



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

ADJUTANT GENERAL

An Inventory of the Records of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Office of the Adjutant General.
- Series Title:** Records of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry,
- Dates:** 1861-1865.
- Abstract:** A descriptive book, morning reports, orders, a letterbook, post guard reports, proceedings of the regimental council, medical records, and miscellaneous reports of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.
- Quantity:** 2.5 cu. ft. (13 v. in 3 boxes and 1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE FIRST MINNESOTA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Following the fall of Fort Sumter (April 14, 1861), President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 federal troops to serve for three months. Governor Ramsey immediately tendered an offer of 1000 men from Minnesota, and they were mustered in on April 29. In May, the regiment was reorganized for a three year term, and those who chose to re-enlist were re-mustered along with new recruits to comprise a full regiment.

The First Minnesota was ordered to Washington, D.C., in June, 1861, and took part in every battle of the Army of the Potomac during the first three years of the war. Its most noted engagement was at the Battle of Gettysburg (July 2, 1863), in which its near-suicidal charge of advancing Confederate troops on Cemetery Ridge bought time for Union reinforcements to arrive to hold the ridge. A monument on the battlefield commemorates this action.

The regiment was mustered out on May 5, 1864, at the expiration of its three-year term. Those who re-enlisted or whose term of service had not yet expired, along with new recruits, were formed into two companies as the First Battalion Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, and served until the end of the war.

A detailed history of the regiment by William Lochren is found in *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars* (St. Paul, 1890).

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The descriptive book gives personal and military service information on each soldier in the regiment. Morning reports provide daily statistics on the presence and absence of troops. General and special orders, a letterbook, post guard reports, and a miscellaneous regimental record book relate to camp and field regulations, personnel assignments and transfers, troop movements, and administrative matters, and include a few reports of court martial proceedings and of marches and battles. Proceedings of the regiment's Council of Administration deal with regimental finances and sutler's goods. Also present is a register of sick and wounded soldiers (1863-1864), and data on medical supplies and illnesses.

RELATED MATERIALS

Additional information on the soldiers of the First Minnesota may be found in several other (separately cataloged) series of records, including Compiled Service Records; Muster Rolls; and Military Personnel Records, Civil War.

The Minnesota Historical Society Museum holds uniform items, insignia, weapons, and equipment items owned by members of the First Minnesota.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry--United States.
Soldiers--Minnesota.
Sutlers.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Minnesota--Registers.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Health aspects.
Veterans--Minnesota.

Organizations:

United States. Army. Minnesota Infantry Regiment, 1st (1861-1864).

Types of Documents:

Orders.
Registers.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page here]. Minnesota Adjutant General. Records of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none

Processing Information:

Processed by: Lydia Lucas, 1999, 2000
PALS ID No.: 0900321269

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
106.F.10.1B-1	1	<p>Descriptive Book, 1st Minnesota Volunteers, 1861-1865. 1 volume.</p> <p>Entries are by company, and thereunder are usually, but not always, in rough alphabetical order by surname. Each entry gives a sequential number (within that company), name, age, height, complexion, eye color, hair color, where born (town or county and state or country), occupation, when and where enlisted, by whom, and term. A "Remarks" column frequently contains information on major service events (promoted, transferred, discharged, wounded, taken prisoner, deserted, died). At the front of the volume is a list of commissioned officers, noting name, rank, date of appointment, and remarks (transfers, appointments, resignations, and the like).</p>
106.F.10.1B-1	1	<p>Consolidated Morning Report, 1st Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, 1861-1864. 2 volumes in phase boxes.</p> <p>Daily statistics on personnel of each company, noting number of men of the various ranks present for duty, absent for various reasons, alterations since the last report, and remarks (usually explanations of the alterations). The volumes are falling apart; handle with care.</p> <p>August 13, 1861 – January 25, 1863. May 8, 1863 – May 4, 1864. (the latter half of this volume is blank)</p>
Location	Box	
106.F.10.1B-2	2	<p>General and Special Orders, 1st Regiment, August 1861 – May 3, 1864. 1 volume.</p> <p>Handwritten copies of general and special orders issued from the headquarters of the First Minnesota Volunteers to the regimental troops. They include some court-martial proceedings.</p> <p>For additional orders, see the [Record Book], below.</p>

Location	Box	
106.F.10.1B-2	2	General and Special Orders, Higher Headquarters, 1861-1864. 2 volumes. Handwritten copies of general and special orders and circulars issued to, or relating to, the First Minnesota Regiment or individual members of it, or pertaining to more general regulations and instructions that affected the regiment. Many appear to be regiment-specific extracts from longer orders. July 1861 – December 1862. March 1863 – February 1864.

106.F.10.1B-2	2	Letterbook, 1 st Regiment, October 1861 – April 1, 1864. 1 volume. Handwritten copies of letters and reports sent by regimental officers to army headquarters, the regiment's soldiers, other military personnel, and Minnesota's governor and Congress members. They include several reports of marches and battles.
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Location	Box	
106.F.9.7B-2	3	Proceedings of the Regimental Council of Administration of the 1 st Regiment, December 1861 – May 4, 1864. 1 volume. The regimental council was composed of three officers designated by regimental special orders. It met periodically to deal with such matters as auditing the accounts of the regimental treasurer and bakery, setting prices for sutler's goods, levying a monthly tax on the sutler, setting prices to be charged by laundresses, and authorizing payment for expenses incurred on regimental business. The proceedings include itemized lists of sutler's goods and prices (Jan. 1 and March 19, 1862), audit of the bakers (Jan. 2, 1862), periodic treasurer's audits, report of investigation of a complaint against the sutler (June 24, 1862), and a resolution disposing of regimental property and allocating the regimental and hospital funds to erection of a monument at Gettysburg (May 4, 1864).

106.F.9.7B-2	3	Post Guard Reports, 1 st Minnesota Regiment Volunteers, July 1861 - February 1862. 1 volume in phase box. Printed forms, filled in daily to note numbers of officers and privates present, a list of the men posted to each of the day's three guard watches, the sergeant and corporal in charge of that day's guard, and a list of regimental prisoners, noting the charges against them and occasionally the punishment imposed. There are occasional notes regarding guard needs or occurrences. The volume is falling apart; handle with care.
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Location	Box	
109.K.14.4F	---	<p>[Record Book], 1861-1863. 1 volume in phase box.</p> <p>Handwritten copies of a number of reports, orders, statistics, and accounts, as follows:</p> <p>Number of guns on hand in the companies, May 15, 1863 (p. 1).</p> <p>Morning reports:</p> <p>February 18 - March 16, 1863 (pp. 312-333).</p> <p>March 17 - April 30, 1863 (pp. 112-159).</p> <p>May 1864 - July 14, 1864 (pp. 8-69).</p> <p>[Statistics on company personnel], July 1861 (pp. 70-71, 74).</p> <p>Record of events, July 16-29, [1861] (p. 72).</p> <p>General and special orders, January-February, 1863 (pp. 79-106).</p> <p>Minutes of meeting of officers selecting a new sutler, November 23, 1863 (p. 160).</p> <p>Clothing accounts, non-commissioned staff (pp. 213-225).</p> <p>Ordnance and ammunition issued, 1863 (pp. 232-235).</p> <p>Record of absences from the regiment:</p> <p>Commissioned officers (pp. 336-339, 366-367).</p> <p>Enlisted men, by company (pp. 340-362).</p> <p>Deserters (p. 383).</p>
109.K.14.4F	---	<p>Hospital Reports, 1861-1863. 1 volume in phase box.</p> <p>Handwritten copies of records and reports of the regimental surgeon. They include:</p> <p>Invoice of medical stores received from C. H. Lamb, medical purveyor, January 28, 1862, with transmittal letter (pp. 1-3).</p> <p>Various hospital fund accounts, 1862 (pp. 4, 7, 128).</p> <p>Classification of diseases, January-March 1862 (pp. 16-18).</p> <p>Invoice of medical stores received at Camp Winfield Scott, April 28, 1862 (pp. 21-23).</p> <p>Weekly report [statistics] of surgeon, [1863] - January 1864 (pp. 26-27).</p> <p>List of men sent to 2d Division Hospital (p. 32).</p> <p>Morning reports, October 1863 - February 5, 1864 (pp. 45-107). (continued from end of volume; see below)</p> <p>Invoice of medicines and hospital furniture drawn by 1st Minnesota Hospital, July-December, 1863 (p. 130).</p> <p>List of soldiers discharged on surgeon's certificate, July 1862 - January 1, 1863 (p. 133).</p> <p>List of deaths by disease, 1862 (p. 138).</p> <p>Morning reports, July-August 14, 1862; November 1862 - October 2, 1863 (p. 147 to unnumbered end of volume). (continued on p. 45)</p>

Location	Box	
106.F.9.7B-2	3	<p>Register of Sick and Wounded [1st Regiment], March 27, 1863 – April 1864. 1 volume.</p> <p>A chronological record of soldiers reporting sick or wounded, noting date, name, rank, regiment and company, complaint, treatment, and disposition (e.g., returned to duty, discharged, sent to hospital, died). After May, 1863, treatment notes cease to be recorded.</p>
106.F.9.7B-2	3	<p>Hospital Record, 1st Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, 1862-1864. 1 volume.</p> <p>A bound compilation of filled-in printed forms: (a) requisition for medical and hospital supplies (printed lists, filled in with quantities desired); (b) return of medical and hospital property received, expended, issued, and remaining on hand (filled in only for the 6-month period ending December 1862); and (c) report of sick and wounded (printed list of diseases, filled in with number of complaints for each, monthly January 1863-April 1864). Much of the volume is blank.</p>