

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Tatnuck Ladies' Sewing Circle, Records, 1847-1950

LOCATION:

Octavo vols. "T"
Misc. mss. boxes "T"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

7 octavo volumes; 1 folder

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

See octavo volume one of this collection and the typed history of the organization, written in 1935 and filed in the folder.

Wasowicz, Laura. "A Ring in the Water : the Tatnuck Ladies' Sewing Circle, 1847-1867." Diss. Clark University 1993.

Wasowicz, Laura. "The Tatnuck Ladies' Sewing Circle." *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, vol. xxiv, no. 1, Winter 1996, p. 19-46.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Octavo volumes 1-5, the gift of Mrs. Willis Cary, 1935.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The ladies of Tatnuck Village, Worcester, Mass., met on 27 May 1847 to organize a society for benevolent purposes. The society was first called the Tatnuck Female Benevolent Society. Its purpose was to aid "the distressed in sickness and to assist any who have not the means of clothing their families." The society gradually became a sewing circle and social organization with much of its charitable effort directed toward the Worcester Children's Friend Society and the Tatnuck Congregational Church. It is not clear when its name changed from Tatnuck Female Benevolent Society to the Tatnuck Ladies' Sewing Circle, although the latter name begins to appear in the records in the early 1860s.

Abby Kelley Foster (1810-1887) was a member the first year and her name appears infrequently in the minutes through the 1860s. Evidently she spurred the society to make donations to the freedmen's society and to a "Miss Holly" - probably Sallie Holley (1818-1893). Abby's sister-in-law, Sarah Bradley Eastman Foster (1805-1893), was a very active member and she served for several years as president of the society.

The collection includes seven octavo volumes, 1847-1950, and one folder of miscellaneous loose manuscripts, ca. 1879-ca. 1949. The volumes are primarily minutes of meetings but they include copies of the constitution, lists of members and officers, records of receipts and expenditures, some newspaper clippings about club activities, brief obituaries of members, and descriptions of social gatherings.

See Contents List.

23 March 1978
contents list added 30 April 1991
revised 5 March 2010

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Contents List

Octavo Volume

- 1 Records of meetings, 1847 May 27 - 1859
- 2 Records of meetings, including constitution, 1860 - 1876
- 3 Records of meetings, 1877 - 1893
- 4 Records of meetings, 1893 - 1909
- 5 Records of meetings, 1909 - 1917
- 6 Records of meetings, 1917 - 1932;
plus treasury reports, 1880s - 1940
- 7 Records of meetings, 1932 - 1950

Folder

Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, ca. 1879 - ca. 1949