

Congregational Library & Archives
 Boston, Mass. City Mission Society records 1820-2006.
 RG1031

Summary

Creator:

City Mission Society of Boston
 City Mission Society (Boston, Mass.)
 The Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction for the Poor

Title: Boston, Mass. City Mission Society records 1820-2006.

Dates: 1820-2006

Extent: 3 clamshell boxes, 6 flat storage boxes, 2 document cases, 1 record carton, 7 volumes (5.12 cubic feet)

Collection ID Number: RG1031

Language: English

Abstract: The Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction for the Poor was organized October 9, 1816; its current name is the City Mission Society of Boston. The collection includes annual reports, minutes of meetings from board of directors and committees; financial records; programs run by the Society; photographs and lantern slides.

Collection History and Status

Acquisition Information: Gift of Robert Lovett, Baker Library, Harvard University, 1967. Lantern slides deposited at an unknown date.

Repository:

Congregational Library & Archives
 14 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02108
 617-523-0470
<http://www.congregationallibrary.org>

Accruals: There have been several accruals over the years. Materials added to this collection on an intermittent basis.

Processing Information: Processed by Congregational Library & Archive staff, 1995. Accrual and re-description by Jessica Steytler, August 2014, using DACS Second Edition.

Accessing and Using the Collection

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open to the public.

Physical Access: Scrapbooks are in poor condition. Use extra care in handling.

Copyright: Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], in the Boston, Mass. City Mission Society records, 1820-2006, RG1031. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

Additional Resources: Index to lantern slides in collection file. Consult the archivist for more information.

Description

Historical Note¹: The Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction for the Poor was organized October 9, 1816 in Boston, although it was not officially incorporated until February 21, 1820. The founding officers were a mixture of clergymen, active church members and business men and included: Rev. Joshua Huntington, president; William Thurston, vice president; Josiah Salisbury, treasurer; and Thomas Vose, secretary. The original Board of Directors were Samuel Armstrong, Charles Cleveland, Pliny Cutler, Henry Homes, John Hopkins, John Proctor, Samuel Train and Josiah Vinton, Jr. Please note that many of the wives and relatives of these men were active and founding members of the Corban Society (Massachusetts) and Graham Society (Massachusetts); some of the men occasionally served as auditors for these societies.

The group was funded through life subscribers, who contributed \$20, and annual subscribers, who contributed smaller amounts annually; individuals and churches also contributed funds. Some of the members were both life members and annual subscribers, i.e., Thomas Vose and Samuel Armstrong.² The organization was concerned with the basic right of children to have an education; individuals who could not afford to attend church services and the relationship of illiteracy to this matter; and the spiritual leadership of seaman.³ The Society was in part a response to the problems of the increased urbanization of Boston. There was an increase in immigration, as laborers were recruited for building railroads and as mill laborers.⁴ Other issues for the poor of Boston were the Civil War, which contributed to the loss of family income earners and the Great Boston fire of November of 1872.⁵ Public institutions were not able to deal with the employment needs, illness, and housing needs of the new residents, nor the change in the city's homogeneity. In this context, the City Missionary Society (renamed May 3, 1841) attempted to deal with the physical and spiritual needs of the poor through home visitation by paid missionaries, tract distributors, Sabbath Schools and summer programs for youth.

The City Missionary Society (CMS) has had seven different locations, with the majority of the history in Congregational House, 14 Beacon Street. CMS was located in the original Congregational House at 7A Beacon Street (1872-1899), as well as the current location (from 1899 to the present),⁶ where CMS continues the work it started in 1816.

Scope of Collection:

Collection includes annual reports, minutes of meetings from board of directors and committees; financial records; programs run by the Society; photographs and lantern slides. The Congregational Library & Archives does not hold a complete record of materials, as the organization is still active and retains many of its own records.

¹ Parts of the historical note written by CLA staff, 1995. Edited by Jessica Steytler, 2014. For original note, please see collection file for the older guide.

² John Leslie Dunstan. *A Light to the City: 150 years of the City Missionary Society of Boston, 1816-1916*. Boston, Mass.: 1966),,, p. 24.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 24-27.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 35, 89.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 131-132.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 282.

Further Searches

Subject Headings:

After school programs.
 African Americans - Massachusetts - Boston-Social conditions.
 African Americans - Massachusetts - Boston - Religion.
 Benevolent societies.
 Boston (Mass.) - History.
 Boston (Mass.) - Race relations.
 Boston (Mass.) - Social Conditions.
 Boston Seaman's Friend Society.
 The Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction for the Poor.
 Camp Andover (Meredith, NH).
 Camp Waldron (Meredith, NH).
 City Mission Society of Boston.
 City missions.
 City missions - United States - History - 20th century.
 Civil rights movements - Massachusetts - Boston.
 Huntington, Joshua, 1751-1821.
 Poor - Boston - Massachusetts.
 Salisbury, Josiah.
 Summer camps.
 Thurston, William.
 Vose, Thomas.

Related Materials:

Boston City Missionary Society. Portraits. Image Collection
 City Mission Society annual reports, 1817-1988. 3.9
 Cleveland, Charles. Addresses and Reports. 3.9
 Dunstan, John Leslie. *A Light to the City: 150 years of the City Missionary Society of Boston, 1816-1966*. Boston, Mass. 1966. 18.6.3.110

Arrangement:

Series I. Annual reports, 1841-1991 (gaps)
Series II. Meeting Minutes and Reports
Series III. Financial
Series IV. Programs
Series V. Historical and printed material, 20th century
Series VI. Lantern slides, undated.

The slides are arranged by geographic location and have identification numbers, so that images from the same location fall together. For an index to the slides, request a copy from the collection file from the archivist.

The annual report volumes and published history are on the shelf stored after the boxed items.

Contents

Series I: Annual Reports

Date: 1841-1990

Extent: 6 bound volumes, 1 box, 1 folder

Scope of Series: consists of annual reports from 1841-1990, with some gaps. Some are bound volumes, others are individual issues.

Arrangement: The bound volumes are listed first, followed by individual issues in chronological order, but because they are pamphlets, are not stored in folders. The bound annual report volumes are on the shelf stored after the boxed items.

	Date	Volumes
Annual reports	1841-1864	v1
Annual reports	1864-1881	v2
Annual reports	1882-1891	v3
Annual reports	1892-1907	v4
Annual reports	1916-1928	v5
Annual reports	1942-1961	v6
	Date	Box 1
Annual reports	1841	B1
Annual reports	1843	B1
Annual reports	1844	B1
Annual reports	1852	B1
Annual reports	1855	B1
Annual reports	1913	B1
Annual reports	1929	B1
Annual reports	1930	B1
	Date	Box 3
Annual reports	1930, 1944-1966	B3/F1
	Date	Box 1
Annual reports	1931	B1
Annual reports	1932	B1
Annual reports	1933	B1
Annual reports	1934	B1
Annual reports	1935	B1
Annual reports	1936	B1
Annual reports	1938	B1
Annual reports	1939	B1
Annual reports	1963	B1
Annual reports	1964	B1
Annual reports	1965	B1

Annual reports	1966	B1
Annual reports	1967	B1
Annual reports	1970	B1
Annual reports	1972	B1
Annual reports	1974	B1
Annual reports	1976	B1
	Date	Box 3
Annual reports	1980, 1984-1990	B3/F2

Series II: Meeting Minutes and Reports,

Date: 1820-1976

Extent: 3 boxes

Scope of Series: Includes board of directors; corporation; committees including executive;

Arrangement: Arranged by sub-group and then chronologically.

	Date	Box 1
Charter and bylaws	1976	B1
	Date	Box 2
Board of directors minutes	1820-1866	B2
Board of Directors minutes	1867-1922	B2
Board of Directors minutes	1923-1938	B2
	Date	Box 3
Board of Directors minutes	1938-1944	B3/F3
Reports to board of directors	1895, circa 1920s	B3/F4
Summary of board of directors actions	1923-1937	B3/F5
Corporation statements at annual meetings	1952-1954	B3/F6
Corporation meeting minutes	1952-1959	B3/F7
Corporation meeting minutes	1960-1964	B3/F8
Corporation meeting minutes	1965-1970	B3/F9
	Date	Box 4
Executive committee minutes	1847-1875	B4
Executive committee minutes	1875-1910	B4
Executive committee minutes	1911-1924	B4
Executive committee minutes	1924-1937	B4
Executive committee minutes	1937-1944	B4
	Date	Box 3
Sub-committee reports	1920-1937	B3/F10

Series III: Financial Records

Date: 1845-1920s

Extent: 2 boxes

Scope of Series: Includes lists of donors, life members, account books, and ledgers.

Arrangement: Material in chronological order.

	Date	Box 3
Donors	1845-1849	B3/F11
Donors	1850-1855	B3/F12
Donors	1856-1861	B3/F22
Life Members	1857-1913	B3/F23
	Date	Box 5
Account Book	1882-1905	B5
Account Book	1907-1922	B5
Investments, Legacies Ledger	circa 1920	B5
	Date	B3
Expenses, Salaries Ledger	1900s-1920s	B3/F13

Series IV: Programs

Date: 1920-2006

Extent: 5 boxes

Scope of Series: CMS has had many programs over the years. The majority of the material from this series is photographs. The bulk of the printed photographs are from Camps Andover and Waldron, which were camps for children 8-15, primarily from lower-income families. Other topics include youth programs, volunteerism, and Rosemary Cottage in Maine.

Arrangement: The photographs are stored in envelopes by approximate size and arranged by topic and within each topic, loosely in chronological order.

	Date	Box 3
Camps Andover and Waldron architectural drawings	1961, 1968	B3/F14
Camps Andover and Waldron correspondence and printed material	1924-1925, 2006, undated	B3/F15
Camp Andover- "Ship Andover"	1932	B3/F16
	Date	Box 7
Camp Waldron photographs	1926-1930	B7/E1
Camp Waldron photographs	1926-1930	B7/E2
Camp Waldron photographs	1926-1930	B7/E3
Camp Waldron photographs	1926-1930	B7/E4
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1920s-1960s	B7/E5
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1920s-1960s	B7/E6
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1920s-1960s	B7/E7
	Date	Box 6
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1920s-1960s	B6/E1
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs with some documentation of staff names	1920s-1960s	B6/E2

Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1930s-1980s	B6/E3
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1930s-1980s	B6/E4
	Date	Box 7
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1940s-1980s	B7/E8
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1980s-1980s	B7/E9
Camps Andover and Waldron photographs	1980s-1990s	B7/E10
	Date	Box 8
Camps Andover and Waldron graphic	undated	B8
	Date	Box 6
Camp Meadowcrest for Elders photographs	undated	B6/E5
Church School photographs	1940s	B6/E6
	Date	Box 11
East Boston Churches correspondence Bennington Street, Baker, Maverick	1885-1912	B11
	Date	Box 3
Maverick Church project	1907	B3/F17
	Date	Box 8
Photographs of children	1957	B8/E1
	Date	Box 3
Prison program- Behind the Wall and Pole Star publications	1990-2003 (gaps)	B3/F18
Rosemary Cottage, Maine printed material	1888, 1929-1930s	B3/F19
	Date	Box 8
Rosemary Cottage, Maine photographs	undated	B8/E2
Rosemary Cottage, Maine photographs	undated	B8/E3
Rosemary Cottage scrapbook	undated	B8
	Date	Box 7
Rosemary Cottage, Maine photographs	undated	B6/E7
	Date	Box 3
Social service program photographs	1960s-1990s	B3/F20
	Date	Box 8
Volunteerism photographs	1940s-1970s	B8/E4
	Date	Box 6
Volunteerism photographs	1940s-1970s	B6/E8
	Date	Box 8
Volunteerism photographs	1950s-1970s	B8/F1
	Date	Box 3
Youth program children's picture and poetry exhibit	1991	B3/F21
	Date	Box 8
Youth program photographs	1940s-1990s	B8/E5
Youth program photographs	1940s-1990s	B8/E6

	Date	Box 6
Youth program photographs	1940s-1990s	B6/E9
	Date	Box 8
Youth program Bird Street, Christmas, summer	1997, 1998	B8/E7
Youth program Hurley after school, Christmas, and drama photographs	1996-1997	B8/E8
Youth program Hurley Arts Program and play photographs	1997-1998	B8/E9
Youth program Hurley artist in residence, drama group photographs	1995-1996	B8/E10
Youth program Hurley, dance class with Adrienne Hawkins	1990 February	B8/E11

Series V: Historical and Printed Material

Date: 1862-1991

Extent: 4 boxes

Scope of Series: Materials include anniversaries, histories, speeches, publicity, memorial tributes, clippings and scrapbooks.

Arrangement: Topics are loosely arranged alphabetically and within each topic in chronological order whenever possible. The Publicity section was originally in loose leaf binders. The folder headings mirror the original descriptions and the contents are in original order.

	Date	Box 9
100 th anniversary	1916	B9/F1
125 th anniversary	1941	B9/F2
140 th anniversary	1956	B9/F3
150 th anniversary	1966	B9/F4
	Date	
A Light to the City: 150 years of the City Missionary Society of Boston, 1816-1966. By John Dunstan	1966	shelf
175 th anniversary	1990-1991	B9/F5
Excerpts from CMS histories, preparation For 175 th anniversary	1991	B9/F6
Copies of annual reports, preparation For 175 th anniversary	1862-1989 (gaps)	B9/F7
Research material For anniversary preparation	1947-1989	B9/F8
Corporation address	1930	B9/F9
Calendar diary	1913	B9/F10
Correspondence	1876, 1895, 1900, 1918	B9/F11
Historical sketches	1888-1941	B9/F12
Historical talk, Dedham Riverdale Thanksgiving talk	1927	B9/F13
	Date	Box 1

In memoriam: Helen Mar Atwood	1898	B1
In memoriam: Laurin Aldin Bumpus	1902	B1
In memoriam: Hariette Carter	1915	B1
In memoriam: Martha Elizabeth Clapp	1902	B1
In memoriam: Lorena Wright Field	1906	B1
In memoriam: Armeda Gibbs	1884	B1
In memoriam: Thomas Thwing	1868	B1
Tribute: Harriet Briggs	1939	B1
Charles Cleveland 90 th birthday gathering	1862	B1
Dorchester Old and New Tercentenary, 1630-1930	1930	B1
Lincoln, Mass. Farington memorial	undated	B1
	Date	Box 10
"Task of City Missionary Society of Boston in the Next Generation"	1929	B10/F1
Publications- services	1946-1965	B10/F2
Publicity- Camps Andover and Waldron	1920-1967	B10/F3
Publicity- fresh air	1957-1967	B10/F4
Publicity- miscellaneous	1950s	B10/F5
Publicity- missionary services	1944-1956	B10/F6
Publicity- summer services	1944-1954	B10/F7
Publicity- Thanksgiving, Christmas	1954-1968	B10/F8
Publicity- volunteerism	1961-1966	B10/F9
	Date	Box 11
News clippings	undated	B11
Scrapbook, news clippings on CMS	1916-1930s	B11
Scrapbook, news clippings on CMS	1965-1968	B11
Scrapbook, news clippings on CMS	1970-1974	B11

Series VI: Lantern Slides and Photographs

Date: undated

Extent: 81 lantern slides, 1 box

Scope of Series: Lantern slides contain eighty-one items circa 1890-1905. Images include churches and/or congregations in Dorchester, Roxbury, East Boston, Franklin Park, Brighton, Hyde Park, Everett, Charleston, Belmont, Saugus and Boston, Massachusetts, as well as Cleveland, Ohio. A number of these slides also show the neighborhoods around the churches and/or recreational images, such as picnics. The images also include the Boston Seaman's Friend Society (including an image of the Bethel boat, the "Seaman's Friend") and City Missionary Society's Rosemary Cottage in Elliot, Maine.

Images were identified using the title of the slide and/or information in the slide, along with Richard Taylor's *Churches of Christ of the Congregational Way in New England* (Benton Harbor, Michigan: self-

published, 1989). If there was any question about the location, a note was added. A small portion of the slides did not have any title whatsoever and are currently not identified.

Arrangement: The lantern slides are in one grouping.

	Date	Box 12
Lantern slides	undated	B12