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Revere, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1828-1963. RG0149

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository: Congregational Library & Archives

Creator: First Congregational Church (Revere, Mass.)

Creator: Evangelical Congregational Society of North Chelsea (North Chelsea, Mass.)

Creator: Evangelical Congregational Church (Rumney Marsh, Chelsea, Mass.)

Title: Revere, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1828-1963.

ID: RG0149

Date [inclusive]: 1828-1963

Physical Description: 1.53 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)

Language of the Material: English .

Abstract: In 1828, a group gathered in the home of Joseph Harris to form a new church called the Evangelical Congregational Society of Chelsea. They wanted a new place to worship as the church in Rumney Marsh had moved toward Unitarianism. In 1898, the church became a corporation and changed its name to the First Congregational Church of Revere, taking over the property and debts of the First Evangelical Congregational Society of Revere. A variety of different ministers would lead for short periods until Rev. E. Ambrose Jenkins took over in 1923 and served for 21 years. Rev. Jenkins passed away in 1944 and would be followed up by his assistant, Rev. Lloyd F. Dean. A parsonage fund was formed that same year and resulted in the purchase of a home in 1950. The church continued to thrive into the 21st century and is still open as of 2021, led by Reverend Timothy Bogertman. This collection contains church records, pew deeds, standing committee meetings, church calendars, deeds, mortgages, bequests, real estate papers, loans, and land agreements.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Revere, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1828-1963, RG0149. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Information

The origin of the church begins in 1709 in the area then known as Rumney Marsh. Boston selectmen approved a payment of 50 pounds to be used for purchasing land for a meetinghouse. This church started out with Orthodox beliefs but over the next hundred years moved toward Unitarianism. This move culminated on March 27th, 1828 when a group of members gathered in the home of Joseph Harris in order to form a new church called the Evangelical Congregational Society of Chelsea. The group formally requested dismissal from the original church but was rejected.

After this rejection, the group decided to build a place of worship anyway and stayed there until 1842 when a new Congregational Church was formed in Chelsea. Worship would not continue in that building again until 1847, now under Reverend Noah Coe. In 1849, the group had grown to the point where a new church was required. This new building was completed in December and its dedication service was in January 1850.

The church encountered financial woes for some time after this, but by 1875 they had become much more stable. Reverend Joseph Bixby became the pastor in 1879, following in a line of over 20 different ministers since the church was founded. In 1883, the church began admitting women into the society as full members.

Reverend Walter Eaton would become the minister in 1892. In 1898, the church became a corporation and changed its name to the First Congregational Church of Revere, taking over the property and debts of the First Evangelical Congregational Society of Revere. Rev. Eaton would leave in September 1903 and from here the list of ministers would go through constant change for some time. The list starts with Dr. Houghton, who stayed on in a temporary fashion before the arrival of Rev. John Holmes in November 1903. Next would be Rev. Howard L. Torbet in 1909 and then Rev. R.J. Elliot in 1914. Rev. Edville A. Roys joined for a short stay in 1918 and would be replaced in the same year by Rev. Stephen James. James would lead the community into joining the Methodist Church, but this would only last until May of 1919. At this time, Rev. Ermil Frye would become minister and then Rev. E. Ambrose Jenkins would take over for him in 1923. Rev. Jenkins would remain for 21 years, providing some stability for the church. Rev. Jenkins passed away in 1944 and would be followed up by his assistant, Rev. Lloyd F. Dean, though he was not officially ordained until 1946. A parsonage fund was formed that same year and resulted in the purchase of a home in 1950. Rev. Dean would move on in September of 1950 and would be replaced by Rev. Donald Tatro.

The church continued to thrive into the 21st century and is still open today. They joined the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference and as of July 2021 are led by Reverend Timothy Bogertman.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains church records, pew deeds, standing committee meetings, church calendars, deeds, mortgages, bequests, real estate papers, loans, and land agreements.

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Arrangement

This collection is divided into two series. Records in each series are arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Church records, 1828-1934

Series 2: Financial information, 1853-1963

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

Restrictions on Access

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

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

Processing Information

Processed by William McCarthy, July 2021, using DACS second edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church records and registers.
- Church buildings
- Church finance.
- Vital statistics.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Church property.
- First Congregational Church (Revere, Mass.)
- Evangelical Congregational Society of North Chelsea (North Chelsea, Mass.)
- Evangelical Congregational Church (Rumney Marsh, Chelsea, Mass.)

Bibliography

Pearson, Martha G. "The History of the First Congregational Church of Revere" Paper presented at the 125th Anniversary, Revere, MA, May 1953.

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Collection Inventory

Church records, 1828-1934

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains church records, pew deeds, standing committee meetings and some church calendars.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1828-1884	box 2	folder 17
Church records, 1828-1898	box 1	volume 3
Church register, 1842-1920	box 2	folder 18
Pew Deeds, 1850-1867	box 1	volume 1
Church calendar, 1875	box 2	folder 2
Church records, May 1885-January 1911	box 1	volume 2
Church records, 1911-1931	box 1	volume 4
Standing committee meeting minutes, 1926-1934	box 2	folder 19

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Financial information, 1853-1963

Physical Description: 24 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains financial information related to deeds, mortgages, bequests, real estate papers, loans, and land agreements.

Title/Description	Instances	
Notice of Deed and Mortgage, October 1853	box 2	folder 1
Certificate of Organization, March 21, 1898	box 2	folder 20
Property Transfer, April 8, 1898	box 2	folder 21
Property Transfer, March 6, 1899	box 2	folder 22
Discharge of Mortgages, February 9, 1935	box 2	folder 3
Grant Mortgage, February 14, 1935	box 2	folder 23
Loan Mortgage, 1935-1939	box 2	folder 24
Satisfaction of Morgages, 1935-1938, 1946-1948	box 2	folder 25
Bequest of First Congregational Church, April 6, 1936	box 2	folder 4
Board of Home Missions loan instructions, November 20, 1937	box 2	folder 26
Application for Loan on Church building, December 17, 1937	box 2	folder 5

Certificate of Completion of House of Worship, 1938-1939	box 2	folder 6
Quitclaim Deed, June 14, 1946	box 2	folder 27
Board of Home Missions receipt, May 7, 1947	box 2	folder 7
Real Estate agreement, August 1950	box 2	folder 8
Quitclaim Deed, September-November 1950	box 2	folder 28
Assignment of Interest, October 20, 1950	box 2	folder 9
Payments to Chelsea Savings Bank, 1950, 1963	box 2	folder 10
Mortgage Payments, 1950-1951	box 2	folder 11
Certificate of Title, July 1, 1953	box 2	folder 12
Copy of Land Court Agreement, October 18, 1956	box 2	folder 13
Discharge of Mortgage, April 4, 1963	box 2	folder 14
Grant from Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society, undated	box 2	folder 15
Application for Loan on Church building, undated	box 2	folder 16

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