



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

New York State Colonization Society Records

1849-1968

Sc MG 347

Summary

Creator: New-York State Colonization Society

Title: New York State Colonization Society Records

Date: 1849-1968

Size: 12 linear feet

Source: Gift, Phelps-Stokes Fund, 1993

Abstract: The records of the New-York Colonization Society reflect the goals and projects funded by the society as well as its daily operations. The records have been divided into six series: Board of Directors, General Administration, Organizations and Scholarships, Financial Records, Printed Matter and Artifact.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: New York State Colonization Society Records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The New-York State Colonization Society was organized in 1829 to aid the American Colonization Society to colonize free blacks in Africa; subsequently the New-York State Colonization Society was reorganized and assisted those who offered to emigrate to Liberia. Beginning in the late nineteenth century the society supported educational and health related institutions in Liberia and funded scholarships.

Some of the organizations and institutions funded are: Liberia College, Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute (modelled after Tuskegee Institute), Cuttington College and Divinity School, Samuel Grimes Maternity and Child Welfare Center and Mount Coffee Experimental Farm. The Colonization Society also granted scholarships to Liberian men seeking advanced training in skills useful to Liberia.

The New-York State Colonization Society was dissolved in 1968 and its assets transferred to the

Phelps-Stokes Fund, a foundation sharing similar purposes.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the New-York Colonization Society reflect the goals and projects funded by the society as well as its daily operations. The records have been divided into six series: Board of Directors, General Administration, Organizations and Scholarships, Financial Records, Printed Matter and Artifact. The Board of Directors series consists of the constitution and by-laws, material related to requests and revisions of the charter and to the society's dissolution, as well as minutes of the Executive Committee and annual meetings. The General Administration series contains general correspondence pertaining to educational institutions and other projects the society funded, Board of Trustees meetings, Liberian President William V.S. Tubman, and financial matters. Reports and a subject file concern educational and missionary work. The Organizations and Scholarships series provides detailed information on the educational and health initiatives funded and administered by the New-York State Colonization Society. Records pertaining to the Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute consist of minutes of the advisory committee and of board meetings, correspondence, reports, material concerning the 1953 integration with the University of Liberia and financial reports. Other records detail the objectives of Liberia College and Mount Coffee Mission, Cuttington College and Divinity School, and Samuel Grimes Maternity and Child Welfare Center. Files for individuals awarded scholarships in the nineteenth century and in the 1950's-1960's are included in this series. A significant portion of the collection consists of the Financial Records. Included are annual financial reports, records regarding investments, correspondence of the Secretary-Treasurer and cancelled checks, and vouchers for work ordered by the Society, at the New York office and in Liberia. The Printed Matter and Artifact series comprise publications including books, reports, booklets and news clippings as well as the metal embosser with the society's seal.

Arrangement: Papers organized into six series: I Board of Directors; II General Administration; III Organizations and Scholarships, IV Financial Records, V Printed Matter; VI Artifact

Key Terms

Subjects

Education -- Liberia
Education -- Societies, etc
Educational reports -- Liberia
Philanthropists -- Liberia
Philanthropists -- United States
Scholarships -- Liberia

Geographic Names

Liberia -- Civilization -- American influences
Liberia -- History -- 1847-1944
Liberia -- History -- 1944-1971
Liberia -- Politics and government
Liberia -- Social conditions

Names

New-York State Colonization Society

Tubman, William V. S., 1895-1971
Booker Washington Institute of Liberia
Cuttington University College
Liberia College
Mount Coffee Experimental Farm
Samuel Grimes Maternity and Child Welfare Center