

German Protestant Orphan Asylum Records
1870-1957
MSS 402
3,614 Items

The German Protestant Orphan Asylum was established by a group of Lutheran ministers in 1870 to provide a home for the German orphans of the Lafayette-Uptown German community. The children numbered from 30 to 40. All needs of the children were provided for: food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care, and education. This asylum was one of three German orphan asylums, the other two being St. Joseph's serving the lower Lafayette area and the Bethlehem Asylum serving the third district Germans.

There was a housemother in residence at all times and a volunteer Ladies' Aid Society which provided supplementary care to the children. This Society gave an annual "Volksfest" on the grounds as a fund-raising event, and also taught the older girls to do "fancy work" for sale. It was the Ladies' Aid Society that planned holiday celebrations and outings for the children. The asylum was run on a volunteer basis by a board of directors, officers, and members. Dues, donations, and fund-raising events were used as the source of financial support.

This collection consists primarily of minutes of the asylum's Board of Directors from December 1870 through May 1877 and from January 1932 through September 1957. Also included are the records and correspondence of the Ladies' Aid Society and the Ladies' Aid Society, Treasurer's Book (1876-1917). A summary of Housemother's duties which contains daily routines, rules and regulations within the asylum and yard, staff schedule, and emergency and frequently called numbers can also be found within this collection.