

Kansas City Guards Record Book

The Kansas City Guards was a local, independent military organization active from 1876-circa 1880. This collection contains what appears to be their initial record book. Included are minutes, membership lists, and newspaper clippings.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kansas City Guards/Jackson County National Guards

Title: Kansas City Guards record book

Dates: December 2, 1876-January 6, 1878

Size: 1 box, 1 ledger book

Location: SC100

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Related Sources: *Evolution of the Missouri Militia Into the National Guard of Missouri, 1804-1919* by Dr. John Glendower Westover, MVSC Q 353.9 M678E; *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, Acting Quartermaster General and Acting Paymaster General, State of Missouri, for the Years 1875 and 1876*, MVSC PF 097 M67B.

Acquisition information: Purchase, May 1950; \$25.

Citation: Kansas City Guards record book (SC100), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/historical note

Military companies were one of the types of organizations open to men in Kansas City toward the end of the 19th century. One of these independent military groups was the Kansas City Guards (also referred to as the Kansas City National Guard) later to change their name to the Jackson County National Guards. It is mentioned in this ledger book that a militia bill was before the Missouri State Legislature (p.58) and that the name change came about under new state laws.

According to the number of names found in the record book, the group appears to have had around 125 individuals associated with it over the two-year period covered in this collection. They met frequently during their most active period. As an example, at the November 1877 meeting there were 43 members in good standing and 13 doubtful. According to the minutes they were organized December 1, 1876, and reorganized in January 1877. This collection contains what appears to be the first record book maintained by the group and covers the time period from December 2, 1876, to January 6, 1878.

It was considered essential that the Guards have an armory in which to hold their meetings and drills. During this time period the location of their activity was in the area not far from the beginning, riverfront area of Kansas City. This too was close to the area where most of the participants lived. Places mentioned in the minutes for meeting locations included: Armory Building at 5th and Main, McDowell's Hall at 540-42 Main, old Academy of Music, and the new county courthouse which was especially desired as it was to be rent free. They also drilled and marched at the Fairgrounds and held a rifle contest on a sand-bar

below the city. A drum and fife corps was also part of the unit and much of the discussion in the minutes involves the acquiring of uniforms for the members.

There was a definite social aspect to the group's persona. One of the activities frequently discussed was the sponsorship of a ball or dance. McDowell's Hall was usually secured for the event with the Palace Restaurant, Barnum's Hotel and Mortons also mentioned. Music was provided by Professor Banta and his band and John's Band led by Professor Hines is also mentioned. The last ball mentioned in this record book was one in which the Governor of Missouri was to attend. Other social events mentioned included picnics and excursions to St. Joseph, Missouri and to the home of Col. John T. Crisp in Independence, Missouri. Newspaper clippings describing these events are included in the ledger.

In looking under the heading of "Military Companies" beginning in the 1878 Kansas City directory, the group is listed as the Jackson County National Guards, Company A. They are listed in 1879 as well as 1880 and do not appear under this heading in 1881 or 1882. Craig Rifles is the one other military company listed in this time period.

Scope and content note

The ledger book consists of 175 pages with handwritten minutes, membership roll and newspaper clippings. It measures 8" x 12" and is leather bound. Inside the front cover is written the names of 26 members. The title for the book reads "Records of Meetings, Kansas City Guards, R. W. Hart 'Secretary'." Other secretaries included J. E. Vincil, W.F. Pitts, and L.B. Bullene. Those listed as President of the group include: Charles Whitehead, city editor of the *Times* newspaper; E. R. Lewis, a physician; and F. P. Clark[e], deputy clerk in the Circuit Court.

The order followed at the meetings as found on page two included: roll call, reading of the minutes of the last meeting, reports of special and standing committees, application for membership, balloting, unfinished business, new business, appeal from fines, and adjournment. It is apparent that the group had a constitution, but it was not included in this ledger book. There was also a Council of Administration which met separately and probably included the officers of the group. It apparently was formed in the summer of 1876 but did not assume control of the affairs of the company, according to the "President's Message" found on page 51.

Newspaper clippings are found pasted on the following pages: p.133-136, description of excursion on railroad to St. Joseph, Missouri on July 4, 1877, from *St. Joseph Gazette*; p.146, military companies at the Exposition Association Fair, September, 1877; p.152-53, trip to home of Col. John Crisp in Independence, Missouri, Fall 1877; p.161, presentation of medal by Mrs. Monteville, Fall 1877; p.162, account of rifle shooting contest, Fall, 1877. All of the clippings have been photocopied. The official membership roll is found at the end of the ledger book on page 174-175. Shorter membership listings are found scattered elsewhere in the book with member names also listed in the newspaper clippings. All of these sources were used to compile the list of members below. Newspaper accounts of names were not always accurate and the handwritten roll names were often hard to decipher.

The group seemed to operate on the formation of committees with such names as membership, uniforms, printing, finance, armory, collections, ways and means, revising Constitution, etc. Court martial was also apart of the company's activities. These can be found on page 69, 97, and 103. Collection of dues and regular attendance were items of constant concern. Resolutions that came up

during meetings included a relief fund for members, whether to drill one or two nights a week, social hops, and social activities. Also important to the group were the shooting drills and rifle practices.

An analysis of the membership and directory listings as provided below, reveal the demographics of the group. Several family names prominently associated with the history of Kansas City appear on the rolls. These include Fred Chouteau, L.G. Bullene, and Frank Wornall. Where directory entries were found for the members, it revealed that the majority were listed as clerks and bookkeepers in various businesses, mostly downtown. Many of the members boarded in hotels or boarding houses. Although ages are not provided, it would seem plausible from this information that many were young men probably in their twenties. The leaders of the group were established more in professions and were probably older.

Although the record book does not reveal in exact terms the group's intent, the protection of the city/metro area as well as a sense of civic duty and pride in wearing a uniform was probably important. A state of readiness was apparent and it is noted in the newspaper clipping found on page 152 that they were "the only company of Missouri State National Guards duly and legally organized under State law west of the State Capital...." In this same clipping, Col. John Crisp said, "he recognized in the well drilled Guards before him the nucleus of the future American army. The young men before him were those who would soon be called to drill and discipline - the army which would cross the Rio Grande and make Mexico a portion of the United States. He said he believed in annexation and hoped to see the bright star glittering flag of the Union float over all the Central American States."

Roll of the Kansas City Guards

Names found on p. 174-175 of record book, May, 1876? with accompanying entry as found in the 1877 Kansas City city directory unless otherwise noted

Archer, James - Stencil cutter, 514 Main

Atcherson, C.E. - dancing master, r. 518 Walnut

Banta, D.W. - Musician, r. 1411 Grand

Beamer - Beamer, Frank B., clk, Kansas City, Stock Yard Co., r. Home cor. Independence Avenue (Only Beamer in directory), Mentioned in newspaper clipping on p. 135 of ledger book

Bodine, L.C. (crossed out) - with *Journal*, r. 705 Wyandotte

Bovard, Jno - 3 separate listings in city directory starting with J.

Boyer - Boyer, H.A., manager L. Harvey, r. Main & 7th (only Boyer in directory)

Brown, Cyrus - (Brown & Thrower), r. 1718 Locust,

Bullene, L.B. - clerk, Bullene, Moore & Emerys, boards 918 Delaware [Not on membership list but signs as secretary of later minutes]

Butler, Thos. (crossed out) - Butler, T.W., stoves and tinware, 548 Main, r. 1313 Walnut

Campbell, Jno (crossed out) - 3 listings in city directory

Campbell, William - 3 listings in city directory

Carpenter, A.L. (crossed out) - r. Independence Avenue, se. cor. Oak (1878 directory)

Carson, J.B. - James B. Carson, clk., Tootle, Hanna & Co., boards, Delmonico

Chapman - Several in directory - W.C. Chapman listed in newspaper clipping on p. 135 of ledger book

Chouteau, Fred - r. 412 Charlotte

Clark, F.P. - Frank P. Clark, dept. circuit clerk, r. 537 Cherry

Clarke, George (crossed out) - r. 605 Cherry (1878 directory)

Craig, J.L. - Craig, James, treas. & financial agent, board of education, 728 Main, r. Locust south of limits

Crawford, Geo. - Crawford, George A., clk., Auditor's office, K.P. Railway, r. 904 Washington

DeHaven, Brent - clk., K.C.B. & N. Co., boards, Lindell Hotel

Dickinson - C.H. Dickinson listed in newspaper clipping on p.135. Entry in 1877 city directory: clk. S.K. Green, boards, 8th, ne. cor. Oak

Ditsch, P.W. - jr., r. 216 Main

Everhart - Everhart, W.B., carpenter, 3rd and Main, r. 3rd & Campbell (only Everhart in directory)

Fallen, Jno - not in directory

Ferguson, J.H. - clk., Abernathy, North, & Orrison, r. 922 Walnut

Field, H.L. (crossed out) - not in directory

Fowler, Jno - clk., J.W. Henrie

**Gerould, L.B. (crossed out) - Williamson & Gerould, boards, 527 Wyandotte
Griffith, D. - not in directory**

Harding, W.K. - teller, Mastin Bank, stockyards, r. 1300 Locust

Hart, R.W. (crossed out) - Hart, Robert, bkkpr, *Evening Mail*, 307 E. 12th

Horn, A.W. - clk., John A. Poll & Co., boards, Smart House

Hunter, Ed R. - Hunter, E.R., bkkpr., Mastin Bank, r. 1018 Main

Kinzer, Geo. E. - bkkpr., boards, Lindell Hotel

Kolbeck, Jno - (J.H.) - clk. P.J. Ostergard, r. Madison av., ne.cor.16th (1878 city directory)

Lewis, E.R. (Eugene) - physician, 7th & Main

McGee, [C.R.] - McGee, Curtis R., clk., J.McKillop & Co., r. 16th and Wyandotte

McGroady - not in directory, John McGrady listed in newspaper clipping found on p.135, city directory listing reads: clk. Irwin, Allen & Co., r. 1434 Broadway

McRea, Chas. - McRae, C.H., saloon (Little Church Around the Corner, p. 162, clipping) (Crowley and McRae in saloon listing in directory), Missouri Ave. & Main, r. 960 Main

Mansfield, H. (crossed out) Mansfield, Harry - clk., J.F. Corle, r. 413 E. 3rd

Mayer, Gus - travel agent, r. 6th between Walnut and Grand

Million, Chas. (crossed out) - Million, Charles J. - clk., Mo. Valley Bank, r. 6 E. 12th

Mintum, H. - Mintun, Henry, printer *Journal*, r. 1515 Main

Montville, M. - Montville, Mitchell, railroad ticket broker, 916 Union Ave., r. 1017 Penn

Mott, Wm - Mott, William L., bkkpr., W.E. Croysdale, boards, 415 E. 5th

Myers, Geo. [M.] (crossed out) - Myers, George R. - baggage man, boards at City Hotel

Newgent - 3 listed in directory

Painter, C.F. - stock dealer, r. 1276 Liberty, W.K.

Peake, D.B. - Peake, David B., clk., whol. dept., Bullene, Moore & Emerys, r. 1010 McGee

Perry, Chas. - chemist, F. Wocher & Co., boards, Lindell Hotel

Pitts, Wilbur - Pitts, Wilbur F. - clk., J. McKillop & Co., boards, 10th and Main

Pourade, E.F. (crossed out) - designer, G.C. Banta, r. 564 Campbell

Ransom, Henry - Ranson, Henry S., boards McGee between 9th and 10th

Schwartz, A.D. - cigars & tobacco, 118 W. 5th

Seachrist (Possibly Gilchrist?) - 3 listings in directory

Seatley, Frank - not in directory

Sloan, C.C. - Sloan, Charles C., bkkpr., Platt & Brooks, r. 13th and Delaware

Spann, B.P. - Spann, Bailey, driver, U.S. Ex. Co., boards, 404 E. 5th

Stark, W.T. - Stark, William T., student J.K. Stark, r. 810 Harrison

Thrower, Thos S. - (Brown & Thrower), r. 1709 Main

Vincil, J.E. - Vincil, James E., bkkpr., Abernathy, North & Orrison, boards, 1304 Locust

Warrick, S.H. - manager J.F. Cosby, r. 1012 Jefferson

Webster, T.C. - Webster, Thomas C., asst. bkkpr., Smith & Keating, r.

Walnut between Missouri Ave. & 6th

Whitehead, Chas. - local editor, *Times*, 1st and Walnut

Wood, Ben - 3 listings in directory

Wood - Wood, O.H., with R.W. Wood, r. 13th between Penn and Jefferson

Other names found in the ledger book on page 12, December 8, 1876 meeting, under the heading "The following members failed to answer when their names were called" and the names are not listed above. Included with the name is the 1877 Kansas City city directory listing when found, unless otherwise noted.

Atkinson, J.B. - clk. J.E. Forbes, boards Delmonico Hotel

Barbor, Charles - Charles [Barber] - clk., W.E. Thorne, boards Grand Central - 1876 directory

Bouton, E.H. - Edward H. Bouton, r. 912 Forest Ave.

Bromley, Wm. - William H. Bromley, bkkpr. W.L. Ellison, r 1023 Penn

Brooks, C., jr. - Charles N. - commercial editor *Times*, r. 1017 Oak

Brown, J. Hale - John H. Brown, ins. agt. 16,w. 5th, r. Wyandotte, Kas.

Burham, C.E. - Not in directory

Cahn, A. - not in directory

Causadine, J.W. - Not in directory

Cobb, C.W. - Charles W. Cobb, traveling agt. Gates & Kendall, r. 312 Delaware

Connell, Jno. - clk. Henry Ganz, r. 612 E. 3rd

Crawford, E. - not in directory

Crawford, H.A. - not in directory

Dickinson, Dr. - D.K. Dickinson, physician, r. 8th, ne. cor. Oak - 1876 directory

Dragon, Thomas - conductor, Kansas City Transfer Co., r. 816 May

Ford, Ed - Edward N. Ford, carriage mkr., r. 3d, ne. cor. Locust

Gravas, H.M. - Not in directory

Keating, A..C. - Arthur C. Keating, salesman Smith & Keating, boards, 1115 Oak

Keller, George - boards Barnum's Hotel

Keuger, G.E. - not in directory

Lapscott, Ed - not in directory

McDermott, J.F. - collector, Bullene, Moore & Emerys

Myers, Gus - not in directory (Perhaps Gus Mayer as listed above)

Nelson, Samuel - Samuel W. Nelson, jeweler, 36 Main, r. same - 1876 director

Parsons, E.A. - Edward A. Parsons, clk. Bullene, Moore & Emerys, r. 11th, cor. Delaware - 1876 directory

Reid, John H. - bkkpr. Kansas City Savings Association, r. 1214 Wyandotte

Robertson, W.H. - r. 20th, cor. Harrison

Snider, Adrew - Andy J. Snider, (Barse & Snider), r. 901 McGee

Thomas, J.P. - trader, r.526 Main

Vandenberg, O.P. - O.P. Vandenberg, carpenter, r. 1735 Walnut

Vincent, Wm. - Not in directory

White, Robert - asst. cashier, Kansas City Savings Association, r 601 Independence Ave.

Woodson, R.E. - Robert E. Woodson, librarian, Kansas City Law Library Association, r509 Walnut

Worne[a]ll, Frank. - bkkpr. Bank of Kansas City, r. south of Westport

Additional names found inside front cover of ledger book and elsewhere. Entry in Kansas City city directory given if possible.

Davenport (front cover)

Davidson, Gus (front cover) - cigarmkr. B. Davidson, r. ss. 10th, between Main and Delaware (1878 directory)

Ford, C.D. (p. 156) - Charles D. Ford, clk Jonathan Ford, r. 9th, ne. cor. Troost Ave. (1877 directory)

Ford, George (front cover) - porter, Abernathy, North & Orrison, r. 914 Forest (1878 directory)

Haile, J.M. (newspaper clipping on p. 162) John M. Hale, clk., Metropolitan Hotel (1878 directory)

Heavy, Mr. (newspaper clipping on p.162)

Hickman (front cover, p. 151)

Johns, Lt. [E.] (front cover) - Erastus R. Johns - bkkpr. A. Johns & Bro, r. 1728 Grand Ave. (1877 directory)

Majors, E.M. (p.171-2) - Edward M. Majors, Rial, Cox & Co., bds 1512 Delaware (1878 directory)

Millspaugh (front cover, p.170) - J.J.S. Millspaugh, "The Shirter", 906 Main, r.1027 Penn (1878 directory)

Mumford, John (newspaper clipping on p. 162) Wm. Mumphord found on p. 158 - W.B. Mumford, address Kansas City, Kansas (1878 directory)

Norman, Chris (p.158) - Christ Norman, foreman R.W. Wood & Bro., r. Levee, cor. Grand Ave. (1878 directory)

Patton/Patten (front cover, p.167)

Platt, S.J. (newspaper clipping on p. 162) - Samuel J. Platt, carpenter, r. 906 Harrison (1877 directory)

Riley (front cover)

Rupert (front cover)

Sharpley, Mr. (newspaper clipping on p.162) - William Sharpley, clk. E.T. Kellogg, r. Walnut, se. cor. 5th (1877 city directory)

Spraker (front cover) - George Spraker, clk. Doggett & Smith, boards 404 E. 5th (1878 directory)

Twitchill, Mr. D.S. (p.170, 173) - Daniel S. Twitchill, Jenkins & Twitchell, r. Troost Ave., se. cor. Independence Ave. (1878 directory)

Updegraft (newspaper clipping on p.135)

Van Paten, J.E. (newspaper clipping on p.162)

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