Ladies’ Union Aid Society records

A Guide to the Collection

Overview

Creator: Methodist Episcopal Church. Ladies’ Aid Society.
Title: Ladies’ Union Aid Society records
Dates: 1858-1883
Abstract: The Ladies’ Union Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New York City, New York was founded in 1850. The organization was established to provide care for infirm church members. The Ladies’ Union Aid Society records include three ledgers of minutes, notes, and financial reports dating from 1858 to 1883.
Accession No: BridArch 302.05
Extent: 2 boxes (1.5 linear feet)
Language: Material is in English
Repository: Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Historical Note

Ladies’ Aid Societies were common from the beginning of American Methodism. In 1850 members of the Methodist Episcopal Churches of New York City founded the Ladies’ Union Aid Society in order to assist in caring for poor and sickly female members. Reverend Dr. Nathaniel Bangs presided over the preliminary meetings that created the Society.
In 1851 the Society was incorporated and authorized to hold real estate. At this time a house that could accommodate thirty people was rented. It served as the only home for the early years of the Society. In order to expand its ministry, the Society purchased a lot and built a home that could house seventy-five residents. The completion of the home in 1857 put the Society in debt by $23,000. The debt pushed the Society to hold fairs and festivals. A large donation by Samuel Halsted and Scheneman Halsted in 1864 erased the debt.

Additional applications prompted the purchase of a second building in 1867. As many as 100 patients could be housed within the two buildings, and the Society began admitting men and elderly couples.

The name the Methodist Episcopal Church Home was adopted in 1877. In 1884 the original home was sold for $80,000. The Society moved into a much larger, newly-built facility in 1886.

Sources:


Scope and Contents of the Collection

The Ladies’ Union Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1850 in New York City, and later renamed the Methodist Episcopal Church Home in 1877. The Ladies’ Union Aid Society records include three ledgers containing minutes that span a quarter of a century of the Society’s growth. Researchers will find within these records evidence of a late nineteenth century church-related organization’s charitable mission and financial struggles.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into one series:

Series 1: Minutes of the Ladies Union Aid Society
Restrictions

Access to Collection:

The collection is open for research use. Patrons must sign the Acknowledgement of Legal Responsibility and Privacy Rights form before using this collection.

Publication Rights:

Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the Director of the Bridwell Library.

Copyright Statement:

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain copyright authorization.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms in the Southern Methodist University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring related materials may search the catalog using these terms.

- Women in charitable work -- New York (State) -- New York.
- Church societies -- New York (State) -- New York.

Related Material

The first annual report, constitution, and bylaws of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, as well as the forty-second annual report, constitution and bylaws of the Methodist Episcopal Church Home are published in Julia Anderson Merwin Bangs’s *An Historic Outline of the Methodist Episcopal Church Home in the City of New York*.

Ladies of The Union Aid Society folder, [John Beaumont Wakeley papers](https://www.drew.edu/). Methodist Collection - Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Acquisition Information
Acquired prior to 2009.

Processing Information
Processed by Madeline Hoff, 2012.

Finding aid written by
Madeline Hoff, 2012.

Encoded by
Ada Negraru, 2012

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1:
Minutes of the Ladies Union Aid Society, 1858-1883

The Ladies’ Union Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New York, New York established a home to care for impoverished elderly church members. The minutes in this collection begin in 1858, documenting the eighth annual meeting. In the later minutes, fewer men are listed in the committees and as members as women began to gain leadership roles.

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