

Daniel White Charity Fund Cash Book

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: This ledger was found in the Cambridge City Clerk's office during the cleaning of their vaults, and was subsequently donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission in April of 2012.

Collection ID: CHC022

Dates: 1863-1959

Extent: One (1) bound volume, 7.75" x 5.5" x 1.25"

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Finding aid by: Megan Schwenke, July 2012; updated by Meta Partenheimer, November 2017

Collection Description:

One ledger, detailing the income, cash account, interest, and other financial aspects of the Daniel White Charity Fund from its inception to early 1959. An introduction to the ledger is written by former Cambridge mayor J. Warren Merrill. White gave \$5000 to the Mayor and certain Trustees of Cambridge to be held in trust with the following instructions:

Go hold and invest the sum safely and to apply the income thereof from time to time according to the discretion of the Trustees to the purchasing and gratuitous distribution of fuel among the worth and deserving poor of my (his) native City of Cambridge.

The fund was called the Daniel White Charity, and its single volume ledger contains entries beginning in October of 1863 and continuing through February of 1959. It records cash amounts paid out to the City, various area banks, local coal and fuel companies, as well as interest amounts accrued.

The ledger is marked:

CASH
DANIEL WHITE CHARITY
CAMBRIDGE

Historical Context and Biographical Note:

Daniel White was born in Cambridge on December 6, 1804 and moved to Charlestown when he was a boy. He later studied to become a manufacturing chemist, also known as an apothecary or druggist, under Doctor Samuel Kidder. The two became partners and operated an apothecary in Charlestown for over three decades. Dr. White died on May 28, 1863 and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery.

References:

Sawyer, Timothy Thompson, *Old Charlestown: Historical, Biographical, Reminiscent*. James H. West Company: 1902.

“Daniel O. White Charity Fund.” *Cambridge Tribune*, February 27, 1904.