

The Trinity Benefit Club fonds. - 1838 - . - 33 cm textual records

Administrative history

The Trinity Benefit Club was formed in February 1838, at a meeting held in the old Court House at Trinity, by Reverend William Bullock, incumbent of the Trinity Mission, and other members of the town. At the first meeting 76 people were enrolled in the club, officers were elected, and Rev. Bullock became the first president. The purpose of the club was to provide relief and assistance to members and their families in case of sickness and death. The club received its present name in 1846, being previously known as The Trinity Club and the Independence Club. The club was non-denominational and was “the very essence of brotherhood”. The Club flag, which was probably designed by Rev. William Bullock, depicts the shamrock, thistle and rose joined in unity. Membership in the club was open to male residents within a certain age range, who resided within the area from English Harbour to British Harbour. The club continues to meet twice a year on Candlemas Day and All Saint’s Day. The Trinity Benefit Club is unique to Trinity. With no outside affiliation it has maintained a healthy financial record and strong membership for over 160 years. In 2003 the club celebrated its 165th anniversary.

Source: The Trinity Benefit Club fonds.

Custodial history

The records of the Trinity Benefit were kept in the custody of the officials of the Club until 1999 when they were donated to the Trinity Historical Society Archives.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of the administrative and organizational records of the Trinity Benefit Club from its inception in 1838, until the present. The bound volumes include the original rules and regulations of the club, minutes of meetings, treasurers accounts, enrollment, dues, and benefits. The files contain correspondence, applications and proposals for membership, notes and loose accounts, as well as clippings and photographs from the 150th Anniversary celebration of the club in 1988 and its 165th Anniversary in 2003. One file contains material on the Trinity Benefit Club collected and created by Walter G. C. White. It includes news clippings, some extracts from Slade Diaries, Centennial posters, Rules and Regulations and a scrapbook on the History of the Trinity Club by Rev. Canon Lockyer, which includes photographs of many of its presidents.

The records have been organized in four series: Series 1, Rules, regulations and minutes, 1838 - 1984; Series 2, Treasurer’s records, 1838 - 1956; Series 3, Membership, 1911 - 1966; Series 4, General files, 1869 - .

Notes

Supplied title based on provenance.

Donated by the Trinity Benefit Club.

Two flags of the Trinity Benefit Club are also in the possession of the archives.

Further accruals are expected.

Series 1: Rules, Regulations and Minutes. - 1838 - 1977, 1906 - 1984. - 10 cm

Series consists of six bound volumes containing the minutes of the club. These volumes records the establishment of the club, in 1838, the rules and regulations listing of the founding members, correspondence and letters of sympathy to members families, payment of sick benefits to members, list of elected officers each year and the payment of their annual dues.

- 1.01 Rules, Regulations and Minutes, 1838 - 1854
- 1.02 Minutes, 1854 - 1877
- 1.03 Minutes, 1906 - 1922
- 1.04 Minutes, 1923 - 1958
- 1.05 Minutes, 1953 - 1956
- 1.06 Minutes, 1958 - 1984

Series 2: Treasurers records. - 1838 - 1956. - 6 cm

The series consists of the accounts of the club maintained by the treasurer. Included in the two volumes, 1838 - 1877 and 1877 - 1956, are bank accounts, a list of members whose names are in alphabetical order, treasurer's accounts, income and payments on account of sick and deceased members.

- 2.01 Treasurer's records, 1838 - 1877
- 2.02 Treasurer's records, 1877 - 1956

Series 3: Membership. - 1911 - 1966. - 7 cm

Series consists of 2 volumes which record enrollments, dues, fines and time of enrollment in the club as well as when members deceased.

- 3.01 Membership book, 1911 - 1966
- 3.02 Membership book, 1936 - 1960

Series 4: General files. - 1869 - . - 8 cm

Printed rules and regulations, 1838, 1869, 1902, 1903 and 1926; applications and correspondence, and promotional material, clippings and photographs of the 150th and 165th Anniversary Celebrations. Walter G. C. White file containing historical notes and information on the Trinity Club, and Rev. Canon Lockyer History of the Trinity Club, which includes photographs of club presidents.

- 4.01 Rules and regulations, 1838, 1869, 1895, 1902, 1913, 1926, 1938

Printed copies of rules and regulations as well as recommendations for revisions to the rules and regulations.

4.02 Application for membership, 1915 - 1988 (inclusive), 1970 - 1980
(predominant)

In order to become a member of the club one must make a written application to the President and officers of the club. The application must be signed by two other members who are willing to sponsor the person applying for membership and then approved by a majority of the members in attendance by a vote.

4.03 Accounts, 1904 - 1984

Notes on the accounts of the club, treasurer's reports and money to be paid to sick members.

4.04 Correspondence, 1902 -1983 (inclusive), 1970 - 1980 (predominant)

Correspondence between members and other fraternal organizations in Trinity like the Loyal Orange Association and the Society of United Fishermen, and correspondence from members of the club who are applying for sick benefits.

4.05 100th Anniversary celebrations, 1938

Clippings of the 100th anniversary in 1938. Includes clippings from the newspapers detailing the events.

4.06 150th Anniversary celebrations, 1988

Clippings and photographs of the 150th anniversary in 1988. Includes clippings from the newspapers, an anniversary booklet that was compiled for the event which gives a history of the club, its founding members and information on the presidents of the club.

4.07 Historical notes

This file contains notes collected by Walter G. C. White on the Trinity Benefit Club, as well as a scrapbook by Rev. Canon William J. Lockyer which contains a history of the club from 1838 - 1974. The booklet also includes the photographs of some of the presidents and other officers of the club.

4.08 165th Anniversary celebrations, 2003

Contains a booklet that was created for the celebration and a newspaper article on the history of the Club.

4.09 170th Anniversary celebrations, 2008

Contains a booklet that was created for the celebration and a newspaper article on the history of the Club and an invitation to the 170th Anniversary.

Location: Trinity Benefit Club Records Box.