

Guide to the Mobile Female Benevolent Society Records

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Members of the Mobile Female Benevolent Society

Title: Mobile Female Benevolent Society Records

Dates: 1831-1991 (Bulk 1860-1991)

Quantity: 2 linear feet

Abstract: Organizational records of a local group devoted to the aid of indigent women.

Accession: 324-1996

Biographical Note:

The Mobile Female Benevolent Society was founded Mobile, Alabama, in 1829, as a non-denominational organization to aid indigent widows through the donation of food, clothing, and medical supplies. In 1835 the society built and maintained several houses at Dearborn and Warren streets, houses that were collectively known as "Widow's Row." Later the group purchased the Gazzam Home at the corner of Government and Ann streets, which remains the site of a new facility known as Murray House, which is operated by the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast under the auspices of the Mobile Female Benevolent Society.

Scope and Content:

Contains the society's constitutions (1831, 1937, 1951), articles of incorporation (1841), resident lists and personal information book (1873-1960), membership rolls (1939-1940), minutes (1860-1864, 1886-1892, 1897-1898, 1953-1954, 1982-1983, 1988-1989), correspondence (1869, 1901-1908, 1930-1969, 1989-1991), monthly account statements and budget requests (1945-1948), account statement books (1869-1897, 1938-1942), newsclippings (1952-1953, 1960), tax returns (1922, 1938, 1939, 1941-1943), treasurer's reports (1938), as well as photographs, memorabilia, and resident and personnel policies and real estate deeds for the society and for residents.

Provenance:

Gift of Murray House, 1997.

Access Restrictions:

Some of the personal information may be restricted.

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Guide prepared by:

Date guide prepared:

Guide updated by: Carol Ellis

Guide last updated: March 17, 2014

Content List:

Box 1

Benevolent Home

1. Building specifications
2. Inmates (Personal papers)
3. Inmate policies and legal agreements
4. Inmate agreement (Frances Laxton)
 - 4a. Inmate bonds (residents' signed acceptance of home policies)
5. Personnel files (Victoria Miller, Linda McGill, Brinda Burleson, Rita Maddox)
6. Personnel policies (general guidelines, sick leave, personal days, etc.)
7. Resident lists / Personal information sheets (see also Wooden Memorial Book)
- 7a. Resident list / Personal information book

Benevolent Society

Creation, Regulation, and Membership

8. Articles of incorporation; copy of court petition
9. Constitution, 1831; minutes, 1885-1892
10. Constitution, 1937, 1951
11. Gifts and bequests (see also Wooden Memorial Book)
12. History
13. Legal petition for partial settlement in equity
14. Legal (Bessie Jenkins)
15. Membership rolls; duties of officers

Correspondence

16. 1869, 1901-1908
17. 1930s, 1940s
18. 1950s
19. 1960s
20. 1989-1991

Minutes

21. 1860-1864
22. 1897-1898
23. 1953-1954
24. 1982-1983
25. 1988
26. 1989

Financial Matters

27. Monthly account statements and budget requests
- 27a. Account statement books
28. Bonds, property lists, bank notes (various years)
29. Financial statements, 1991
30. Tax returns
31. Treasurer's reports

Benevolent Society's Real Estate Deeds

32. Ann Street property
33. Augusta and Franklin streets property
34. Brown Street property
35. Dearborn Street property
36. Delacroix Street property
37. Eslava Street property
38. Gaston Street property
39. Government and Ann streets property

Resident's Real Estate Deeds

40. Johanna Dobbertine
41. Annie "Daisy" Davol
42. Fannie Fuller
43. Grace Blanche Gillison
44. Irene M. Gould
45. Sallie Hemphill
46. Ella Moses Malone
47. William Olifant
48. Virginia Bullock-Willis
49. Francis Overall
50. Florence Simon

Box 2

Resident's Real Estate Deeds (cont.)

1. Sarah A. Moseley Smith
2. Alleta Turner, Franco Turner, Mary T. Hunter-Slaton
3. Holman's edition of the Holy Bible, 1875 (belonged to Daisy Davol)
- 4a. Residents' rental properties (1 of 3)
- 4b. Residents' rental properties (2 of 3)
- 4c. Residents' rental properties (3 of 3)
5. Benevolent Home insurance policies – Various

Articles, Memorabilia, and Photographs

6. Newsclipping photocopies, 1952
7. Newsclipping photocopies, 1953
8. Newsclipping photocopies, 1960
9. Mobile County sectional and township map (hand-drawn on linen paper)
10. Photographs of properties and residents
11. List of memorials (removed from the Wooden Memorial Album)
12. Memory book Barton Academy ("School-Girls Dazed"), Willie Mae Discher
13. Sheltering Home Circle of the Kings Daughters and Sons (Durham, NC); info packet
14. History & Bylaws
15. Ephemera

Box 3

Official Documents

1. Official Documents
2. Records of the Names of Ladies Who Have Lived in the Benevolent Home (A-H)
3. Records of the Names of Ladies Who Have Lived in the Benevolent Home (J-Z)

Articles, Memorabilia, and Photographs

4. Postcards
5. Assorted newsclippings