



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

NICHOLS, HUGH C.
PAPERS
(1879-ca. 1964)
1901-[1928-1948]-1964

Processed by:

James Castro
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 2003.081

Location: VII-L-3

Date: 11-3-03

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid covers the Hugh C. Nichols Papers, 1901-[1928-1948]-1964. This collection occupies two boxes, .75 linear feet of shelf space and numbers approximately 700 items. These documents were kept by Nichols, and concern the United Spanish War Veterans Association. Contained here are membership records, membership cards, and roster lists for the 20th Infantry Regiment, the regiment Nichols served with during the Spanish-American War. Also included are several artifacts that were collected by Nichols after the war.

The materials in this finding aid have been separated into two boxes: one contains the documents and the other contains the artifacts. The papers were originally organized in several binders, and arranged separately in each binder. Where possible, Nichols' original arrangement has been maintained. Single photocopies of the unpublished writings in the Hugh C. Nichols Papers may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hugh C. Nichols was born in Tennessee in 1879. He enlisted in the United States Army on December 24th, 1898 in Leavenworth, Kansas, and served with Company "C" of the 20th Infantry Regiment. He saw action in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Nichols was honorably discharged on December 24th, 1901 in California.

Nichols returned to Tennessee no later than 1908. He married his wife, Fielding, in 1911 and they had at least three sons: Earl, William Alfred, and Andrew L. Nichols. An obituary for him could not be located, and he is not found in any Tennessee records or documents later than 1964.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hugh C. Nichols Papers span the years 1901-1964, but the main focus of the papers is from the years 1928-1948.

Box 1 of the collection is mostly comprised of records and information relating to the 20th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association. Nichols was a member of Company "C" of this Regiment during the Spanish-American War, and joined the 20th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association in 1929. His membership application can be found with the applications of other members of his company in this collection. Other records of the 20th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association include: the association's constitution, which was formally adopted in 1934; a history of the 20th Infantry Regiment; a poetry collection of the 20th Infantry Regiment's poet laureate, Cora Willis; membership applications; the minutes of annual reunion meetings; and membership roster lists from 1935 and 1937. Most of these documents were collected, kept, and arranged by Nichols. The poetry collection is arranged by the dates the poems were written and the veteran's association membership applications and roster sheets are arranged by company.

Also included in this collection are a very small number of Hugh C. Nichols' personal Christmas cards, postcards, brochures, and pamphlets collected by Nichols during his life. Included in this section is a personal letter from former President Harry Truman, with whom Nichols had evidently corresponded.

Box 2 of the collection is comprised of artifacts collected by Nichols following his service in the Spanish-American War. Included here is the banner of the 20th Infantry Regiment's Headquarters; Nichols' ribbons from the first, third, fourth, eighth, ninth, fourteenth and fifteenth annual reunions of his veterans association; a Mauser bullet removed from the stock of a rifle; and the sign for the official car of the Spanish War veterans.

Nichols was also a member of the United Spanish War Veterans Association, Colonel William C. Smith Camp No. 20, which was comprised of Spanish-American War veterans living in and around Nashville, Tennessee. A roster list of the camp from 1964 is included in this collection. For more information on the United Spanish War Veterans Association, Col. William C. Smith Camp No. 20, see the United Spanish War Veterans Records, 1940-1943, Location: XIV-E-6. In that collection are also several letters to and from Hugh C. Nichols, who was the camp's quartermaster, that pertain to the running of the camp. See also Spanish-American War Records, Veterans Rosters, 1924-1927, 1 Volume, Microfilm Number 69.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1:

1. Personal Christmas Cards, Postcards and the Letter from President Truman
2. Veteran's Association Membership cards (1929-1948) & Nichols' United Spanish War Veterans National *Aide de Camp* Certificate.
3. Brochures, Pamphlets & Ephemera
4. 20th Infantry Veterans Association Constitution
5. History of the 20th Infantry Regiment Document and Booklet
6. Collection of Poems by 20th Infantry Association Poet Laureate, Cora Willis
7. 20th Infantry Association Membership Applications; Companies A, B, C & D
8. 20th Infantry Association Membership Applications; Companies E, F, G & H
9. 20th Infantry Association Membership Applications; Companies I, K, L & M
10. 20th Infantry Association Membership Applications; Unclassifieds
11. 20th Infantry Association Annual Meeting Minutes, 1928-1934
12. 20th Infantry Association Annual Meeting Minutes, 1935-1947
13. History of Company C; January, 1899-March, 1902
14. 1935 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Companies B-E
15. 1935 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Companies F-M
16. 1935 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Non-Commissioned Officers, Officers & Unclassifieds
17. 1937 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Companies A-E
18. 1937 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Companies F-M
19. 1937 20th Infantry Association Roster Lists; Non-Commissioned Officers, Officers & Unclassifieds
20. 1964 Colonel William C. Smith Camp No. 20 Roster List

Box 2

1. 20th Infantry Regiment Headquarters Banner (Folded, Very Fragile)
2. Annual 20th Infantry Regiment Association Reunion Ribbons
3. Mauser Bullet
4. Spanish War Veterans Official Car Sign