

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Rhode Island Collection**  
**015-02-03**  
**Olneyville Free Library Association Records**  
**1888-1968**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 015-02-03

Title: Olneyville Free Library Association Records

Creator: Olneyville Free Library Association

Dates: 1888-1968

Quantity: 2 boxes (1.4 linear feet)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Materials were acquired when Providence Public Library took over administration of the Olneyville branch library in 1946.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Materials were acquired from creator.

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2015 by Crystal Johnson

Conservation: None.

Language: Materials are in English

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
*[item title], Olneyville Free Library Association records, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library*

Property Rights: Copyright has been assigned to Providence Public Library.

**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material None.

Published descriptions Not applicable.

Location of originals Not applicable.

Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Olneyville (Providence, R.I.) Olneyville (R.I.) Libraries--Rhode Island. Libraries--Rhode Island--Providence. Libraries--Rhode Island--Providence--History. Correspondence (aat) Journals (accounts) (aat) Ledgers (account books) (aat)

**SEE ALSO**

015-03-01, Providence Public Library Photograph Collection, Providence Public Library

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Olneyville Free Library was formed in 1875 and was originally located in the mill at 12 Hartford Avenue. This library was later annexed to the Town of Johnston in 1898. In 1899 a new location was built in Olneyville Square on land willed to the library by Miss Sarah Waterman in 1890. The will of Miss Sarah Waterman stipulated that the library should be constructed within five years of her death, and should bear the Waterman name. The Olneyville Free Library opened this new location of the Waterman Building in 1900. The library was located on the second and third floors, with the first floor serving as rented storefronts. The library became a branch of the Providence Public library in 1946. The Waterman building was remodeled in 1955 with the removal of the top two floors. The Olneyville branch closed in 1981. A new branch location was opened by the Providence Public Library located at 1 Olneyville Square in 1989. In 2009, the Olneyville branch library became part of the Providence Community Libraries. The Waterman building was bought in 2000 by the Olneyville Arts Collaborative, LLC.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The Olneyville Free Library Association Records include correspondence, financial ledgers, membership and board meeting minutes, mortgage bonds, receipts, wills and legal papers. The materials span from the creation of the Olneyville Free Library Association to after the merger with the Providence Public Library.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

The Olneyville Free Library Association Records are organized into 5 series. Series 1- Legal Papers; Series 2 -Correspondence from 1904- 1964; Series 3 - Treasury and Financial Reports; Series 4 - Administrative and Membership Records; Series 5 - Miscellaneous.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION****Series 1: Legal Papers**

Folder	Folder title	Box
1	Papers concerning the will of Sarah Waterman and property deeds, 1886-1933	1
2	Transfer to Providence Public Library papers, 1946	1

**Series 2: Correspondence**

Folder	Folder title	Box
3	Correspondence, 1904 -1946	1
4	Correspondence, 1944 -1964	1

**Series 3: Treasury Ledgers and Financial Papers**

Folder	Folder title	Box
5	Biennial Reports, 1911-1968	1
6	Treasurer's ledger, 1875- 1888	1
7	Treasurer's ledger, 1901 -1908	1
8	Treasurer's ledger, 1909-1919	1
9	Treasurer's ledger, 1924 – 1936	1
10	Treasurer's ledger, 1936 -1946	1
11	Receipts, 1917 -1920	1
12	Receipts, 1921	1
13	Receipts, 1922	1
14	Receipts, 1923 – 1924	1

15	Receipts, 1957 -1964	1
16	Blank receipt books, undated	1
17	Mortgage bonds, 1919-1926	1

#### Series 4: Administrative and Membership Records

Folder	Folder title	Box
18	Meeting minutes and membership journal, 1875- 1888	2
19	Meeting minutes and membership journal, 1888 – 1903	2
20	Meeting minutes and membership journal, 1905 – 1940	2
21	Meeting minutes and membership journal, 1911	2
22	Meeting minutes and membership journal, 1948	2
23	Loose meeting minutes and clippings, 1930-1942	2
24	By-Laws, 1906	2

#### Series 5: Miscellaneous

Folder	Folder title	Box
25	History of Olneyville, typescript, undated	2
26	Masonic certificate, 1882 and hand drawn map of library grounds, 1940	2