Summary

Creator: Howard Memorial Fund (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Howard Orphanage and Industrial School records

Date: 1898-1955 [bulk 1912-1918]

Size: 15.2 linear feet (13 RC's, I AB, 5 print-boxes)

Abstract: The Howard Orphanage and Industrial School records consist principally of administrative records dealing with fund raising and financial matters. The majority of the Administration series is correspondence from the office of President L. Hollingsworth Wood, primarily with other members of the board of managers, i.e., James H. Gordon and Mary Gordon, and J. H. N. Waring, superintendents; and Mansfield B. Snevily, treasurer, regarding the operation of the Orphanage and the purchase of supplies. Other correspondence is with insurance companies and creditors. Wood's general correspondence includes letters from guardians and other adults who wanted to place children in the Orphanage, and also concerns day-to-day issues. Files pertaining to the closure of the Orphanage, statements by staff, and the selling of property and equipment to pay off debts also appear in this series.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Howard Orphanage and Industrial School records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Originally called the Brooklyn Howard Colored Orphan Asylum, the Howard Orphanage and Industrial School was founded (1868) and operated by African Americans, unlike other orphanages that cared for destitute black children. In 1911 the Howard Orphanage purchased a farm on Long Island, closed the Brooklyn facility, and moved 250 boys and girls there. The children were taught practical skills, and were "placed out" with individual families when they reached the age of sixteen. The Orphanage was forced to close in January 1918 due to the severe winter that caused the water pipes to freeze, resulting in two children having to have their feet amputated. Following the foreclosure on the mortgage, the trustees of the orphanage used the financial contributions, which individuals continued to send, for the education of needy black students in Brooklyn high schools. The organization was renamed the Howard...
Memorial Fund in 1956.

Scope and Content Note
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Arrangement: Collection organized into seven series: I. Administration; II. Children; III. Property and Farm; IV. Fund Raising; V. Financial Records; VI. Staff; and VII. Printed Material

Key Terms
Subjects
African American children -- New York (State) -- New York
African American school administrators
African American school superintendents
African American teenagers
African Americans -- Charities
African Americans -- Education -- New York
Orphanages -- New York (State) -- New York
Real property -- New York (State) -- New York

Names
Howard Memorial Fund (New York, N.Y.)
Gordon, James H
Gordon, Mary J
Snevily, Mansfield B
Waring, J. H. N
Wood, L. Hollingsworth (Levi Hollingsworth), 1874-1956
Howard Memorial Fund