



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

United States Sanitary Commission records. Executive Committee of Boston Associates archives

1861-1866

MssCol 18592

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Compiled by Elizabeth Delmage, 2013

Summary

Creator: United States Sanitary Commission

Title: United States Sanitary Commission records. Executive Committee of Boston Associates archives

Date: 1861-1866

Size: 4.33 linear feet (7 boxes, 7 volumes)

Source: Donated by the United States Sanitary Commission to the Astor Library, 1879

Abstract: The Executive Committee of Boston Associates (ECBA) was officially organized on April 1, 1863 as a department of the United States Sanitary Commission's special relief service. It provided transportation, lodging, clothing, meals, medical attention, and aid in obtaining pay for those soldiers in the Boston area who were either discharged, on furlough, sick, or disabled, and in need of assistance. The Executive Committee of Boston Associates archives, 1863-1866, document the work of Executive Committee secretaries John S. Blatchford and James Barnard to coordinate and report on the Committee's special relief services, including their coordination with the New England Women's Auxiliary Association and other relief organizations, and the work conducted by the superintendent and his staff at the office's relief rooms. Records include correspondence, reports, meeting files, registers identifying services provided to over 50,000 servicemen, additional notes on relief provided, a Hospital Directory register, and a surgical and medical record of soldiers receiving treatment under ECBA's care. Two scrapbooks of newsclippings provide further information on USSC activities in Boston.

Access: Advance notice required.

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Related Materials:

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Creator History

The Executive Committee of Boston Associates (ECBA) was officially organized on April 1, 1863 as a department of the United States Sanitary Commission's special relief service. The Executive Committee provided transportation, lodging, clothing, meals, medical attention, and aid in obtaining pay for those soldiers in the Boston area who were either discharged, on furlough, sick, or disabled, and in need of assistance.

When the USSC was established in June 1861, it was administered by an executive board that supervised all USSC operations and a standing committee composed of six members who controlled USSC affairs when the board was not in session. These two committees were supported by influential men in communities throughout the United States, known as associate members, who assisted the USSC in developing local supply organizations to gather and forward supplies to soldiers in need. Associate members were asked to promote the establishment of auxiliary associations, to help direct the work of those that had already formed, and to help manage supply depots in larger cities. The associate members in Boston worked to accomplish those goals, and were able to transfer the supply work to the New England Women's Auxiliary Association (NEWAA), which was organized in November 1861.

In March 1863, Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, associate secretary of the USSC, wrote a letter to the associate members in Boston encouraging them to organize themselves in order to expand the Commission's special relief work into Boston. Boston associates met on March 9, 1863 at the NEWAA office on 22 Summer Street in Boston to address Jenkins's letter. As a result, the Executive Committee of Boston Associates was established to serve as the representative body of the Sanitary Commission in its local relief work in Boston, and to act in an advisory role concerning the proper organization of services for soldiers who were disabled, on furlough, or permanently discharged from the army.

The Executive Committee was made up of H. B. Rogers, James M. Barnard, John S. Blatchford, and J. Huntington Wolcott. Rogers was designated the chairman and Blatchford became the secretary and treasurer of the Executive Committee of Boston Associates. As secretary, Blatchford was responsible for the management of special relief services in Boston and worked with other members of the Executive Committee and the USSC, army officials, and others to coordinate supplies, transportation, and other services for soldiers. He also reported at monthly meetings of the Committee and compiled statistical statements and other materials from the superintendent's reports showing the comparative results for the special relief services they provided, and prepared quarterly and annual reports for publication.

Blatchford served in these positions until May 1865, when he was appointed the general secretary of the USSC. At this time, Barnard took over as secretary and Wolcott served as treasurer until the office closed in April 1866. Wolcott was also referred to as the treasurer of the Boston Branch of the USSC. (References to the "New England Branch" and the "Boston Branch" are found in the records; they may be colloquial names.) All funds needed to support ECBA's special relief work were to be drawn from the treasury that Wolcott oversaw.

On April 1, 1863, the Executive Committee of Boston Associates, which referred to their work as the Special Relief Service of the Commission in Boston, officially opened its doors at 76 Kingston Street in Boston. Following the brief tenure of E. B. Phillips, Charles F. Mudge served as superintendent of this office, and with the aid of assistants was responsible for the daily operations of the relief rooms, which included a dormitory and a sick ward. NEWAA provided bedding and other necessary supplies needed by soldiers who passed through their rooms. Mudge was also in charge of correspondence concerning individual special relief cases, maintaining accounts of relief monies, documenting the individuals

served and the kind of help given, and preparing weekly and monthly reports for the secretary. He remained in this position until November 1865 when he was replaced by Samuel E. Mudge.

The Executive Committee of Boston Associates provided aid to soldiers in the Boston area by offering lodging, meals, clothes, medical attention, and transportation to soldiers on their way back to their camps or their homes during their furloughs or after being discharged from the army. Special relief services also included helping soldiers with reenlistments, obtaining their back pay and pensions, arranging their papers and helping to overturn any unfair accusations of desertion. In August 1863, ECBA organized a hospital car service to transport sick and disabled soldiers between Boston and New York. There were two cars appropriated for this service which were equipped with beds, seating, medical and supply closets, cooking supplies, and hospital clothing. One of these trains left Boston or New York each day to head to the other city.

When the Civil War came to an end in April 1865, the Executive Committee of Boston Associates continued their special relief work to serve the large number of soldiers returning home. By October 1, 1865, ECBA had ceased its hospital car service and closed their rooms at 76 Kingston Street. They then took up a small office at 53 ½ Summer Street in Boston, which they shared with the local office of the USSC's Army and Navy Claim Agency. Here they provided temporary aid to resident soldiers and their families, and assisted soldiers who came into Boston during the winter of 1865-1866. The Executive Committee of Boston Associates brought their affairs and services to a close on April 1, 1866.

Scope and Content Note

The Executive Committee of Boston Associates archives, 1863-1866, document the efforts of this committee to provide special relief services to soldiers in the Boston area. The records illustrate the work of Executive Committee secretaries John S. Blatchford and James Barnard to coordinate and report on these services, as well as the work conducted by the superintendent and his staff at the office's relief rooms, where transportation, lodging, clothing, meals, medical care, and aid in obtaining pay was provided for soldiers in need of temporary assistance, whether discharged, furloughed, sick, or disabled.

The Executive Committee of Boston Associates archives comprise three series: I. Secretary's records, II. Superintendent's records, and III. Scrapbooks.

The secretary's records primarily reflect the activities of John S. Blatchford through correspondence, Executive Committee meeting files, statements, and miscellaneous documents. Blatchford's incoming correspondence was received from USSC staff members, members of the New England Women's Auxiliary Association, individuals affiliated with other relief associations, state officials, army officers, merchants, and soldiers and their relatives. Letters and telegrams concern the operations and policies of the USSC, orders and requests from USSC officers, ECBA's special relief services, the work of other relief organizations, and the preparation and publication of reports. Outgoing correspondence is addressed to similar parties. Letters written to and by James M. Barnard and Charles F. Mudge are also found within the secretary's correspondence. Also present are Blatchford's reference files for Executive Committee meetings; statements classifying the type and amount of special relief services provided by the Executive Committee, and expenses for same; and miscellaneous documents. These include employee rosters, accounts, lists of permanent members and associate members, memoranda, and items from Barnard, Blatchford and Samuel E. Mudge.

Superintendent's records include correspondence, record books, reports, notes on relief to soldiers and

other materials documenting the work of Charles F. Mudge and Samuel F. Mudge, and the services provided under their direction at the relief rooms. Incoming correspondence generally concerns the status of individual soldiers under their care, and requests from soldiers and their relatives for assistance. Also included are receipts regarding supplies purchased by ECBA for relief work. Their outgoing correspondence, of a similar nature, also includes letters by Barnard and Blatchford.

The superintendent's record books and reports convey the scope and magnitude of special relief work performed by this organization. Registers of relief to soldiers identify over 50,000 individuals who passed through their rooms, and the type of aid provided to them. Notes on relief to soldiers highlight the cases of particular soldiers listed in these registers as well as family members helped through their work; some of these stories were used in published reports. Similar services are reflected in a Hospital Directory register documenting inquiries from soldiers' families and friends concerning their condition or whereabouts, and a surgical and medical record of soldiers receiving treatment under ECBA's care. Administrative tasks are represented in the superintendent's weekly and monthly reports on services provided, as well as a cash book. Also present are a small amount of soldiers' military and personal papers, and ephemera.

Lastly, two scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, circulars, and printed reports regarding the work of ECBA, NEWAA, USSC, and major developments in the war.

During the USSC's 1878 arrangement some items, including journals, special relief volumes and receipts, a laundry account book, and a volume listing supplies drawn from NEWAA, were identified as destroyed and presumably discarded. Also at that time, financial records and reports that were originally part of this record group were relocated to the USSC Accounts and Vouchers record group (MsCol 18820). As a result, a small amount of records grouped and numbered I-XVI by John S. Blatchford at an earlier date are no longer complete or in order.

Container List

I. Secretary's records 1863 Jan-1866 Apr (2 boxes, 1 volume)

Correspondence

Incoming correspondence consists of letters and telegrams addressed primarily to John S. Blatchford, 1863 Jan 2-1864 Dec 15, arranged in chronological order. These items were originally bound in letterbooks. A small number of loose letters to James M. Barnard, Blatchford, and Charles F. Mudge, 1864 Mar 28-1866 Apr 11 are also present. Outgoing correspondence consists of two letterpress copybooks of letters sent by Blatchford, including letters by Barnard and Charles F. Mudge as well as copies of Blatchford's monthly reports.

b. 1 f. 1-14 Incoming 1863-1866

b. 2 Letterpress copybooks 1863 Mar 9-1865 Jul 11
v. 1-2

b. 2 f. 1 Executive Committee meeting files 1864 Mar-Nov, 1866 Mar, undated
Letters, reports, and accounts, arranged in chronological order.

v. 1 Executive Committee minutes and reports 1863-1866

John S. Blatchford's compilation of manuscript meeting minutes (1863 Mar-1866 Apr), quarterly reports (1863 Jun-1864 Jun), and miscellaneous statements written in his capacity as secretary or treasurer, with published reports for 1864-1866

Additional quarterly reports, primarily financial in nature, are found in the USSC Accounts and Vouchers record group (MssCol 18820).

Statements 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

b. 2 Quarterly statements 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

v. 3 Drafts that aggregate classified statistics from the superintendent's weekly and monthly reports, as well as supplies drawn from NEWAA's supply depot, and the superintendent's cash expenses 1863 Jun-1864 Jun. Also present is a monthly tabulation of special relief recipients by state, 1863 Apr-1866 Mar, and a monthly breakdown of all the relief services to individuals, 1863 Apr-1865 Mar

Note: This volume is identified as Quarterly Superintendent's Reports on its label, but these records were created by the secretary.

b. 2 Quarterly and annual statements 1863 Jun-1866 Mar

v. 4 Formal entry of quarterly and annual statements with additional tabulations.

b. 2 f. 2 Miscellaneous documents 1864 Mar-1866 Apr, undated

II. Superintendent's records 1861 Sep-1866 Mar, undated (4 boxes, 6 volumes)

Correspondence 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

Incoming correspondence consists of letters addressed primarily to Charles F. Mudge, 1863 Apr 15-1866 Feb 27, arranged in chronological order. These items were apparently disbound from letterbooks. Outgoing correspondence consists of two letterpress copybooks of letters sent by Charles F. Mudge until November 1865, at which time Samuel E. Mudge took over the correspondence. Letters written by Barnard and Blatchford, as well as letters written on behalf of Mudge by clerks and Blatchford, are also present.

b. 3 f. 1-6 1863 Apr 15-1864 Feb

b. 3 f. 7-13 1864 Jun-Dec

b. 4 f. 1-11 1865 Jan-1866 Feb

b. 5 Letterpress copybooks 1863 Apr 22-1866 Mar 10
v. 1-2

Record books 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

b. 5 f. 1 Cash book 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

b. 5 f. 2 Hospital Directory register 1864 Jun 1-1865 Dec 11

Information includes soldier's name, regiment, company, reported condition, name, and address of applicant inquiring about the soldier, and subsequent remarks. Entries are numbered consecutively in chronological order.

II. Superintendent's records (cont.)

Record books (cont.)

Registers of relief to soldiers 1863 Apr-1866 Mar

Entries are numbered consecutively in chronological order throughout all volumes (except the last), and include the date, soldier's name, regiment, company, officer's name, residence, discharge, furlough, pass, present condition, aid rendered, and remarks.

- b. 6 f. 1 **1863 Apr 7-Jul 31 (#1-1441) (1 volume)**
Entries are written in a narrative form.
- v. 2 **1863 Aug 1-1864 Mar 8 (#1442-10000)**
- v. 3 **1864 Mar 9-Jul 16 (#10001-17425)**
- v. 4 **1864 Jul 17-Oct 31 (#17426-24979)**
- v. 5 **1864 Nov 1-1865 May 17 (#24980-38757)**
- v. 6 **1865 May 18-Nov 11 (#38758-52739)**
- b. 6 f. 2 **1865 Nov 11-1866 Mar 29 (#52740-54046) (1 volume)**
- b. 6 f. 3 **1865 Oct 2-1866 Mar 31 (1 volume)**
This volume is a working journal containing entries found in the previous two volumes, as well as five additional entries for March 31. All entries are written in pencil and the numbers assigned to individual soldiers are not present.
- v. 7 **Surgical and medical record 1864 Jun-1865 Jun**
Register entries include date, soldier's name, regiment, company; wound, disease, or condition; treatment, and attendant.

Reports 1863 Apr-1866 Feb

Reports on the number of individuals aided under special relief service categories, as well as the amount of money collected on soldiers' behalf, and office expenses incurred.

- b. 6 **Weekly and monthly reports 1863 Apr-1865 Sep**
- v. 1 Includes a Condensed Statement of Special Relief, 1863 Apr-1865 Apr.
- b. 6 f. 4 **Loose reports 1865 Oct-1866 Feb**
Superintendent's monthly reports for 1865 Oct-1866 Feb and two monthly reports for the USSC's Special Relief Department, 1866 Jan-Feb. These documents are printed forms.
- b. 6 f. 5 **Notes on relief to soldiers undated**
Most entries have numbers correlating to the registers of relief to soldiers.
- b. 6 f. 6 **Soldiers papers 1861 Sep-1865 Jul**
Documents include enlistments, commissions, furloughs, discharges, transportation orders, commutation of rations, receipts, death certificates, and personal correspondence. Arranged in alphabetical order by soldier's last name.
- b. 6 f. 7 **Ephemera undated**
Includes printed business cards, recipes, poems, and other miscellaneous items.

III. Scrapbooks 1863 Jan-1865 Jul (1 box)

- b. 7 **1863 Jan 27-1864 Jul 11**
- v. 1
- b. 7 **1864 May 18-1865 Jul 29**
- v. 2