

Records of the Village Room - Martha Goulding Pratt Memorial

PVMA Library

Scope and Content Note:

Built in 1896 just to the north of Deerfield's Congregational Church on property deeded by Emma Lewis Coleman, the Village Room served as a meeting space for the Woman's Club, was the scene of church suppers, and contained a small library. The Village Room was begun as a community center that honored Deerfield's civic-minded postmaster, Martha Goulding Pratt (1830-1894). In June 1900, Coleman, George Sheldon, Madeline Yale Wynne, and a handful of other Deerfield stalwarts incorporated it as the Martha Goulding Pratt Memorial. The original building was enlarged in 1925 to plans drawn by architect Clarence P. Hoyt, using money provided by the Congregational Parish. In return, the Parish had exclusive use of the building on certain days. The Village Room/ Martha Goulding Pratt Memorial operated until 1957 when the building was torn down.

The records cover the period 1896-1955, and include legal and financial documents, correspondence, treasurer records, and record of rentals. The engagement book of the Village Room contains rules of use from 1913, and revised rules from 1926; the Misc. folder contains newspaper clippings, printed and written tributes, a photo of Pratt and her appointment as postmaster.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Legal documents

Folder 2: Correspondence

Folder 3: Invoices and receipts

Folder 4: Blueprints of Village Room addition, March 3, [1925]

Folder 5: Miscellaneous

List of contributors to the M.G. Pratt Memorial, with copy of a circular letter sent to her friends, newspaper clipping, list of the contents of a box placed in the buildings foundation (bound vol.)

Records of annual meetings, Oct. 1899-Feb. 1944

Engagement book of the Village Room, Oct. 1913-June 1955 (bound vol.)

Check book, First National Bank & Trust, Oct. 1931- July 1938; Oct. 1943-Jan. 1946; 1946-1949 (binder)

Treasurer's records and original subscriptions, 1897 (bound vol.)

Treasurer's records, 1897-1911 (bound vol.)

Treasurer's records, April 1947-April 1948 (folder)

Treasurer's records, April 1949-April 1978 (folder)

"Running Expenses," Dec. 1898-Nov. 1910; "Running Expenses Account," Nov. 1910-Oct. 1926 (2 notebooks)

Records of rentals, Oct. 1926-April 1937 (notebook)