

The STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MISSOURI

**R1287 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
Department of Missouri. William T. Stewart Camp No. 14 (Cape Girardeau, Mo.),
Auxiliary No. 7.
Minute book, 1920-1929.
One volume.**

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

PROVENANCE

The John S. Phelps Camp No. 66 (Springfield, Mo.) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War donated this item to the State Historical Society of Missouri on 10 May 2012; accession SHSMO-RA1559.

HISTORY

This is a 152-page minute book Auxiliary No. 7 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the United States of America (SV), William T. Stewart Camp No. 14 (Cape Girardeau, Mo.). Rescued from a southwest Missouri antique shop by the Springfield camp of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUVCW), the volume contains minutes of the fortnightly meetings of the SV Auxiliary No. 7 from 1920 through 1929. Auxiliary No. 7 and its counterparts elsewhere represented the distaff side of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, founded in 1878. The patriotic and fraternal organization was associated with the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and its female auxiliaries, and participated in many of the same activities including Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) and July 4th commemorations. The two organizations also shared elements of fraternal life such as patriotic rituals, regalia, life insurance plans, and state and national meetings called encampments. The groups never merged, but when the GAR officially disbanded in 1956 it designated the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (as the Sons of Veterans had been renamed in 1925) as its legal successor.

Unlike the GAR, which became a political force to be reckoned with in the late 19th century, the SV (later SUVCW) was essentially a social organization based on commemorative and patriotic themes, a character reflected in the minutes of the Cape Girardeau auxiliary. Official business transacted at most meetings was brief and generally included communiqués from state and national headquarters, patriotic readings, and elections of officers. Frequently the meetings were given over to reports on the welfare of sick or absent members, socializing and fundraising through quilt raffles, ten-cent sales, ice cream socials, and euchre parties to meet expenses for hall rental, regalia, Memorial Day decorations, and per capita taxes paid to the state department. The significant affairs were the annual installation of the Auxiliary's officers in January, celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in February and public ceremonies on Memorial Day in cooperation with GAR and Sons of Veterans delegations. There is no roster of the Auxiliary, but those women who can be readily identified appear to have been the wives of men who traced their lineage to Union soldiers from Cape Girardeau and Perry counties. During the period for which the minutes exist, Lillie Markhart, Lydia Schneider and Emma Thilenius were among the most active members, serving long terms as president and secretary of the Auxiliary.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The volume contains minutes of meetings of Auxiliary No. 7 of Cape Girardeau's William T. Stewart Camp No. 14, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, from 26 November 1920 through 16 October 1929.

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PREFERRED CITATION

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INVENTORY

Minutes of meetings, 20 November 1920—16 October 1929. One volume; 152 pp.

INDEX TERMS

Cape Girardeau (Mo.).
Societies—Missouri—Cape Girardeau.
Sons of Veterans of the Civil War.
Sons of Veterans of the United States of America.
Women—Societies and clubs.