

Aimwell School records, 1796-1935

MC.1183

Finding aid prepared by Grace Thiele

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

July, 2014

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Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Aimwell School. (Philadelphia, Pa.).
Creator	Society for the Free Instruction of Females. (Philadelphia Pa.).
Title	Aimwell School records
Date [inclusive]	1796-1935
Extent	1.25 Linear feet (3 boxes)
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Aimwell School records (MC 1183), Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Historical Note

The Aimwell School was founded in 1796 by Anne Parrish (1760-1800) and was run originally out of Parrish's own home on North 2nd Street in Philadelphia as an educational opportunity for poor girls. The school's mission was to provide a "proper" education to young girls while charging no more than a small regular fee for the usage of books. No tuition was charged and the school ran entirely on donations. Parrish and her coworkers worked towards the same mission, forming together as the Society for the Free Instruction of Female Children, under the management of the Society of Friends. As the institution grew, it moved to four different locations before settling in the Friends' Meeting House at 6th & Noble Streets in Philadelphia in 1889, where it stayed until 1914. In 1915 it reopened at 865-69 N. Randolph Street in Philadelphia and emphasized the fundamental goals of spiritual, mental, moral, and physical education for their students.

In 1859, the Society for the Free Instruction of Female Children was incorporated and the name was then changed to the Aimwell School Association. The school was open until 1923; the corporation dissolved in 1935. The funds were transferred to a Friends fiduciary group.

There were several principal contributors to the Aimwell School, namely: Anne Parrish, Sarah Richie, Sarah Bacon, and Margaret Warder, who were some of the first members of the Society for the Free Instruction of Female Children. Catharine Morris was also an early member to the Society and provided significant financial support for the institution. Mary Wheeler served as the first treasurer, and Mary M. Leeds later served as treasurer as well for an extensive period of time.

Scope and Contents note

The Aimwell School Records (1796-1935) consist primarily of minute book records and various documents related to the operation and administration of the Aimwell School. There are 13 volumes of minute books, including extracts and drafts of minutes, 1797-1935. Financial information includes 11 volumes of treasurer's accounts, 1797-1895, including an account of the cost of building a new school house in 1825 and documents regarding bequests and donations. There are several legal documents, 1886-1919 and 1935, including mortgages, bonds, deeds, and insurance contracts. There are records of the general operation of the school, 1796-1920, including regulations, a school constitution, articles of association, typed histories, catalogues and an account of the library, and a log of all enrolled students. Also included in this collection are some miscellaneous materials, namely, a series of photographs related to the school as well as several keys to the Aimwell School buildings and the original box for these records.

Arrangement

Materials within the collection are organized chronologically within each series.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July, 2014

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17)

Acqisition

Unknown

Processing Information

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Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Parrish, Anne, 1760-1800
- Richie, Sarah A., 1817-1888

Subject(s)

- Society of Friends -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- History -- Sources
- Society of Friends--Education
- Women -- Education
- Women--Education--Pennsylvania.
- Women--Societies and clubs.

Minutes

Collection Inventory

Minutes 1797-1935		
	Box	Folder
1797-1815 1797-1815	1	1
1816-1836 1816-1836	1	2
1836-1866 1836-1866	1	3
1867-1880 1867-1880	1	4
1881-1890 1881-1890	1	5
1891-1909 1891-1909	1	6
1909-1924 1909-1924	2	1
1925-1935 1925-1935	2	2
Financial Records 1797-1911		
Treasurer's account books		
	Box	Folder

Receipt books

1797-1825 1797-1825	2	3
1825-1895 1825-1895	2	4
Receipt books		
	Box	Folder
1810-1879 1810-1879	2	5
1879-1911 1879-1911	2	6
	Box	Folder
Letters to treasurer Mary M. Leeds	3	1
Bequests and donations	3	2
Legal Documents 1886-1919, 1935 (Bulk, 1886-1919)	Box	Folder
	3	3
Operation of the School 1796-1920		
	Box	Folder
Articles, Regulations, and the Constitution	3	4
Organization and History	3	5
The Library	3	6

Miscellaneous

Log of Students

3

7

Miscellaneous 1921-1924**Box****Folder**

Photographs

3

8

Artifacts

3

9