

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 111

Date processed: February 1980

- I. Title *Our Society*. Records, 1832-1979
- II. The papers of *Our Society* deposited in the Library on Jan. 18/80, by Mrs. Edwin Pugsley, Jr. In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 7 1/2 inches
Approximate number of items: 240
- IV. Restrictions:
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of _____ in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on _____
- VII. Biographical note: *Our Society* was founded in 1832 by a group of New Haven young ladies "for the relief of destitute females and children," and met regularly until its disbandment in 1979. Early members were daughters of Yale faculty members and old New Haven families. Membership was limited to 130 with preference given to daughters of members. In many cases membership has been passed from mother to daughter for several generations. Meetings were held in members' homes to sew garments for the needy. In the beginning meetings were "work" meetings; later the sewing session was followed by a social time and elaborate food was served. The Society donated garments they had sewn and made financial donations to needy persons during the 19th century. It has always made annual financial donations to local charities and members have continued to sew diapers for the hospital. Because of changing social conditions it was decided in 1978 to disband the society, with the final meeting being held on May 17, 1979. A history of *Our Society* was published at that time and can be found in Box II, Folder L.
- VIII. Analysis: Collection consists of one box and one half-box containing six notebooks of handwritten minutes and four bound account books of handwritten financial records covering entire history of the society; membership lists; meeting notices; copies of the history of *Our Society* printed in 1979; invitation to final meeting; photographs taken at annual meeting in 1936 and at final meeting. Minutes and financial records appear to be complete except for an unexplained absence of any records from 1843 to 1848. Collection is arranged chronologically.

Our Society Records 1832 - 1979

Box I

- Folder A: Notebook - Constitution 1833, lists of subscribing members, minutes and financial records 1832 - 1843* [1]
- Folder B: Notebook - minutes, lists of subscribing members and financial records 1848 - 1863 [1]
- Folder C: Notebook - minutes, lists of subscribing members 1863 - 1873 [1]
- Folder D: Notebook - minutes, membership lists 1874 - 1894 [2]
Notebook - minutes 1894 - 1924
- Folder E: Notebook - minutes and Treasurer's reports 1924 - 1979 [1]
- Folder E₁: Loose papers taken from Folder E [5]
- Folder F: Cash Book 1856 - 1885 [2]
Treasurer's Accounts 1885 - 1909
- Folder G: Lists of donations 1876 - 1887 [7]
Receipts for sewing materials 1882 - 1885
- Folder H: Account Books 1929 - 1954 and 1954 - 1978 [4]
2 Conn. Savings Bank passbooks 1951 - 61 and 1966-1970

Box II

- Folder I: Financial records - receipts and contribution acknowledgments 1925 and 1971-1979 [81]
- Folder J: Membership lists 1889-1978 [46]
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- Folder K: Copies of Constitution and By-laws; booklet on Parliamentary Law [8]
- Folder L: History - written by Mrs. Albert H. Barclay, edited by Mrs. Gordon Haight and illustrated by Mrs. Thomas Hooker. Invitations to final meeting; letter from the president on recommendation of Board of Managers to turn records over to NHCHS [6]
- Folder M: Early history; membership lists 1833-1860 [10]
- Folder N: Notebook - alphabetical list of members' names and addresses c. 1890-1914 indicating dates of election and death or resignation [1]

*There appears to be an unexplained gap of five years - from 1843 to 1848.

Our Society Records 1832 - 1979

Box II (Cont)

Folder O:	Meeting notices 1956-1979	[43]
Folder P:	Photographs - annual meeting 1936 and final meeting 1979	[15]
Folder Q:	Newspaper clippings 1963, 1979	[2]
Folder R:	Papers concerning collection	