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Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union records, 1880-1990. RG0122

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union
Creator:	Woman's Home Missionary Association (Mass.)
Title:	Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union records, 1880-1990.
ID:	RG0122
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1990
Physical Description:	5.25 Cubic Feet (6 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The first meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary Association was held on November 4, 1879 and the organization was formally chartered on September 28, 1881. The association was founded to support the needs of women and children and was supported by both individual membership and auxiliary groups. The association supported mission-based work in Massachusetts and beyond, especially in the post-war South. After the Massachusetts Congregational Conference merged men's and women's missionary work into the singular Massachusetts Missionary Society in the 1920s, the association was reformed as the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union in 1924. The union continues to operate today. This collection contains the administrative and financial records of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union and includes meeting minutes and reports, correspondence, ledgers, histories, newspaper clippings, and photographs.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union records, 1880-1990, RG0122. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The first meeting of the group that would one day become the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union was held in the vestry of the Park Street Church in Boston on November 4, 1879. The following year, a constitution for the organization of women was adopted and the Woman's Home Missionary Association was formally chartered on September 28, 1881. The association was founded to "promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of those in need, especially women and children..." and the purpose of the association was "to engage all churchwomen in home mission work and to collect money towards that end." The group was supported both by direct membership and by auxiliary organizations, such as the Suffolk Alliance of the Woman's Home Missionary Association, throughout the whole of Massachusetts.

The Woman's Home Missionary Association was successful at raising funds, with annual gifts increasing from \$2,500 in the first year to \$29,000 in the tenth. The funds were used to support many initiatives and missionaries throughout the years. For example, the association supported Almira Steele's work in the post-war South as the association's first missionary, Lilla Davis and the Cotton Valley School for African-American women in Alabama, the Santee Indian School in Nebraska, the Tuskegee Normal School in Alabama, the Bethlehem Readers Home in Ohio, which later became Schauffler College and eventually Oberlin College, and the French Protestant College in Massachusetts.

The Woman's Home Missionary Association worked closely with the Massachusetts Congregational Conference during the association's early years. Then, in the early 1920s, the Massachusetts Congregational Conference merged the previously separate men's and women's missionary groups into the singular Massachusetts Missionary Society. Due to this merger, a Massachusetts court ordered that the bequests and money held specifically for women and children must be kept separate and administered separately from the Massachusetts Missionary Society. To adhere to this order, the Woman's Home Missionary Association was reorganized as the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union in 1924. By around 1927, many of the auxiliary groups previously associated with the union were moved under the umbrella of the Massachusetts Missionary Society.

The Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union continues to operate today. The union is affiliated with the Southern New England Conferences of the United Church of Christ and annually disburses invested income as grants from an endowment of over \$1 million.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the administrative and financial records of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The collection contains board reports and minutes, annual reports, by-laws and related founding documents, correspondence, grant records and correspondence, financial ledgers for internal finances, investments, and named funds, histories and biographies, newspaper clippings, addresses and speeches, and photographs.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into the five series listed below. Series 2 and series 4 have been further divided into three and six subseries respectively. Series and subseries have been arranged chronologically. Materials within each series and subseries have been arranged in chronological order, generally, and by topic, when warranted.

Series 1: Administrative records, 1880-1988

Series 2: Financial records, 1881-1990

Subseries 1: General financial records, 1881-1990

Subseries 2: Bequest, trust, and gift records, 1892-1967

Subseries 3: Investment records, 1913-1986

Series 3: Histories and supplementary records, 1892-1982

Series 4: Grant and named fund records, 1896-1990

Subseries 1: Mary W. Hyde and Lucy H. Banister funds records, 1896-1903

Subseries 2: Grant records, 1898-1990

Subseries 3: General named funds records, 1903-1938

Subseries 4: Travis scholarship fund records, 1908-1982

Subseries 5: Joseph Hardy and Rosina Towne fund records, 1912-1933

Subseries 6: Golden anniversary fund records, 1925-1930

Series 5: Board of directors records, 1918-1990

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Business Number: 617-523-0470

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URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union in May 1982; no accession number. Additional materials were donated by the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union in September 1995; 1995-03.

Processing Information

Materials in this collection were initially processed in 1996. The collection was reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, March 2025, adhering to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Materials related to the Suffolk District, the successor organization of the Suffolk Alliance, and other similarly related materials, may be found within the Massachusetts Conference records, 1799-2012, RG5335, held by the Congregational Library & Archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Charitable bequests.
- Church charities.
- Endowments.
- Home missions.
- Women in charitable work.
- Women in missionary work.
- Carter, Jimmy, 1924-2024
- Franklinton Center.
- Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union
- Northland College (Ashland, Wis.)
- Schauffler Missionary Training School (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Talladega College
- Woman's Home Missionary Association (Mass.)

Bibliography

"History." Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. Accessed March 28, 2025. <https://www.mwhmu.org/history>.

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Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1880-1988

Physical Description: 8 Volumes

Physical Description: 18 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the active day-to-day administration of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The series includes annual reports, correspondence, by-laws and other founding documents, documents related to the 1924 name change, secretary records, and insurance documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
First annual meeting minutes, 1880	box 2	folder 16
Charters, constitutions, and by-laws, 1880-1957	box 2	folder 17
Correspondence, 1880-1933, 1982-1983	box 2	folder 18
Annual reports, 1880-1889	box 1	volume 1
Annual reports, 1890-1899	box 1	volume 2
Annual reports, 1900-1909	box 1	volume 3
Annual reports, 1910-1920	box 1	volume 4
Annual reports, 1921-1927	box 1	volume 5
Secretary book, 1879-1881	box 1	volume 6
Secretary book, 1881-1908	box 1	volume 7
Annual reports, 1950-1955	box 2	folder 1
Annual reports, 1956-1960	box 2	folder 2
Annual reports, 1961-1965	box 2	folder 3
Annual reports, 1966-1970	box 2	folder 4
Annual reports, 1971-1975	box 2	folder 5
Annual reports, 1976-1980	box 2	folder 6
Annual reports, 1981-1988	box 2	folder 7
Agreement of association, 1881	box 5	folder 1
Suffolk Alliance of the Women's Home Missionary Association records, 1920-1927	box 2	volume 1
Rhode Island neighborhood of auxiliaries separation, 1923	box 2	folder 23
Plan of work, 1924-1925	box 2	folder 24

Name change documentation, 1924-1925	box 5	folder 5
Annual report, 1927	box 2	folder 25
Suffolk Alliance yearbook, 1927	box 4	folder 40
Insurance documents, 1960-1987	box 5	folder 6
Charter revival correspondence, 1981	box 2	folder 34

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Financial records, 1881-1990

Physical Description: 11 Volumes

Physical Description: 36 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the internal finances of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The series includes ledgers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, reports, committee minutes, and budgets.

General financial records, 1881-1990

Physical Description: 8 Volumes

Physical Description: 16 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records generally related to the finances of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. This subseries includes ledgers, financial reports, budgets, auditors reports, and records of the finance committee.

Title/Description	Instances	
Financial correspondence, 1881-1938	box 2	folder 39
Finance committee records, 1897-1916	box 4	volume 3
Finance committee minutes, 1897-1928	box 4	folder 24
Ledger, 1918-1962	box 2	folder 43
Financial reports and budgets, 1926-1959	box 3	folder 18
Financial reports and budgets, 1960-1974	box 3	folder 19
Financial reports and budgets, 1975-1990	box 3	folder 20
Financial journal, 1938-1965	box 1	volume 12
Cash book, 1946-1963	box 6	volume 1
Cash book, 1964-1977	box 6	volume 2
Franklinton center correspondence, 1951-1986	box 4	folder 32

Auditor's reports, 1953-1967	box 3	folder 21
Financial correspondence, 1960-1972	box 2	folder 40
Financial correspondence, 1973-1980	box 2	folder 41
Financial correspondence, 1981-1987	box 2	folder 42
Miscellaneous financial records, 1965-1988	box 5	folder 7
Ledger, 1966-1985	box 1	volume 14
Auditor's reports, 1968-1986	box 3	folder 22
Income register, 1970-1977	box 4	volume 5
Ledger, 1974-1985	box 4	folder 16
Cash receipts , 1978-1981	box 4	volume 6
Income register, 1978-1982	box 4	folder 20
Cash disbursements, 1982-1988	box 1	volume 15
Income register, 1983-1985	box 4	folder 19

Bequest, trust, and gift records, 1892-1967

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 12 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to gifts and legacy giving to the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The subseries contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, wills and similar legal documents, ledgers, and a history of legacies.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bequest envelopes, 1892-1938	box 4	folder 9
Gifts ledger, 1898-1899	box 1	volume 8
Bequests and legacies correspondence, 1900-1919	box 2	folder 36
Bequests and legacies correspondence, 1924-1935	box 2	folder 37
Bequests and legacies correspondence, 1936-1967	box 2	folder 38
Bequest documents (S-Z), 1909-1951	box 4	folder 12
Bequest documents (P-R), 1920-1927	box 4	folder 11
Bequest documents (A-N), 1917-1964	box 4	folder 10
Probate court clippings, 1911-1942	box 4	folder 25
Conditional gifts, 1915	box 4	folder 27
Conditional gifts ledger, 1915	box 1	volume 11
Sara P. Chamberlain trust, 1917		

	box 5	folder 4
Bequest investment income receipts, 1928-1931	box 4	folder 13
Legacies history report, 1933	box 4	folder 30

Investment records, 1913-1986

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to investments held by the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The records include ledgers, newspaper clippings, reports on investments, lists of securities held, and documents related to stock transactions.

Title/Description	Instances	
Stock transactions, 1913-1932	box 4	folder 26
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company clippings, 1925-1932	box 4	folder 29
Investments ledger, 1936-1984	box 3	folder 23
Securities ledger, 1957-1969	box 1	volume 13
Investments ledger, 1958-1986	box 4	folder 17
Lists of securities, 1968-1977	box 5	folder 8
Investments, 1972-1985	box 4	folder 33
Lists of securities, 1978-1984	box 5	folder 9
Investments ledger, 1980-1986	box 4	folder 18

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Histories and supplementary records, 1892-1982

Physical Description: 11 Folders

Physical Description: 1 Object

Scope and Contents

This series contains histories, biographies, and other documents which document the history of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The series also includes newspaper clippings, anniversary programs, memorials, speaker lists, speeches and addresses, and a congratulatory letter from Jimmy Carter.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings and newspapers, 1892	box 5	folder 2
Sermons and addresses, circa 1892	box 2	folder 19

Copyright form, 1900	box 2	folder 21
Anniversaries, 1904-1930	box 2	folder 22
Almira S. Steele biography, 1920-1921	box 4	folder 35
Other women's home mission histories, 1928, undated	box 4	folder 36
Memorials, 1929-1964	box 2	folder 27
Speakers list, 1941-1975	box 2	folder 29
A Brief History of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union, 1979	box 2	folder 32
Jimmy Carter congratulatory letter, 1979	box 2	folder 33
Kip Tiernan speech, 1982	box 2	folder 20
Embossed, undated	box 4	object 1

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Grant and named fund records, 1896-1990

Physical Description: 5 Volumes

Physical Description: 37 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to how the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union disbursed funds through named funds and scholarships as well as grants. The series includes ledger books, correspondence, and some histories.

Mary W. Hyde and Lucy H. Banister funds records, 1896-1903

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains ledger books related to the Mary W. Hyde and Lucy H. Banister funds of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union.

Title/Description	Instances	
Mary W. Hyde records, 1896	box 4	volume 1
Mary W. Hyde and Lucy H. Banister funds book, 1897-1903	box 4	volume 2

Grant records, 1898-1990

Physical Description: 22 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to grants offered by the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The subseries largely includes correspondence but also includes photographs and documents describing the amounts awarded to various benevolent organizations.

Title/Description	Instances	
Pledged work, 1898-1920	box 5	folder 3
Talladega College photographs, 1970	box 4	folder 37
Grant correspondence, 1971-1972	box 3	folder 1
Grant correspondence, 1973-1974	box 3	folder 2
Grant correspondence, 1975-1976	box 3	folder 3
Grant schedules, 1975-1983	box 4	folder 34
Grant correspondence, 1977	box 3	folder 4
Grant correspondence, 1978	box 3	folder 5
Grant correspondence, 1979	box 3	folder 6
Grant correspondence, 1980	box 3	folder 7
Grant correspondence, 1981	box 3	folder 8
Grant correspondence, 1982	box 3	folder 9
Grant correspondence, 1983	box 3	folder 10
Grant correspondence, 1984	box 3	folder 11
Grant correspondence, 1985	box 3	folder 12
Grant correspondence, 1986	box 3	folder 13
Grant correspondence, 1987	box 3	folder 14
Grant correspondence, 1988	box 3	folder 15
Grant correspondence, 1989	box 3	folder 16
Massachusetts Indian Association grant recipient photographs, 1989	box 4	folder 38
Grant correspondence, 1990	box 3	folder 17
Congregational medical service car photographs, undated	box 4	folder 39

General named funds records, 1903-1938

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains ledgers and histories for various and named funds controlled by the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union.

Title/Description	Instances	
Funds account book, 1903-1916	box 1	volume 9
Funds ledger book, 1906-1934	box 4	folder 14
Administration fund books, 1909-1938	box 4	folder 15
Fund balances, 1921, 1938	box 4	folder 28
"Story of the Funds", 1937	box 4	folder 31

Travis scholarship fund records, 1908-1982

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the Travis scholarship fund of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The records include correspondence, photographs, ledgers, and histories.

Title/Description	Instances	
Edith Babcock Travis in memoriam book, circa 1908	box 4	folder 2
Travis income fund, 1918-1921	box 4	folder 1
Travis scholarship fund, 1920-1924	box 4	folder 3
Travis memorial fund history, 1923-1965	box 4	folder 4
Travis scholarship fund correspondence, 1944-1957	box 4	folder 5
Travis scholarship fund correspondence, 1958-1965	box 4	folder 6
Travis scholarship fund correspondence, 1966-1982	box 4	folder 7
Travis scholarship fund photographs, undated	box 4	folder 8

Joseph Hardy and Rosina Towne fund records, 1912-1933

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to Joseph Hardy and Rosina Towne fund of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The subseries includes two fund books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Joseph Hardy and Rosina Towne fund book, 1912-1916	box 4	volume 4
Joseph Hardy and Rosina Towne fund book, 1912-1933	box 1	volume 10

Golden anniversary fund records, 1925-1930

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the Golden Anniversary Fund of the Massachusetts Women's Home Missionary Union. The subseries includes correspondence and other materials related to the fund and fundraising.

Title/Description	Instances	
Golden anniversary fund correspondence, 1925-1930	box 4	folder 21
Golden anniversary fund records, 1925-1930	box 4	folder 22
Golden anniversary fund materials, 1926-1929	box 4	folder 23

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Board of directors records, 1918-1990

Physical Description: 13 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records by and about the board of directors of the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. The series includes board of directors meeting minutes, agendas, officer lists, and the records of a nominating committee.

Title/Description	Instances	
Board of directors minutes, 1918-1922	box 2	folder 8
Board of directors minutes, 1923-1925	box 2	folder 9
Board of directors minutes, 1934-1944	box 2	folder 10
Board of directors minutes, 1945-1954	box 2	folder 11
Board of directors minutes, 1955-1964	box 2	folder 12
Board of directors minutes, 1965-1970	box 2	folder 13
Board of directors minutes, 1972-1980	box 2	folder 14
Board of directors minutes, 1981-1990	box 2	folder 15
Officers lists, 1928-1959	box 2	folder 26
Officers lists, 1960-1989	box 2	folder 30
Officers lists, undated	box 2	folder 35
Board agendas, 1937-1990	box 2	folder 28
Nominating committee records, 1970-1987	box 2	folder 31

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