

Fonds 35

Title: Anson House fonds

Creator: Anson House, 1931, all based in Peterborough ON.

Dates of material: 1862-1996

Physical description: 1 metre

Repository: Trent Valley Archives

Reference number: Fonds 35

Scope and content:

Research materials related to the Peterboro Relief Society, Anson House, and Anson House Committee. The papers permit the historical analysis of local attitudes and approaches to social welfare, poverty and relief for the aged poor, for a period of over 130 years. The papers, almost entirely bound volumes with some loose papers interleaved, consist of four kinds of records. First there are the minutes (files 1-26), comprising about one-half the fonds, which record the actions of the Anson House Committee and its predecessors from 1862-1994. There are significant gaps in this major series. That for 1869 seems to reflect poor minute keeping techniques. The two other gaps 1877-1880 and for the 1950's, reflect missing books that might yet be found. There are also records, not nearly so complete, that relate to the visitors and to the employees. (Mainly files, 17, 31 and 32). Thirdly, there are records relating to clientele (files 34-44). As well as miscellaneous printed items of which the most significant are the annual reports for the provincial department responsible for Houses of Refuge, 1886-1888.

The papers are divided into the following series:

Peterborough Protestant Home, Minute books, 1862-1931, files 1-15
Anson House, Committee, Minute books, 1931-1994, files 16-26
Anson House, Visitors Register, 1865-1891, file 27
Anson House, Wages Book, 1916-1920, 1983-1989, files 31-32
Anson House, Cash Book, 1933-1991, file 56
Anson House, Boarders records, 1898-1965, outsize 1886-1958, files 34-44
Anson House, Financial records, 1933-1991, outsize 1901-1915, files 45-55
Ontario, Houses of Refuge, annual reports, 1886-1888, files 28-30
Ontario Nurses Assn, Dialogue on Health Reform, Summer 1996, file 33
Historical records, files 57-74

Access Conditions:

Open to researchers.

Finding aids:

Additional finding aids available on site.

Vol 1 Peterborough Protestant Home, Minute books, 1862-1931, files 1-15

1 Peterborough Relief Society, Minute Book, 1862-1864

2 Peterborough Protestant Relief Society, Minute Book, 1864-1866

- [Peterborough Protestant Home Committee from May 1865]
- 3 Peterborough Protestant Home Committee, Minutes, 1866-1868
 - 4 Secretary's Book, 1870-1873
 - 5 Minutes, 1874-1876
[no book for 1877-80]
 - 6 Minutes, 1881-1884
 - 7 Minutes, 1884-1887
 - 8 Minutes, 1887-1892
 - 9 Minutes, 1892-1897
 - 10 Minute Book, 1897-1902
 - 11 Minute Book, 1902-1905
 - 12 Minute Book, 1906-1911
 - 13 Minutes, 1911-1916
 - 14 Minutes, 1916-1925
 - 15 Minutes, 1925-1931

- Vol 2 Anson House, Committee, Minute books, 1931-1994, files 16-27
Anson House, Visitors Register, 1865-1891, file 28
Ontario, Houses of Refuge, annual reports, 1886-1888, files 29-31
Anson House, Wages Book, 1916-1920, 1983-1989, files 32-33
Ontario Nurses Assn, Dialogue on Health Reform, Summer 1996, file 34

- 16 Anson House Minutes, 1931-1938
- 17 Anson House Minutes, 1938-1946
- 18 Anson House Minutes, 1946-1950
- 19 Anson House Minutes, 1950-1959
- 20 Anson House Minutes, 1960-1970
- 21 Anson House Minutes, 1970-1979
- 22 Anson House Minutes, 1980-1989
- 23 Anson House Minutes, 1991-1993
- 24 Anson House Minutes, 1990-1991
- 25 Anson House Minutes, 1992
- 26 Anson House Minutes, 1993
- 27 Anson House Minutes, 1994
- 28 Anson House, Visitors Register, 1865-1891
- 29 Ontario, Houses of Refuge, annual reports, 1886
- 30 Ontario, Houses of Refuge, annual reports, 1887
- 31 Ontario, Houses of Refuge, annual reports, 1888
- 32 Anson House, Wages Book, 1916-1920
- 33 Anson House, Wages Book, 1983-1989
- 34 Ontario Nurses Assn, Dialogue on Health Reform, Summer 1996

- Vol 3 Anson House, Boarders records, 1898-1965, outside 1886-1958, files 35-45
Anson House, Financial records, 1933-1991, outside 1901-1915, files 46-56

- 35 Admissions and Discharges, 1891-1912
- 36 Biographies of inmates, 1919-1944
- 37 Pensioners and pension cheques, 1931-1936
- 38 Boarders and pensioners, 1939-1945
- 39 Boarders and pensioners, 1945-1957
- 40 Residents, 1958-1959
- 41 Register of residents, 1965
- 42 Admissions and discharges, 1964-1977

- 43 Daily Record, 1898-1903
 - 44 Daily Record, 1942-1954
 - 45 [outsized] Register, Admissions and Discharges, 1886-1958
 - 46 [outsized] Cash Account
 - 47 Monthly income, 1962-1966
 - 48 Monthly income, 1966-1969
 - 49 Income, 1969
 - 50 Residents' individual accounts, 1958-1962
 - 51 Disbursement of residents' funds, 1958-1964
 - 52 Disbursement of residents' funds, 1964-1969
 - 53 Monthly income, 1969-1971
 - 54 Receipts, 1974-1978
 - 55 Income, 1978-1980
 - 56 Cash book, 1933-1991
- Vol 4 Historical records
- 57 Agreements, 1911-1995
 - 58 Bylaw 20-22
 - 59 Capital projects
 - 60 General
 - 61 Golden Years Fashion Show 1986
 - 62 Graham, Alma
 - 63 Historical extracts from minute books, 1865-1875
 - 64 Historical information gathered by Barb Ketchabaw
 - 65 History of aging issues [newsclippings]
 - 66 History of Anson House, 1954-1988
 - 67 Newsclippings, 1941-1993 [listing available]
 - 68 Langley, Dr G.R. article 1962
 - 69 Theobald, Harry, article 1959
 - 70 Minutes, AGM, 1995-1999
 - 71 Minutes, 1955-1969, D.R. McGregor's files
 - 72 Photographs
 - 73 Rules and regulations
 - 74 United-Anglican proposal 1959

Accruals: none expected.

Custodial history:

These records have been housed at Anson House, where they have been the responsibility of the Committee for the House. In August 2000, the records were donated to the Trent Valley Archives with a view to facilitating research into the history of Anson House. Some of the minutes and stories related to this fonds were published in the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, 2000 and 2001. The papers of the Trent University, Anson House Research Project are also housed in the Trent Valley Archives, fonds 48.

Biographical sketch / Administrative history

The Peterboro Relief Society was founded in 1862 with a view to providing outside relief for the poor of Peterborough. The mandate was narrowed to be primarily Protestants, and primarily women and children, in 1863. The organization continued to dispense some outside relief, but beginning in May 1865 its prime concern became the Peterborough Protestant Home, located by 1870 on Steward St. just north of

Brock St, and after 1911 at the location on Anson St; its name was changed to Anson House, in 1931. At different time, there were pressures (usually resisted) to have the Home operate as a House of Refuge, but its mandate was not so widened. The history has been published in Elwood Jones and Brendan Edwards, ed, Anson House: a Refuge and a Home (Peterborough, 2001).

Access points

Haultain family

Wallis family

Hall family

McWilliams, Margaret

Fleming, Sandford, Sir (1827-1915)

Beck, J W R, Rev

Peterboro Relief Society, 1862-65

Peterborough Protestant Home, 1865-1931