



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ladies Benevolent Society records, 1823- SCHS# 0116.00

Scope and Content: Records consist of minutes of meetings, financial records, reports, scrapbooks, membership records, correspondence, printed material, and other items. Included are nurses' reports, ephemera, WPA typewritten transcripts, constitutions and by-laws, clippings, and miscellaneous printed materials.

Historical Note: Charitable organization founded in 1813 for the relief of the sick poor in Charleston (S.C.) and environs. The Ladies' Benevolent Society claims to be the oldest women's organization in continuous existence in the United States. During the 19th century the Society offered medical services for free blacks and poor whites, and continues to serve the sick and poor of the Charleston area.

Description: ca. 12 linear feet, 26 record cartons plus oversize volumes

Note: Oversize items are located after Box 27. Microfilmed records located at SCHS 45-333.

[BOX 1](#)

116.01 Records and minute books, 1823-

116.01.01 Records, 1897 - 1963, n.d. (unbound)

- 116.01.01.01 Minutes, 1897-1912
- 116.01.01.02 Minutes, 1913-1927
- 116.01.01.03 Minutes, 1928-1939
- 116.01.01.04 Minutes, 1940-1949
- 116.01.01.05 Minutes, 1950-1963
- 116.01.01.06 Miscellaneous reports, 1841-1846

[BOX 2](#)

116.01.02 Minute books, 1823- (bound)

- 116.01.02.01 Minute book, 1823-1871 **OVERSIZE**
Leather bound volume embossed "LBS". Spine label reads "Journal #2, 1823-1871." Contains narratives and reports of activities of the Society. Also includes

annual financial reports, Board of Managers quarterly reports, names of visitors, details regarding services to abandoned or orphaned children and lists of members. [back and spine are not attached]

** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1823-1871(116.09.07)*

116.01.02.02 Minute book, 1839-1871

Leather bound volume containing minutes of quarterly Board of Managers meetings beginning on March 15, 1839 and ending on June 27, 1871.

116.01.02.03 Minute book, 1881-1906

Leather bound volume embossed LBS. Spine label reads "Journal #3, 1881-1906." Contains superintendent reports on the history of the LBS, a handwritten copy of the constitution of the organization as amended February 18, 1882. Also contains minutes, reports, financial records, funds and nurses' reports. There is also a statement of property, related to the Hopkins Fund, from 1862-1881. Superintendent reports and newspaper clippings are interspersed throughout. Much space is devoted to the "Loan Supply Closet".

** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1881-1906 (116.09.01)*

116.01.02.04 Minute book, 1906-1911

Leather bound volume embossed "Record LBS 1906." Spine label reads "Journal #4, 1906-1911." Contains nurses reports, semi-annual reports and annual meeting minutes.

**For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1906-1911 (116.09.02)*

BOX 3

116.01.02.05 Minute book, 1906-1930

Bound volume labeled "annual reports and newspaper clippings, 1906-1925." Contains reports from part of the administration of Superintendent Miss C.P. Ravenel. Much of the material consists of typed pages or clippings that were pasted into the ledger. Reports and clippings actually go to 1930.

116.01.02.06 Minute Book, 1911-1914

Leather bound volume with spine labeled "Journal #5". Contains minutes of the Board of Managers, receipts, description of centennial celebration in 1913 and reports for the "Loan Closet", donors to the "Mother's Basket" and "Coloured patients visited by the Nurse." Reference is also made to the "Hopkins Fund", a trust account established for aid to free people of color before the Civil War.

** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1911-1914 (116.09.03)*

116.01.02.07 Minute book, 1915-1918

Leather bound volume containing reports from Board of Managers meetings, the "Loan Closet, donors to the "Mother's Basket" and nurse's reports.

** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1915-1918 (116.09.04)*

BOX 4

116.01.02.08 Minute book, 1918-1923

Leather bound volume containing reports from Board of Managers meetings, the “Loan Closet”, donors to the “Mother’s Basket” and Nurse’s reports, some submitted by Anna D. Banks. Reports mention the Spanish Influenza epidemic and the names of patients along with their diagnosis. Also included are several loose items of correspondence from the American Red Cross.

** For transcription see 116.09.05 WPA typed transcripts, 1918-1923*

116.01.02.09 Minute book, 1924-1938

Leather bound volume containing reports from meetings, the “Loan Closet” and many nurses’ reports listing names of patients. Also included is the history of the Comfort Fund which began in 1908. Newspaper clippings include the obituary of Anna Banks in 1931 as well as miscellaneous articles on the Ladies Benevolent Society’s history and current work. Meeting minutes indicate that the Ladies Benevolent Society sought assistance from the Charleston Welfare Council as well as organizations in Philadelphia during the Great Depression.

Box 5

116.01.02.10 Minute book, 1939-1949

Bound volume containing minutes from annual and regular meetings, balances for the Hopkins, Comfort and Frank R. Frost funds as well as budget notes and receipts. In 1939, the Associated Charities offered the Ladies Benevolent Society a room at 13 Wentworth Street to use for meetings and administrative needs.

116.01.02.11 Minute book, 1950-1955

Bound volume contains meeting minutes as well as evidence that the Constitution was reviewed and updated in 1950. On page 75, there is an agreement with the South Carolina Historical Society for the safekeeping of the Ladies Benevolent Society’s records.

116.01.02.12 Minute book, 1955-1960

BOX 6

116.01.02.13 Minute book, 1960-1965

116.01.02.14 Minute book, 1965-1971

BOX 7

116.01.02.15 Minute book, 1971-1977

116.01.02.16 Minute book, 1977-1981

BOX 8

- 116.01.02.17 Loose minutes and reports, 1981-
- 116.01.02.17.01 Minutes and reports, 1981
- 116.01.02.17.02 Minutes and reports, 1982

- 116.01.02.17.03 Minutes and reports, 1983
- 116.01.02.17.04 Minutes and reports, 1984
- 116.01.02.17.05 Minutes and reports, 1985
- 116.01.02.17.06 Minutes and reports, 1986
- 116.01.02.17.07 Minutes and reports, 1987
- 116.01.02.17.08 Minutes and reports, 1988
- 116.01.02.17.09 Minutes and reports, 1989
- 116.01.02.17.10 Minutes and reports, 1990-1992
- 116.01.02.17.11 Minutes and reports, 1993-1996

BOX 9

116.02 Membership records

- 116.02.01 List of Contributors, 1838 - 1949
Bound volume listing names of members alphabetically with dues contributed.
Dates of resignation or death are also noted.
** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1838-1935 (116.09.10)*
- 116.02.02 Membership records, 1947 – 1953
- 116.02.03 Dues and membership book, 1947-2015

116.03 Financial records,

116.03.01 Treasurer's reports, 1820-1929

- 116.03.01.01 Treasurer's reports, 1820-1834
- 116.03.01.02 Treasurer's reports, 1835-1849
- 116.03.01.03 Treasurer's reports, 1850-1869
- 116.03.01.04 Treasurer's reports, 1870-1875
- 116.03.01.05 Treasurer's reports, 1876-1899
- 116.03.01.06 Treasurer's reports, 1900-1929
- 116.03.01.07 Treasurer's reports, 1930-1949
- 116.03.01.08 Treasurer's reports, 1950-1979

BOX 10

116.03.02 Financial accounts, 1823-1996

- 116.03.02.01 Financial accounts, 1823-1869

Leather bound volume containing financial records of money collected from members on a yearly basis, noting when members resigned or died. Life subscriptions and donors to the permanent fund are also noted.

- 116.03.02.02 Financial accounts, 1848-1914
Leather bound volume containing financial records. Includes names of members and amounts paid in dues as well as expenditures.
- 116.03.02.03 Financial accounts, 1915-1949
Bound volume containing financial records of miscellaneous accounts, dues, fees and expenditures.
- 116.03.02.04 Financial accounts, 1950-1964 **OVERSIZE**
Bound volume containing records of accounts, dues, receipts and expenditures recorded on a monthly basis.
- 116.03.02.05 Financial accounts, 1975-1992 **OVERSIZE**
Volume bound by metal rod containing accounts labeled “control”, “Income”, “Permanent”, Current Expenses”, “Comfort”, “Hopkins”, “Dill”, and “Aid to Needy”.

BOX 11

116.03.02.06 Treasurer’s account book, 1992-1996

- 116.03.02.06.01 Treasure’s reports
- 116.03.02.06.02 Balance sheets
- 116.03.02.06.03 Income journal
- 116.03.02.06.04 Disbursement journal
- 116.03.02.06.05 Aid to the needy
- 116.03.02.06.06 Bank of S.C.
- 116.03.02.06.07 National bank accounts
- 116.03.02.06.08 J.C. Bradford & Co.
- 116.03.02.06.09 Investment Securities
- 116.03.02.06.10 Current expense fund
- 116.03.02.06.11 Permanent fund
- 116.03.02.06.12 Comfort fund
- 116.03.02.06.13 Hopkins and Frost funds
- 116.03.02.06.14 Dill fund
- 116.03.02.06.15 Gains and losses; Lists

116.03.02.07 Bank account book, 1864-1865

116.03.02.08 Financial accounts, 1935-1942

Bound volume containing notes on nurses’ visits as well as receipts, expenditures and donations of food and supplies.

BOX 12

- 116.03.03 Hopkins Fund account book, 1836-1949**
 Leather bound volume containing financial records for the Hopkins Fund, dividends and shares from stocks
** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1836-1936 (116.09.09)*
- 116.03.04 Comfort Fund account books, 1917-1950**
- 116.03.04.01 Comfort Fund account book, 1917-1941
- 116.03.04.02 Comfort Fund account book, 1941-1950
- 116.04 Loan Closet records**
- 116.04.01 Loan Closet records, 1918-1923
 Bound volume containing categorized lists of items loaned to individuals. Categories include Nourishment Closet, Loan Closet, Baby Basket and Mother's Basket . Loaned items include foodstuffs, garments, sheets, old rags, towels and diapers. Lists are by name of donors.
- 116.04.02 Loan Closet records, 1922-1933
 Bound notebook containing lists of items loaned to individuals. Items include foodstuffs, garments, sheets, old rags, towels and diapers. Lists are by name of donors.
- 116.04.03 Loan Closet records, 1923-1934
 Bound volume containing lists of items loaned to individuals. Items include foodstuffs, garments, sheets, old rags, towels and diapers. Lists are by name of donors.
- 116.04.04 Loan Closet records, 1925-1934
 Bound volume containing lists of items loaned to individuals. Items include foodstuffs, garments, sheets, old rags, towels and diapers. Lists are by name of donors.
- 116.05 Nurses' reports, 1860-1945**
- 116.05.01 Nurses' reports, 1860-1864
 Bound volume containing records of expenditures for supplies and money given to individuals. An 1852 copy of the Ladies Benevolent Society Constitution is glued inside the cover. 7/8 of volume is empty.
- BOX 13**
- 116.05.02 Nurses' reports, 1860-1920
 Bound volume containing lists of expenditures per individual, supplies and lists of money given to individuals. Includes reference to Confederate Home at 62 Broad St. in 1919.
** For transcription see WPA typed transcripts, 1859-1920 (116.09.11)*
- 116.05.03 Nurses' reports, 1903-1907 OVERSIZE

- Bound volume containing reports of cases including details such as patient name, address, age, occupation, religion, physician, diagnosis, results, number of visits, and treatment.
- 116.05.04 Nurses' reports, 1903-1908
Bound volume containing formal lists with some narratives. Nurses include Miss R.L. Brown, Miss Gasque and Miss Anna Banks.
- 116.05.05 Nurses' reports, 1907-1917
Bound volume containing notes regarding City Council's refusal to provide the Ladies Benevolent Society with a yearly approbation. Also includes description of Anna D. Banks' hire and first year of employment in 1912. Volume is 2/3 blank.
- 116.05.06 Nurses' reports, 1917-1920 **OVERSIZE**
Bound volume containing reports as in previous volumes. Includes names of local doctors, many maternity cases and some cases in which payment was received. Evidence of the Spanish influenza epidemic in 1918 is abundant.
- 116.05.07 Nurses' reports and membership lists and information, 1920-1930
Bound volume containing reports as in previous volumes. Also contains a copy of a circular letter to local physicians describing the work of the Ladies Benevolent Society and a full description of the Society's rules and regulations.
- 116.05.08 Nurses' reports, 1943-1945
Bound volume containing three pages of receipts and expenditures. Most of the pages are blank.

BOX 14

116.06 Scrapbooks

- 116.06.01 Scrapbook, 1925-1948
- 116.06.02 Scrapbook, 1934-1945
- 116.06.03 Scrapbook, 1948-1954
- 116.06.04 Scrapbook, 1913,1954-1958
- 116.06.05 Scrapbook, 1959-1970 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.06 Scrapbook, 1971-1977 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.07 Scrapbook, 1977-1980 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.08 Scrapbook, 1981-1990 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.09 Scrapbook, 1991-1997 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.10 Scrapbook, 1998-1999 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.11 Scrapbook, 2000-2001 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.12 Scrapbook, 2002 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.13 Scrapbook, 2003 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.14 Scrapbook, 2004 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.15 Scrapbook, 2007-2008 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.16 Scrapbook, 2009-2010 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.17 Scrapbook, 2011 **OVERSIZE**
- 116.06.18 Scrapbook, 2012-2013 **OVERSIZE**

116.06.19 Scrapbook, 2013 OVERSIZE
116.06.20 Scrapbook, 2014 OVERSIZE

BOX 15

116.06.11 Items removed from scrapbook, 1983-1987
116.06.12 Items removed from scrapbook, 1987
116.06.13 Items removed from scrapbook, 1989
116.06.14 Items removed from scrapbook, 1990-1991
116.06.15 Items removed from scrapbook, n.d
116.06.16 Photocopy of scrapbook, 1981-1987

BOX 16

116.07 Correspondence

116.07.01 Correspondence, 1820-1829
116.07.02 Correspondence, 1830-1839
116.07.03 Correspondence, 1840-1845
116.07.04 Correspondence, 1846-1849
116.07.05 Correspondence, 1850-1859
116.07.06 Correspondence, 1860-1899
116.07.07 Correspondence, 1900-1929
116.07.08 Correspondence, 1930-1944
116.07.09 Correspondence, 1945-1949
116.07.10 Correspondence, 1950-1959
Includes "Historical Sketch of the Ladies Benevolent Society" by Franklin Brockinton
116.07.11 Correspondence, 1960-1964
116.07.12 Correspondence, 1965- n.d.

BOX 17

116.08 Ephemera and Visual materials

116.08.01.01 Ephemera
116.18.01.02 Plaque: MUSC Medical Center Department of Social Work, 1988
116.08.02 Visual Materials

116.09 WPA typed transcripts

116.09.01 WPA typed transcripts, 1881-1906
**Corresponds to Minute book, 1881 - 1906 (116.01.02.03)*

- 116.09.02 WPA typed transcripts, 1906-1911
*Corresponds to Minute book, 1906-1922 (116.01.02.04)
- 116.09.03 WPA typed transcripts, 1911-1914
*Corresponds to Minute book, 1911-1914 (116.01.02.06)
- 116.09.04 WPA typed transcripts, 1915-1918
*Corresponds to Minute book, 1915-1918 (116.01.02.07)
- 116.09.05 WPA typed transcripts, 1918-1923
*Corresponds to Minute book, 1918-1923 (116.01.02.08)
- 116.09.06 WPA typed transcripts, 1881-1914
Letters pertaining to reincorporation

BOX 18

- 116.09.07 WPA typed transcripts, 1823-1871
*Corresponds to Minute book, 1823-1871 (116.01.02.01)
- 116.09.08 WPA typed transcripts, 1823-1869
- 116.09.09 WPA typed transcripts, 1836-1936
*Corresponds to Hopkins fund account book 1836-1949 (116.03.03)
- 116.09.10 WPA typed transcripts, 1838-1935
*Corresponds to List of Contributors, 1838-1949 (116.02.01)
- 116.09.11 WPA typed transcripts, 1859-1920
*Corresponds to Nurses' reports, 1849-1920 (116.05.02)

116.10 Constitution

116.11 Wills and Legal documents

Includes an extracted copy of John M. Hopkins' 1835 will bequeathing property and stock to the Ladies Benevolent Society. Income from these was to be divided. Sixty dollars was to be given to Maria Drayton, "a poor old and infirm free woman of color residing in Charleston" on an annual basis. The remaining funds were given over to the Ladies Benevolent Society to apply "exclusively and forever for the relief of the sick and infirm free persons of color residing" in Charleston. Other bequests are from Elizabeth [Hirsham] of Philadelphia, Annie R. Robinson, Hortense S. Cohen and Margaret Adger Williams all of Charleston. Legal documents include a 1945 act of reincorporation and a circa 1910 petition to the Charleston City Council requesting six hundred to "secure the services of a second trained nurse."

116.12 Clippings and articles

- 116.12.01 Clippings and articles, 1895-1910
- 116.12.01 Clippings and articles, 1920-1959
- 116.12.01 Clippings and articles, 1960-1979

116.12.01 Clippings and articles, n.d.

116.13 Miscellaneous

- 116.13.01 Miscellaneous items
- 116.13.02 Tea register, 1948-1992
- 116.13.03 Catherine P. Ravenel papers, 1897-1913

BOX 19

116.14 Printed documents

- 116.14.01 Printed notices and resolutions, 1857-
- 116.14.02 Pamphlets: Constitution
- 116.14.03 Pamphlets: Centennial, Sesquicentennial
- 116.14.04 Printed membership rosters, 1907
- 116.14.05 Sesquicentennial Commemoration, 1963

BOX 20

116.15 Ladies Benevolent Society files received chronologically

The bulk of these begin in 1963. They include financial records, minutes, reports, correspondence, membership lists and other items.

- 116.15.01 1930s
- 116.15.02 1940s
- 116.15.03 1950s
- 116.15.04 1960-1964
- 116.15.05 1965
- 116.15.06 1966
- 116.15.07 1967
- 116.15.08 1968
- 116.15.09 1969
- 116.15.10 1970
- 116.15.11 1971
- 116.15.12 1972
- 116.15.13 1973
- 116.15.14 1974
- 116.15.15 1975
- 116.15.16 1976
- 116.15.17 1977

BOX 21

- 116.15.18 1978

116.15.19 1979
116.15.20 1980
116.15.21 1981
116.15.22 1982
116.15.23 1983
116.15.24 1984
116.15.25 1985
116.15.26 1986

BOX 22

116.15.27 1987
116.15.28 1988
116.15.29 1989
116.15.30 1990
116.15.31 1991
116.15.32 1992
116.15.33 1993
116.15.34 1994
116.15.35 1995

BOX 23

116.15.36 1996
116.15.37 1997
116.15.38 1998
116.15.39 1999
116.15.40 2000
116.15.41 2001
116.15.42 2002
116.15.43 2003
116.15.44 2004
116.15.45 2005
116.15.46 2006
116.15.47 2007

Box 24

116.15.48 2008
116.15.49 2009
116.15.50 2013
116.15.51 2018
116.15.52 2019
116.15.n.d. Undated materials.

116.16 Tax records and related financial records (access restricted)

116.16.01 Tax records and related financial records, 1985-1999

BOX 25

116.16.02 Tax records and related financial records, 2000-2009 (access restricted)

116.16.03 Tax records and related financial records, 2010-2017 (access restricted)

116.17 Dill Property records

Correspondence, legal documents, wills and other items pertaining to a bequest of land (Stono Plantation) made by Mrs. Julia Dill Rogers.

116.17.01 Correspondence re: Dill property, 1985-1994

116.17.02 Papers re: Dill property, 1985-1996

116.17.03 Dill executors vs. Bowen et. al.

116.17.04 Dill family wills

Box 26

116.18 Brockinton files, 1944-1954

Files of Ladies Benevolent Society officer Mrs. D.A. Brockinton. Includes notes, financial records and other miscellaneous items such as Franklin Brockinton's "Historical sketch of the Ladies Benevolent Society".

116.18.01 Brockinton files, 1944

116.18.02 Brockinton files, 1947 116.18.03 Brockinton files, 1948-1949

116.18.04 Brockinton files, 1950

116.18.05 Brockinton files, 1951

116.18.06 Brockinton files, 1952-1954

116.18.07 Brockinton files, Notebook

116.18.08 Brockinton files, Notepad 116.18.09 Brockinton files, Guest Book, 1950-1951

116.18.10 Brockinton files, "Historical Sketch of the Ladies Benevolent Society" by Franklin Brockinton

116.18.11 Brockinton files, Printed material

BOX 27

116.19 Index card file: "Catalog of Records of the LBS"

Catalog indexes records from the Constitution (circa 1823) through 1959 as well as those that are undated.