

Troop M Collection

A Finding Aid



I Troop, 121st Cavalry, arriving at Pine Camp, NY, 1934
B2-F85-P2455

Livingston County Historian's Office
5 Murray Hill Dr.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
January 2016, rev. December 2017, August 2022

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Livingston County Historian

I. Collection Summary

Title	Troop M Collection
Extent	.8 linear feet
Date Range	1916 – 1963 (bulk 1920-1945)
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises assorted materials created by individuals and entities associated with Troop M, 1st New York Cavalry, New York National Guard; Troop M, 101st Mechanized Cavalry Regiment; Troop G, 121st Cavalry, N.Y.N.G.; Troop I, 121st N.Y.N.G.; and 27th Reconnaissance Company at Geneseo. The materials have been given to the Livingston County Historian by numerous donors over the years; they therefore do not comprise a single collection, but items herein are topically related. Rosters, reports, photographs, programs, diaries, correspondence, books, and pamphlets make up this collection of items.</p>
Condition	Items are generally in fair to good condition, though all documents must be handled with care.
Arrangement	Many documents in this series are kept in loose association with one another in two archival boxes, but are filed in no particular order. Other items are stored in association with their series, such as photographs, postcards, and slides, or collection. Some items, particularly those Archival Files in Room 109, have been digitized.
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the records in this collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, “Courtesy of Livingston County Historian’s Office, New York.” Additionally, all items should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with this collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955 or (585) 335-1730 or by e-mail at Historian@co.livingston.ny.us.</p>
Copyright	Some materials may be subject to copyright. Researchers are required to seek written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce and/or publish materials under copyright.

II. Biographical and Background Information

Troop M, 1st New York Cavalry, was organized on March 21, 1914, at Avon, Livingston County, New York. At this time, each state managed its own militia, and the National Guard would be formed several years later. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., of Geneseo, was chosen Troop M's lieutenant under Capt. Nathan C. Shiverick of Avon. Troop M was housed at Ashantee, Herbert and Martha (Blow) Wadsworth's home in Avon, where stables, an armory, and a riding arena were erected.

After about two years of training, Troop M was summoned into federal service on the Mexican border from July 8, 1916, to March 12, 1917. Capt. Shiverick resigned just before their return, and 2nd Lieutenant Dallas Newton was made commander.

Soon after their return, Troop M was sent to Spartanburg, South Carolina, to train in preparation for deployment during World War I. Troop M, assigned to the 27th Division at Camp Wadsworth, SC, was split into the 104th and 105th Machine Gun Battalions and the 102nd Ammunition Train. On March 7, 1918, while the unit was absent from Avon, the stables and storehouse at Ashantee burned, leaving only the riding hall. Upon return to Livingston County, Capt. James S. Wadsworth took command and a new armory was built on the northern edge of the village of Geneseo.

On May 1, 1920, the federal government recognized Troop M as the 1st Cavalry of the New York National Guard, with Capt. Perry Euchner commanding. September 1927 saw the troop ride to Cuylerville to participate in the dedication of the Boyd and Parker Memorial.

In 1928, Troop M underwent a new designation as Troop G, 121st Cavalry, and then the next year as Troop I, 121st Cavalry, New York National Guard. In 1930, the first Cavalry Circus was performed, becoming an anticipated annual event for several years and further solidifying the troop's important influence on the town and area. During the Great Depression, it was said that a number of families relied on the income that employment at the armory guaranteed.

In January 1941, the 121st Cavalry retained its duties but disbanded and subsequently reorganized as Troop B, 101st Cavalry (Horse and Mechanized) Regiment, NYNG, as they mobilized for service in World War II. Only planning on training for one year, the troop saw almost five years of service, primarily in France and Germany. By 1943, they formed the basis of Troop E, Company F, 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

During the war, Company I, 21st Infantry Regiment, NYNG inhabited the Geneseo Armory and was known briefly as the "Home Guard" until the troops returned from service overseas. Company I, 21st Infantry Regiment, NYNG, reorganized several times. First, as the 27th Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, then the 27th Reconnaissance Company in 1948, and finally Company A of the 27th Reconnaissance Battalion in 1955. It was redesignated in 1959 as Troop A, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 121st Armor of the 27th Armored Division.

Through all the reorganizations, Troop M and subsequent iterations won awards in rifle marksmanship in 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930 and recognition as one of the best units in the state. It was also lauded for community participation in celebrations, dedications, sports, parades, riding events, and for furnishing horses for local riding classes.

The formation of this militia in the Genesee Valley is significant given the long history of horse breeding, riding, and fox hunting in the region. The Wadsworth family, longtime residents of Geneseo, New York, were prominent in equine, civic, and military affairs; James W. Wadsworth, Jr., may have had influence in the state's choice to authorize a cavalry troop in the Genesee Valley. Especially after the unit was relocated to Geneseo, the pride in the valley's equine history and capable cavalry was evident. The organization of such a unit at Geneseo is notable, as all other cavalry troops in the state were located at large cities after World War I, and Geneseo's armory was a point of both military and community pride.

III. Contents List

Archival Files

- 109 Descriptive cards for horses, Troop I, 121st Cavalry, 1920 (2 items)
- 109 Programs, horse show 1926; farewell ceremonies, 1941; Armory dedication 1963
- 109 Invitations to Christmas Balls 1956, 1958
- 109 Signatures, 1st NY Cavalry, Mexican Border Service 1916-1917 (2 items)

- 202 Troop M diaries, John Clancy and unknown soldier, 1918 (2 items)
- 202 Directory of the 1st NY Cavalry, Border Service, Texas, 1916-1917
- 202 Reception Committee pin and ribbon, 7/4/1918 (2 items)
- 202 Troop M daily sick reports, 1926-1949 (5 items)
- 202 Troop M morning reports, 1926-1948 (15 items)
- 202 Troop M pistol and revolver marksmanship, 1922-1929 (35 items)
- 202 Troop M honorable discharges and drill attendance, 1922 (2 items)
- 202 Troop M correspondence, 1926-1927
- 202 Troop M duty rosters, 1926-c.1948 (5 items)
- 202 Troop M land contracts and leases, 1922-1927 (3 items)
- 202 Troop M Council Books, 27th Cavalry Civil Association, 1957-1960 (2 items)
- 202 Troop M dance cards, 1927 (2 items)
- 202 Troop I, 121st Cavalry Spring Horse Show program, 1929 (1 item)
- 202 Troop I, Cavalry Circus programs, 1930-1933 (4 items)
- 202, 203 Troop M and Troop E dinner programs, 1921-1943 (5 items)

Photographs and Postcards

- 109 Troop M panoramas and oversize photographs, 1916-1925 (3 items)
- 109 Troop I, oversize image, 1940 (1 item)
- 109 Troop M, Troop I, Ashantee, Geneseo Armory photographs, etc. (69 items)

- 202 Postcard, Troop M Armory, Geneseo (1 item)
- 202 Negative, Troop M Armory, Geneseo (1 item)

IV. Related Materials

Col. Nathan C. Shiverick Collection

Town of Avon Historian
23 Genesee St., Avon, NY