



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers  
Correspondence of the Secretary A3107**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	The series consists of administrative correspondence of the Secretary of the Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers with state officials and representatives of charitable organizations relating to the commission's investigation and report. Subjects include information on efforts to provide relief of the poor, the commission's study of policies and practices of the Charity Organization Society of the City of New York, a report summarizing and commenting on testimony of New York City organizations, and progress of widow's pension legislation.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers
<b>Title:</b>	Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers correspondence of the secretary
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.3 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	(1 microfilm roll 35mm)
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1913-1915
<b>Series:</b>	A3107

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## Arrangement

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Chronological.

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## Administrative History

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The commission was established by authority of Chapter 588 of the Laws of 1913 to investigate and report on the practicability and appropriate method of providing by statute for pensions or other relief for widowed mothers. Its work included an investigation of the circumstances affecting widowed mothers which would show the necessity or propriety of providing relief, and it was required to submit a report to the 1914 legislature on its findings, including recommendations on proposed legislation. The commission and its appointed subcommittees

had authority to inquire into the conditions and statutes "in any State and country" and in doing so "send for persons or papers," examine witnesses under oath, and take all necessary measures to examine the subject.

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of the commission's secretary, Richard Newstadt, and to a lesser extent of its assistant secretary, Anna B. Fox. The correspondence is not complete; the bulk of it represents administrative correspondence relating to commission requests to various state officials and representatives of charitable organizations for information on efforts to provide relief of the poor. Legislation authorized a full inquiry into charitable practices and policy, both governmental and private, and the commission particularly attempted to ascertain the results of similar investigations in other states and the accomplishments of actual relief work with widowed mothers and their children.

Correspondence in the series specifically relates to: the commission's study of policies and practices of the Charity Organization Society of the City of New York, including summaries of individual cases; a report to commission chairman Aaron J. Levy summarizing and commenting on testimony of New York City organizations, including summaries of individual cases; requests from individuals and organizations to change the transcripts of the commission's investigative proceedings at which they testified; requests for information on the status of poor relief laws and work of similar commissions in other states; progress of widow's pension legislation in New York State and attempts to publicize it and the commission's work in the press; and aggregation of material necessary to the commission's final report, correspondence regarding its publication, and requests to the commission for both preliminary and final copies of the report.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

### Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Microfilm is available for use at the New York State Archives or through inter-library loan.

## Access Terms

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- Providing pensions
- Widows--Legal status, laws, etc.
- Women--Health and hygiene
- Investigating social issues
- Assisting children
- Social work with widows
- Assisting women
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Child welfare
- Mothers
- Maternal and infant welfare
- Mothers' pensions
- Single mothers
- Women--Charities
- Levy, Aaron J.
- Fox, Anna B.
- Newstadt, Richard.