



BHC-MSS 0081

Guide to the Records of the Burroughs Home

By Meg Rinn, June 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Burroughs Home

Title: Records of the Burroughs home

Dates: 1904-1991

Quantity: 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract: Upon her death in 1883, Catherine Ames Burroughs Pettingill left \$50,000 to found the Burroughs Home – a place for unmarried women to live safely. From 1905 to 1994, the Burroughs Home provided assistance to Bridgeport women. The records present in the collection document the administrative history of the Burroughs Home from its founding to the 1990s.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History

Upon her death in 1883, Catherine Ames Burroughs Pettingill left \$50,000 to help “indigent, unmarried, Protestant females over the age of 18 years, a place to be known as the Burroughs Home.” While it took time to raise additional money and meet the stipulations of Pettingill's request, the Burroughs Home building opened in 1903 to serve the population she specified. The first committee meeting of the Women's Auxiliary - the administrative body for the home - was held on January 11, 1905.

The original home residents were women under the age of 65, many of whom worked in Bridgeport factories at the turn of the century. However as time progressed, the Burroughs Home shifted its focus to caring for older adults and those over 65. As the State of Connecticut evolved its administrative approach to assistance facilities, orphanages, and the like, the Burroughs Home began to meet the appropriate state requirements.

There was a slow change in the home's purpose in the 1990s, and the original incarnation of the Burroughs Home closed in 1994. However, the home was repurposed into its current form, and is now known as the Burroughs Community Center. The Center opened in 1997 and remains an active force in the Bridgeport community.

Scope and Content note:

The material primarily features the meetings of the Women's Auxiliary, the Burroughs Home's administrative body. As such, the changes to the homes and the type of residents it served are well preserved, although daily records and individuals who lived at the home are not present.

Arrangement Note:

Series 1 features a history of the home followed by minutes, arranged by date. Series 2 represents additional information such as newspaper clippings and other material that was a part of the collection. The article about Paper Care by Joyce Slater is an outlier and it is unclear why it is

present in the collection

Administrative information:

Provenance: Donated by the Burroughs Home. Accession 1994.32

Preferred Citation:

Records of the Burroughs Home (BHC-MSS 0081) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Pettingil, Catherine Ames Burroughs

Corporate names

Burroughs Home (Bridgeport, Conn.)

Subject tracings

Charitable organizations

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

Series 1, Minutes

1. By-laws and history of the home
2. Auxiliary minutes, 1904-1917
3. Auxiliary minutes, 1917-1932
4. Auxiliary minutes, 1932-1943
5. Auxiliary minutes 1953-1965

Box 2

1. Auxiliary minutes, 1969-1975
2. Auxiliary minutes, 1971-1975
3. Copies of minutes, 1977-1978
4. Record book, 1981
5. Auxiliary minutes, 1980-1991

Series 2

6. Monthly health report, 1959-1962
7. Other, 1906-1991
8. Newspaper clippings and pamphlets, 1960-1991
9. Vanity Fair, 1986
10. Photocopied version of Paper Care by Joyce Slater, undated