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Boston, Mass. Mount Vernon Congregational Church records, 1841-1969. RG0026

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

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Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

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URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Mt. Vernon Congregational Church (Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Holmes, Pauline
Creator:	Moody, Dwight Lyman, 1837-1899
Creator:	Herrick, Samuel E. (Samuel Edward), 1841-1904
Creator:	Kirk, Edward Norris, 1802-1874
Creator:	Old South Church (Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Chambers Street Church (Boston, Mass.)
Title:	Boston, Mass. Mount Vernon Congregational Church records, 1841-1969.
ID:	RG0026
Date [inclusive]:	1841-1969
Physical Description:	15.37 Cubic Feet (17 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The Mount Vernon Church was founded in 1842 by a group of enthusiastic lay men and women who felt the need of a church in Boston which would lead in the fight against indifference and Unitarianism. They invited the Rev. Edward Norris Kirk, a famous evangelist, to be their pastor. He spent thirty two years in charge of the church, from 1842 until his death in 1874. Unfortunately, most of the records of his pastorate perished in a fire in 1879. He was succeeded by Samuel Edward Herrick, pastor until his death in 1904. He too was a famous preacher. These two men, whose pastorates spanned more than sixty years, were innovators in sponsoring voluntary societies which appealed to the young unmarried teenagers who flocked to Boston from the countryside in the second half of the nineteenth century. Collection includes society records, treasurer, annual meeting minutes, pew records, church records, including records of governing boards and committees, membership, admissions and dismissals, treasurers' records, annual meeting minutes and reports, worship records and scrapbooks. Also contains the Chambers Street Church records.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Boston, Mass. Mount Vernon Congregational Church records, 1841-1969, RG0026. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical

The Mount Vernon Church was founded in 1842 by a group of enthusiastic lay men and women who felt the need of a church in Boston which would lead in the fight against indifference and Unitarianism. They invited the Rev. Edward Norris Kirk, a famous evangelist, to be their pastor. He spent thirty two years in charge of the church, from 1842 until his death in 1874. Unfortunately, most of the records of his pastorate perished in a fire in 1879. He was succeeded by Samuel Edward Herrick, pastor until his death in 1904. He too was a famous preacher. These two men, whose pastorates spanned more than sixty years, were innovators in sponsoring voluntary societies which appealed to the young unmarried teenagers who flocked to Boston from the countryside in the second half of the nineteenth century. They were not college graduates. Most of them such as Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist, went from the farm to retailing at the age of sixteen. They were initially attracted by Kirk and Herrick's preaching, but stayed because of the Christian fellowship and opportunity for self - education, which such groups as the Mount Vernon Association of Young Men provided. In the twentieth century, after the Church moved to the Back Bay, it turned its attention to male college students, especially those attending M.I.T., and to female office workers. The church, whose minister from 1933 to 1948, Carl Heath Kopf, took to the radio to spread the gospel, prospered until after World War II. Then it lost all its families, when the suburbs opened up and families with children left the Back Bay. For a while it was part of the Protestant chaplaincy at M.I.T., but when that failed, the remaining members, many of whom no longer lived in the Back Bay, voted to merge with Old South.

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Scope and Contents

Collection includes society records, including the records of the Prudential Committee, treasurer, annual meeting minutes and pew records; church records, including records of governing boards and committees, standing committee, membership, admissions and dismissals, treasurers' records, annual meeting minutes and reports, worship records,

anniversary celebration records, including One Hundred Years of Mount Vernon Church (1942) written by Pauline Holmes; voluntary societies; scrapbooks; files on individuals; minutes and literary magazines of young people's societies from the late nineteenth century; and photographs. Also includes Chamber Street Church records, 1861-1880, which merged with Mount Vernon in 1879. Persons represented include Dwight L. Moody, evangelist and early church member, and Samuel Edward Herrick, minister from 1871-1904. The Mount Vernon Church records contain manuscript copies of most of Herrick's sermons.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into nine series, mainly by topic.

Series 1: Society, 1842-1919

Subseries 1: Governing Boards and Committees, 1842-1919

Subseries 2: Pew Records, 1844-1892

Subseries 3: Joint Church and Society Building Committee, 1888-1892

Series 2: Church 1842-1967

Subseries 1: Governing Boards and Committees, 1880-1922

Subseries 2: Membership, 1842-1967

Series 3: Incorporated Church, 1888-1968

Subseries 1: Governing Boards and Committees, 1919-1933

Subseries 2: Standing Committee, 1941-1957

Subseries 3: Membership, 1902-1955

Subseries 4: General Treasurer, 1888-1952

Subseries 5: Church Treasurer, 1922-1957

Subseries 6: Annual Meeting, 1925-1968

Series 4: Parish and Life Worship, 1841-1969

Subseries 1: Worship, 1880-1952

Subseries 2: Ministers and Parish Life, 1904-1969

Subseries 3: Publicity and Community Relations, 1878-1957

Subseries 4: Christian Education for Children, 1902-1948

Subseries 5: Christian Education and Residence for College Students, 1923-1958

Subseries 6: Anniversary Celebrations, 1841-1967

Series 5: Voluntary Societies, 1842-1966

Subseries 1: Young People's Societies, 1850-1966

Subseries 2: Women's Societies, 1842-1962

Subseries 3: Missionary Societies, 1843-1939

Subseries 4: Men's Groups, 1901-1941

Subseries 5: Children's Societies, 1907-1929

Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1840-1964

Series 7: Files on Individuals, 1842-1948

Series 8: Photographs, 1942-1953

Series 9: Chambers Street Church, 1842-1880

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restriction on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The records from Mount Vernon church were stored in Old South Church until they were brought to the Congregational Library on permanent loan in 1979.

Existence and Location of Originals

Many of the materials which were created by the church before 1879 were lost in a fire.

Processing Information

Originally processed in 1979 and re-processed by Carolyn Child in 2005. The collection was updated for ArchivesSpace using DACS Second Edition in 2018 by William McCarthy. The collection was rehoused by William McCarthy in December 2022.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Sermons, American.
- Photographs.
- Scrapbooks.
- Church newsletters.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Home missions.
- Church membership.
- Church music.
- Nijjima, Jō

Bibliography

Sources used for Historical Note

Worthley, Harold F., "14 Beacon Street, Grand old address, great church library," A.D., United Church of Christ, Vol. 7, No. 10, Nov. 1978, pp. 39 - 42.

Hawes, Alice M., Glimpses of the old Mount Vernon Church, an informal talk given to the Mount Vernon Young People's Society, Herrick House, December 30, 1923. Boston: Thomas Todd Co., 1923. 19p.

Holmes, Pauline. One hundred years of Mount Vernon Church, 1842 - 1942. Boston: Mount Vernon Church of Boston, 1942.

Usher, Sally. Facts about Mount Vernon Church, 1842 - 1967. 11p., typewritten.

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Collection Inventory

Society, 1842-1919

Physical Description: 15 Folders

Scope and Contents

The first series is the records of the Prudential Committee, the property holding body, and the treasurer's records to 1919. The second series is the pew records. The Mount Vernon Society owned two different buildings in the years of its existence. The first was on what is now Ashburton Place on Beacon Hill, an austere Greek temple that has long since disappeared. As part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the parish, in 1892, it moved into a new home at the corner of Beacon Street and Massachusetts Avenue in the Back Bay, this was the building which burned in 1977. The pew records are from both buildings. Their sale financed regular church operations and paid for the building. The third series of Society

records are the records of the Building Committee, a joint committee of Society and Church responsible for planning the Beacon Street Church. Information on this building effort is also to be found in Box 6, Folder 32: Henry Woods. Woods bought the land and held it until the parish was ready to move.

Mount Vernon Society vs. Church

For the first seventy years of its existence, from 1842 to 1919, the Mount Vernon Church operated under the "Dual System" of Society and Church. The Society is a reflection of the original seventeenth century New England system whereby only the adult males of the property - holding elite had the right to vote. The Mount Vernon Church was founded after churches in Massachusetts had been dis - established, and were no longer supported by tax money, but it followed the older pattern, because not until 1887 was it possible for Massachusetts females to be members of a corporation with property - holding rights. Not until 1919 did the members of the Mount Vernon Society vote to dissolve it, and to incorporate as Mount Vernon Congregational Church, Inc.

Governing Boards and Committees, 1842-1919

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information on the Prudential Committee and the Treasurer.

Title/Description	Instances	
Prudential Committee Book, 1842-1918	box 7	folder 6
Treasurer's Cash Ledger, 1843-1878	box 7	folder 7
Prudential Committee Typed Duplicate, 1842-1878	box 1	folder 1
Treasurer records, 1844-1916	box 1	folder 2
Clerk's Record on Annual Meeting, 1916-1919	box 11	folder 6

Pew Records, 1844-1892

Physical Description: 9 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information related to Pews, including seating plans, index and visual pictures.

Title/Description	Instances	
Ashburton Place Pew Plan, 1844	box 4	folder 1
Beacon Street Pew Holders, 1844-1881	box 4	folder 3
Beacon Street Pew Plan and Ownership, undated	box 1	folder 3
Bundle of Pew Deeds (1 of 2), 1844-1882	box 1	folder 4
Bundle of Pew Deeds (2 of 2), 1844-1882	box 1	folder 5
Ashburton Place Pew Records, 1844-1892	box 1	folder 6
Pew Deed Index, undated	box 11	folder 7
Mount Vernon Society Pew Rents and Taxes, 1872-1880	box 13	folder 3

Beacon Street Pew Plan, 1892

box 15

Joint Church and Society Building Committee, 1888-1892Physical Description: 1 Folder**Scope and Contents**

Contains the records for the Joint Building Committee.

Title/Description	Instances	
Building Committee Records, 1888-1892	box 13	folder 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Church, 1842-1922**Physical Description: 17 Folders**Scope and Contents**

While the society membership was exclusively male, the Church consisted of fervently Christian adults, both male and female. They had passed rigorous questioning by the Membership Committee, or else came to Mount Vernon with a letter of dismissal from another Congregational Church, declaring them to be members in good standing. The Church was concerned with worship and Christian education, and it was under its aegis that the voluntary societies flourished. The Church records for the earliest period were unfortunately destroyed in a fire in 1879. The records of the annual meetings and of the Church Committee for all of Mr. Kirk's pastorate burned. The Church had its own treasurer, who applied the money collected each Sunday in the plate to the maintenance of worship and to charitable causes. Most of the Church records are concerned with membership.

Governing Boards and Committees, 1850-1922Physical Description: 11 Folders**Scope and Contents**

This sub series contains membership and treasurer information for the governing board.

Title/Description	Instances	
Admissions and Dismissions, 1880-1919	box 12	folder 18
Church Treasurer, 1880-1887	box 12	folder 17
Church Treasurer, 1880-1919	box 11	folder 8
Mount Vernon Church Treasurer, 1907-1919	box 7	folder 10
Annual Meetings, 1880-1919	box 7	folder 9
Membership (1 of 2), 1850-1920	box 6	folder 1
Membership (2 of 2), 1850-1920	box 1	folder 7
Church Committee, 1880-1915	box 1	folder 8

Church Treasurer, 1888-1889	box 1	folder 9
Funds, 1910-1922	box 1	folder 10
Deacons, 1882-1918	box 1	folder 11

Membership, 1842-1919

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes membership information, including admissions and baptisms

Title/Description	Instances	
Confessions of Faith, 1842-1882	box 13	folder 5
Membership, 1858-1919	box 10	folder 5
Alphabetical Member List, 1871-1896	box 10	folder 2
Membership Committee, 1882-1890	box 10	folder 4
Membership, Admissions and Baptisms, 1842-1873	box 10	folder 3
Church Records, 1880-1919	box 7	folder 5

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Incorporated Church, 1888-1968

Physical Description: 68 Folders

Scope and Contents

These are the records of the various official boards and committees. They are divided into six series: Governing Boards, Standing Committee, Membership Records (admissions and dismissions), General Treasurer, Church Treasurer and the records of Annual Meetings with committee reports concerning the previous year's activities. The bulk of these records are letters of admission and dismissal.

Governing Boards and Committees, 1919-1933

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains church records related to the governing board.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church Records, 1919-1925	box 9	folder 9
Church Records, 1926-1933	box 6	folder 36

Standing Committee, 1941-1957

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records dealing with the standing committee.

Title/Description	Instances	
Standing Committee, 1941-1947	box 2	folder 34
Standing Committee, 1948-1953	box 2	folder 33
Standing Committee, 1954-1957	box 2	folder 32

Membership, 1902-1955

Physical Description: 14 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information on admissions and dismissions for the church and membership rolls.

Title/Description	Instances	
Membership Records, 1933-1940	box 6	folder 34
Letters of Dismissions and stubs, 1902-1944	box 6	folder 33
Admissions and Dismissions, 1942-1944	box 6	folder 35
Admissions and Dismissions, 1945	box 3	folder 1
Admissions and Dismissions, 1946	box 3	folder 2
Admissions and Dismissions, 1947	box 3	folder 3
Admissions and Dismissions, 1948	box 3	folder 4
Admissions and Dismissions, 1949	box 3	folder 5
Admissions and Dismissions, 1950	box 3	folder 6
Admissions and Dismissions, 1951	box 3	folder 7
Admissions and Dismissions, 1952	box 3	folder 8
Admissions and Dismissions, 1953	box 3	folder 9
Admissions and Dismissions, 1954	box 3	folder 10
Admissions and Dismissions, 1955	box 3	folder 11

General Treasurer, 1888-1952

Physical Description: 12 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information related to the general treasurer, including loans, receipts and disbursements.

Title/Description	Instances	
General Treasurer Records, 1919-1924	box 14	volume 1
General Treasurer Disbursements, 1919-1924	box 14	volume 2
General Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1925-1929	box 14	volume 3
General Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1929-1933	box 14	volume 4
General Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1933-1935	box 14	volume 5
Legacies, 1888-1923	box 6	folder 7
Treasurer's Audit, 1919-1920	box 6	folder 8
Canvass Material, 1927-1930	box 6	folder 9
Bank Loans, 1928-1932	box 6	folder 10
Parish Survey, 1939	box 6	folder 11
Parish Survey, 1941	box 6	folder 12
Christmas Bazaar, 1952	box 6	folder 13

Church Treasurer, 1922-1957

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains the receipts and disbursements from the Church Treasurer.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1922-1934	box 12	folder 19
Church Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1944-1950	box 12	folder 20
Church Treasurer Receipts and Disbursements, 1951-1957	box 12	folder 1
Treasurer's Book, 1951-1952	box 11	folder 9

Annual Meetings, 1925-1968

Physical Description: 33 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records related to the annual committee meetings.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual Meetings and Records, 1943-1948	box 6	folder 15
Annual Meetings and Records, 1948-1954		

	box 6	folder 14
Annual Meetings and Records (1 of 2), 1954-1958	box 6	folder 16
Annual Meetings and Records (2 of 2), 1954-1958	box 6	folder 17
Annual and Council Meetings, 1962-1968	box 6	folder 18
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1925	box 1	folder 20
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1926	box 1	folder 21
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1927	box 1	folder 22
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1928	box 1	folder 23
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1929	box 1	folder 24
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1930	box 1	folder 25
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1931	box 1	folder 26
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1932		
<u>Existence and Location of Originals:</u>		
Existence and Location of Originals		
Item is missing as of December 2022.		
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1933	box 1	folder 27
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1934	box 1	folder 28
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1935	box 1	folder 29
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1936	box 1	folder 30
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1937	box 1	folder 31
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1938	box 1	folder 32
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1939	box 1	folder 33
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1940	box 1	folder 34
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1941	box 1	folder 35
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1942	box 1	folder 36
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1943	box 1	folder 37
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1944	box 1	folder 38
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1945	box 1	folder 39
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1946	box 1	folder 40
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1947	box 1	folder 41
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1948	box 1	folder 42
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1949	box 1	folder 43

Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1950	box 1	folder 44
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1951	box 1	folder 45
Annual Meeting Committee Reports, 1952	box 1	folder 15

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Parish Life and Worship, 1841-1969

Physical Description: 61 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains the records of the Church's effort to spread its influence in the community. These have been divided by categories, rather than by administrative function. On one level, the church spread the Gospel through worship services. The records in Worship are very brief and should be supplemented by the scrapbooks in series 6 and by the sermons of second minister Samuel Edward Herrick in series 7. The parish reached out to the wider world through a magazine, through radio programs, and through newspaper announcements at different periods. It also had relations, through its ministers, with other churches in its denomination. The Christian Education material should be considered with material from the records of the voluntary societies, all of whom were concerned with educating their members. There were Sunday Schools for small children, but the main educational effort was always aimed at college students, especially those at M.I.T. Herrick House, at one point run as a residence for college students, was part of this effort.

Worship, 1880-1952

Physical Description: 7 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information related to the worship practices of the church, including service leaflets, hymns and a music notebook.

Title/Description	Instances	
Music Notebook, 1892-1952	box 12	folder 5
Sunday School Hymns, undated	box 2	folder 26
Miscellaneous Music, 1880s	box 2	folder 27
Organist Search, 1941	box 2	folder 28
Festival of Faith, 1952	box 2	folder 29
Maundy Thursday Communion Service, undated	box 2	folder 30
Service Leaflets, 1928-1939	box 2	folder 31

Ministers and Parish Life, 1904-1969

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes minister correspondences with the standing committee, information on potential merger and reports for the congregational yearbook.

Title/Description	Instances	
Reports for Congregational Yearbook, 1904-1939	box 5	folder 7
Central Church Merger Possibilities, 1920s	box 5	folder 8
Standing Committee Correspondence with Ministers, 1926-1939	box 5	folder 9
Ministers' Letters on Christmas and Easter, 1960s	box 5	folder 10
Parish Calls, 1944	box 5	folder 11

Publicity and Community Relations, 1878-1957

Physical Description: 18 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes the Mount Vernon Messenger, newspaper announcements, church officials discussing the news and information on ecclesiastical councils.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Churchmen Weigh the News", 1950-1953	box 5	folder 25
Newspaper Announcements, 1952-1954	box 5	folder 27
Newspaper Announcements, 1955-1957	box 5	folder 26
Anniversaries and Services, 1880-1941	box 5	folder 13
Ecclesiastical Councils, 1878-1910	box 5	folder 12
Mount Vernon Messenger 1, 1919-1920	box 5	folder 14
Mount Vernon Messenger 2, 1920-1921	box 5	folder 15
Mount Vernon Messenger 3, 1921-1922	box 5	folder 16
Mount Vernon Messenger 4, 1923-1924	box 5	folder 17
Mount Vernon Messenger 5, 1924-1925	box 5	folder 18
Mount Vernon Messenger 6, 1925-1926	box 5	folder 19
Mount Vernon Messenger 7, 1926-1927	box 5	folder 20
Mount Vernon Messenger 8, 1927-1928	box 5	folder 21
Mount Vernon Messenger, Separate Issues, 1932-1933	box 5	folder 22
Mount Vernon Messenger Correspondences, undated	box 5	folder 23
Mount Vernon Messenger's Treasurer, undated	box 5	folder 24
Mount Vernon Messenger, 1919-1925	box 10	folder 19

Mount Vernon Messenger, 1925-1929

box 12

folder 2

Christian Education for Children, 1902-1948

Physical Description: 10 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains information related to the education of children, including attendance, handwritten notebooks, and treasurer records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Handwritten Notebook 1, undated	box 9	folder 13
Handwritten Notebook 2, undated	box 9	folder 14
Sunday School Clippings, undated	box 2	folder 5
Attendance, 1902-1905	box 2	folder 6
Treasurer, 1919-1933	box 2	folder 7
Christian Endeavour Roll Call, undated	box 12	folder 9
Sunday School Attendance, 1920-1921	box 12	folder 6
Sunday School Attendance, 1923-1924	box 12	folder 7
Boy and Girl Scouts, circa 1948	box 2	folder 8
Course of Lessons, undated	box 2	folder 9

Christian Education and Residence for College Students, 1923-1959

Physical Description: 7 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series deals with Mount Vernon and its collegiate outreach, specifically the Herrick House financial records and the Westminster Foundation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Herrick House Finances, 1923	box 9	folder 6
Herrick House Finances, 1923-1924	box 9	folder 7
Herrick House Finances, 1925-1933	box 11	folder 12
Herrick House Finances, 1933-1934	box 9	folder 8
Herrick House Finances, 1933-1935	box 11	folder 10
Westminster Foundation Notebook, 1954-1956	box 6	folder 23
Westminster Foundation Envelope, 1957-1959	box 6	folder 24

Anniversary Celebrations, 1841-1967

Physical Description: 14 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records related to the anniversary celebrations of Mount Vernon. This includes information on the various anniversaries, with the bulk about the centenary celebration held in 1942.

Title/Description	Instances	
25th Anniversary, 1867	box 1	folder 12
50th Anniversary, 1892	box 1	folder 13
75th Anniversary, 1917	box 1	folder 14
100th Anniversary (1 of 2), 1942	box 3	folder 23
100th Anniversary (2 of 2), 1942	box 4	folder 2
125th Anniversary - Messages from Friends, 1967	box 16	folder 1
100th Anniversary Pageant, 1942	box 4	folder 3
100th Anniversary Letters and Telegrams, 1942	box 4	folder 4
Pauline Holmes Letter of Inquiry 1, 1841-1941	box 2	folder 1
Pauline Holmes Letter of Inquiry 2, 1843-1942	box 2	folder 2
Membership List, 1842-1942	box 2	folder 3
Page Proofs and Illustrations, 1942	box 2	folder 4
Mount Vernon Church Centenary Guests, 1942	box 8	folder 2
One Hundred Years of Mount Vernon Church, 1942	box 8	folder 1

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Voluntary Societies, 1842-1966

Physical Description: 115 Items (114 folders, 1 item)

History

This series involves multiple organizations with their own distinct history. First, the Mount Vernon Association of Young Men was one of the earliest societies, founded in 1850 when the earliest YMCAs were being founded in this country. It sponsored debates on the burning issues of the day, and encouraged members to submit articles to be bound into a handwritten magazine, known for most of its existence as "The Illuminator." In 1873 the young women, tired of being left out, joined and the Association name was changed to "Young People". The magazine, still handwritten, became the "Literary Album" and persisted until 1881. This organization became the Young People's Society, and in the 1930s, the Youth Fellowship. The debates and literary magazines date only from 1850 to the 1880s.

There were numerous women's organizations. The first of them was the Maternal Association, founded in 1842 and lasting until at least 1879. The Civil War effort to supply the Union Army produced the Soldier's Aid Society, which spawned the Sewing Circle, which in World War I produced another vigorous sewing effort. Olla Podrida was founded as a self-help and entertainment group for women working in offices in the 1920's. The Guild, which became the Evening Guild, was more interested in

simple entertainment than the others. The Women of Mount Vernon, founded in 1956, was the last effort to have a female society. It took in the remnants of previous societies.

The first of the Missionary Societies was also founded in the 1840s under Mr. Kirk. The Young Ladies' Colporteur Association was interested in spreading the (Evangelical Protestant) Gospel in France. Its interests were carried on by the American McAll Association. However, most of the foreign missionary attention was directed farther afield. The men had fewer social organizations than the women, probably because they had the offices of real power in the church. The Dwight L. Moody Bible Class was one of a series of efforts to attract young male college students to the church, after it had lost its families to suburban churches. The Westminster Foundation was an M.I.T. Protestant chaplaincy. The children were trained in Sunday School to be concerned with foreign missions. They also had their own junior missionary societies, depending on their ages.

Scope and Contents

This series contains records of numerous societies affiliated with the Mount Vernon Church, including those for young people, women, missionary, men and children. Included among the various sub-series are constitutions, treasurer reports, secretary notes, annual reports, and missionary reports.

Arrangement

This series on Voluntary Societies is the most complex and divided in the most artificial manner. The divisions are all by age and sex, except for societies which have "Mission" in their name. However, all the voluntary societies, whatever their ostensible purpose, raised money for missions and invited speakers from the mission field to address them. Nor does this arrangement show that the Pastor's Aid Society and the Women's Association were umbrella organizations for women's groups, as well as having their own existence.

Young People's Societies, 1850-1966

Physical Description: 38 Items (37 folders, 1 item)

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records related to the various aspects of the Young People's society, including records from when it was only the Men's society. This includes the Illuminator publication, various committee records and treasurer reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
Association of Young Men Constitution and By-Laws, 1850-1857	box 11	folder 1
Association of Young Men Constitution and Membership List, 1855-1858	box 13	folder 8
Association of Young Men Secretary Book, 1857-1867	box 11	folder 2
Association of Young Men Constitution, undated	box 11	folder 3
Association of Young Men Secretary Book, 1867-1878	box 11	folder 5
Association of Young People Treasurer's Account, 1876-1892	box 11	folder 4
Illuminator, 1851-1858	box 7	folder 11
Illuminator, 1853-1861	box 17	

Proof Sheet and Literary Album, 1873-1875	box 10	folder 20
Literary Album, 1876-1877	box 10	folder 21
Literary Album (1 of 2), 1877	box 12	folder 10
Literary Album (2 of 2), 1877	box 12	folder 11
Literary Album (1 of 2), 1878	box 12	folder 12
Literary Album (2 of 2), 1878	box 12	folder 13
Literary Album, 1879	box 12	folder 14
Literary Album, 1880	box 12	folder 15
Literary Album, 1881	box 12	folder 16
Contributions Box, 1881	box 6	folder 25
Scrapbook of the Fourteenth International Convention of Christian Endeavour, 1895	box 13	folder 1
Program Committee, 1926-1927	box 6	folder 19
Tea Committee, 1926-1931	box 6	folder 20
Social Service Committee, 1920-1933	box 6	folder 21
Music Committee, 1928-1929	box 6	folder 22
Social Committee, 1914-1919	box 10	folder 17
Young People Society President, 1914-1927	box 10	folder 18
Correspondence, 1910-1922	box 5	folder 4
Missionary Committee Treasurer, 1917-1944	box 5	folder 5
90th Anniversary Book, 1940	box 5	folder 6
Treasurer Book, 1928-1954	box 11	folder 11
Youth Fellowship Secretary, 1951-1952	box 3	folder 12
Youth Fellowship Secretary, 1953	box 3	folder 13
Fellowship Secretary, 1965-1966	box 3	folder 14
Mount Vernon Association of Young Men, 1850-1873	box 4	folder 17
Mount Vernon Association of Young People, 1873	box 4	folder 18
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, 1906	box 4	folder 19
Intermediate Young People's Society, undated	box 4	folder 20
Couples Club, 1948	box 4	folder 21
Couples Club, 1959-1963	box 4	folder 22

Women's Societies, 1842-1962

Physical Description: 45 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records, such as treasurer and secretary reports, related to various Womens' societies. Societies included are the sewing circle, pastor's aid society, women's association, women of mount vernon, olla podrida, evening guild and maternal association.

Title/Description	Instances	
Soldier's Aid and Special Aid Society, 1861-1863, 1917-1918	box 13	folder 7
Soldier's Aid and War Work Unit, 1863-1864, 1917-1918	box 12	folder 21
Sewing Circle Constitution and By-Laws, undated	box 8	folder 22
Sewing Circle Treasurer, 1883-1896	box 8	folder 23
Sewing Circle Treasurer, 1895-1920	box 8	folder 24
Sewing Circle Treasurer, 1922-1936	box 8	folder 25
Sewing Circle Secretary, 1891-1909	box 8	folder 26
Sewing Circle Secretary, 1909-1918	box 9	folder 1
Sewing Circle Secretary, 1918-1929	box 9	folder 2
Pastor's Aid Society Secretary, 1909-1921	box 10	folder 8
Pastor's Aid Society Miscellaneous, 1900-1916	box 10	folder 6
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1904	box 10	folder 9
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1905	box 10	folder 10
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1906	box 10	folder 11
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1907	box 10	folder 12
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1907-1908	box 10	folder 13
Pastor's Aid Society Notebook, 1908-1910	box 10	folder 14
Pastor's Aid Society Members (1 of 2), undated	box 10	folder 15
Pastor's Aid Society Members (2 of 2), undated	box 10	folder 16
Pastor's Aid Society Treasurer, 1902-1925	box 10	folder 7
Women's Association Miscellaneous, 1906-1918	box 4	folder 27
Women's Association Miscellaneous, 1948-1949	box 4	folder 28
Women's Association Miscellaneous, 1950-1956	box 4	folder 29
Women of Mount Vernon Annual Reports, 1956-1961	box 4	folder 30
Women's Association Treasurer, 1940-1953	box 10	folder 1
Women of Mount Vernon Secretary, 1956-1962	box 9	folder 22

Olla Podrida History, undated	box 4	folder 23
Olla Podrida Secretary, 1926-1934	box 4	folder 24
Olla Podrida Secretary, 1934-1937	box 4	folder 25
Olla Podrida Secretary, 1946-1956	box 4	folder 26
Evening Guild Miscellaneous, 1917-1922	box 3	folder 15
Evening Guild "A Very Little Thing", 1906-1907	box 3	folder 16
Evening Guild Secretary, 1915-1924	box 3	folder 17
Evening Guild Secretary, 1953-1956	box 3	folder 18
Evening Guild Secretary, 1955-1956	box 3	folder 19
Evening Guild Secretary, 1924-1941	box 9	folder 3
Evening Guild Secretary, 1941-1950	box 9	folder 4
Evening Guild Secretary Law Notes, 1950-1953	box 9	folder 5
Maternal Association Constitution and Members, 1842-1879	box 9	folder 10
Maternal Association Secretary, 1852-1865	box 9	folder 11
Maternal Association Secretary, 1866-1879	box 9	folder 12
Church Mite Society, 1887	box 2	folder 10
Neighborhood Women's Club, 1914	box 2	folder 11
Young Matron's Fortnightly Club, 1914	box 2	folder 12
Phi Theta, 1920	box 2	folder 13

Missionary Societies, 1843-1939

Physical Description: 16 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series focuses on the records related to the missionary societies of Mount Vernon Church. This includes treasurer and secretary reports and records related to the daily operation of numerous groups. Some of the groups included are the Young People Missionary Society, Young Women Missionary Society, American McAll Association, Young Ladies Colporteur Society and the Home and Foreign Missions of the Women's Association

Title/Description	Instances	
Young People's Foreign Missionary Circle Treasurer, 1900-1907	box 12	folder 3
Young People's Foreign Missionary Society, 1894-1906	box 6	folder 5
Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society Miscellaneous, 1905-1938	box 6	folder 4

Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society Treasurer,
1882-1892

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Item is missing as of December 2022.

Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society Secretary, 1879-1887	box 12	folder 4
Young Ladies Colporteur Association, 1843-1849	box 12	folder 8
American McAll Association, 1883-1933	box 2	folder 14
"Race Relations", undated	box 2	folder 15
Missionary Society in Chilessso, Angola, undated	box 2	folder 16
Missions outside of West Africa, undated	box 2	folder 17
Women's Home Missionary Society Treasurer, 1895-1926	box 8	folder 16
Home Missionary Branch of the Pastor's Aid Society, 1912-1922	box 8	folder 18
Home Missionary Branch of the Women's Association, 1922-1928	box 8	folder 17
Women's Board of Missions Secretary, 1893-1917	box 8	folder 21
Home and Foreign Missions of the Women's Association, 1929-1939	box 8	folder 20
Foreign Missionary Branch of the Women's Association, 1920-1939	box 8	folder 19

Men's Groups, 1901-1941

Physical Description: 7 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series deals with the records for organizations dedicated to men, mainly the Dwight L. Moody Bible course and the Men's Club.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dwight L. Moody Bible Class Charter Members, 1939	box 2	folder 18
Dwight L. Moody Bible Class Secretary, 1939-1941	box 2	folder 35
Brotherhood and Service League, 1913, 1920	box 2	folder 19
Men's Club, 1909-1913	box 2	folder 20
Men's Club, 1935-1938	box 2	folder 21
Men of Mount Vernon, 1937-1941	box 2	folder 22
Men's Club Secretary, 1901-1909	box 9	folder 21

Children's Societies, 1907-1929

Physical Description: 9 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes secretary and attendance records for various groups dedicated to children, including the Junior Missionary Society, Boys' Society, Girl's Society, OJS Club and AES Club.

Title/Description	Instances	
Junior Missionary Society, 1912-1916	box 2	folder 23
Boys' Societies, 1920s	box 2	folder 24
Girl's Society and Faithful Workers, undated	box 2	folder 25
Children's Missionary Society Attendance, 1907-1914	box 9	folder 17
Junior Missionary Society rollbook, 1915-1917	box 9	folder 16
Junior Missionary Society Secretary, 1907-1917	box 9	folder 18
OJS Club Secretary, undated	box 9	folder 15
AES Club Secretary, 1927-1928	box 9	folder 19
AES Club Secretary, 1928-1929	box 9	folder 20

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Scrapbooks, 1840-1964

Physical Description: 27 Folders

Scope and Contents

The earliest material dates from 1840. The collecting policy was very unsystematic until 1919. The earlier volumes may well have been a personal compilation. The material is mostly newspaper clippings and printed matter arranged chronologically. The series end with a set of loose material arranged in folders by decade.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1880-1908	box 13	folder 2
Scrapbook, 1903-1909	box 8	folder 15
Scrapbook, 1919-1925	box 3	folder 20
Scrapbook, 1925-1927	box 3	folder 21
Scrapbook, 1930-1934	box 3	folder 22
Scrapbook, 1937-1939	box 4	folder 1
Scrapbook, 1940-1942	box 1	folder 16
Scrapbook, 1942-1943	box 1	folder 17

Scrapbook, 1944-1945	box 7	folder 2
Scrapbook with YPS Clippings and Reverend Carl Kopf, 1945-1947	box 7	folder 1
Scrapbook, 1948-1949	box 7	folder 3
Scrapbook, 1950-1953	box 7	folder 4
Scrapbook, 1954-1958	box 1	folder 18
Scrapbook, 1959-1964	box 1	folder 19
Scrapbook Supplements, 1840-1849	box 4	folder 5
Scrapbook Supplements, 1850-1859	box 4	folder 6
Scrapbook Supplements, 1860-1869	box 4	folder 7
Scrapbook Supplements, 1870-1879	box 4	folder 8
Scrapbook Supplements, 1880-1889	box 4	folder 9
Scrapbook Supplements, 1890-1899	box 4	folder 10
Scrapbook Supplements, 1900-1909	box 4	folder 11
Scrapbook Supplements, 1910-1919	box 4	folder 12
Scrapbook Supplements, 1920-1929	box 4	folder 13
Scrapbook Supplements, 1930-1939		
<u>Existence and Location of Originals:</u>		
Existence and Location of Originals		
Item is missing as of December 2022.		
Scrapbook Supplements, 1940-1949	box 4	folder 14
Scrapbook Supplements, 1950-1959	box 4	folder 15
Scrapbook Supplements, undated	box 4	folder 16

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Files on Individuals, 1842-1948

Physical Description: 31 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series documents individuals associated with the church in some official capacity. The bulk of this is the manuscript sermons by Samuel Edward Herrick, the minister from 1871 to 1904. None of the ministers after 1948 stayed long enough to have any real impact on the parish, which began to decline almost immediately after World War II.

Title/Description

Instances

Edward Norris Kirk, 1842-1874	box 4	folder 35
Albert Parker Fitch, 1905-1909	box 4	folder 32
James Austin Richards, 1909-1918	box 4	folder 33
Sidney Lovett, 1919-1932	box 4	folder 31
Carl Heath Kopf, 1933-1948	box 4	folder 34
Samuel Edward Herrick Manuscript Sermons (1 of 2), undated	box 4	folder 36
Samuel Edward Herrick Manuscript Sermons (2 of 2), undated	box 4	folder 37
Samuel Edward Herrick Printed Sermons, undated	box 4	folder 38
Samuel Edward Herrick Prayers, undated	box 4	folder 39
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 3
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 4
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 5
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 6
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 7
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 8
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 9
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 10
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 11
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 12
Samuel Edward Herrick Bound Manuscript Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 13
Record Book A - Extracts and Sermons, undated	box 8	folder 14
Clippings about Samuel Edward Herrick, undated	box 5	folder 1
25th Anniversary - Samuel Edward Herrick, undated	box 5	folder 2
Funeral Tributes about Samuel Edward Herrick, undated	box 5	folder 3
Harriette Carter, undated	box 6	folder 26

Joseph Clouter Libraries in Newfoundland, undated	box 6	folder 27
Andrew Cushing, undated	box 6	folder 28
Alice M. Hawes, undated	box 6	folder 29
Joseph Hardy Neesima, undated	box 6	folder 30
Julius A. Palmer, undated	box 6	folder 31
Henry Woods, undated	box 6	folder 32

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Photographs, 1942-1953, undated

Physical Description: 15 Items (12 folders, 3 items)

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs that span the whole period of the church's existence. Many of them were labeled for an exhibit at the 1942 Centenary celebration but do not have original dates.

Title/Description	Instances	
Ministers, undated	box 5	folder 28
Laymen, undated	box 5	folder 29
Women and Children, undated	box 5	folder 30
Official Boards, undated	box 5	folder 31
Ashburton Place Church, undated	box 5	folder 32
Beacon Street Church, undated	box 5	folder 33
Plays and Pageants, undated	box 5	folder 34
Centenary, 1942	box 5	folder 35
Youth Fellowship Outings, 1952-1953	box 5	folder 36
West Africa Missions, undated	box 6	folder 2
Non-West Africa Missions, undated	box 6	folder 3
Glass Negatives, undated	box 14	
Engraving Plates, undated	box 14	
Movie of the Choir, undated	box 14	
125th Anniversary Photograph Album, undated	box 16	folder 2

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Chambers Street Church, 1861-1880

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This collection contains document related to the records for the Chambers Street Church. The Chambers Street Church only existed for a few decades before being folded into Mount Vernon Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Chambers Street Church Records, 1861-1865	box 12	folder 23
Chambers Street Church Records, 1862-1878	box 12	folder 22
Chambers Street Church Records, 1877-1880	box 13	folder 4
Chambers Street Church Records, 1879	box 12	folder 24

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