



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

Guide to the

American West Indian Ladies Aid Society records

1915-1965

Sc MG 498

Summary

Creator: American West Indian Ladies Aid Society

Title: American West Indian Ladies Aid Society records

Date: 1915-1965

Size: 1.4 linear feet (1 archival box, 1 flat box)

Source: Gift, Nov. 1993

Abstract: The American West Indian Ladies Aid Society (AWILAS) Collection contains documentation and correspondence from 1915 to 1965 (bulk dates 1924-1939). The collection is fragmentary in content making it difficult to determine the actual transition of officers and other organizational activities, the exception being sick and death claim requests and payments. There are also some financial and medical records and related correspondence, minutes, a few membership applications, and a folder of printed material, consisting of tickets, raffles, flyers, programs, invitations to events hosted by different organizations, Communist Party literature, bulletins, commercial solicitations and political literature.

Preferred citation: American West Indian Ladies Aid Society records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The American West Indian Ladies Aid Society, Inc. (AWILAS), a benevolent society, was founded in 1915 by Virgin Island immigrant women in the United States for the purpose of fostering "love, fraternity and benevolence "among all women of the Virgin Islands." All female Virgin Islanders were eligible for membership.

In addition to providing burial and medical funds to their members, AWILAS also gave assistance in other area's such as education, as a means of uplifting the "Negro culture" to a higher standard. According to a resolution in their by-laws, an ultimate goal was to join forces with other Virgin Island societies and collectively put monies into a sinking fund to buy land or property.

Following the recorded minutes of April 28th, 1936, AWILAS appears to have merged with The Sons and Daughters of Florida Club, a benevolent society which was founded in 1932.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Blacks -- New York (State) -- New York
Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
Communism -- United States
Fraternal organizations -- New York (State) -- New York
Immigrants -- United States -- Social conditions
Minorities -- United States -- Political activity
West Indians -- New York (State) -- New York
Women -- New York -- Societies and clubs
Women in charitable work -- New York (State) -- New York
Women, Black -- New York (State) -- Societies and clubs

Names

American West Indian Ladies Aid Society
Sons and Daughters of Florida Club