

# **ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF GLENS FALLS: A Guide to the Collection**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS**

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Associated Charities of Glens Falls.
- Title:** Associated Charities of Glens Falls Records.
- Dates:** 1911 – 1927.
- Abstract:** The Associated Charities of Glens Falls was established in 1911 as a referral and emergency relief center for the underprivileged in the Glens Falls area. Material aid to families and children was provided, including clothing, food, and fuel, along with medical and dental care. This volume, dated 1911-1927, mainly contains the minutes of monthly business meetings and annual reports.
- Quantity:** 1 volume
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Organizations

## **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

A group of Glens Falls citizens, many with substantial personal wealth, created the Associated Charities in 1911 as a referral and emergency relief center for the underprivileged in the Glens Falls area. The purpose of the Associated Charities, as set forth in the early minutes of the organization, was to address the social problems of Glens Falls and to further co-operation between existing charitable organizations.

The minutes of October 3, 1912 list the elected officers: Mrs. A.J. DeLong, president; Mrs. Sherman Williams, vice-president; Miss Helen W. Streeter, secretary; Mrs. Fred H. Bullard, treasurer. The advisory committee in 1912 consisted of Miss Josephine Demarest, and Mrs. Maurice Hoopes. The advisory board included Dr. Charles W. Judkins, Mr. Daniel O'Leary, Mr. Louis F. Hyde, Mr. H. Frank Lee, Judge E.R. Safford, Mr. Clarence M. Wilmarth.

Members of the Associated Charities were concerned about the numerous churches, synagogues, and other charitable organizations active in the Glens Falls area duplicating each others efforts. To mitigate this problem the Associated Charities organized the "confidential exchange," also known as the "registration bureau," to allow the various agencies to communicate in confidence about charitable cases.

The officers and the advisory committee members were inspired by social reformers of their day. The Associated Charities provided material aid to families and children, including clothing, food, and fuel. They also provided medical and dental care. Special assistance was given at Christmas time, particularly to children. Social workers provided instruction in health habits and other education along with material aid. Funds to support this work were raised through voluntary contributions. Specific cases were often referred to other charitable organizations.

The name of the Associated Charities of Glens Falls changed in 1933 to Family Welfare Association. In 1951 the group was renamed the Family Service Association. At this point it was described as a private agency which administered funds collected from the Glens Falls Community Chest, service clubs, relatives, friends of the Family Service Association, and employers. The role of the Family Service Association was to investigate need and to arrange for relief for individuals and families.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The minute book records both the business of the Associated Charities at monthly meetings (the election of officers, annual reports), and the deliberations of the members about the nature of social work, along with discussion of the prevailing ideas guiding the actions of charitable organization. The minutes define the group's mission, the names of officers, names of donors of financial assistance and goods, as well as the names of families and individuals deemed to be in need. Individual cases are described in some detail. At first handwritten, the minutes and annual reports were later typed and pasted into the volume along with newspaper clippings about the organization's activities. The Secretaries who recorded the minutes included Mary Coolidge, Helen W. Streeter, Laura L. Sweet, and Mabel C. Thompson. Each year it was the responsibility of the Secretary to prepare a report describing the social problems the Associated Charities encountered: under employment, tuberculosis, disease, blindness, problems of old age, intemperance, desertion, or nonsupport of families, homelessness, and abuse, or neglect of children. The Associated Charities established a dental program for children, supervised children during recreation time, and fed undernourished children, operated a day nursery, and a boarding house for children, "who did not have good homes." Many of the "cases" were referred to other church and community organizations.

The minutes also describe actions taken by community leaders to address specific community health issues such as the "infantile paralysis epidemic" of 1916. There is mention in the minutes of the New York State Legislature's action in 1915 to grant pensions to dependent widows with children, and discussion of the Glens Falls Health Center in 1931. The minutes offer insight to the combined efforts at community service and social work achieved by numerous churches, synagogues, and charitable organizations in Glens Falls. The minutes are an excellent source of information on charitable organizations in the progressive era in Glens Falls, NY.

Officers of Associated Charities of Glens Falls included Evelyn R. Bullard (Mrs. Charles E.)\*\*, Etta M. Bullard (Mrs. Fred H.), Katherine D. Carter (Mrs. R. C.)\*\*, Maude Rider DeLong (Mrs. Arthur J.)\*, Margaret Harris Silber Williams (Mrs. Sherman)\*\*\*, Josephine Demarest, Mary Hoopes (Mrs. Maurice)\*\*, and Nathalie Parry (Mrs. John E.). Key officers were the Secretaries: Helen W. Streeter, Mary Coolidge, Laura L. Sweet, and Mabel C. Thompson. There was also an Advisory Board, composed mostly of men, including George F. Bayle, Sr.\*\*, William T. Cowles\*\*, Charles W. Judkins, Daniel O'Leary, Louis F. Hyde, H. Frank Lee, Edwin R. Safford\*\*, Frederick B. Richards\*\*, and Clarence M. Wilmarth. \* *Glens Falls City Directory*, 1930, p. 93.

Obituary of Arthur J. DeLong, November 2, 1935.

\*\*Full name found in the Glens Falls City Directory.

\*\*\* See James Austin Holden, "Sherman Williams, Pd.D.: Sketch of the President of the [New York State Historical] Association," p. 5 - Biographical Files.

## INDEX TERMS

- Topics:** Aged—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Charities—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Child welfare—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Dental clinics—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Family—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Homeless persons—Services for—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Poor—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Poverty—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Public health—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Social service—New York (State)—Glens Falls.  
Unemployment—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
- Places:** Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Economic conditions.  
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.  
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Social conditions.
- Organizations:** Associated Charities of Glens Falls (Glens Falls, N.Y.)  
Family Welfare Association (Glens Falls, N.Y.)  
Family Service Association (Glens Falls, N.Y.)  
Glens Falls Community Chest (Glens Falls, N.Y.)
- Important People:** Bayle, George F., Sr.  
Bullard, Etta M.  
Bullard, Evelyn R.  
Carter, Katherine D.  
Coolidge, Mary  
Cowles, William T.  
DeLong, Maude Rider  
Demarest, Josephine  
Hoopes, Mary  
Hyde, Louis F.  
Judkins, Charles W.  
Lee, H. Frank  
O'Leary, Daniel  
Parry, Nathalie  
Richards, Frederick B.  
Safford, Edwin R.  
Streeter, Helen W.  
Sweet, Laura L.  
Thompson, Mabel C.  
Williams, Margaret Harris Wilber  
Wilmarth, Clarence M.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** Associated Charities of Glens Falls Records,  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Accession # 0000-004

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler and  
Katherine P. Chansky.

4/2010