

# BOSTON FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS' SOCIETY

Records, 1842-1957 (incomplete)

Charities Collection – CC 029

2 Manuscript Boxes	Processed October 2000 by Kent Woynowski
7.5 inches	Supervising Archivist: Claire Goodwin
Accession number: 2000.131	

**ACQUISITION:** In 1911, the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time, this collection took on historical significance and in 1991, it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

**ACCESS:** Unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the College Archivist.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY:**

The Boston Fatherless and Widows' was established in 1817, and incorporated in 1837. Its mission was for the relief of poor Protestant widows and single women, especially those who have seen better days. Preference was given to American women, and friendly visits were made monthly by a board of 12 ladies who distributed relief. The amount given to each beneficiary depended upon the judgement of the visitor.

All information taken from Directory of Charitable and Beneficent Organizations, Boston, 1907.

## **SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE:**

The collection consists of the annual reports of the Society from 1842-1957 (with gaps). Up to 1896, the Reports do not include a Treasurer's Report. The Reports include personal accounts of the beneficiaries' situations by Trustees in the form of a Secretary's Report. Lists of benefactors' donations are included, as are lists of Life Members, Benefactors Deceased, and Annual Subscribers. The Constitution is also included. By the 1950's, the Secretary's Report was significantly diminished in size, and the Treasurer's Report far more detailed.

Missing are the years:

1847-65  
 1867-74  
 1876-82  
 1885  
 1922  
 1925  
 1929-30  
 1950

**CONTAINER LIST:**

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		<b>SERIES I: ANNUAL REPORTS</b>
1	1	1842, 1845, 1847-49
	2	1846-91 Bound Volume, (1847-65, 1867-74, 1876-82, 1885 missing)
	3	1892-1900 Bound Volume
	4	1901-08
	5	1909-16
	6	1917-37 (1922, 1925, 1929-30 missing)
	7	1938-57 (1950 missing)(2 copies of 1945)