

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Records, 1913-1978

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Title	Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Records
Dates	1913-1978 (inclusive) 1913 1978 1962-1978 (bulk) 1962 1978
Quantity	.45 linear feet (1 document case)
Collection Number	Mss 2937
Summary	A patriotic and civic society organized in 1881, composed of male descendents of Union Civil War veterans. The records consist of correspondence, reports, memoranda, membership rosters, newsletters, charter certificates, and biographical sketches.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

In 1866, Union veterans of the Civil War organized into the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which existed until 1956. In 1881, the GAR formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions. Membership was open to any man who could prove ancestry to a member of the GAR or to a veteran eligible for membership. Men who did not have the ancestry to qualify for membership, but who could subscribe to the objectives of the SUVCW, were admitted as associates. In 1925 the SV name was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), and the organization's federal charter was issued in 1954.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military division of the SUVCW. SVR units participate in Civil War-related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and re-enactments.

The SV Owen Summers Camp No. 4, Department of Oregon and Washington, was chartered in 1913 in Portland, Or. In 1963 Claude R. Butcher, a member of the SUVCW, organized a local unit of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) in Lake Oswego, Or.

Content Description

The records (1913-1978) consist of materials from Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Owen Summers Camp No. 4 and the local Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) unit. The records consist of correspondence, reports, memoranda, membership rosters, newsletters, charter certificates, and biographical sketches.

Topics include formation of the local unit of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), expansion of membership, public activities, and performances of the Oregon Blues Brigade Fife and Drum Corps, a unit of the SVR. Many of the records relate to the activities of Claude R. Butcher, Commander of the Sixth Military District of the SVR.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Records, Mss2937, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Correspondence and other materials are arranged chronologically in folders.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Dr. Eugene S. Sullivan, 1991 (Accession number 20591).

Separated Materials

Photographs have been separated from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Records and will be made available at a future date.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Correspondence	1962-1963
1/2	Correspondence	1964
1/3	Correspondence	1965
1/4	Correspondence	1966
1/5	Correspondence	undated
1/6-7	Correspondence and ephemera--Oregon Blues Brigade Fife and Drum Corps	circa 1964-1978
1/8	Newsletter-- <i>Civil War News -- From Historical Records</i>	1961-1962
1/9	Membership rosters and biographical sketches	circa 1968-1975
1/10	Charter certificates--Owen Summers Camp No. 4	1913 and 1918
1/11	Letterhead and forms	undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Fife and drum corps music--United States--History.

Fife and drum corps--United States--History.

Patriotic societies--Oregon--History.

Personal Names :

Butcher, Claude R. (Claude Raymond), d. 1983.

Corporate Names :

Grand Army of the Republic.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War--Archives.

(creator)

Form or Genre Terms :

Charters.

Correspondence.

Newsletters.

Rosters.

Finding aid compiled by Geoffrey B. Wexler
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