American Legion Activities in Camden County, N. J., 1945-1963, 16 Scrapbooks (80.70.1)**

Articles from the Courier-Post and other newspapers, on the Camden County American Legion And Local Post Activities.

Scrapbook

1 Camden County Publicity – The American Legion, 1945-1946. Louis M. Bergbauer.

Scrapbook

2 Camden County Publicity – 1946-1947. Edward Toussaint, County Commander.

Scrapbook

3 1948 – 1949, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

4 Camden County Committee, The American Legion, 1949-1950, Wesley Light, County Commander (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

5 Camden County Publicity, The American Legion, 1950-1951, Albert Davis, County Commander (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

6 Camden County Publicity, The American Legion, 1951-1952, Henry Smith, County Commander.

Scrapbook

7 Camden County Publicity, 1952-1953, William Baker, County Commander.

Scrapbook

8 Camden County Publicity, 1953-1954, Harvey F. Ellis, County Commander (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

9 Camden County Publicity, 1954-1955, John J. Reilly, County Commander (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

10 Publicity, 1955-1956, Cy Dunn, County Commander (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

11 Publicity, Camden County Committee, The American Legion, 1956-1957, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

12 Publicity, Camden County Committee, The American Legion, 1957-1958,

Scrapbook

13 1958-1959, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

14 1959-1960, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

15 1960-1961, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Scrapbook

16 1962-1963, (Compiled by Louis M. Bergbauer).

Box–folder

3.13 History, Camden County American Legion, 1948 and History, Camden County, 1951-52

Box–folder

3.14 History, The American Legion, Camden County, 1952-53, including Minutes of the Paris Caucus, 1919 (P1213)

Box–folder

3.15 Minutes & Other Papers of the Camden County Executive Committee, The American Legion, 1922-1929

Box–folder

3.16 History, Camden County Executive Committee, 1929-34

Box–folder

3.17 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1930 (M183)

Box–folder

3.18 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1931 (M183)

Box–folder

3.19 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1932 (M183)

Box–folder

3.20 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1933 (M183)

Box–folder

4.1 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1935

Box–folder

4.2 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1938-1939

Box–folder

4.3 Minutes & Correspondence, Camden County Executive Committee, 1940-1941

Box–folder

4.4 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1942 (M183)?

Box–folder

4.5 History of Camden County Executive Committee, 1942-1945 and History, 1942-1944

Box–folder

4.6 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1943

Box–folder

4.7 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1944

Box–folder

4.8 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1945 And History, Camden County Executive Committee, 1945-1946

Box–folder

4.9 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1946

Box–folder

4.10 Minutes, Camden County Executive Committee, 1947

Box–folder

4.11 Miscellaneous

SEE ALSO

MSS #479 Complete History of the Activities of the Entire County Legion Posts from 1917 to 1942 (American Legion Camden County History, 1919-1942)

MSS #372 Camden County Legion Records, 1940-1963 (80.70.4)

MSS #378 Camden County Legion History, 1942-57 (80.70.10)

MSS #380 Camden County Legion Activities, 1943-1949 (80.70.12).

MSS #373 Camden County Legion Committees, 1939-59, including Patriotic Committees for Parades and special observations (80.70.5)

MSS #377 Camden County Legion Committees, 1949-64 (80.70.9)

MSS #374 World War I Memorial & Monument Committee, Camden (80.70.6)

MSS #375 Camden City Veterans Committee for Patriotic Holidays & Activities, 1960-1962 (80.76.7)

SERIES IV: AMERICAN LEGION OF CAMDEN COUNTY – INDIVIDUAL POSTS

Box–folder

4.12 Camden Post #7 & Haddonfield Post #38, 1940-1943

Box–folder

4.13 History of Haddonfield Post No. 38, 1919-1941, by John W. Dannenhower, Historian (M192); History of Haddonfield Post #38,...1919; and, Haddonfield Post No. 38, 48th Annual Last Man's Dinner, souvenir program, April 4, 1988 (88.106).

- Box–folder**
4.14 History of Laurel Spring Post #56, 1931-1941 (M191); History of Frederick W. Grigg Post No. 68, Merchantville, Feb 1941 (M197).
- Box–folder**
4.15 History of Fairview Post 71, Camden. N.J., 1934-1935. (M189) and History of Oaklyn – Beetle Wood Post #84.
- Box–folder**
4.16 History of Pennsauken Troup, Post 125, Pennsauken Township, 1928-1940 (M189).
- Box–folder**
4.17 History, Hoyle-Butcher Post #149. Haddon Heights, NJ, 1937-1938; and, History of Barrington Post, 223, 1932-1940 (M187)
- Box–folder**
4.18 History of American Legion Public Service Southern Div. Post 231, 1944-1950; and History, 1932-1945 (Bound Volume).
- Box–folder**
4.19 History of John Irwin Post 250, Runnemede, Compiled by L.A. Parsons, 1920-1941 (81.66) and, History to 1937; History of Laurel Springs Post #259, 1942?.
- Box–folder**
5.1 History of Murray-Trout Post 262, Audubon, Beginnings to 1939/40.
- Box–folder**
5.2 Constitution (1937), Murray-Trout Post 262, Audubon; and History, 1941-1945.
- Box–folder**
5.3 History, Murray-Trout Post 262, Audubon, (Vol. 2), 1939 – 1941
- Box–folder**
5.4 History, Camden Post Office Post #264 (Formation to 1940) (M184); 1942 Legion Year; and, History, George R. Duncan Post 271, Berlin, N.J., 1925-1939.

SEE ALSO

- MSS #371** History of American Legion Public Service Post #231 from 1932 – 1944 by Louis Bergbauer (80.70.2)
- MSS #379** Activities of Post #231, Camden, N.J., 1944-1964 (80.70.11)

SERIES V: LA GRANDE VOITURE DE LA DEPARTMENT DE NEW JERSEY LA SOCIETE DES 40 HOMMES ET 8 CHEVEAUX

- Box–folder**
5.5 History La Grande Voiture of N.J., American Legion, 1949-1950 & History, 1951, by Louis M. Bergbauer
- Box–folder**
5.6 Grande Voiture History, 1952 and History, 1953, by Louis M. Bergbauer.
- Box–folder**
5.7 History of the La Grande Voiture, 1954, by Louis M. Bergbauer (M-225)
- Box–folder**
5.8 History of the Grande Voiture, 1955 Louis M. Bergbauer (P-1250-1)
- Box–folder**
5.9 History of the Grande Voiture, 1956, Louis M. Bergbauer (P-1250-2)
- Box–folder**
5.10 History of the Grande Voiture, 1957, Louis M. Bergbauer (P-1250-3)
- Box–folder**
6.1 History of the Grande Voiture, 1958, Louis M. Bergbauer
- Box–folder**
6.2 History of the Grande Voiture, 1959, Louis M. Bergbauer
- Box–folder**
6.3 History of the Grande Voiture, 1960, Frederick C. Capel, Jr.
- Box–folder**
6.4 History of the Grande Voiture, 1961, Frederick C. Capel, Jr.
- Box–folder**
6.5 History of the Grande Voiture, 1962, Frederick C. Capel, Jr.
- Box–folder**
6.6 History of the Grande Voiture, 1963, Frederick C. Capel, Jr.

ALSO SEE

- MSS #376** La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Voiture. Camden County Voiture #40, 1947 – 1962 (80.70.8).

SERIES VI: MISCELLANEOUS

Box-folder

6.7

Souvenir Program, 22nd Annual Encampment, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Camden, NJ, June 27-30, 1940.N.J.

Souvenir Program, First Annual dinner, Veterans Political League of Camden, Dec. 16, 1939.

Memorial Service in Honor of Corporal Raymond Campbell Thoirs, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Camden, NJ, Dec. 8th, 1918.

Honor Roll of the Presbytery of West Jersey, A record of those associated with its churches who were engaged in Government Service during the World War, 1917-18, Compiled by Addison Berg Collins, 1920.

[Program] Capt. H. G. Sparrow, All Navy Ship, No. 1269, Veterans of Foreign Wars of U.S., Naval Dance, Held at U.S. Naval Reserve Armory, Camden Civic Centre, Camden, N.J., May 13, 1939.