

# Haverhill Female Benevolent Society Records, 1818-1998

## Collection Summary

<b>Reference Code:</b>	MRQ, US.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Call Number:</b>	MSS 21
<b>Creator:</b>	Haverhill Female Benevolent Society (Haverhill, Mass.)
<b>Title:</b>	Haverhill Female Benevolent Society Records
<b>Dates:</b>	1818-1998
<b>Size:</b>	2.75 linear feet (5 boxes, 6 volumes)
<b>Language(s):</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Haverhill Female Benevolent Society records document the activities, memberships, financial transactions, and administration of this charitable society from its founding in 1818 until 1998.

## Organizational Sketch

On January 13, 1818, nineteen women met at the house of Mary Hardy to form the Haverhill Female Benevolent Society. They approved and constitution and elected officers. Their mission was to take care of the poor and unfortunate, making garments and household articles, visiting the sick, and assisting people in trouble. It was the duty of four assistants to visit the poor at home, to ascertain their need, to represent their needs to the managers, and "to distribute the bounty of the Society." The first managers were Mrs. Mary Poor, Mrs. Mary Osgood, Mrs. Deborah Hills, and Mrs. Sarah Gale. The first four assistants were Miss Rebekah Marsh, Miss Abigail, Wingate, Miss Ann Saltonstall, and Miss Margaret Bartlett. Membership increased over the years. The Society was a beneficiary of several people's estates.

The Society was incorporated in 1854. As of 2021, the Society is an active 501(c)(3) organization.

## Scope and Content Note

This collection provides information about the history, activities, and financial transactions of the Haverhill Female Benevolent Society. The collection is made up of three series. Series one contains a variety of administrative records such as the constitution and by-laws, the incorporation document, record books, meeting minutes, correspondence, annual reports,

nomination ballots, and an officer list. Series two contains financial records such as account books, bank books, financial statements, bequests, lists of investments, stock certificates, a list of dues paid, and correspondence and reports related to Charles Porter's bequest. Series three contains information related to members including a song and news clipping about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, newspaper clippings, a list of members, an address given on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society, member lists, a member card, and a Master Mason certificate for Joseph Adams.

## Arrangement

Series 1. Administrative, 1818-1983, undated

Series 2. Financial Records, 1861-1998

Subseries 2.1. Account Books and Other Financial Records, 1861-1996

Subseries 2.2. Charles Porter Bequest and Trust, 1909, 1936-1998

Series 3. Member Information, 1827, 1868-1988, undated

## Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	[Item Identification], Haverhill Female Benevolent Society, 1818-1998, MSS 21, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Custodial History:</b>	Material was acquired from creator.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Material was placed on deposit in the library in 1966, 1982, 2007, and on other unknown dates by Annie M. Adams, Elisabeth M. Lockhart, Priscilla Coco, and other individuals.
<b>Processing Information:</b>	Processed by Erik R. Bauer, 2020. Reprocessed and updated by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
<b>Access Rights:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Phys. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Tech. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
<b>Related Material:</b>	None.
<b>Separated Material:</b>	None.
<b>Conservation Notes:</b>	Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paper clips and staples were removed.
<b>Subjects:</b>	Charities

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)  
 Haverhill (Mass.) – History  
 Haverhill Female Benevolent Society (Haverhill, Mass.)  
 Women – Massachusetts -- Haverhill  
 Women -- Societies and clubs  
 Women in charitable work

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Administrative, 1818-1983, undated

This series contains a variety of administrative records such as the constitution and by-laws, the incorporation document, record books, meeting minutes, correspondence, annual reports, nomination ballots, and an officer list.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Record book, 1818-1842	1	1
Record book, 1842-1856	1	2
Incorporation document, 1854	2	1
Record book, 1856-1865	1	3
Constitution and by-laws, 1859, 1911	1	4
Record book, 1865-1871	1	5
Record book, 1871-1881	1	6
Record book, 1881-1888	3	1
Record book, 1888-1896	3	2
Correspondence, 1888-1918, 1931, 1957, 1962, 1978, 1984, 1995, undated	3	3
Annual secretary reports, 1889-1905, 1912, 1936	3	4
Record book, 1896-1906	Volume 1	
Record book, 1906-1926	Volume 2	
Meeting minutes, 1911-1912	2	2
Nomination ballots, 1912-1913	2	3
Record book, 1927-1939	Volume 3	
Record book, 1940-1966	Volume 4	
Record book, 1967-1983	Volume 5	
Officer list, 1970	3	5

**Series 2: Financial, 1861-1998**

This series consists of two subseries: 2.1, Account Books and Other Financial Records; and 2.2, Charles Porter Bequest and Trust.

**Subseries 2.1: Account Books and Other Financial Records, 1861-1996**

This subseries contains account books, bank books, financial statements, bequests, lists of investments, stock certificates, and a list of dues paid.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Account book, 1861-1865	3	6
Account book, 1865-1868	3	7
Account book, 1868-1874	3	8
Bank books, Haverhill Savings Bank, 1871-1935; Andover Savings Bank, 1882-1971; Haverhill National Bank, 1948-1952	4	1
Account book, 1874-1881	4	2
Financial statements, 1877-1886	4	3
Bank books, Institution for Savings in Newburyport, 1882-1946, 1968-1971; City Five Cents Savings Bank of Haverhill, 1882-1947	4	4
Account book, 1883-1908	Volume 6	
Bequests, 1909-1917, 1989	2	4
Lists of investments, 1911	4	5
Financial statements, 1912-1913	2	5
Stock certificate, Haverhill Building Association, 1914	4	6
List of dues paid, 1918	2	6
Bank books, Pentucket Savings Bank, 1926-1933, 1953; Haverhill Savings Bank, 1947-1953	4	7
Balance sheet, 1938	2	7
Account books, 1966-1969	4	8
Stock certificate, Greater Haverhill Foundation, Inc., 1969	4	9
Account books, 1969-1972	4	10
Account books, 1972-1975	5	1
Account books, 1975-1978	2	8
Account books, 1978-1980	5	2
Account books, 1980-1982	5	3
Account books, 1982-1985	5	4
Account books, 1985-1988	5	5
Account books, 1988-1991	5	6
Account books, 1991-1993	5	7

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Account books, 1993-1996	5	8

**Subseries 2.2: Charles Porter Bequest and Trust, 1909, 1936-1998**

This subseries contains the will of Charles Porter, and correspondence and reports related to his bequest.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bequest and trust documents, 1909, 1936-1937, 1962, 1976-1986, 1998-1999	2	9
Reports to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1947-1965	2	10
Reports to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1966-1979	2	11
Reports to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1980-1989	2	12
Reports to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1990-1998	2	13

**Series 3: Member Information, 1827, 1868-1988, undated**

This series contains a song and news clipping about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, newspaper clippings, a list of members, an address given on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society, member lists, a member card, and a Master Mason certificate for Joseph Adams.

Master Mason certificate for Joseph Adams, 1827	2	14
50th Anniversary song and news clipping, 1868	5	9
Newspaper clippings, 1878-1988, undated	5	10
List of member's dues paid and addresses, 1914	2	15
<i>The Address Given by the Honorable Albert L. Bartlett in Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Haverhill Female Benevolent Society, 1918</i>	5	11
Member lists, 1932-1940	5	12
Member card, 1935	5	13