

Record Group [RG] #08**Name: Military Records****Dates: 1840 - 1901, 1947****Size: 5 volumes in 1 legal-sized document box, 0.5 li. ft.****Name of Creator: Militia Company Clerk; Town Clerk of Amherst, NH**

Historical note: The Village Common was laid out in 1735 by the Proprietors of the Plantation called Narragansett No. 3 as common land designated for a militia training field. Records found in the Town Hall vault provide some information about the local militia company in the nineteenth century. Town records of enrollment of men eligible for military service provide additional information.

The orderly book and a roll book for the local company of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Militia capture the organization, training sessions and parades, and weaponry of Amherst's militia unit in the two decades prior to the Civil War.

The enrollment taken in April 1863 was just three months prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, where the Fifth N.H. Regiment was called into duty. The local GAR post was named in honor of Sgt. Charles Phelps, a soldier from the regiment killed in action at Gettysburg.

The 1947 volume, *Amherst in the World Wars*, is not a Town record but a publication of the Town that contains biographical sketches of the residents who served in the military.

Scope and Contents: This small collection of five distinct records contains two created by the Company Clerk of the militia. Only one of the Clerks is listed by name, Silvester J. Duncklee, a sergeant, in 1840. The other two are slim volumes that apparently were the records of the Town Clerk. The materials are listed in chronological order.

1. *Orderly Book of the Fifth and/or Sixth Company of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Militia (1840-1865)*. It names the commanding officers, noncommissioned officers, privates, and musicians, residents of Amherst, who made up the company, and also those men who were exempt for medical reasons (some for a specified period and others for their lifetime).

The volume also includes lists of able-bodied Amherst men who were eligible for military duty, those aged 18-45, provided by the Board of Selectmen from Amherst for multiple years.

2. *Company Roll Book of the Company in the Fifth Regiment, Fourth Brigade, and Third Division of the New Hampshire Militia (1840-1847)*. This volume is the companion to the

Orderly Book. It contains a roster of the company members, year to year, with the exact pieces of equipment issued to each.

3. List of Soldiers from Amherst 1863-1865. This slim volume list soldiers from Amherst during the Civil War. Names are in random order. The heading on the first page is "Soldiers 1863". The initials WJW also are inscribed.

4. Enrollment of Persons Liable to Military Duty 1870-1901. This slim volume provides lists of Amherst male residents eligible for military duty, the first being "Enrollment of the Town of Amherst made April 29, 1870." In the 1870s, lists included name, age, occupation, and whether married or single. In 1880s, lists included name and age. From 1888 on, only names appear.

5. *Amherst in the World Wars* published by Town of Amherst, N.H., Dec. 1947. This unpaginated volume contains biographical sketches of local veterans, many with portrait photos.

Language: English

Subjects:

Civil War
Fifth NH Regiment
Militia
World War I
World War II

Location: Town Hall Vault, Clerk's Office, Town of Amherst, NH

Related archival materials: RG 1 Town Records. The following Town Record Books contain limited information: Volume 2, 1791-1842. Amounts paid to Revolutionary War veterans but the individual names are not listed (last page); Volume 4, 1845-1861. Militia enrollment in 1855 (page 440); Vol. 5, 1861-1870. Enrollment of All Able-Bodied Men with their age (18-45), occupation & occasional remarks such as disabilities, taken in August 1862 (p. 98-103) and in April 1867 (p. 414).

Additional reading. See Secomb. *History of Amherst*, Chapter 16 (copy on same shelf as RG 8); and an article "Interesting Military Statistics," *Farmers' Cabinet*, 30 Sep 1874 for list of all militia companies of Amherst with names of commanding officers and dates and a more detailed list and confirming change in designation from 5th to 6th in 1841/1842. Also Ayling, Augustus D. *Revised register of the soldiers and sailors of New Hampshire in the war of the rebellion. 1861-1866* (Concord, NH: NH Adjutant-General's Office, 1895 provides the official list with details of rank, muster and discharge dates, and hometown. Edward D. Boylston's book *Amherst in the Great Civil Conflict 1861-1865* (1893) gives biographical sketches of some of the men from Amherst who served, but the list is not as accurate as Ayling. See Holman's more detailed description for further information.

The Library also has a copy of *Amherst in the World Wars* published by Town of Amherst, N.H., Dec. 1947.

The Town Hall Vault (same shelf as RG 8) are some volumes of *Report of the Adjutant-General of New Hampshire*.

Preparer: C.G. Swank & K. Holman, 2017

Container List. One legal document box located on shelf 1f

Box	Name	Date
1	<i>Orderly Book of the Fifth and/or Sixth Company of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Militia</i>	1840-1865
1	<i>Company Roll Book of the Company in the Fifth Regiment, Fourth Brigade and Third Division of the New Hampshire Militia</i>	1840-1847
1	<i>List of Soldiers from Amherst 1863-1865</i>	1863-1865
1	<i>Enrollment of Person Liable to Military Duty</i>	1870-1901
1	<i>Amherst in the World Wars</i> by Town of Amherst, NH Dec 1947	1947