

G.A.R. Post 83 Records
MS – 12

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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Organization History

Kishler Post, No. 83 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) served St. Mary's, Ohio. The post was named in honor of William Kishler of St. Mary's who died at Stoney River during the Civil War.

In accordance with the principles of the national organization founded in April 1866 at Springfield, Illinois, the local members were bound by oath to uphold the ideals of fraternity, charity and loyalty. The G.A.R. was primarily a military organization whose ritual and procedures adopted a military flavor.

The national organization's growth peaked in 1890 with 409,489 dues-paying members representing approximately 40% of the Union veterans. Kishler Post's membership rose to over 230 during the 1890's. The G.A.R. was influential in securing the Disability Pension Act of 1890 and was responsible for the institution and observance of Memorial Day.

The eighty-third and last national encampment was held in Indianapolis in 1949 and the last surviving member died in 1956.

Scope and Content

The records of the St. Mary's Kishler Post, no. 83 of the grand Army of the Republic consist of four bound volumes. Two are minute books covering meeting proceedings between 1885 and 1904. These volumes include information about officers, committees and deaths. In addition, a treasurer's report and account of receipts is included in each meeting's minutes.

Two roll and account books cover the group's financial history from 1880 to 1911. These volumes contain an account for each member in addition to information regarding their membership history.

Container Listing

Box	File	Description	Date
1		Minute Book – memorial tribute to General U.S. Grant; committees and officers; financial report and receipts	July 27, 1885- Dec. 4, 1897
2		Minute Book - memoriam	Jan. 8, 1898- Jan. 23, 1904
3		Roll and Account Book – member list, dues payment	Oct. 1880- Dec. 1894
4		Roll and Account Book – member list, dues payment	Jan. 1895- Jan. 1911