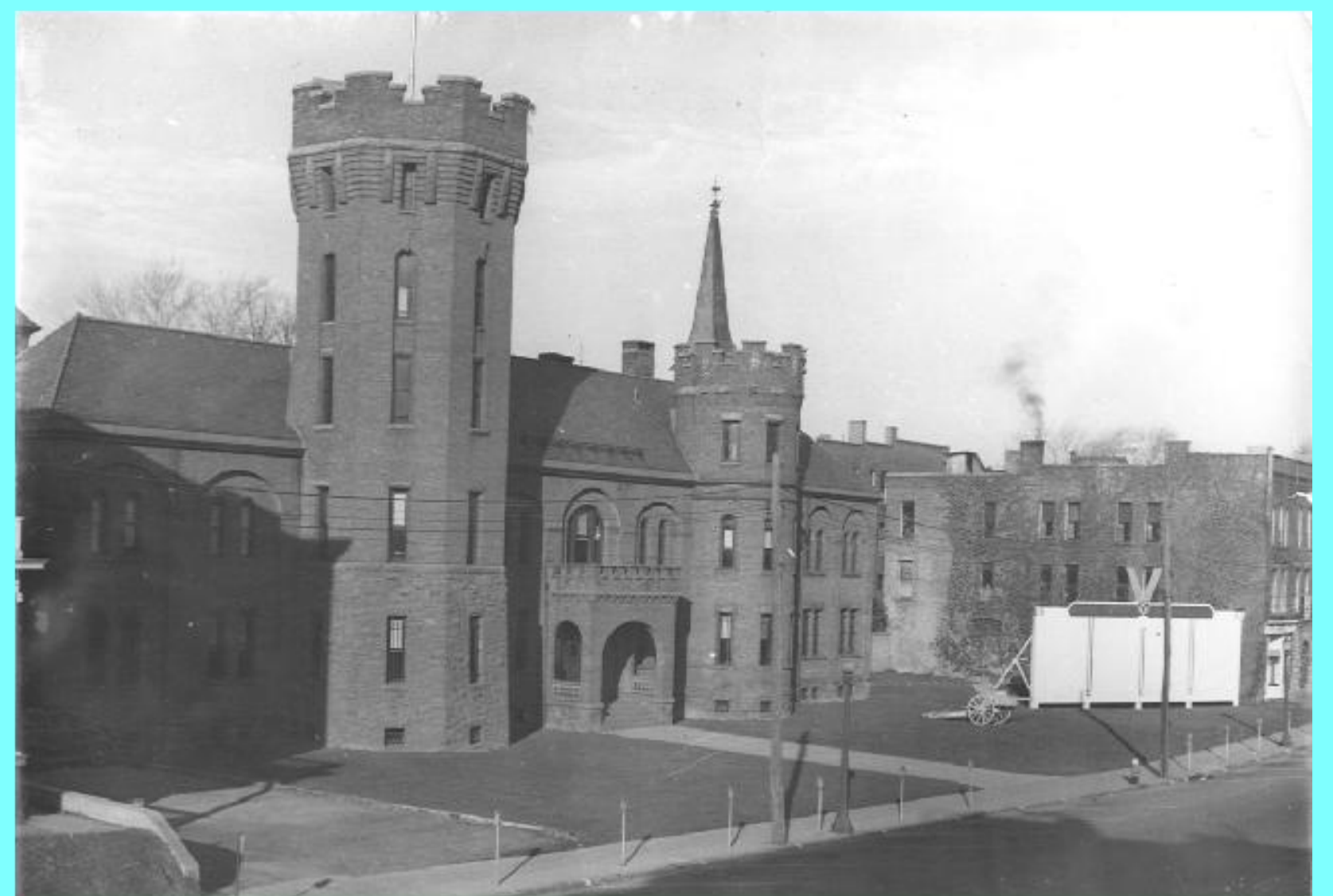


# Construction and Growth of the Armory



The 34th Separate Company was formed in 1879. For the first decade, they met and drilled in an upper floor of the Dove Block at the corner of Castle and Exchange Streets.

Built in 1892, the original Armory looked like a school or other public building of the time. The attached drill shed, behind the administration building, is visible to the left.



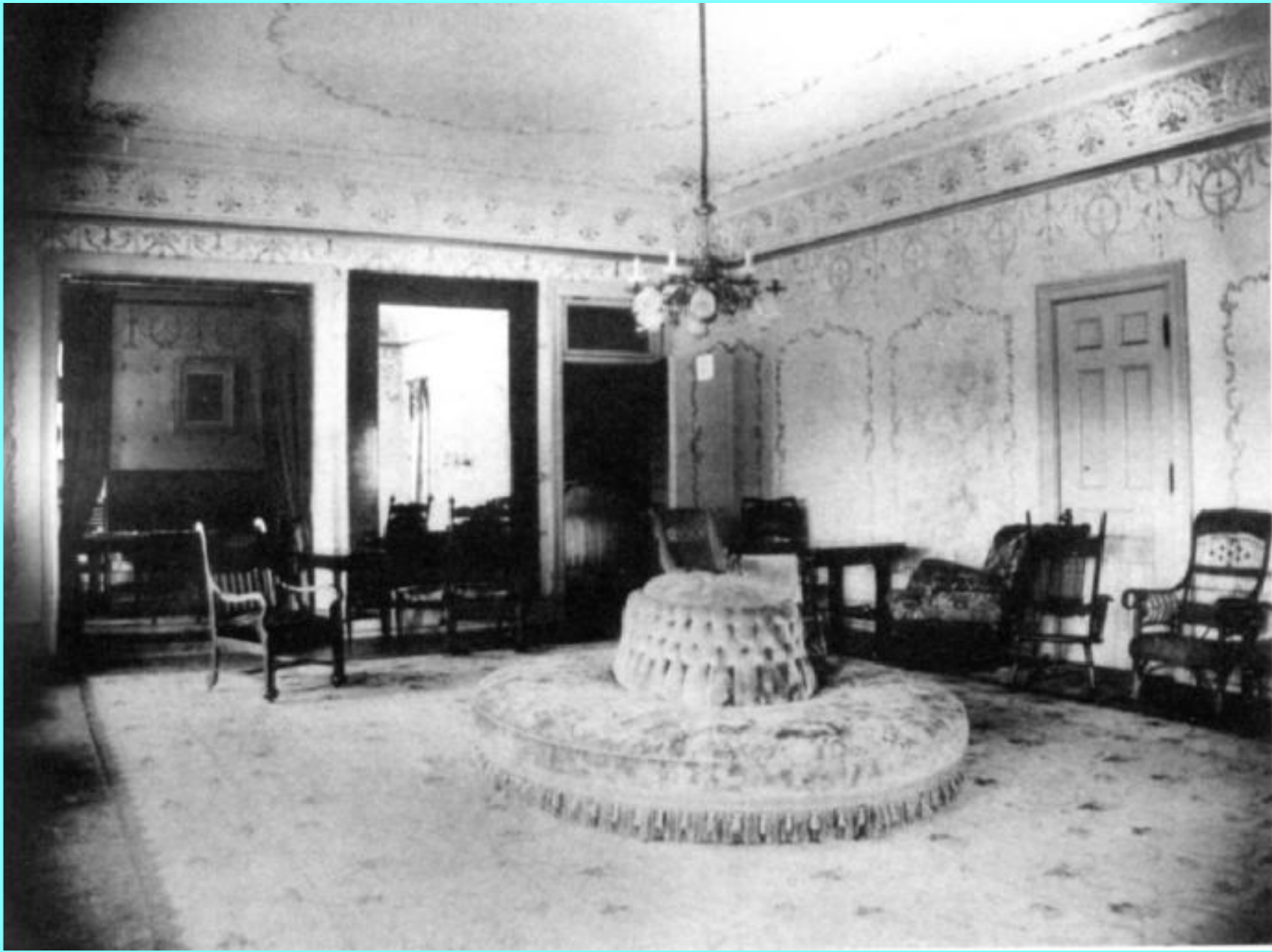
The 34th Separate Company outgrew the Armory within ten years. In 1906, the state legislature authorized an expansion to its current size. The south tower made the building look more like a state armory. The north tower roof was not changed in 1906 (left), but some time later was made to match the south tower.

Many of New York's armories were built at the end of the 1800s. It was a time of immigration, labor strikes, and uneasiness. The fortress-like buildings were designed to reassure citizens—and remind agitators—that the militia was on the job.



# Inside the Armory

Unit members met to conduct business and socialize, and the interior was furnished to be comfortable and stylish. The parlor (left) was in the original building and was changed after 1906. The superintendent's office (right) was furnished much like any other gentleman's office of the early 1900s.



Left: Flintlock pistol wall sconces in the recruiter's office

Lower left: Fireplace and Mission style furniture in the Superintendent's office

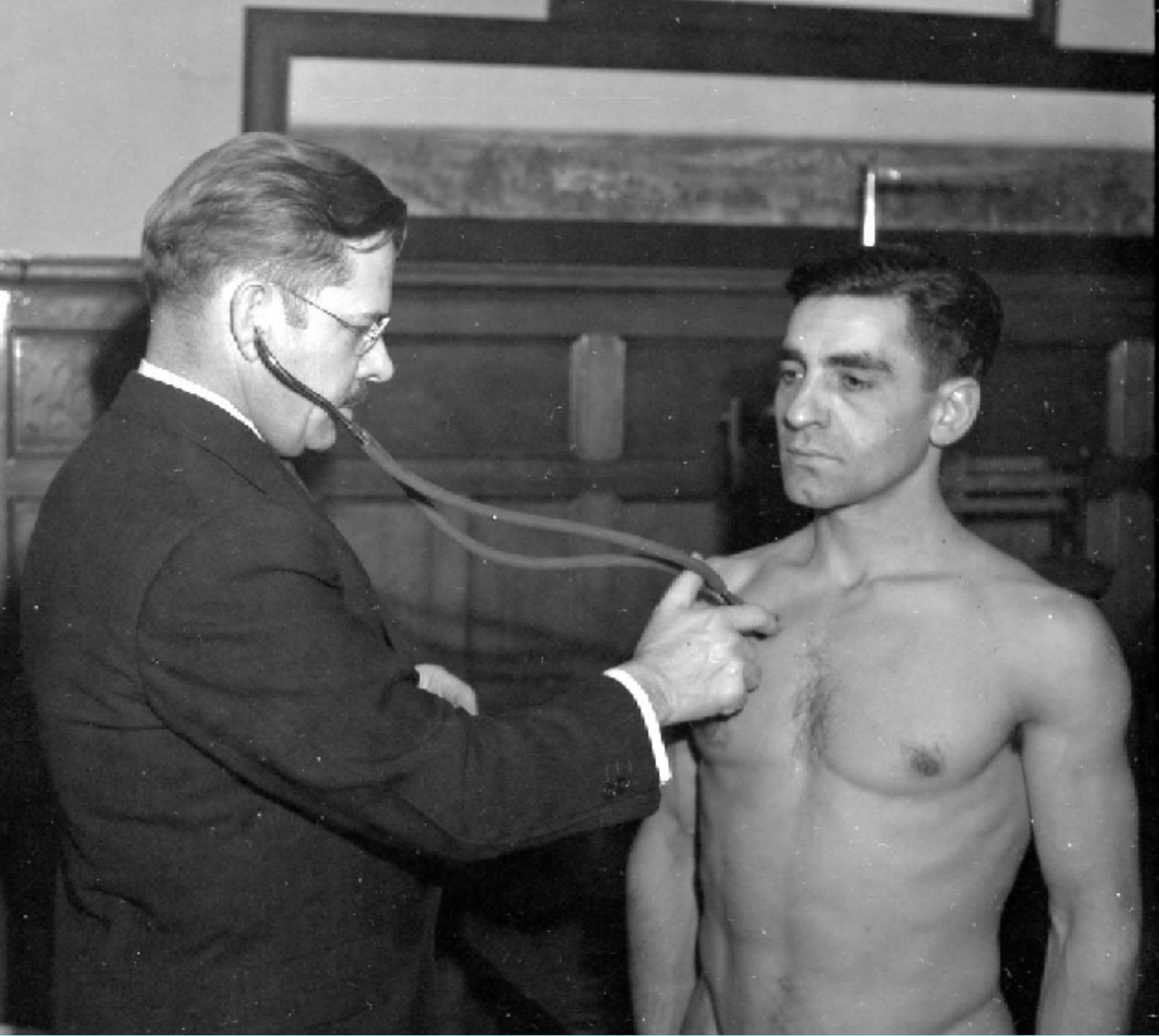
Lower right: Fireplace in the Commander's office



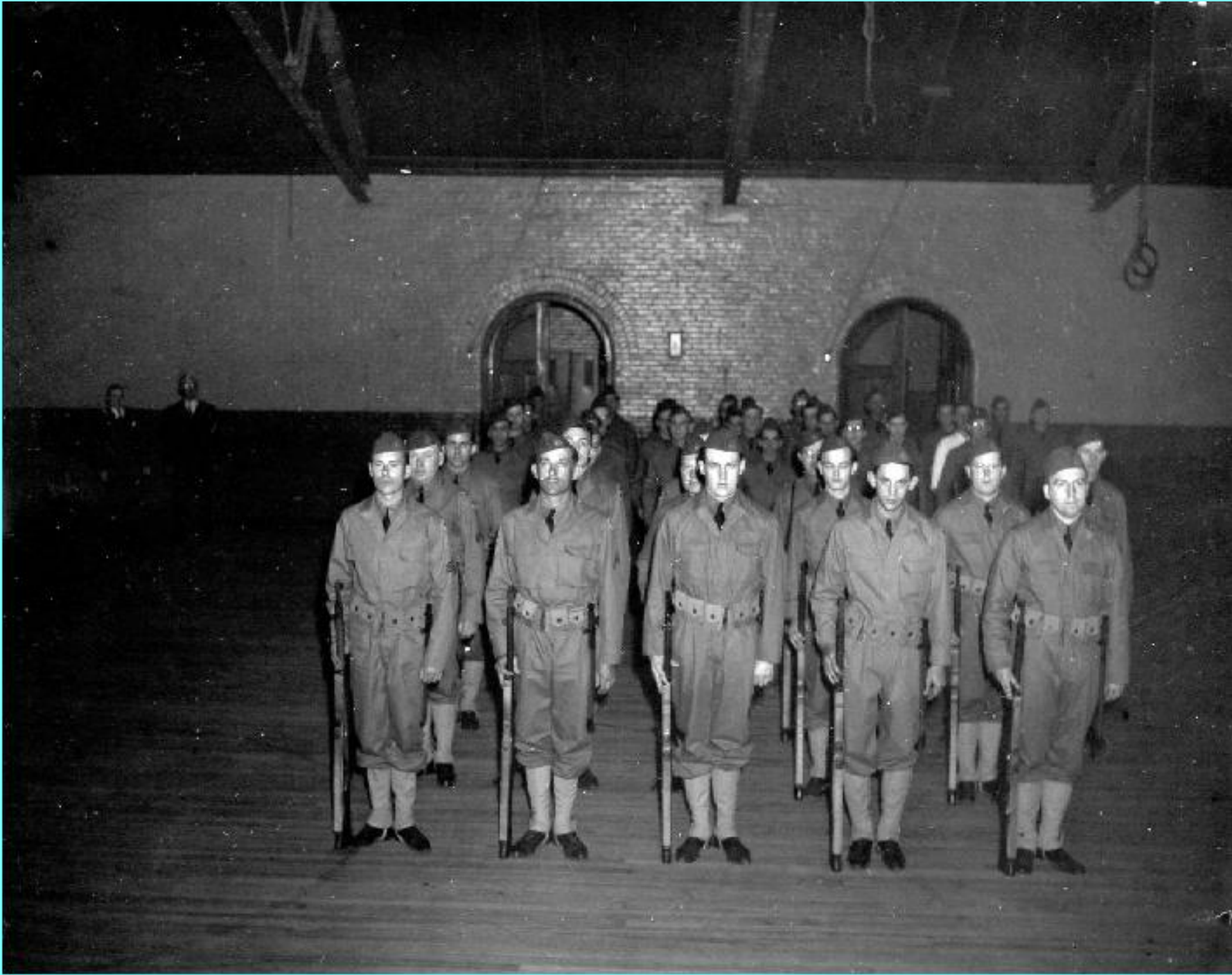


New York State armories were built in two sections: an administration building with an attached drill hall (do not call it a gym). Administration includes recruitment, issuing equipment, and promotions. The drill hall is where recruits learn, and soldiers maintain, necessary marching and physical skills.

During World War II, induction physicals were given at the Armory, then uniforms and equipment were issued.



Company B was called to active duty in October 1940. A home guard unit, Company K, was formed to protect Geneva. The left-hand photo shows recruits in the drill hall in December 1940, and then in uniform.



Company B recruits in drill hall, November 1963



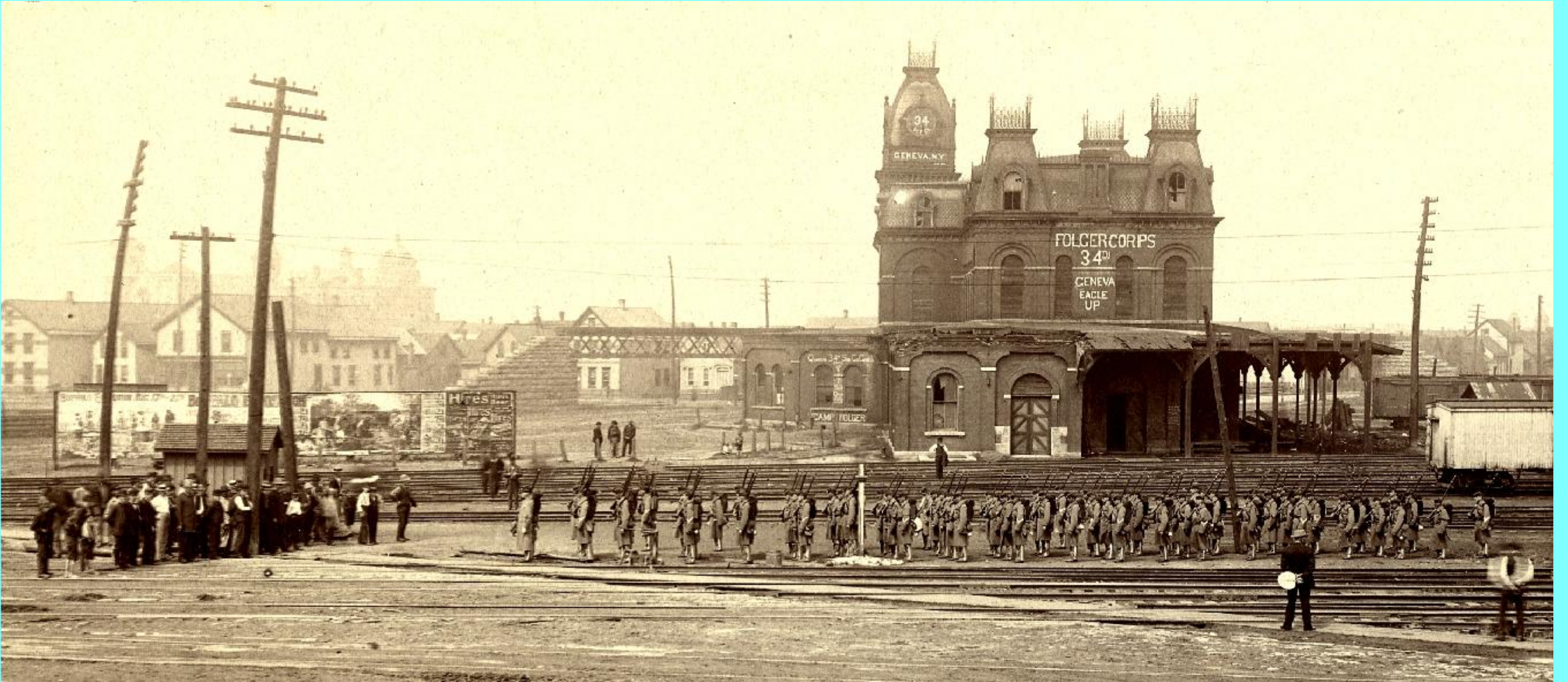
Captain Dominick Passalacqua awards officer bars to Sergeant Gerald Acquilano, 1964





# Geneva's Troops on Duty

The 34th Separate Company (also known as Folger Corps) was called to Buffalo in August 1892 (below) and April 1913 to keep the peace during railroad workers strikes.



Company B was activated during the Spanish-American War in 1898 (left) but did not leave the US. In 1916 the unit was sent to the Mexican border after Pancho Villa attacked a town in New Mexico. Elmer "Lauty" Lautenslager (right), later known locally as a cartoonist, was part of the troops that went to the border.



Company B went into World War I as part of the 27th Division and attacked the Hindenburg Line. While successful, the company lost 11 men, including Lieutenant E.F. Winnek (left) and Sergeant Earl Lautenslager. Geneva's American Legion Post was named after Lieutenant Winnek; Sergeant Lautenslager was Elmer's brother.





# Community Events in the Armory

As the largest space in Geneva (and for many years, the only basketball court), the Armory hosted many events. Top to bottom: a charity fair in 1893, a 1914 concert by international star Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a diphtheria vaccination clinic in 1927, Geneva High School rifle club practice in the 1950s, indoor baseball games in the early 1900s, and indoor lacrosse games pre- and post-World War II. Other events included the Harlem Globetrotters, police benevolent association balls, and military balls.



ERNESTINE SCHUMANN-HEINK

**The Killing and Maiming of Children in Geneva by**  
**DIPHTHERIA**  
**Must Stop**

Practically ALL CHILDREN between the ages of six months and twelve years of age are susceptible to and are LIABLE to have that DREAD disease DIPHTHERIA and ALL these CHILDREN SHOULD have the three injections of TOXIN-ANTITOXIN on three different days, just one week apart.

**Diphtheria Is Still A Very Fatal Disease**

HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS of CHILDREN have already been treated with TOXIN-ANTITOXIN. TOXIN-ANTITOXIN has proved itself safe. TOXIN-ANTITOXIN, a few months after its use, gives

**PROTECTION**

that LASTS, probably, FOR LIFE

As a PARENT or GUARDIAN of one or more CHILDREN, their welfare, health and LIFE is your responsibility and for this reason it is YOUR DUTY to have your physician give your CHILDREN the THREE PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS against DIPHTHERIA or take YOUR CHILDREN to the public CLINICS that will be held for that purpose at

**The New York State Armory Main St.**  
**City of Geneva**

**Wed. May 11 Wed. May 18 Wed. May 25**

Between the hours of One and Five o'clock on the above afternoons  
Secure a permit card from your SCHOOL NURSE or from the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
YOUR DOCTOR WILL BE at the CLINIC to GIVE the PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS  
YOUR CITY has given the MONEY to PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN from a FATAL DISEASE

YOU CAN NOW STOP HAVING DIPHTHERIA IN GENEVA. DO YOUR DUTY  
Have your CHILDREN GIVEN the THREE PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS of TOXIN-ANTI-TOXIN DON'T GAMBLE WITH THEIR LIVES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
of YOUR CITY

1927

