

Collection: Paterson Y.M.C.A.

Accession Number: 1995.24.114.3

FINDING AID

Date Range: 1892-1897

Bulk Date: 1894-1895

Creator: Y.M.C.A Board/ Midlantic Bank

Container: 1 legal size flip-top box

Storage Location: PCHS Library/Archives

Aid Created by: Janet Wasti, Volunteer

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

The names mentioned in the collection are all members of the Board of Trustees of the Y.M.C.A. In the years covered by this material, the Board consisted of:

J. W. Cleveland – President (1850-1913)
Edo J. Merselis – Treasurer (1819-1908)
Thomas J. Arnold (1864-1955)
George Slingland (1841-1899)

All of the transactions occurred between J. W. Cleveland and Edo J. Merselis as President and Treasurer.

The businesses associated with these transactions are:

A. B. Van Houten Bros. - Carpenter services
Bevan & Smith-
Call Printing & Pub Company-
Edison Electric Illuminating Company-Electrical services
Fuller & Wheeler-Architect services
G. D. Voorhis Co. - Plumbing services
Geo J. Rowler-
G. H. Demarest-
Gould & Schuuyler
H. B. Smith Co. - Steam heating
Norwood & Brinkerhoff-
Passaic Rolling Mill Company-Iron works
Press Pn & Pub Company-
R. M. Ekings-Rent
Steele & Hopper-Mason contractors

Vandervoot & Slingland-
Campbell Pirrie – Pipe Fitters
Cassidy & Son Manufacturing Company – fixtures
Edwin Wadsworth – painting
George O'Neil – plumbing
Sharpe, Joseph – Flagging & Curbing.

HISTORY NOTE:

In its beginnings in 1863, a group of several young men gathered in a congregational church in Paterson, NJ and wrote a constitution planning “an interesting course of social, intellectual and spiritual exercises” which eventually would become the basis of the YMCA of Paterson, New Jersey. The original building was located at 20-202 Market Street and offered a gym, bible classes, a reading room and an “employment bureau.”

In 1892, Mrs. Sarah E. Cooke (1828-1905) donated her mansion on Ellison Street to the YMCA in memory of her late husband John Cooke (1824-1882) who was part owner of Danforth & Cooke, a local locomotive firm. This building contained a bath, bowling alleys, a gym and an assembly hall.

After the historic Paterson fire in 1902, the building on Ellison Street was destroyed. A new facility was built at 137 Ellison Street housing dormitories, a swimming pool, a track and a library.

The present facility was opened on September 14, 1930 after the 137 Ellison Street facility was deemed to be unsuitable for accommodating the current needs of the community. The new facility was built at a cost \$1,500,000.

ARCHIVAL NOTE:

Accession 1995.24 represents a large quantity of material in a variety of formats. Much of this material is unrelated except for ties to the Midlantic Bank and/or Paterson. Edo J. Merselis served as both YMCA treasurer and Midlantic Bank treasurer. His personal connection to both organizations may explain the YMCA's use of Midlantic bank's facilities.

The documents in this collection are not listed on the original deed of gift from Dec 2, 1995, however on examination of the donation documentation it is believed the documents were once contained in 1995.24.114.1 and/or 1995.24.114.2, both of which are safety deposit boxes with paper labels reads “Subscription tickets YMCA” and “Paid Bills YMCA.” The deed of gift indicates “both [boxes] have contents, but are locked with no key available at time of donation.” One can assume these documents are those contents.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Covering 1892-1896, the entire collection reflects requests from the President, J. W. Cleveland to the Treasurer, Edo J. Merselis for payments to the various vendors associated with work being done on the new Y.M.C.A. building, the former Cooke Mansion. There are also requests for payments to The First

National Bank of Paterson for payments on existing loans associated with the construction of the new building.