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Wendell, Mass. Congregational Church records, 1783-1955. RG4890

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Technical Requirements	6
Collection Inventory	6
Parish records and personnel	6
Church and Society records	7
Vital statistics	8
Pastoral records	8
Church services	8
Church and town history	9
Church finances	9

Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Congregational Church (Wendell, Mass.)
Title:	Wendell, Mass. Congregational Church records, 1783-1955.
ID:	RG4890
Date [inclusive]:	1783-1955
Physical Description:	1.13 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Congregational Church of Wendell was formed in Wendell, Mass. on November 29, 1774. The Wendell, Mass. Congregational Church records document the history, administration, and life of the church and its members from its inception through the 1950s. Types of records present include extensive financial records, church and society meeting minutes, correspondence, and important early vital statistics for the church and its members.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Wendell, Mass. Congregational Church records, 1783-1953, RG4890. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Congregational Church of Wendell was formed in Wendell, Mass. on November 29, 1774. The first meeting house was built in 1783, and a second in 1846. Throughout the collection the church is referred to by several names, including Church of Christ, First Church, Central Congregational Church in Wendell, and the Congregational Church of Wendell. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund of the First Congregational Society in Wendell were incorporated in 1823 to carry out their function for the church. A copy of the articles of their incorporation is pasted inside the front cover of their minute book. On December 2, 1874 the church and the town of Wendell celebrated their centennial with a joint event.

Even though the church was relatively small throughout its history, the Congregational Church of Wendell contributed to domestic and foreign missions, including mission work in China. The church belonged to the Franklin Association of Congregational Churches and worked closely with the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society to call and fund its ministers. In later years the church shared its minister with a church in the nearby town of Erving. In the course of its history, the Congregational Church in Wendell had many different ministers. Rev. Edmund Blackmer is documented more thoroughly than any other minister that served the church because of a nervous disorder that forced him to delay accepting the church's call for almost two full years, from the fall of 1918 to the spring of 1920. Another minister of note is Rev. Harlan P. Metcalf , who died in the office of minister, leaving behind the text of a sermon intended to be preached on Mother's Day, included in this collection. Also worthy of note is Mrs. Effie Bowen, who served as the clerk of the Congregational Church in Wendell for more than 30 years in the early 1900s.

The Congregational Church of Wendell joined the United Church of Christ in 1964 and folded in 2004.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Wendell, Mass. Congregational Church records document the history, administration, and life of the church and its members from its inception through the 1950s. This collection includes financial material in many forms, including ledger and treasury books, account books, receipts and correspondence from individuals and agencies. Records of church business and personnel are preserved in formal record books, minute books, loose records and correspondence. Correspondence includes letters of dismissal and acceptance of congregants, letters from ministers accepting and relinquishing their posts and letters to the church clerk.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series, the first of which has been further arranged into five sub-series. Each series and subseries has been arranged chronologically by start date, when possible, and, further, by topic.

Series 1: Parish Records and Personnel, 1783-1953

Subseries 1: Church and Society Records, 1783-1953

Subseries 2: Vital Statistics, 1812-1949

Subseries 3: Pastoral records, 1886-1947

Subseries 4: Church Services, 1910-1953

Subseries 5: Church and Town History, 1854-1950

Series 2: Church Finances, 1820-1955

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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

Restrictions 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.

Acquisition Information

Records received in 2004. No additional acquisition information is available for this collection.

Accruals

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

Processing Information

Originally processed in 2008 by Kimberly Kinder. Minimally re-processed and updated for ArchiveSpace by Zachary Bodnar, October 2017, using DACS Second Edition.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Registers of births, etc.
- Sermons, American.
- Congregational Church (Wendell, Mass.)
- Wendell (Mass.) -- Church history.

Technical Requirements

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Parish records and personnel, 1783-1953

Physical Description: 24 Files (3 volumes, 21 folders)

Scope and Contents

The Parish and Personnel records cover the administrative, personnel, and written history of the Congregational Church of Wendell and its environs. Types of materials present include personal and official correspondence, vital statistics such as membership certificates, baptismal records, and records of death, society minutes, resignations, and historical sketches of the town of Wendell.

Church and Society records, 1783-1953

Physical Description: 10 Files (3 volumes, 6 folders)

Scope and Contents

The Church and Society records cover official church business such as church correspondence and meeting minutes. Types of materials present include annual meeting minutes, church correspondence, ecclesiastical council minutes, baptismal records, death records, marriage records, Society minutes, general and parish meeting minutes, and administrative documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Records of the First Church in Wendell, 1783-1847	box 1	volume 1
<u>Digital Copies:</u>		
Digital Copies		
These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online .		
Scope and Contents		
The Records of the First Church in Wendell is the first of two bound volumes of handwritten records that cover a broad range of topics related to the administration of the church as well as the happenings of the church ministers and members. Types of materials present in the volume include records related to the creation of a "religious Profession," meeting minutes, records of votes, a list of founding members of the church, records of birth, records of admission, records from the deacons, records of dismissal, baptismal records, marriage records, records of death, public confessions of guilt, annual birth and death statistics, church contributions, and copies of church correspondence.		
Records of the First Church in Wendell, 1847-1910	box 1	volume 2
First Congregational Society in Wendell minutes, 1823-1946	box 1	volume 3
Minutes, meetings, and confrences, 1891-1905	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence regarding annual meetings, 1901-1910	box 1	folder 2
General incoming correspondence, 1904-1940	box 1	folder 3
Correspondence from China Mission and donations, 1907-1926	box 1	folder 4
General business, resignations, deaths, 1921-1933	box 1	folder 5

Correspondence regarding geneological searches at Wendell, 1938-1940 box 1 folder 6

Vital statistics, 1858-1949

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

The Vital Statistics of the Congregational Church of Wendell include church membership records, certificates of membership and dismission, and baptismal records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters of dismission and acceptance of church members, 1858-1911	box 1	folder 7
Letters of dismission and acceptance of church members, 1912-1949	box 1	folder 8
Church membership, 1865	box 1	folder 9
Baptismal records, 1917-1941	box 1	folder 10

Pastoral records, 1886-1947

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

The Pastoral records cover the official and personal records of the ministers of the Congregational Church of Wendell. Types of materials present include official summons, pastoral correspondence, pastoral calls, letters of resignation, and missionary correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Summons to Ecclesiastical Council, 1886-1941	box 1	folder 11
Correspondence from Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, 1908-1926	box 1	folder 12
Correspondence of Pastoral Calls and Resignations, 1908-1919	box 1	folder 13
Correspondence of Pastoral Calls and Resignations, 1923-1947	box 1	folder 14
Rev. Edmund F. Blackmer Correspondence with Wendell, 1918-1920	box 1	folder 15
Correspondence to Rev. Arthur Green regarding 100th Anniversary Celebration, 1946	box 1	folder 16

Church services, 1910-1953

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

The Church Services records include a booklet for lawyers of church organizations, the published constitution of the Franklin Association, a Mother's Day sermon, and Sunday Service pamphlets.

Title/Description	Instances	
Booklets, 1910	box 1	folder 17
Rev. Harlan P. Metcalf Mother's Day sermon, 1936	box 1	folder 18
Order of service, 1940-1953	box 1	folder 19

Church and town history, 1854-1950

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

The Church and Town History records cover historical sketches and other documents related to the history of the town of Wendell and the Congregational Church of Wendell. Types of materials present include brief historical sketches, historical records from the clerk, and a typed manuscript for the 150th anniversary of the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Historical sketches, 1854-1939	box 1	folder 20
Wendell 150 Years Old, 1950	box 1	folder 21

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Church finances, 1820-1955

Physical Description: 18 Files (14 volumes, 4 folders)

Scope and Contents

The Church Finances records cover the extensive financial documents of the Congregational Church of Wendell. Types of materials present include church ledgers, treasury records, collection records, grants, assessment records, account records, and promissory notes.

Title/Description	Instances
Wendell Parish treasury book, 1822-1838	box 2

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

Scope and Contents

The Parish Treasury Book is a hardbound volume of financial records for the Congregational Church of Wendell. Types of materials present within the volume include

finance committee reports, account balances, records of transactions, salary records, and tax records.

Central Congregational Church of Wendell account book, 1823-1875	box 1	volume 4
Central Congregational Church of Wendell account book, 1895-1899	box 1	volume 5
Central Congregational Church of Wendell account book, 1899-1903	box 1	volume 6
Central Congregational Church of Wendell account book, 1903-1907	box 1	volume 7
Central Congregational Church of Wendell account book, 1907-1912	box 1	volume 8
Central Congregational Church of Wendell promissory notes, undated	box 1	volume 9
Communion Service Collectors account book, 1837-1936	box 1	volume 10
Wendell Parish treasury book, 1854-1896	box 1	volume 11
First Congregational Society in Wendell accounts, 1896-1921	box 1	volume 12
Church account book, 1921-1939	box 1	volume 13
Central Congregational Church of Wendell mission funds collected and paid, 1893-1955	box 1	volume 14
Ledger of pledges and collections, 1913-1924	box 1	volume 15
Parsonage account book, 1938-1945	box 1	volume 16
Donation receipts and financial correspondence, 1892-1925, 1941	box 1	folder 22
Ministerial grants, 1920-1942	box 1	folder 23
Franklin Association of Congregational Churches assessments, 1924-1934	box 1	folder 24
Collection records, 1936-1941	box 1	folder 25

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)