

A Guide to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, Records, 1914-1991

Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, Records, 1914-1991
1914-1991

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 37515
Library of Virginia
2003

History

Processed by: Alex Lorch

Funding: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, Records, 1914-1991

Subtitle: Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, Records, 1914-1991

Collection: 37515

Author: Alex Lorch

Sponsor: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 25 Kilobytes

Date: © 2002 By the Library of Virginia.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from Microsoft Word. Created by Alex Lorch, 8 January 2003

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 14, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Library of Virginia//TEXT (US::Vi::vi00524::A Guide to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, Records, 1914-1991)//EN" "vi00524.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

2014-01-08 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Accession number

37515

Language

English

Creator

Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia

Physical Characteristics

4.95 cubic feet

Physical Location

Organization Records Collection, Accession 37515

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Do not serve original clippings and scrapbooks (box 2). Serve photocopies instead.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

This collection was given to The Library of Virginia by the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, 503 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, in July 2000.

Preferred Citation

Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia Records, 1914-1991. Organization records collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Related Material

Historical Information

The concept for the Travelers' Aid Society grew out of the gold rush to the United States' West in the early 1850's. In 1851, Bryan Mullanhy, former mayor of St. Louis, left more than a third of his million dollar fortune in a trust fund to be administered by the St. Louis City Council for those persons who were "traveling to the West." The National Travelers' Aid Society was an offspring of this initial generous offering. The Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia based and founded in Richmond, Virginia, was organized by the Young Women's Christian Association. In 1909, Helen Beardsley was employed by the Y.W.C.A. as the Travelers' Aid Secretary and in that capacity she served under a committee known as the Travelers' Aid Committee. The principal aim of this committee was to provide protective work for young women. Beardsley eventually expanded the committee's aim to include not only young women but also unwed mothers with children, foreigners, and the physically disabled. As the sole full-time employee, Beardsley's work-load increased so dramatically in the first five years that by 1914-1915 the committee was compelled to organize an independent society named the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia with two full-time workers, Helen Beardsley and Irene Fallis. The organization operated out of Byrd Street Station in downtown Richmond, Virginia.

In 1914 the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia became a member of the National Travelers' Aid Society based in New York. Beardsley and Fallis worked as the only full-time employees until their health deteriorated and they were forced to resign. At that time Miss Earl Recks became executive secretary. Under her supervision case work began and donations from professional men, successful local businesses, the railroad companies, and even the state were solicited. With the securement of sufficient funds, new Travelers' Aid branches were organized in Portsmouth, Norfolk, Petersburg, and Newport News, Virginia.

During World War I, the Travelers' Aid Society took on new responsibility by helping traveling soldiers and their families. They also began to serve those in need without regard to race, creed, color, sex or age. In 1917 the first African-American employee was hired by the organization. After the war and during the Great Depression, Travelers' Aid workers continued to take on heavier and heavier case loads. Through a combination of private and state support, the organization continued to lend assistance to those travelers in need. During World War II, the Travelers' Aid Society operated as a branch of the United Service Organization. In Richmond Travelers' Aid case workers lent aid to traveling soldiers who stopped at the Lounge at Broad Street Station. They provided magazines and books, helped check their luggage and reserve a room, rendered first aid, and provided letter-writing paper and mail facilities, among other services. Public service like that offered during the World Wars and the Great Depression have enabled the organization to remain the oldest, existing, non-sectarian, social welfare movement in the United States.

Scope and Content Information

Record 5, 1914-1991, of the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia, an organization operating and located in Richmond, Virginia. This collection is organized in six series and includes letters, minutes, an organizational history, annual reports, scrapbooks, plaques, certificates, case studies, a ledger, photographs, promotional material, clippings, training and resource manuals, a phonograph record, and printed material. Also in this collection is material concerning the United Service Organization of which the Travelers' Aid Society was a member.

Organization

Organized into the following six series: I. Scrapbooks and clippings II. Annual reports and minutes III. Organizational files IV. Publications V. Certificates and plaques and VI. Photographs.

Contents List

Series I: Scrapbooks and clippings 1934-1979

Box 1-2

Scope and Content

Contains scrapbooks and clippings concerning the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia. Specifically, there are scrapbooks, 1934-1937, 1941-1977, 1965, 1979, consisting of newspaper clippings concerning the organization and photographs of transients. One scrapbook, 1965, consists of six photographs, letters, itineraries, press releases, invoices, programs, and Virginia tourist pamphlets concerning the 50th anniversary celebration of the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia. Letters found in this scrapbook principally concern prior planning for the anniversary celebration held in Richmond, Virginia, in conjunction with the annual regional conference for the organization. Also in this series are loose newspaper clippings, 1938-1939, 1962, 1970-1973, concerning the organization and its activities.

Scrapbook, 1930's

Box 1

Folder 1

Scrapbook, 1934-1935

Box 1

Folder 2

Scrapbook, 1935-1937, 1979

Box 1

Folder 3

Scrapbook, 1941-1977

Box 1

Folder 4

Scrapbook, 1965

Box 1

Folder 5

Newspaper clippings, 1937-1939, 1962, 1970-1973

Box 1

Folder 6

Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1978-1986

Box 1

Folder 7

Oversize clippings (originals: do not serve)

Box 2

Folder 1

Scrapbooks (originals: do not serve)

Box 2

Folder 2-5

Series II: Annual Reports and Minutes 1914-1991

Box 3-7

Scope and Content

Consists of Travelers' Aid Society board of directors' and executive committee meeting minutes, United Service Organization meeting minutes, list of the board members from 1915-1950, lists of contributing members, 1915-1922, annual reports for 1937, 1942-1947, 1949, 1956-1957, 1961-1966, 1969-1979, 1982, 1985, and 1991, monthly general secretary's reports, 1914-1916, and a general secretary's notebook, 1931. There are also United Service Organization annual reports, 1960 and 1962.

Board of directors' minutes, 1914-1916

Box 3

Folder 1

Board of directors' minutes, 1915-1917

Box 3

Folder 2

Board of directors' minutes, 1926-1939

Box 3

Folder 3

Board of directors' minutes, 1935-1937

Box 3

Folder 4

Board of directors' minutes, 1940-1942

Box 3

Folder 5

Board of directors' minutes, 1940-1954

Box 3

Folder 6

Board of directors' minutes, 1954-1961

Box 3

Folder 7

Board of directors minutes, 1962-1969

Box 4

Folder 1

Board of directors' minutes, 1970-1977

Box 4

Folder 2

Board of directors' minutes, 1978

Box 4

Folder 3

Board of directors' minutes, 1979

Box 4

Folder 4

Board of directors' minutes, 1980

Box 5

Folder 1

Board of directors' minutes, 1981

Box 5

Folder 2

Board of directors' minutes, 1982

Box 5

Folder 3

Board of directors' minutes, 1983

Box 5

Folder 4

Board of directors' minutes, 1984

Box 5

Folder 5

Board of directors' minutes, 1985

Box 5

Folder 6

Board of directors' minutes, 1986

Box 5

Folder 7

Board of directors' minutes, 1987

Box 5

Folder 8

Board of directors' minutes, 1988

Box 6

Folder 1

Board of directors' minutes, 1989

Box 6

Folder 2

Executive committee minutes, 1984-1985

Box 6

Folder 3

Executive committee minutes, 1986

Box 6

Folder 4

Executive committee minutes, 1987

Box 6

Folder 5

Executive committee minutes, 1987

Box 6

Folder 6

Executive committee minutes, 1989

Box 6

Folder 7

Transient committee minutes, 1930-1934

Box 6

Folder 8

Regional committee minutes, 1986

Box 7

Folder 1

United Service Organization minutes, 1942, 1957-1963

Box 7

Folder 2

Annual reports, 1937, 1942-1949, 1956-1969

Box 7

Folder 3

Annual reports, 1970-1991

Box 7

Folder 4

United Service Organization annual reports, 1960, 1963

Box 7

Folder 5

Series III: Organizational Files 1930-1989

Box 7-10

Scope and Content

Comprises organizational files principally containing correspondence, reports and manuals concerning the operation and function of the Travelers' Aid Society. Includes case studies, teaching and training manuals, case study plays, resource manual, personnel practices and social case work files, a case workers' handbook, a United Service Organization handbook of operations, research studies, policy statements, and reports. Reports span from the 1930's to the 1980's and specifically concern relief practices, statistics recording, the function of the Travelers' Aid Society, inter-city services, travel services, war veterans services, the Richmond homeless population, and the Bainbridge-Blackwell neighborhoods in Richmond. There is also a ledger, 1984-1988, including names of transients aided by Travelers' Aid Society workers. SERIES III also contains organizational correspondence consisting of letters, 1936-1937, sent to and from Mrs. James F. Ryland, an officer of the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia. Also in this series is correspondence, 1940-1943 and 1957-1963, for the United Service Organization (U.S.O.) of which the Travelers' Aid Society was a member. In particular this correspondence concerns travel services provided for soldiers in Richmond, Virginia, on duty during World War II. Other material related to the United Service Organization includes by-laws, reports, and committee lists.

Board of directors list, 1915-1950

Box 7

Folder 5

Membership and contributions list, 1915-1922

Box 7

Folder 6

General secretary's report, 1914-1916

Box 7

Folder 7

General secretary's report, 1931

Box 7

Folder 8

Self-assessment report, 1987

Box 7

Folder 9

Financial report, 1936

Box 7

Folder 10

Case workers' handbook

Box 7

Folder 11

Case workers' teaching manuals and case studies

Box 7

Folder 12

Case workers' teaching manuals and case studies

Box 8

Folder 1

Case study drama plays

Box 8

Folder 2

Case workers' training manual

Box 8

Folder 3

Case workers' resource manual

Box 8

Folder 4

Personnel practices and social case work files

Box 8

Folder 5

Report - "Criteria for Relief Practices in Travelers' Aid," 1945

Box 8

Folder 6

Report - "Guide for Recording, Reporting, and Analysis of Service Statistics," 1976

Box 8

Folder 7

Report - "Statement on the Function of Travelers' Aid," 1945

Box 8

Folder 8

Report - "Intake Practice in Travel Service Cases - an Inquiry," 1945

Box 9

Folder 1

Report - "Summary of the Reports on the Study of Inter-city Service," 1945

Box 9

Folder 2

Report - "Coming Home," 1946

Box 9

Folder 3

Richmond area homeless population research study, 1986

Box 9

Folder 4

Executive committee report on Richmond's Bainbridge-Blackwell neighborhoods,

Box 9

Folder 5

Self-evaluation study, 1977

Box 9

Folder 6

Newcomers' reports, 1954, 1966

Box 9

Folder 7

Travel service reports, 1953, 1956

Box 9

Folder 8

Miscellaneous reports, 1960-1978

Box 9

Folder 9

United Service Organization by-laws, 1959-1960

Box 9

Folder 10

United Service Organization committee reports, 1940-1963

Box 9

Folder 11

Policy statements, 1960, 1962

Box 9

Folder 12

Ledger, 1984-1988

Box 9

Folder 13

Letters to and from Mrs. James F. Ryland, 1936-1937

Box 9

Folder 14

Letters to and from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, 1983

Box 10

Folder 1

United Service Organization letters and memorandums, 1940-1943

Box 10

Folder 2

United Service Organization letters and memorandums, 1957-1963

Box 10

Folder 3

Series IV: Publications

Box 10-11

Scope and Content

Various publications related to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia are contained in this series. Includes a history of the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia prepared by Sue B. Ruff in the 1940's, Travelers' Aid Society and United Service Organization promotional pamphlets and newsletters, a copy of "Legal Research Bulletin: Conditions Determining Residence and Settlement for Persons Seeking Relief" printed by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1934 and "An Evaluation of the Fingerprinting of Transients by the Richmond Travelers' Aid Society as a Prerequisite to the Giving of Assistance" submitted as a masters thesis to the Richmond School of Social Work (William and Mary College) by George Emmett Rice in 1941.

Twenty Years with the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia: A History of the Travelers' Aid Society, by Sue B. Ruff, 1938

Box 10

Folder 4

Group Treatment for Transients, by Robert S. Wilson

Box 10

Folder 5

The Torch - June and September, 1937

Box 10

Folder 6

The Transient - March and May, 1937

Box 10

Folder 7

An Evaluation of the Fingerprinting of Transients by the Richmond Travelers' Aid Society as a Prerequisite to the Giving of Assistance, thesis by George Emmett Rice, 1941

Box 10

Folder 8

Legal Research Bulletin: Conditions Determining Residence and Settlement for Persons Seeking Relief, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 1934

Box 11

Folder 1

Promotional pamphlets and newsletters

Box 11

Folder 2

United Service Organization pamphlets and newsletters

Box 11

Folder 3

Other organizations' newsletters and publications,

Box 11

Folder 4

Series V: Certificates, plaques and photographs

Box 11

Folder 5-8

Scope and Content

Contains certificates and plaques given to the Travelers' Aid Society for service to the community. These include a certificate, 1946, from the United States Armed Services in recognition of their service during World War II; certificate of membership from the National Travelers' Aid Association to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia; and the United Givers Fund Award, a plaque, presented in 1960 to the organization. There are also a small amount of photographs in this series pertaining to the Travelers' Aid Society of Virginia.