

Roanoke Public Libraries
Gainsboro Library
Ladies United Aid Society Collection

Collection Description

Repository: Gainsboro Branch of Roanoke Public Libraries

Title: Ladies United Aid Society Collection

Physical Characteristics: One (1) oversized record storage box

Donated by: Ladies United Aid Society

Arrangement: These items are arranged with the loose documents first, like-items grouped together and chronological, in a folder. The scrapbook is arranged last due to its size.

Creator: Ladies United Aid Society.

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Gainsboro Library copy fees apply.

Processor: Megan Koehler Mizak, August 2018; Addendum, Megan Koehler Mizak, 23 February 2024

Historical Note:

The Ladies United Aid Society was founded in 1893 as a benevolent organization when hospital care was not available to Roanoke's African American community. The organization's primary mission was to assist each of its members during times of sickness, misfortune and death. The Society was chartered in 1899, with the charter being signed by Judge John W. Woods and the Society's founding members. Founding members were Rachel Harth, Mary Evans, Jennie Thomas, Susie Oliver and Mary L. Brooks. The Ladies United Aid Society is still active today and includes many legacy members.

Scope and Content:

- The Ladies United Aid Society Collection is comprised of one (1) oversized record storage box.
- The majority of the collection consists of a scrapbook which was assembled by the Ladies United Aid Society in 1991. The scrapbook consists of photographs, news clippings, funeral programs, correspondences, programs, a City of Roanoke Proclamation and other documents relating to the members of the Society. The wooden cover of the scrapbook was handcrafted by Curtis C. Reeves, husband of Society member Virginia M. Reeves. Also included in the collection are document and news clippings relating to the Society's 125th anniversary as well as a brief history of the Ladies United Aid Society compiled by members.

- This collection dates from the early 1900s to 2024.
- Addendum includes a news clipping and three bound records logs: 1898 - 1905, 1923 - 1933, 1943 - 1960

Container List:

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1 - Documents

- Correspondence: From Deborah Jones, president of the United Ladies Aid, to Sheila Umberger and Randi Wines, regarding the 125th Anniversary of the Ladies United Aid Society.
- Program: Ladies United Aid Society 125th Anniversary Celebration, Gainsboro Library, March 15, 2018.
- “Society celebrates 125th Anniversary,” Roanoke Tribune, April 5, 2018.
- “Society donates records to library,” Roanoke Times, April 27, 2018.
- Ladies United Aid Society Members, 1898-1905.
- Brief History of the Ladies United Aid Society.

Ladies United Aid Society Scrapbook

- Ladies United Aid Society Scrapbook, 1991.

Addendum

Folder 2

- “Honoring a hidden figure in Black History,” Roanoke Tribune, 22 February 2024.

Bound Records Logs: 1898 - 1905; 1923 - 1933; 1943 - 1960