

Series 284 Mount Vernon Board of Health Minutes, 1881-1968 (3 cu.ft.)

Processed by: Christopher Shields, 2011

Background:

A Board of Health was first established in the Village of Mount Vernon in 1881, when Mount Vernon was a part of the Town of Eastchester. When the Village of Mount Vernon became the independent City of Mount Vernon in 1892, a new Board of Health and sanitary code was established. The City of Mount Vernon maintained a Health Department until 1973 when it came under the jurisdiction of the Westchester County Health Department.

Collection Description:

The meeting minutes are in eight hardbound ledger books. Topics covered include the adoption of the first sanitary code for the Village and City and subsequent additions and amendments, issues associated with the transition to a public sewer system, food inspection rules and procedures; and contagious disease/epidemic control practices (i.e. public vaccination, public education, medical supervision, quarantine guidelines, etc.) for smallpox, cholera, typhus, typhoid, scarlet fever, influenza and diphtheria. Details of Mount Vernon's response to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic are also included. The minutes also contain discussions and laboratory reports related to the maintenance of a sanitary water supply and a record of many complaints about unsanitary conditions submitted to the Board and investigated by the Health Officer.

The sanitary code and amendments, publication notices, affidavits of publication and various working papers are also found in the volumes.

The collection also contains minutes of the Mount Vernon City Laboratory Board of Managers. The laboratory was established in 1939 and provided bacteriological and serological services, facilities for disease control, and milk and food examinations.

A separate folder contains information on Mount Vernon's tuberculosis control project, including narrative reports, budget documentation, testing reports, correspondence and pamphlets.