

Record Group ArMs 1989.006

**THE BROOKLYN FIREFIGHTING COLLECTION
1825-1949 (Bulk Dates: 1850-1900)**

GUIDE TO THE BROOKLYN FIREFIGHTING COLLECTION

33 cubic feet (10 document boxes, 14 records cartons, 44 unboxed ledgers)

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2000

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Introduction

The Brooklyn Firefighting Collection comprises records of firefighters, their organizations, and activities in the village, city, and borough of Brooklyn from 1825 through 1945. The bulk of the collection covers a span of over one century, during which time firefighting in Brooklyn evolved from a six man volunteer force to a paid department employing over ten-thousand men. Firefighting played an important social and political role in early Brooklyn, and the influence of firefighters and firefighting associations is tracked in this collection. The materials in the collection offer insight into the development of firefighting practices during the nineteenth century and illustrate how Brooklyn's massive nineteenth century population growth and the city's growing prominence as a seat of industry affected the city's need for a reliable and modern fire department.

Note on Brooklyn History:

Present-day Brooklyn encompasses the whole of Kings County, the westernmost portion of Long Island. Now a borough of New York City, Brooklyn grew out of six separate towns established in the colonial period, including the town of Breuckelen (Brooklyn), founded by the Dutch in 1646. In 1642, the first permanent public ferry was established between present-day Brooklyn and Peck's Slip in Manhattan. A settlement, referred to as "the Ferry," quickly arose at the foot of present day Fulton Street. The Village of Brooklyn was established via state charter in 1816, having grown up around the ferry landing, later known as Fulton Ferry.

The Village of Brooklyn, though only one mile square, quickly expanded beyond the immediate vicinity of the ferry. Brooklyn's importance as an East River crossing spurred the development of waterfront businesses, such as shipping and storage, as well as residential development, becoming a popular suburb of Manhattan. The expanded village acquired a city charter in 1834 and continued its growth, annexing the towns of Bushwick and Williamsburgh in 1854 (known as the Eastern District). The City of Brooklyn became similar in size to Philadelphia and Boston, and continued to grow due to waves of immigration, becoming the third largest city in the United States in 1860.

The city of Brooklyn in 1880 was the fourth largest producer of manufactured goods in the United States and was still expanding in population and commercial growth. The demographics of Brooklyn altered dramatically over the next forty years as Brooklyn experienced a second mass wave of immigration, the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges opened in 1883 and 1909, and the subway arrived in 1908. Industrial complexes grew as the city of Brooklyn was annexed into the City of New York in 1898 and public utilities expanded into the borough. As Brooklyn changed over the years, so did the necessity for, and requirements of, Brooklyn's municipal services, including fire fighting. Brooklyn in the year 2000 is the most populous borough of New York City, and the New York City Fire Department employs 10,997 uniformed personnel in the five boroughs of New York City.

Volume: The Brooklyn Firefighting Collection occupies 31 cubic feet (10 document boxes, 13 records cartons, 40 unboxed ledgers).

Provenance: The bulk of the Brooklyn Firefighting Collection was transferred to The Brooklyn Historical Society from the James A. Kelly Institute for Local Historical Studies of St. Francis College in Brooklyn in August, 1989. Other portions of the Kelly Firefighting Collection were transferred to Brooklyn College Library Special Collections and to the Municipal Archives of the City of New York, and a portion of the present collection was already in the custody of The Brooklyn Historical Society.

The Kelly Collection was originally acquired through the efforts of James A. Kelly, Deputy County Clerk of King's County from 1944-1971, who removed a large volume of Brooklyn materials in 1956 from Brooklyn Borough Hall and the Brooklyn Municipal Building on Joralemon Street to St. Francis College when they were threatened with destruction. Included in the archives were municipal records of the city of Brooklyn from 1645 through 1898, as well as records of the six original towns of King's County. Kelly was designated the first official historian of the borough of Brooklyn during this time. The materials were surveyed by Robert Sink (Brooklyn Rediscovery) in the 1970s and were inventoried in 1991, shortly after the transfer to BHS, by Nancy Cricco, funded by the NHPRC. The present inventory is a revision of all previous inventories and surveys.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Photocopies may be made for research purposes only. Permission to publish material in the collection must be requested of the Director. Citations of manuscript material should take the following form:

Identification of item, date (if known); The Brooklyn Firefighting Collection; box and folder number (or ledger number); Library; The Brooklyn Historical Society.

Related Materials:

Materials Transferred out of the Brooklyn Firefighting Collection:

to Museum

1989.44.1-120

Included are fire helmet, fire hats, helmet patches identifying rank or company, black ball boxes, horns, hose nozzles, plaques, hood ornaments, printing plates, banners, framed images, medals, and badges. For a complete listing see Appendix A (available in hardcopy at the BHS library).

to Visual Collection

V1989.27.1-.50

Included are materials dating from 1870 through the mid-twentieth century. The bulk of these images are photographs of individual firemen or group portraits from the turn of the century. Also included are images of equipment, most notably fire engines.

For additional primary materials pertaining to firefighting in Brooklyn, see also:

ArMs 1973.215	Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, Atlantic Hose Company No.1 History
ArMs 1973.275	Brooklyn Village Fire Department Records
ArMs 1977.056-.058, .306	Teunis G. Bergen Papers
ArMs 1977.080	Brooklyn Fire Department Minutes of the Board of Trustees
ArMs 1977.158	Williamsburgh Fire Wardens Minute Book
ArMs 1977.224	Brooklyn City Armory Cornerstone Papers
ArMs 1978.017	Mrs. M.G. Spooner Fire Department Resolution
ArMs 1978.019	Flatbush Fire Department Records
ArMs 1978.032	List of New York City Firemen
ArMs 1985.021	Durham Family Papers / Department of Fire Prevention Record Book
ArMs 1985.024, .070, .077, .087, .121	Brooklyn Fire Department Records
ArMs 1990.004	City of Brooklyn Fire Department Records
ArMs 1992.017, .018	Brooklyn Fire Department Records

... and also the small collection of Fire Fighters Oral Histories that the Historical Society compiled in the 1990s.

Subject Headings:

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
Engine companies – New York (State) – New York
Fire departments – New York – Brooklyn
Fire departments – equipment and Supplies
Fire departments – Law and legislation – New York
Fire departments – New York (State) – New York
Fire engines
Fire extinction – New York – Brooklyn – History

Fire extinction – Long Island – History
Fire fighters
Fire fighters – New York – Brooklyn
Fire fighters – Pensions – New York – Brooklyn
Fire stations – New York – Brooklyn
Fires – New York – Brooklyn
Ladder companies – New York (State) – New York
Municipal services – New York (State) – New York

Historical Note

The first record of organized firefighting in Brooklyn dates from 1772, when six local men were recruited to combat fires near “the Ferry,” a settlement having risen around the ferry landing at the foot of present day Fulton Street.¹ A company of volunteers, consisting of seven men chosen at the town meeting, was formed in 1785.² Beginning in 1788, those Brooklyn firemen who had performed the prescribed length of service were exempted from jury duty and militia service, which swelled the ranks of the volunteers.³ Upon the incorporation of the Village of Brooklyn in 1816, the Village Trustees were given “full authority to make their Fire Department what in their judgement it should be.”⁴ The Trustees quickly established two new companies, increasing the total roll to ninety-five men. The Trustees also established the offices of four fire wardens, elected for the first time in 1817.

The three volunteer companies of what became known as the Western District, were represented by a Chief Engineer, who was nominated and directly elected by the firemen until 1827, when the election was delegated to the foremen of the respective companies. The selection process returned to the firemen themselves in 1839 with the re-institution of direct elections, which process usually reflected local, regional, and national politics as well as ethno-cultural affinities and social rank. The Chief Engineer reported to the Trustees of the Village of Brooklyn and, after the incorporation of the City of Brooklyn in 1834, to the Common Council of Brooklyn. The institution of the “Annual Report of the Chief Engineer to the Mayor and Common Council” was inaugurated in 1828.⁵

The Village of Williamsburgh organized a firefighting force and purchased two engines for two companies, “Washington” and “Protection Engine” in 1834. In 1844, a third company was added, “Good Interest.” The Williamsburgh Fire Department included seventeen companies by 1854, at which time the City of Williamsburgh (chartered 1851) consolidated with the city of Brooklyn. Upon consolidation, the Williamsburgh Fire Department’s name was changed to the Fire Department of the Eastern District.

¹ Brooklyn Fire Department, *Our Firemen* (Brooklyn: 1892) 22, 24.

² *Our Firemen* 25.

³ *Our Firemen* 26.

⁴ *Our Firemen* 30.

⁵ *Our Firemen* 34.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the administrative portion of the Brooklyn Fire Department had grown to include: a Board of Representatives, made up of a fireman from each company; a Board of Trustees, which supervised the allocation and disposal of funds generated by dues and other benefits; various standing committees; a Board of Fire Commissioners; a Board of Officers composed of the Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineers, and the Foreman of each company; the Board of Fire Wardens; and, the Exempt Firemen's Association. Each fire company "chose its own members, generally from among near neighbors, friends, and relatives, and thus directly reflected the social composition of the several wards."⁶ Close proximity between the firehouse and residence was necessary to ensure maximum efficiency and prompt response.

Living and working together in often dangerous conditions bound the men into a brotherhood, and made each man the judge of his mates' strength, willingness, and agility. These were qualities needed to pull an engine through uneven, garbage-strewn streets, to dodge a crumbling fiery wall, or to assert and defend the company's honor against a variety of challenges.⁷

The firehouses functioned as neighborhood clubhouses of sorts, attracted hangers-on who ran with the official volunteers, and provided a meeting place for the members of the firefighting fraternity. Records indicate that membership in a volunteer company became an important component of social identity.

Competition between individual companies was strong and frequently resulted in violence both at the scene of a fire and en route. Companies often competed to be first at a blaze and tried to eclipse each other's apparatus in pumping power. Great physical endurance was required to pull the engines through cobblestoned and unpaved streets in all weather and to pump water from the East River prior to the formation of the Nassau Water Company, which began pumping Ridgewood (Long Island) Reservoir water into Brooklyn in 1858.

The fraternal aspects of the brotherhood of volunteer firemen extended beyond the local company. Volunteer firemen administered relief in the form of sick benefits, pensions, and widows' and orphans' stipends, and mortgages and loans became available through the Firemen's Fund.⁸ Capital was generated by fundraising activities such as balls and musical entertainments, as well as through the collection of dues and fines.

As the population of Brooklyn grew rapidly during the 1840s and 1850s, as a result of both in-migration and large waves of Irish and German immigrants, the size and density of the growing city began to show the inadequacies of a volunteer force of autonomous companies that were unable to fight fires effectively. Fire Department officials petitioned the Mayor and Common Council for funds to establish new firehouses as well as to maintain and purchase equipment and supplies. The "Annual

⁶ Marilyn Pettit, "The Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, 1836-70," New York University, 1981, unpublished, 1.

⁷ Pettit, 4.

⁸ Pettit, 8.

Report of the Chief Engineer, Western District” for 1863 indicated the contemporary size of the Fire Department:

The working force of the Department, at the present time consists of eight Engineers, eleven hundred and twenty-two members of Engine Companies, four hundred and ten Hose Companies. And one hundred and ninety-five members of Hook and Ladder Companies, making a total of seventeen hundred and twenty-seven men. The Department is divided into fourteen hand engines, fifteen hose carriages, and five hook and ladder trucks, all of which are doing duty.⁹

The volunteer status of firemen was sharply challenged in the mid-nineteenth century as firefighting effectiveness diminished in the rapidly urbanizing city. The first bill to establish a paid Fire Department in Brooklyn was introduced and defeated in 1858, but the capability of the volunteer Fire Department was further contested as the city of Brooklyn became an industrial center during the Civil War. The City of Brooklyn replaced cisterns with hydrants that dispensed a steady and predictable water supply, while technological advances in the form of horse drawn steam pumping engines threatened volunteer companies that pulled their pumpers through the streets by hand, sometimes to the risk of life and limb to themselves and passersby. The fire brigades’ autonomy, but not their identity, was summarily altered by “An Act to Create a Metropolitan Fire District” which in 1865, merged the Fire Departments of the City of New York and the Eastern and Western Districts of the City of Brooklyn under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Fire Commissioners appointed by the governor.¹⁰

The companies remained volunteer in nature, but the consolidation produced renewed demands for a paid firefighting force for the city. “An Act to Reorganize the Fire Department of the City of Brooklyn” received approval in 1869, which moved governance of the fire department from New York State to New York City elected and appointed officials.¹¹ The Mayor, the Comptroller, and the Street Commissioner acquired authority over the four Commissioners of the Fire Department. The Trustees of the Widows and Orphans Fund of the Fire Department reported to the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn, while annual appropriations for Fire Department expenses were relegated to the King’s County Board of Supervisors. The bill also suggested that the new Fire Commissioners select members of the paid department from among exempt firemen, who had served a full term in the Volunteer Department.¹²

The cities of Brooklyn and Williamsburg converted from volunteer brigades to a paid fire department by 1870. Thereafter the transition from a volunteer to a paid firefighting force took place upon the annexation of individual towns into the city of Brooklyn as follow: New Lots, 1886; Flatbush, 1894; Gravesend, 1894; New Utrecht, 1894; and Flatlands, 1896. Brooklyn became a borough of New York City in January 1898.

⁹ *Annual Report of the Chief Engineer, Western District* (Brooklyn: 1864) 5.

¹⁰ Pettit 20.

¹¹ *Our Firemen* 69.

¹² *Our Firemen* 70.

After the transition from a volunteer to a salaried Fire Department in Brooklyn and the annexed towns, Veteran Volunteer Associations served as surrogates for the vanished volunteer firehouses and maintained their traditional identities and affinities. In addition, ex-volunteers were eligible for membership in state and national firefighting organizations that accepted both professional firefighters and volunteers. The “vamps” of the old department perpetuated the fraternal aspects of the volunteer firehouses through these associations and organizations, maintaining the disbursements of benefits and pensions virtually as long as there were eligible veterans or their beneficiaries to receive such.¹³

Sources:

Belknap, Rufus R. *The Fireman's Almanac and Reference Book for the Year 1860, containing in addition to the calendar a memorandum.* New York: H. Dexter & Co., 1860.

Brooklyn Fire Department. *Our Firemen.* Brooklyn, N.Y., 1892.

Brooklyn Fire Department. *Report of the Special Commission in Matters of Reorganizing the Fire Department of the City of Brooklyn.* New York: Wynkoop, Hallenbeck and Thomas, 1861.

Kernan, J. Frank. *Reminiscences of the Old Fire Laddies and Volunteer Fire Departments of New York and Brooklyn: together with a complete history of the paid departments of both cities.* New York: M. Crane, 1885.

Limpus, Lowell M. *History of the New York Fire Department.* New York: E.P. Dutton, 1940.

New York Fire Department. *Centennial Issue: Fire Department, 1865-1965.* New York, c. 1965.

O'Reilly, Joseph John Edward. *How to Become a Fireman; with all the information relative to civil service requirements, examinations, and the school of instruction.* New York: The Chief Publishing Co., c.1903.

Ordinances of the Village of Williamsburgh related to firemen and the Fire Department. Williamsburgh, N.Y.: published by order of the Board of Trustees, 1850.

Pettit, Marilyn. “The Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, 1836-70.” New York University, 1981, unpublished.

Sprague, William E. *Old Times. The early days of the Brooklyn Fire Department: the formation of the first fire company, the original machine, and how it was worked,*

¹³ The term “vamp” derives from the “vamping-horn” used to give instructions at a fire. (See letter from the “Lexicographer” Box 202, Folder 88).

primitive implements for battling with the flames – “that horrid bell”. Bay Ridge, Long Island: James H. Barr, Job printer, 1882.

Stryker-Rodda, Harriet. “Outline of the History of Firefighting on Long Island.” Long Island Historical Society, 1955.

Why New York City should have a paid Fire Department. New York: C.S. Wescott & Co., Printers, 1865.

Scope and Content

The Brooklyn Firefighting Collection, formerly known as the Kelly Firefighting Collection, was donated to The Brooklyn Historical Society in 1989 by the James A. Kelly Institute for Local Historical Studies of St. Francis College in Brooklyn. The files in this collection represent a portion of the material generated by several Brooklyn and King’s County volunteer fire companies and by related local, county, state, and national organizations, between 1825 and 1949. The bulk of the material spans the time period between 1850 and 1900. Included in the collection are: appointments, bids, bonds, broadsides, certificates, circulars, clippings, communications, contracts, correspondence, deeds, drawings, estimates, ledgers, letters, minutes, notices, orders, petitions, receipts, recommendations, regulations, reports, requests, resolutions, rolls, rosters, speeches, and telegrams.

Three-dimensional objects and photographs were separated from the Kelly accession and transferred to the museum and visual collections; see Appendix A (available in hardcopy at the BHS library) for materials transferred to Museum Collection. Ledgers (192) were stored in numerical order and housed in records cartons or a document box; oversized ledgers remain unboxed. Manuscripts have been housed in nine document boxes and one oversized box.

All materials have been arranged chronologically into ten series based on the company or division that created the records. Series that contain a large volume of ledgers and documents have been divided into *sub-series* according to physical format, “Documents” and “Ledgers” (see Series I and Series VII). Ledgers retain an early numbering system and are stored in numerical order according to this structure. The Container List indicates into which of the ten series each ledger falls.

Series I through VI are organized according to geographic location, reflecting the development of the individual volunteer fire departments. Series I is the most complete of these six series, with materials derived from the original Village and City of Brooklyn, referred to as the Western District of the Brooklyn Fire Department. Items include minute and account books, pension rolls, Board resolutions, mutual aid certificates, materials regarding the Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen’s Association, and roll books dating from 1825 to 1949. Of special note in this series is Ledger 36, which contains clippings regarding inter-company fighting while racing to the scene of a fire, and ensuing disciplinary action. Ledger 38 lists the returns by company for the election of Chief Engineer of the Western District, 1855-1865. Ledger 91 lists benefits payments by the Committee on Relief Fund by name, date, and ward for 1861. Also of note are the

committee reports to the Board of Trustees of the Western District, many of which pertain to the Widows and Orphans Fund. The role of the benefits and economic need of women in the volunteer fire department organization is illustrated in these documents.

Series II contains materials generated by the Eastern District between 1843 and 1938, including badge registers and rosters. The items in Series III include materials relating to both the Eastern and Western Districts from 1854 to 1938. Included are materials regarding the Firemen's Association, the Benevolent Fund, and the Brooklyn Fire Department. Of special note are the roll of applicants for pensions and the benefits roll, which list the name and address of the recipients, the amount given in pension or relief, and the date of disbursement. Series IV contains materials relating to the Flatbush Volunteer Fire Department, dating from 1866 to 1939. Included are roll books, minutes, account books, and correspondence. Series V concentrates on items generated by the Gravesend Volunteer Fire Department and includes rolls, minutes, and account books. The last series in this section is Series VI which concentrates on materials relating to the New Lots Volunteer Fire Department. Roll, minute, and account books are found here.

Series VII contains material generated by county, state, and national firefighting organizations and associations between 1864 and 1952. Included are rolls, dues accounts, and exemption certificates. The bulk of this series is made up of materials pertaining to the New York State Conference, Order of American Firemen (NYSCOAF), including correspondence, reports, and meeting notices.

Series VIII consists of miscellaneous material divided into sub-series for "Unidentified Items" and "Incidental Records." The Incidental Records Sub-series consists of photocopies of ledgers 123 and 145. Series IX contains oversized materials, including illustrated certificates of membership. Series X contains printed matter for various King's County, New York, and out-of-state fire departments and associations (including annual reports, proceedings, manuals, and copies of the constitutions and by-laws) dating from 1856 to 1928.

Ledger titles in quotation marks reflect titles as given on or in the individual ledgers; the type of record, such as "roll book," follows parenthetically. Where a title is not available, a descriptive title has been used without quotation marks. An asterisk (*) denotes fragile condition; two asterisks (**) denote fragility with a photocopy available.

A keyword list follows the Container List, providing detailed information by topic divided into series and sub-series. Topics include, "Benefits," "Disciplinary Action," "Ritual," and "Technology and Equipment."

The Brooklyn Firefighting Collection Container List

(Note: there is no ledger 136, and ledgers 47 and 180—while present—are not listed below. Ledger 47 is unboxed and ledger 180 is in box 24. Both are unidentified, undated rosters of firemen: 47 is organized alphabetically and gives men's names and their company, while 180 (much briefer) gives men's addresses along with their companies.)

Series I: Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, Western District, 1825-1949

Sub-Series: Ledgers

<u>Ledger (Box)</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
75 (18)	"Proceedings of the Board of Trustees, Fire Department" (Minutes)	1825-1848
76 (18)	"Treasurer Brooklyn Fire Department" (accounts)	1837-1858
9 (n/a)	"Firemen's Register" (roll)	1852-1864
77 (16)	"Record Book of Niagara Engine Company No. 8, Brooklyn, L.I." (record book)	1853-1865
55 (13)	"minutes and Ledger Montauk Hose Company No. 4" (minutes and dues accounts)	1853-1859
53 (13)	Roll book, Montauk Engine Company No. 22 and Hose Company No. 4	1853-1861
57 (14)	Dues accounts, unidentified Western District Company	1854-1886
34 (n/a)	"Minutes, Trustees" (minutes)	1854-1864
38* (n/a)	"Chief Engineer's Returns" (election results)	1855-1865
145** (22)	"Brooklyn Fire Items-Atlantic Hose Company No. 1" (scrapbook, photocopy Box 9)	1855-1869
52 (13)	"Pensions and Claims" (pension roll)	1855-1871
30 (n/a)	Engine Hose and Hook and Ladder Companies	1856-1868
174* (23)	"Roster Volunteer Fire Department, Brooklyn Western District, May 4, 1869, Engine Companies 21, 22, Hose Companies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 Hook and Ladder Companies 1-5." (roll)	1856-1869
100 (19)	"Badge Register Exempt 1-1200, Fire Companies, Western District"	1857-1868
93 (18)	"Discharge Certificates, 1857-1869, book A"	1857-1869
84 (18)	"Report Book, Fire Commissioners, Western District" (reports)	1857-1869
39* (n/a)	Minutes of Fire Commissioners	1857-1869
12 (n/a)	"Lafayette Hook and Ladder, 1857-1869" (roll)	1857-1869
28 (n/a)	"Badge Register, 1857-1868"	1857-1869
19 (n/a)	"Treasurer's Accounts, Fire Department, City Brooklyn" (accounts)	1858-1870
42 (12)	"Montauk Engine Company No. 22, Minutes and Ledger, 1859-1963" (minutes)	1859-1863
170* (23)	"Engine Companies 1 and 2" (roll)	1859-1868

<u>Ledger (Box)</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
173* (23)	"Engine Companies 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, Hook and Ladder Companies 1-6" (roll)	1859-1869
85 (18)	"Attendance Book, 1860-1868, Record of Arrears of 50% Duty, 1860-1868" (roll)	1860-1868
23 (n/a)	"Roll book, Montauk Engine Company No. 22"	1860-1868
91* (n/a)	"Daily payments with names and amounts to each family paid by the Committee of the Relief Fund, Oct. 17- Dec. 4, 1861" (roll)	1861
36* (n/a)	"Roll Book, No. 2" (roll book of Montauk Engine Company No. 22)	1862-1869
123** (21)	Scrapbook, Continental Engine Company No. 9 (photocopy Box 9)	1863-1868
3 (n/a)	"Roster, Engine Companies 1-22, 1863-1868"	1863-1869
2 (n/a)	"Roster, Hose Companies 1-17 and Hook and Ladder Companies 1-6, 1863-1868" (roll book)	1863-1869
78 (17)	"Empire Engine Company No. 19, Minutes, 1863-1869"	1863-1869
58 (14)	"Montauk Engine Company No. 22, ledger 1863-1869"	1863-1869
31 (n/a)	"Roll book, 1863-1868" (roll book from unidentified Western District Company)	1863-1869
33 (n/a)	Roll Book, unidentified Western District Company	1864-1866
18 (n/a)	"Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Brooklyn Fire Department"	1864-1871
119 (21)	Minutes, Committee on Claims and Relief	1866-1870
169* (23)	"Roster, Volunteer Fire Department, Brooklyn, Western District, Engine Companies 1-17 and 19" (roll)	1869
1 (n/a)	Roll book, Engine Companies 1-22, Hose Companies 1-17 and Truck Companies 1-6	c. 1869
162 (23)	Roll book of beneficiaries	1872-1920
186 (24)	"Widows and Orphans Fund of the volunteer Fire Department of Brooklyn, Western District" (roll)	1873-1899
37 (n/a)	"Discharge Certificates Register, Book B"	1873-1911
14 (n/a)	"Pensions, Widows and Orphans Fund" (roll)	1877-1882
8 (n/a)	"Pensions, Brooklyn Fire Department, 1882-1891" (roll)	1882-1891
166 (23)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association" (minutes and roll)	1883-1894
59 (14)	"Minutes, Dec. 1884, Volunteer Association Brooklyn, Western District" (minutes)	1884-1887
83 (18)	"Constitution, Jan. 15, 1885, Volunteer Firemen's Association" (includes roll)	1885
6 (n/a)	"Volunteer Firemen's Association, Brooklyn, Western District" (roll)	1885-1905
5 (n/a)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District, 1905"	1885-1923

<u>Ledger (Box)</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
62 (15)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association , organized Jan. 15, 1885" (accounts)	1886-1933
27 (n/a)	"Roster, Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, 1887" (roll)	1887
125 (21)	"Association of Exempt Firemen, Brooklyn, Western District" (dues accounts)	1888-1897
11 (n/a)	"Minute Book No. 2, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association" (minutes)	188-1903
22 (n/a)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District, 1890-1912" (roll)	1890-1912
152 (22)	"Fines" (account book of fines)	1893-1900
48 (n/a)	Roll book and dues accounts, Western District	1897-1903
88 (16)	"Franklin" (Engine Company No. 3- accounts)	1898-1906
15 (n/a)	"Receipts for Pensions, 1901-1911" (roll)	1901-1911
24 (n/a)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, 1903-1923" (minutes)	1903-1923
49 (n/a)	Dues accounts and roll, Western District	1903-1923
107 (19)	Check Stubs 300-599, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association	1912-1925
177 (24)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, John B. Byrne, Treasurer" (bank book)	1913-1930
179 (24)	Roll of members and dues accounts, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association	1915-1920
168 (23)	Roll, widowed beneficiaries	1916-1917
178 (24)	"Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association" (dues accounts)	1916-1922
181 (24)	Dues accounts, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association	1923
86 (18)	"Minutes of the Brooklyn Volunteer Exempt Firemen's Association (minutes)	1923-1931
87 (16)	"Minute Book, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association" (minutes)	1923-1931
46 (12)	Check book, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association	1925-1930

**Sub-Series:
Documents**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Committee Reports to the Board of Trustees, Brooklyn Fire Department, and Widows and Orphans Fund, Western District	1856-1863
	2	Committee Reports	1864-1867
	3	Committee Reports	1868
	4	Committee Reports	1868
	5	Committee Reports	1869

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
1	6	Committee Reports	1869	
	7	Committee Reports	1870	
	8	Committee Reports	1871	
	9	Committee Reports	1872	
	10	Committee Reports	1873-1874	
	11	Committee Reports	1875-1877	
	12	Committee Reports	1878	
	13	Committee Reports	1879	
	14	Committee Reports	1880	
	15	Committee Reports	1881-1882	
	2	1	Committee Reports	1883-1887
		2	Committee Reports	1888-1895
		3	Committee Reports	n.d.
		4	Treasurer's Annual and Quarterly Report to Board of Trustees and Board of Representatives, Brooklyn Fire Department, Western District	1864-1871
		5	Treasurer's Reports	1872-1879
6		Treasurer's Reports	1880-1881	
7		Treasurer's Reports	1882-1885	
8		Treasurer's Reports	1885-1886	
9		Treasurer's Reports (includes some Eastern district info)	1889-1892	
10		Applications, Resignations and Appointments to Brooklyn Fire Department, Commissions and Boards	1865-1873	
11		Bonds for Trustees of the Widows and Orphans Fund	1875-1892	
12		Applications, Resignations and Appointments	1880-1891	
13		Board Resolutions, includes printed copy of By-Laws, Board of Representatives and Rules and Regulations of the Board of Trustees, Brooklyn Fire Department	1864-1869	
14		Board Resolutions	1870-1872	
15		Board Resolutions	1873-1874	
3	1	Board Resolutions	1875-1879	
	2	Board Resolutions, includes printed copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Board of Trustees, Widows and Orphans Fund, Western District, 1882, 1892	1880-1915	
	3	Board Resolutions	n.d.	
	4	Board Resolutions	n.d.	
	5	Board of Trustees, Western District, bills and receipts, mainly Widows and Orphans Fund, incl. some tax bills	1862-1870	
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4	1	Property Insurance Policies, receipts and related correspondence, mainly on properties owned by or mortgaged to Western District volunteer associations	1869-1874
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	7	Amendment to the Act of 1855 of incorporation of the Brooklyn Fire Department Chapter 368 of 1871 regarding eligibility and benefits	1871
	8	Chapter 175 of 1883, an act regarding Cooperative or Assessment Life and Casualty Insurance Associations and Societies	1883
	9	Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Association Mutual Aid Association certificates of membership, benefits received, death and probate	1885-1886
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	4	Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District and Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association, membership cards, receipts, resolutions, pensioner lists, Treasurer's Reports and By-laws	1890-1933

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6	5	Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Fund, correspondence (includes near loss of Borough Hall, 1910-1911), and Certificate of Incorporation, Volunteer Firemen's Exempt Association of Brooklyn, Western District	1910-1949
	6	Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District, receipt books, meeting notices	1914-1923
	7	Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western District, receipt book	1923
	8	Papers of John B. Byrne, President and Treasurer Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association, correspondence, speeches, reports, membership lists	1913-1921
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	10	Papers of J.B. Byrne	1924
7	1	Papers of J.B. Byrne	1925-1926
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26 (n/a)	"Register, Brooklyn Fire Department, Eastern District"	1855-1869
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172* (23)	"Information, items of interest, Volunteer Firemen, Brooklyn" (roll)	1858-1869

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182 (24)	Dues accounts and roll, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association and Benevolent Fund	1894-1895
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171* (23)	"Welwood's List" (Treasurer, Brooklyn Volunteer Firemen's Association) (roll)	c. 1915
56 (13)	"Minutes, Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Fund"	1915-1935
21 (n/a)	"Pensions and Relief Warrants, Exempt Volunteer Benevolent Fund" (roll)	1915-1935
16 (n/a)	"Roll of Applicants for Pensions and Other Relief to Board of Trustees, Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Fund" (roll)	1916-1926
113 (20)	Benefits roll	1918-1930
20 (n/a)	"Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association Benevolent Fund, 1923"	1923
104 (19)	Minutes of the Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Fund, Eastern and Western Districts	1935-1938

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154* (23)	Roll and Minutes	1866-1868
114* (20)	Roll, Washington Engine Company No. 1	1868-1984
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110 (20)	"Committee on Supplies" (minutes)	1877
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159 (23)	"Melrose Hose Company No. 2, Minutes"	1885-1887
187 (24)	"Washington Engine Company No. 1 of Flatbush" (receipt book)	1885-1895
189 (24)	"Melrose Hose Company No.2, Meeting Roll Book"	1886-1887
67* (15)	"Melrose Hose Company No.2, Flatbush" (dues accounts)	1887-1888
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165 (23)	"Washington Engine Company, No. 1" (accounts)	1887-1895
69 (16)	"Washington Engine Company No. 1" (minutes)	1887-1896
128* (21)	Minutes of the Flatbush Fire Department	1888-1895
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185 (24)	"Malbone Hose Company No. 5" (accounts)	1889-1896
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130 (21)	"Book for Fines, Dues and Assessments, Malbone Hose Company No. 5"	1891-1895	
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161 (23)	"Flatbush Volunteer Firemen's Association"	1912-1917	
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112 (20)	"Sick and Benevolent Fund of Gravesend Exempt Volunteer Fire Department" (accounts)	1902-1922
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147 (22)	Roll book and dues accounts, Franklin Engine Company, No. 2	1876-1883
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129 (21)	Roll book	1882-1886
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151 (22)	"Constitution and By-Laws of the New Lots Exempt Firemen's Association"	1900
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	8	Rockaway Beach Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, certificate of incorporation and membership roll, apparatus book, Atlantic Engine Co., By-Laws and programme	1889-1901
	9	Assorted newspaper clippings of King's County Volunteer Firemen's Associations	1904-1942
	10	Firemen's Association of State of New York, correspondence, 1915-1925	1915-1925
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