

## Resource Sheet #9

### Mutual Benefit Societies

*As early as 1790, enterprising free black women formed missionary and temperance societies around their churches, societies of mutual relief (insurance companies whose members pooled their dues to pay sick and death benefits). An 1830 study of Philadelphia's mutual benefit societies found that the twenty-seven existing societies had disbursed \$3,616.58 (1,413.87 more than the free black male societies).*

#### Society Notes:

Sarah Pratte ten dollars for the lost of hir housband

November th 15 1822

Mary Brown borrowed of Committee the sume of 4 which she is to pay in 3 month to the Society for the Burial of her child

July 5, 1822

Mrs. Morris Tresurer of the Daughter Africa Society Please to pay Sidney Buck one of the committee the Sume eighteen dollar for the funurall expence of Rachel conks one of the members of the D

May the 5 1822

Committee of the Daughters Africa Lent Ann Hacket a member a lone acordian to 10 article of the Constitution the sume of four dollars for the burial child

E. Matthew Sucrtary

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Courtesy of WW Norton Company

<http://www.wwnorton.com/>

Sterling, Dorothy, ed. We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, reissued 1997.