

New Bedford Whaling Museum Research Library

Johnny Cake Hill

New Bedford, MA 02740

**Finding Aid For The
The New Bedford Day Nursery Records**

(1886-1987)

Mss 152

Accessions B89-19 and 2004.31

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&

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2004 and 2016

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PREFACE:

This collection contains the administrative and financial records of the New Bedford Day Nursery. The documents in this collection were given by the Day Nursery in 1989 (Access. B89-19) and the Millicent Library in 2004 (Access. 2004.31). Items from Access. 2004.31 are indicated by a foot note in the box list.

The Day Nursery was started by a group of young women who were descended from some of New Bedford's leading families. They most likely were aware of the difficult conditions in which the mill workers found themselves. Just as the Orphan's Home recognized the need for child protection, the Day Nursery aided families with young children who needed their services due to the long work days.

New Bedford was not alone in the effort to help families cope with the demands caused by the industrial revolution. Many of these groups were inspired and aided by national organizations that shared their concerns.

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HISTORICAL NOTE;

The New Bedford Day Nursery was founded in 1886 by 24 women, all under the age of 20, to establish and carry on a day nursery to care for young children whose parents worked long hours in the mills and elsewhere. It was incorporated on May 4, 1897.

The Board of Directors and Visiting Committee raised operating funds, hired matrons and a cook, and oversaw all aspects of running a day nursery.

The original location was 363 Pleasant St. where it opened in 1887. It then moved to 365 Pleasant St. in 1891. In 1894 it was located at 200 Cedar Grove St. In 1902 it was located at 16 Howard St. while a building was built at 210 County St. In 1915 the building was moved to 1060 Cove Rd.

In 1920 a Central Council was formed by five charities, including the Day Nursery, in order to solicit funds to operate these charities. The Central Council later became the Community Welfare in 1922. In 1927 it became the Community Fund and in 1953 it became the Greater New Bedford United Fund.

In 1962 the State Department of Public Health had jurisdiction over all nurseries in the state. Because the Board of Directors had maintained high standards few changes had to be made.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

**New Bedford Day Nursery
Mss 152
Accessions B89-19 and 2004.31**

Scope and Content:

Quantity:

- 2. linear feet*
- 4.5 document boxes*
- 1 oversize folder*

Series Description:

Series I. Administrative Records

- A. Legal Documents
- B. Meeting Minutes
- C. Board Members
- D. Financial Records
- E. Other Legal Documents

Series II. Additional Materials and Publications

- A. Proposed Building Plans
- B. New Bedford Day Nursery Printed Materials
- C. Publications from the Federation of Day Nurseries

BOX AND FOLDER LIST:

NEW BEDFORD DAY NURSERY

**Mss 152
Accessions B89-19 and 2004.31**

Series I. Administrative Records

A. Legal Documents

Box 1.

- Folder**
- 1. Agreement of Association, 1886
 - 2. Agreement of incorporation, 1897
 - 3. Notification to members of first meeting, 4/1897
 - 4. Incorporation document, 1897 **OS**

5. New Bedford Day Nursery constitution, undated¹

B. Meeting Minutes

6. Visiting Committee meeting minutes, 5/1887 - 12/1900
7. Meeting minutes, 11/1888 - 12/1891
8. Meeting minutes, 1/1892 - 5/1897
9. Meeting minutes, 3/1897 - 6/1904

Box 2.

- Folder**
1. Meeting minutes, 7/1904 - 9/1910
 2. Meeting minutes, 12/1910 - 12/1917
 3. Meeting minutes, 1/1918 - 8/1926
 4. Meeting minutes, 8/1926 - 6/1934

Box 3.

- Folder**
1. Meeting minutes, Board of Managers, 6/1955 - 9/1960 (part 1 of 2)
 2. Meeting minutes, Board of Managers, 10/1960 - 1968 (part 2 of 2)
 3. Meeting minutes, Board of Managers, 1/7/1969 - 12/1975
 4. Meeting minutes, Board of Managers, 1/8/1976 - 12/3/1985
 5. Special meeting of members of the Corporation, re: by-laws, 1/7/1969

C. Board Members and Additional Material

6. Lists of Board Members, 1888 - 1950
7. Lists of Board Members, 1951 - 1985

Box 4

- Folder**
1. Minutes of Executive Committee re: benefit entertainment, 5/1899²
 2. Summons, notice and complaint. Supreme Court. New York County. United States Trust Company of N.Y. against Fisher A. Baker and others. 1913. ³
 3. Handwritten notes re; Mrs. O'Brien's and Miss Perry's activities, 1945, 1950⁴
 4. Directors statistical reports and annual reports, 1966-1985
 5. Annual reports, 1967-1985
 6. Attendance records, 1984 - 1985
 7. Notes on activities, 1920 - 1941
 8. Notes about the original idea of 1887, undated

D. Financial Records

9. Legal document re: bequest from Robert C. Billings estate, 1903
10. Donations for the Day Nursery, 1905 - 1920⁵
11. Notes of financial accounts for building upkeep, 1908 - 1925⁶
12. Ledger of expenses, 1949 - 1971
13. Annual financial statements, 1970 - 1985

¹ Accession 2004.31

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

14. Monthly accounts, 1983 - 1985
15. Estimates for salaries and positions, 1985 - 1987
16. General information and financial report, 1985 – 1987

E. Other Legal Documents

17. Warranty deed. Timothy P. Donnelly to N.B.D.N. (property on Cove Rd.), 1914
18. Warranty deed. (copy) Everett G. Stetson & Lester W. and Sarah B. Jenny to N.B.N.D., 1930
19. Correspondence from John H. Clifford to Mrs. Edmund Anthony re: “Jenny matter” and the new mortgage, 1935
20. Lists of interest on dividends and bonds belonging to N.B.D.N., 1968
21. Greater New Bedford Community Chest v. George Finegold, Atty. General of MA.1959

Series II. Additional Materials and Publications

A. Proposed Building Plans

Box 5

- Folder**
1. Specifications for the proposed work incidental to moving from County St. to Brock Ave., 1914
 2. Architectural drawings for new building, 1914 OS
 3. Estimate for work to be done, 1985

B. New Bedford Day Nursery Printed Materials

4. Program. *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. The Marie Antoinette Fête, May 1899⁷
5. Pamphlet. *New Bedford Day Nursery*, 1900⁸
6. Postcard. N.B.D.N., 1914⁹
7. By-laws. N.B.D.N., 1940¹⁰
8. By-laws. N.B.D.N., 1982¹¹
9. Booklet. *History of the New Bedford Day Nursery*, 1886 -1986

C. Publications by the Federation of Day Nurseries

10. Dodge, Mrs. Arthur M. *The Development of the Day Nursery Idea*, Federation of Day Nurseries. Leaflet No.1. Reprinted from *Outlook*, May 1897¹²
11. Hall, Margery. *For What Does the Day Nursery Stand?* Federation of Day Nurseries Leaflet No. 5. Reprinted from *Charities*, Vol. XII, No. 30, July 23, 1904
12. *The Duties and Privileges of a Manager*. Federation of Day Nurseries Leaflet No. 6 undated¹³
13. *A Day in the Nursery*, 1898¹⁴

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

APPENDIX:

Oversize items

New Bedford Day Nursery Mss 152

Relocated to OS Drawer + 2

Box 1, Folder 4. Comm. of MA certificate of incorporation, 1897

Box 5, Folder 2. Architectural Drawings for new building, 1914

ADDED ENTRIES:

Allen, Clara Gardner
Billings, Robert C.
Bullard, Sarah S.
Child care
Cook, Elise H.
Cummings, Ida F.
Dana, Grace
Day Nurseries
Delano, Sarah S. B.
Eliot, Edith
Federation of Day Nurseries
Gifford, Elizabeth M.
Gifford, Helen C.
Gifford, Nella H.
Haskins, Anna W.
Hanes, Hazel
Hathaway, Elizabeth
Kingman, Clara G.A.
Macomber, Louise H.
Mandell, Bertha
Massachusetts, Commonwealth of
Mill workers
Murray, Elizabeth C.
New Bedford (MA)
New Bedford Day Nursery
Pied Piper of Hamelin
Pierce, Louise C.
Prescott, Helen W.
Rotch, Josephine G.
Rugg, Elizabeth L.
Snow, Agnes
Snow Alice
Stone, Caroline
Swift, Elise
Taber, Anna R.
Taber, Emma C.
Taber, Sylvia
Thornton, Mary Ellen
Wood, Margaret E.