

THE BULLETIN

OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

VOL. 18 NO. 1 | FALL 2024



YEAR IN REVIEW

APOCALYPTIC
EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY

EXPANDING
PARTNERSHIPS

SURPRISING
BIBLE
DONATION



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The Congregational Library & Archives fosters a deeper understanding of the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and civic dimensions of the Congregational story and its ongoing relevance to contemporary society by collecting, preserving, and sharing materials and by actively engaging with faith communities, students, scholars, and the general public.

ON THE COVER: CLA Board Member Dr. Richard Boles leads a workshop in finding and using sources for African American history at the Congregational Library & Archives in March 2024. Pictured (L to R): Catherine Baker Sasanov, Janika Dillon, Garrett Looney, and Boles.

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past July, the Congregational Library & Archives partnered with the Theological Commission of the International Congregational Fellowship to sponsor a virtual international symposium on

Walking in the Congregational Way. Presenters, including Congregationalists from Africa, Europe, North America, and the Pacific Islands, spoke to topics historic and contemporary, reminding us of the global reach of Congregational shared values.

Graham Adams' talk from the conference has really stuck with me. Drawn from his new book *Holy Anarchy*, Adams spoke of the inherent *smallness* of Congregationalism and the important opportunity that provides us to make larger change in the world today. With our focus on the importance of the local community and embrace of the value of the small,

our history is full of small actions that have had large impacts on society and the world. I hope you will watch a recording from the conference on our YouTube page when you get a chance.

As you will see from the following pages, we have worked hard over the past year not only to make our collections accessible, but also to improve our tools for managing those collections. Interns and fellows have joined our endeavor, mentored by our expert staff. Outreach remains a top priority, and we look forward to connecting with even more of you through virtual programs and in-person gatherings. Fundraising and grant seeking remain essential to our ability to sustain ourselves as a small, independent religious research library and archive. Thank you for your support.

In the year to come, we will continue to think about the role Congregationalism has to play in the world. I invite you to join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Roberts".

Kyle Roberts, Executive Director

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Last spring, I happened to be at 14 Beacon just after the first boxes of material from the historic Connecticut Conference of the UCC arrived. A lot of what came to us was old, and some of it was fragile, but all of it was wonderful. Some of it would be a highlight in any collection of historical material, like Sansom Occom's Hebrew Bible. Other items were more recent and offered a very different kind of surprise—the ordination bulletin of a cherished senior colleague, a church cookbook from a church I knew, including a recipe I feel

like I might even remember—is that possible?

Yet it suggests something that, for its part, the Congregational Library & Archives makes uniquely possible: the connection between Congregational church communities today and those that came before, a window into the many ways that one particular religious tradition can find expression and shape lives across generations. I hope this issue of the *Bulletin* will offer a glimpse into the breadth of our collections and the depth of the



conversations we have been convening at 14 Beacon Street and online. I hope we can inspire you to join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxwell Grant".

Maxwell Grant, Chair of the Board

John Barnard of Marblehead and the Apocalyptic Eighteenth Century

DR. THOMAS LECAQUE

One of the most exciting books, for me, in the Congregational Library & Archives is a copy of the English translation of Pierre Jurieu's *The Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies* (RBR J 97.6).¹ The book is well known and widespread, translated into English and carried to New England very quickly. Jurieu was a Huguenot—a French Protestant—who wrote extensively at the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century about Louis XIV's Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, officially banning Protestant worship in France again.

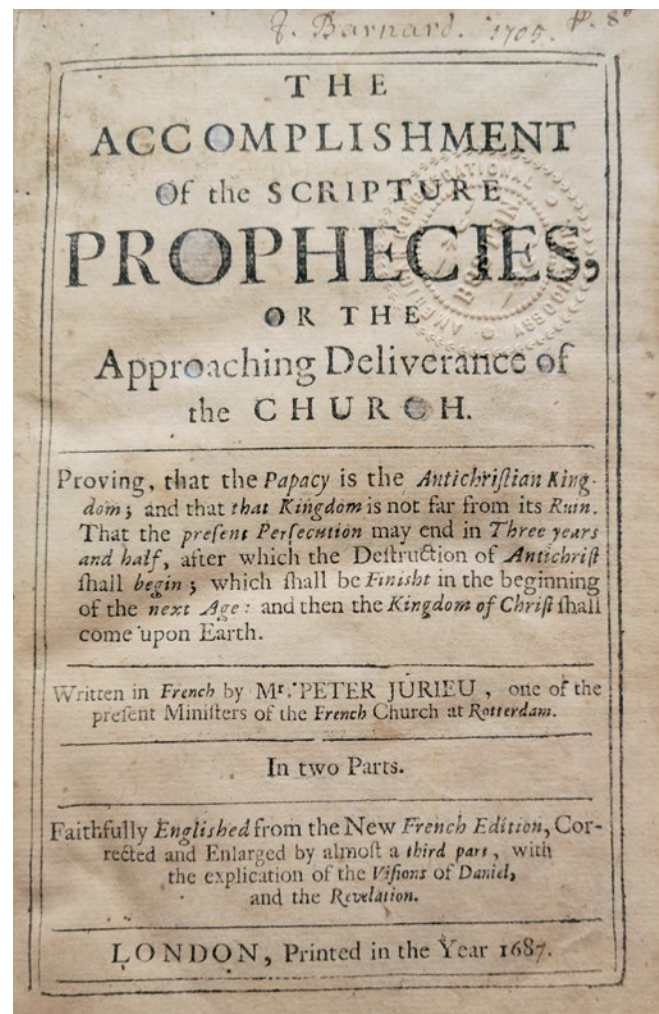
The revocation, and the ensuing persecution, led him to believe that this was the start of the Apocalypse, that the Papacy was the Antichrist—something that appeared across Protestant apocalyptic rhetoric—and that the Huguenots were the two witnesses mentioned in the book of Revelation. When *The Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies* was published in 1686, Jurieu posited that the end would arrive in 1689. We can imagine his disappointment.

What makes the book exciting is not the failed prophecies, but the ways these failures never precluded their effects on believers. The book was owned by John Barnard, pastor of the Old North Church of Marblehead, Massachusetts—he writes “John Barnard, Book, 1705” in the front—and he clearly used it, marking sections throughout the text. On the back pages, even more excitingly, he attempted to fix Jurieu's calculations about when the world would end. He has separate numerological arguments, but seems to come to the conclusion that the year 1716 “begins to fall”—the Papacy, that is—and the Second Coming will occur in 1791.

We cannot say for certain all of the marks are from 1705, of course. That was when he bought the book. But in 1707 he was an army chaplain in Queen Anne's War and participated in the Annapolis campaign in Nova Scotia. He became the minister at Old North in 1716, and gave numerous printed

sermons about various topics. He was invited to be army chaplain in the campaign against Port Royal in 1745, during King George's War, but his congregation convinced him not to go on account of his age.

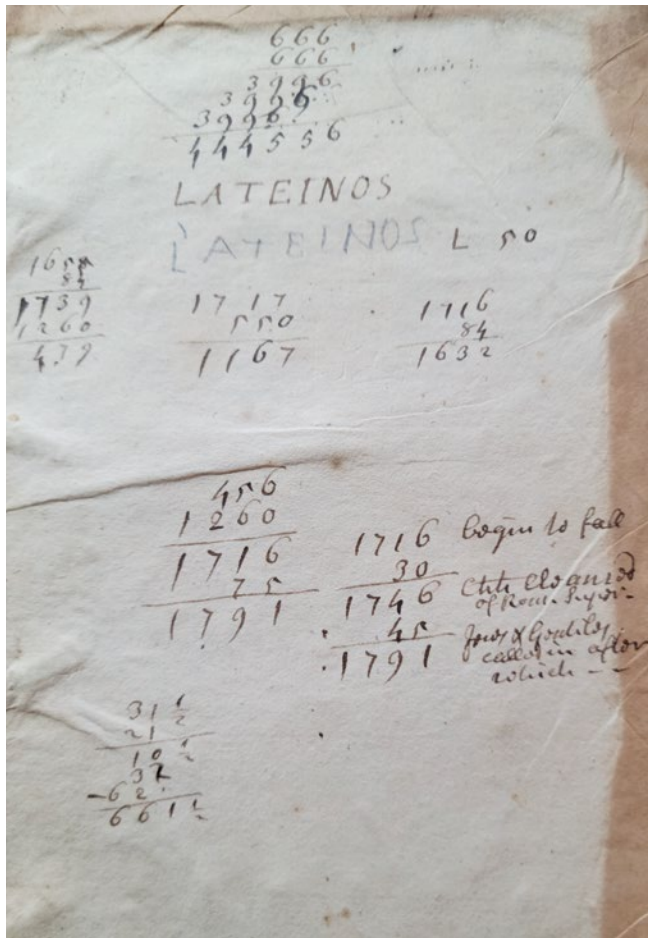
And, at the end of his life, he published a text in 1770 entitled *The religion of Antichrist: or, Notes on the book of the revelation of John*, about apocalyptic time and when the end would arrive (26.1.351).² This was not a short-term worldview. This was something



Pierre Jurieu's *The Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies* (RBR J 97.6)

he spent his life, spanning the eighteenth century, thinking about.

We make the eighteenth century about the Enlightenment and modernity, because that is the story we tell about the American Revolution—Enlightenment principles applied to governance and the birth of the nation. But the eighteenth century is also about religion, and apocalypticism, and holy war, and the messiness of humanity. And books in the Congregational Library & Archives help us see that clearly: on the page, in the margins, in the people who held them, read them, owned them, and wrote in them.



Barnard's attempt to fix Jurieu's calculations about when the world would end.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Thomas Lecaque is an Associate Professor of History at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, located on Baxoje, Meskwaki, and Sauk lands. He is a scholar of religious violence and apocalypticism,

from the Crusades to contemporary politics. Thomas is currently working on a co-authored book on *Holy War Rhetoric in Early America, 1680-1765*, for which he has received both American Congregational Association - Boston Athenaeum and New England Regional Fellowship Consortium (NERFC) Fellowships.

NOTE

- 1 Pierre Jurieu, *The accomplishment of the Scripture prophecies, or, The approaching deliverance of the church proving that the papacy is the antichristian kingdom ... with the explication of the visions of Daniel and the Revelation* (London, 1687).
- 2 Barnard, John, *The religion of Antichrist: or, Notes on the book of the revelation of John, and other prophecies* (London: John Carter and Thomas Vernor, 1770).

Rev. John Barnard was ordained as the minister in Marblehead in 1716, serving as co-pastor with Rev. Samuel Cheever for several years. He married Anna Woodbury, of Ipswich, in 1718 and served as the minister in Marblehead until his death in 1770.

Our New England's Hidden Histories project has digitized and transcribed records from Barnard's church, the Old North Church in Marblehead, which you can explore anytime at congregationallibrary.org/nehh.

Strategic Projects Advance the Scope and Understanding of the CLA's Collections

COLLECTIONS YEAR IN REVIEW

2023-2024 COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS



1,202

Items Added
to the
Catalog



196

Print Items
Acquired



43.76

Cubic Feet
of Material
Processed



53,547

Digital
Archive
Pages Viewed

NEWLY AVAILABLE FINDING AIDS:

- 1 Pueblo, CO, Christ Congregational Church Records, 1955–2023
- 2 Berkeley, CA, Grace North Church Records, 1891–2016
- 3 Boston, MA, Berkeley Temple Congregational Church Records, 1827–1907
- 4 Jersey City, NJ, First Congregational Church Records, 1859–1972
- 5 Boston Congregational Ministers' Meeting Records, 1868–1951
- 6 Springfield, MA, East Congregational Church Records, 1925–2019

Exploring the Congregational Library's Unique Classification System

When you walk into your local public library, you might recognize that its shelves are organized in a standardized way. But rather than adopting the Dewey Decimal System or the Library of Congress Classification system, the Congregational Library & Archives uses a custom system. Designed for a minister's library in the first half of the twentieth century, the CLA's classification system includes large, detailed sections for theological and religious topics and much smaller sections for other topics. For example, there are over one hundred sub-classes for theological topics, but only two for poetry.

During the past year, CLA staff members have embarked on a major project to review and revise the 29 classes and nearly 500 sub-classes in the classification system. Former CLA Librarian Sara Trotta began this project before her departure, and current Librarian Meaghan Wright has continued her work, examining the way books are arranged and making modifications to more strategically organize the nearly 225,000 items in our stacks at 14 Beacon.

Summer Internship Project Expands Local History Collections

Local church history files provide rich evidence of the lives of individual congregations. They make up a significant component of the Historic Connecticut Conference collection that came to the CLA in Spring 2024: 60 boxes of records from 267 different Congregational churches. Nearly forty percent of these churches (112) were not already represented in our collection.

Nathan Scoponi, an undergraduate student at Merrimack College who interned at the CLA this summer, was tasked with cataloging the collection and integrating it with the CLA's local history files. Among the church histories, services of anniversaries, and ordinations of ministers, Nathan found some surprising materials. His favorite items included a newspaper article about a church giving away (for free!) the "bat dung" that had accumulated in its attic and a signed letter from President Richard Nixon congratulating a church on its anniversary.

Stay tuned for future updates as the CLA's staff continues to assess this large and historically significant collection.

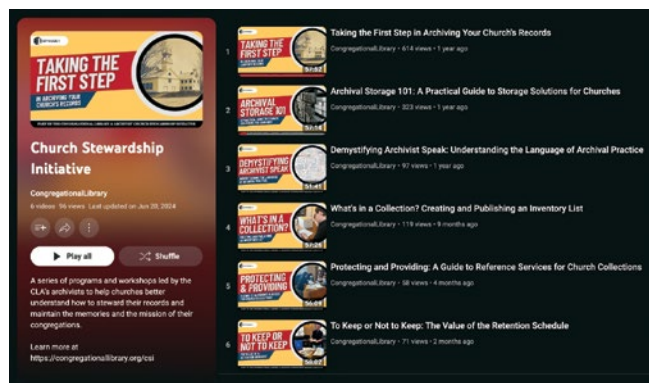


Summer Intern Nathan Scoponi at work with the CLA's local history files.

Archivists Focus on Community Engagement and Strategic Growth

Reflecting on Two Years of the Church Stewardship Initiative

As the second year of our Church Stewardship Initiative (CSI) comes to an end, the CLA is thankful for everyone who has participated in workshops, reached out to ask questions about their church's records, and shared the Initiative's programs and resources with others. This past year, virtual workshops tackled inventories, reference services, and retention schedules. Presentations at UCC and CCCC national and regional gatherings provided overviews of how to start a church archive.



Find previous CSI programs in a playlist on our YouTube channel.

To accompany these programs, archivists Zachary Bodnar and Billy McCarthy created a number of free resources, including a church inventory template and a model retention schedule. All of these resources, alongside videos, information about future events, and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the newly-launched CSI section of the website at congregationallibrary.org/csi.

When the Church Stewardship Initiative was first conceived, the CLA did not anticipate the enthusiasm it has received. This program would not be what it is today without your engagement and suggestions for future programs.

Please visit the new CSI web page, download the free resources, and continue to send your feedback and questions as the CLA begins another year of supporting your efforts to steward your churches' archival collections.

Collections Status Project Offers Comprehensive Look at Archival Holdings

The Congregational Library & Archives has been collecting manuscript and archival materials that tell the Congregational story since its founding in 1853. Over 170 years later, the CLA still actively collects the papers of Congregationalists and the records of Congregational churches and organizations. But to the best of our knowledge, the CLA has never done a comprehensive assessment of its archival holdings—until now.

To better understand the state and status of these holdings, archivists used catalog records, old paperwork, and previous inventories to identify and research the more than 1,300 archival collections held at 14 Beacon. These collections account for the whole of the archive's holdings and take up a collective 1,500 linear feet of shelf space. Prior to this project, which took a year and a half to complete, there was no way to definitively know how many collections the archives held, what the processing status of each collection was, or even which collections might be missing.

Information gathered from this project will help staff members better allocate resources for processing and ensure that all collections are being properly tracked as they move through various archival workflows. This data will also help us to better understand the scope of the archive's holdings. Conclusions reached from this project have already been used to identify areas of the United States that are underrepresented within the CLA's archival holdings, helping us to strategically target new acquisitions from those regions.

NEHH Concludes Work on Third NEH Grant

NEHH YEAR IN REVIEW

2023-2024 NEHH HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS



5,684

Manuscript Pages Uploaded



2,686

Manuscript Pages Transcribed

A SAMPLING OF NEWLY ADDED TRANSCRIPTIONS

- 1 Cotton Mather's *Quotidiana*, Volumes 1 and 2
- 2 Hunt Family Correspondence, 1768–1789
- 3 Dover, NH, First Parish Church Records, 1762–1862
- 4 Bennington, VT, Old First Congregational Church Records, 1762–1820
- 5 Unknown Author, *Legacy of a Dying Father Bequeathed to his Beloved Children*, 1693–1694
- 6 Timothy Dickinson Autobiography, Undated
- 7 Weymouth, MA, Old South Church Records, 1723–1818
- 8 Cotton Mather's *Curiosa Americana*, 1723
- 9 Cotton Mather Sermon Notebook, 1692–1693
- 10 Cotton Mather Sermon Notebook, 1694–1695

In 2020, the CLA was awarded a major three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to identify, digitize, transcribe, and make available early Congregational church records and papers as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Between 2021 and 2024, NEHH has added over 60 new collections with more than 24,000 digital images and 8,000 pages of transcription to the digital archive.



Congregations with newly-available NEHH records

During the past three years, NEHH has worked with partners at the American Antiquarian Society, Cape Ann Museum, Connecticut State Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, and the New Hampshire Historical Society to digitize their Congregational church collections. NEHH has also partnered with individual churches to digitize their records, including the First Parish Church in Dover, NH; First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, MA; and First Congregational Church of Yarmouth, MA.

In addition to digitizing these collections, many records have also been transcribed by the NEHH transcription team. Transcription makes these records more accessible, easier to read, and keyword searchable. Newly transcribed materials include church records from Dover, NH; Hopkinton, NH; Bennington, VT; Pittsfield, MA, and Weymouth, MA. There are also new transcriptions available for works by Rev. Cotton Mather such as his sermon notebooks, the *Quotidiana*, and several of his *Curiosa Americana* letters.

These newly digitized collections contain remarkable stories, such as the records of the First Church of Christ in Fairfield, CT that describe the burning of the meetinghouse in 1779 during the Revolutionary War. These new collections also contain valuable data for genealogists, with vital records now available for 41 towns in New Hampshire and Connecticut.

The CLA would like to thank the NEH, the project partners, the volunteer transcribers, and the interns who made this work possible.



The New England's Hidden Histories project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Reprocessing Reveals Forgotten Manumission Correspondence

RACHEL GROH, SPRING 2024 CLA INTERN

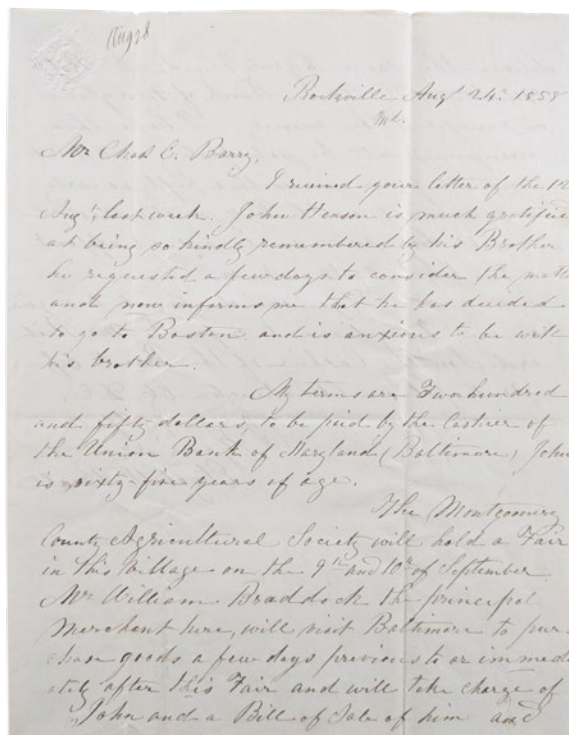
While processing the Berkeley Temple Congregational Church Records Collection, I was reminded that even the most mundane folder of “miscellaneous” records can contain vital pieces of history.

The Berkeley Temple Collection was originally processed in 1988, and its processing plan included lists of clear-cut series and subseries intended to organize the many volumes and folders that sat boxed up in front of me. But as I thumbed through the last few folders labeled “miscellaneous,” I was surprised to find a group of letters wedged between church circulars and bulletins.

The financial and property records of the church were well documented, so when I came across these letters from 1858, I first thought they pertained to the selling of the church’s property a year prior. I scanned the page and found the word “selling” right away, only it was not church property being purchased; it was the freedom of an enslaved man named John Henson.

I stared in shock at the first letter for some time, reading and rereading the faded cursive writing scrawled across the page. I could not believe I was holding such a valuable record and that it had been in a folder labeled “miscellaneous.” As I read the letters back and forth between the church and Henson’s enslaver, I began to put together the pieces.

John Henson had been enslaved in Maryland, presumably under the ownership of the other party penning these letters, a woman named Jane Elizabeth. Henson had a brother living as a free man in Boston who requested that Henson be freed and sent to Massachusetts to live with him. Henson’s brother might have been a member or attendee at Berkeley Temple, which, at some point, had meetings open to all, regardless of class or race.



Letter from Jane Elizabeth regarding payment for John Henson’s freedom.

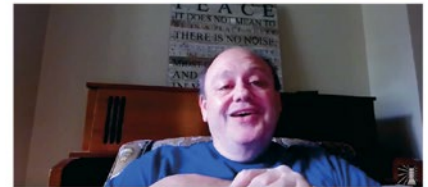
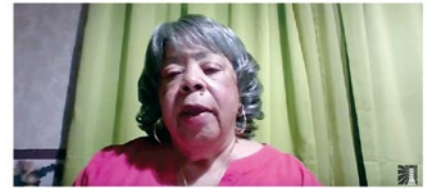
Though Henson’s relationship with the church is unclear, Berkeley Temple contacted Jane Elizabeth in an attempt to purchase his freedom, which cost \$250. After exchanging multiple letters regarding the payment and logistics of his journey, Henson was freed in late 1858.

Categorizing these letters as “miscellaneous” hid John Henson from the historical record for decades. The vital records of enslaved people often lack identifying information, such as a full name, age, and family relationships. This correspondence provides important details about John Henson’s life and brings much overdue recognition to his memory.



Berkeley Temple Congregational Church Records Collection

2024 Programming Highlights



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Director of Development Heather Kurtz (standing) speaks during the Congregational Library & Archives breakfast at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in June 2024; Shirley Glaude, Jimmy Buchanan, Bryan Johnson, and Nathan Skinner (top to bottom) share their experiences as Congregational church music directors during our *What Does Congregational Worship Sound Like Today?* program; CLA Archivist Zachary Bodnar (standing) leads participants in an activity during the July 2024 Archives Edit workshop at 14 Beacon; Dr. Tricia Peone (right), New England's Hidden Histories Project Director, looks on as Dottie Hayes reviews a document during the May 2024 American Revolution Collections Tour.

New Acquisitions Highlight Congregationalism from Coast to Coast



Historical Materials About the First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia

The First Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia is the second oldest Black Congregational church in the country. The CLA recently acquired a 1920 article written by Rev. Henry Hugh Proctor and *This Far By Grace: A Historical Account of the First Congregational Church of Atlanta 1867-2004*. During his tenure as the church's first Black minister, Proctor worked to improve interracial relations in Atlanta (the subject of his journal article) and made the church into a community center that included a kindergarten, gymnasium, and library.



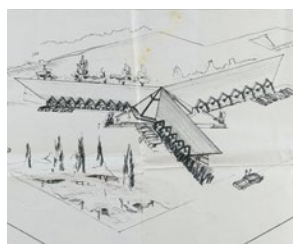
Transcription of Cotton Mather's *Curiosa Americana*, 1723

Between 1712 and 1724, Cotton Mather wrote dozens of letters to members of the Royal Society in London, collectively referred to as his *Curiosa Americana*. These letters cover such diverse topics as giants, dragons, sea creatures, rainbows, earthquakes, smallpox inoculation, monstrous births, prophetic dreams, and apparitions. His accounts were based on personal observations and information from reliable correspondents across New England. The eight letters digitized and transcribed in full by NEHH were written to Dr. James Jurin, Secretary of the Royal Society in 1723. Available in transcription for the first time, the letters give a sense of Mather's humor, as well as the breadth of his knowledge.



Records of Grace North Church, Berkeley, California

In 1892 with twenty-four members, the Congregational Church of North Berkeley opened. The church continued until 1992, when it closed for three years before reopening as Grace North Church in 1995. The church permanently closed in 2023. This rich collection contains vital statistics, church meeting minutes, Ladies' Aid Society records, histories, and more revealing the life of a Congregational church on the West Coast. Included are records related to how the church reestablished itself in 1995.



Records of Christ Congregational Church, Pueblo, Colorado

Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado, was established in 1955 as an explicitly progressive Congregational church. The church building was designed by Elizabeth Wright Ingraham, the granddaughter of Frank Lloyd Wright, and her husband, Gordon Ingraham. The church was the first in Pueblo to hire a female minister, Rev. Karen Sorensen, and it was also an early adopter of the UCC's Open and Affirming designation. Christ Congregational Church dissolved in 2023.

Supporting Scholars and Library Professionals at 14 Beacon



Mentoring young library professionals and scholars is a core commitment of the Congregational Library & Archives. By providing opportunities for the next generation to apply what they are learning in the classroom to the library's rich collections, the CLA provides valuable experience, and in turn increases its ability to make important research materials accessible.

This summer, the CLA partnered with the Institute for the Liberal Arts at Boston College to offer a paid internship for a doctoral student in the humanities. Given the current shortage of full-time academic teaching positions, these internships for Boston College students are designed to let doctoral candidates explore possible non-professorial careers, learn more about how to make a transition to a non-academic career path, and provide work experience that will facilitate such a transition.

Justin Brown-Ramsey, a rising third-year doctoral student in the English Department, spent the summer at the CLA working to organize local history materials, which had accumulated over the past decade. Approximately 960 different church congregations were represented in the material he assessed and cataloged. Nearly forty-five percent of those congregations (430/960), many from outside New England, were not previously represented in the library's collection with a local history file.

"In addition to working with great people, the internship has been a joy because I have been exposed to the other side of research: the library stacks and archives," Justin reflects. "Generally, I never cross the threshold into the spaces where people work tirelessly, and often without thanks, to make the work I am doing in my dissertation project possible. Through this internship, however, I have been given the opportunity to step into the shoes of a librarian whose responsibility is to preserve and make available the historical documents that give researchers like me a tangible *raison d'être*."

The materials Justin has organized this summer will be listed in the CLA's catalog over the coming months.

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2023–2024 Interns



MADISON BELLEW
Simmons University



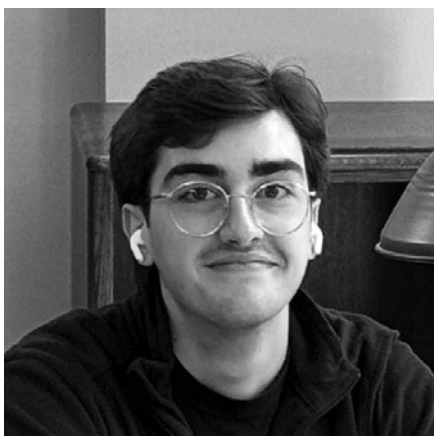
RACHEL GROH
Simmons University



JUSTIN T. BROWN-RAMSEY
Boston College



ELIZABETH SHUGA
University of Wisconsin-Madison



NATHAN SCOPONI
Merrimack College



REBECCA MAITLAND
San Jose State University

2023-2024 CLA RESEARCH FELLOWS

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP CONSORTIUM (NERFC) RESEARCH FELLOWS

DANIEL HOWLETT, PhD
Candidate, George Mason
University “Embodied
Providence in Early America”

DAX SUNNY MATHEW, PhD
Candidate, Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago “Hume
of Ahmednagar’: An American
Missionary in British India,
1874–1926”

JOCELYN RICE, PhD
Candidate, Boston College
“Collegiate Style: Tracing
Institutional Change
through the Production and
Consumption of Architecture”

DR. RYAN TOBLER,
Universität Heidelberg “Souls
at Sea: Religion, Reform, and
the American Sailor”

AMERICAN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION–BOSTON ATHENAEUM FELLOW

DR. THOMAS LECAQUE,
Grand View University “Holy
War Rhetoric in Colonial
America”

LEARN MORE about 2024–
2025 Research Fellowships,
including the new Rev. Dr.
Arvel M. Steece Fellowship,
at www.congregationallibrary.org/fellowships.

Social Media Helps the CLA Acquire a Piece of Early American Printing History

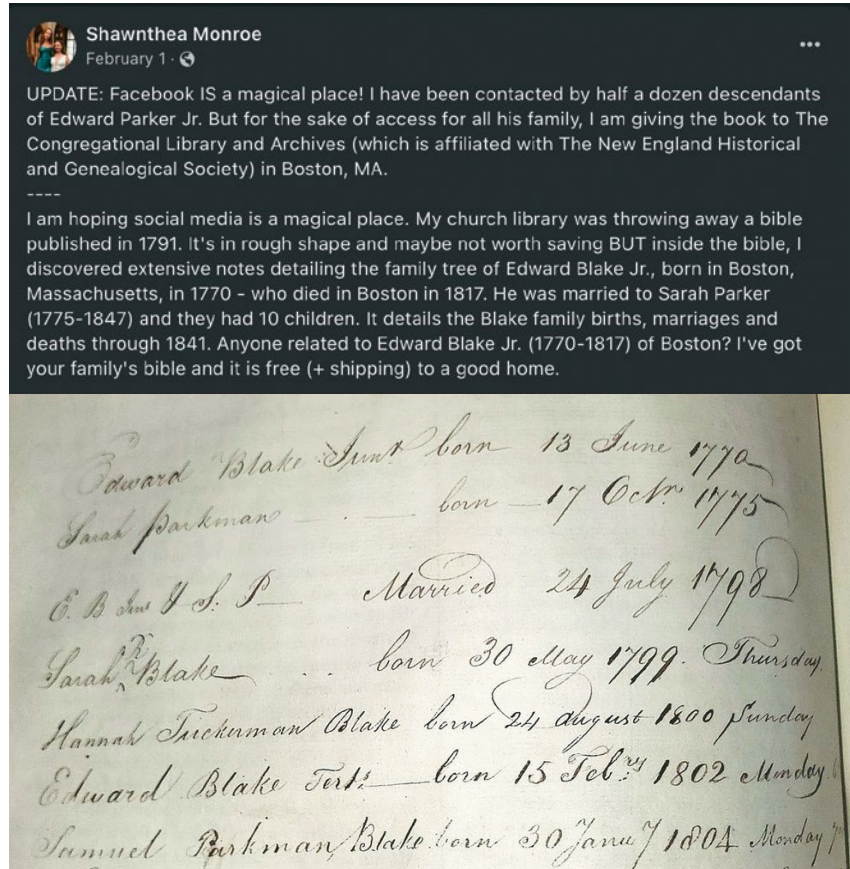
As Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe wrote on Facebook earlier this year, “social media is a magical place” . . . or at least a place where algorithms can make fascinating connections.

After her congregation, The Peoples Church in East Lansing, Michigan, weeded an old family Bible from their library, Rev. Dr. Monroe turned to Facebook. She hoped to find someone who might be interested in the eighteenth-century Bible that held several pages of notes detailing Edward Blake Jr.’s family history. “It’s in rough shape and maybe not worth saving,” she cautioned in her Facebook post.

Soon after, Rev. Shane Montoya from Congregational Church of Birmingham in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan tagged the CLA in a comment on Monroe’s post. “Have you reached out to the Congregational Library & Archives?” he asked. “They love this type of stuff.”

Thankfully, he knows the CLA well. Librarian Meaghan Wright quickly connected with Monroe and made arrangements to have the Bible shipped to 14 Beacon. But it was not until the Bible arrived that Wright realized this acquisition might be even more historically valuable than initially realized.

Printed in 1791 by Worcester-based “patriot printer” Isaiah Thomas, the Blake Family Bible is a first folio and the first illustrated Bible printed in the United States. In the eighteenth-century, most English-language Bibles were still imported from England. In fact, the first English-language Bible printed in the United States had only been published a decade prior. As John Wright writes in his survey of early American Bibles, “the two Thomas Bibles of 1791 were without doubt far in advance of any other publications of the



Shawnthea Monroe’s Facebook post

same kind that had appeared in America in point of typography, excellence of paper, binding, and general execution.”

But the portion of the Bible that inspired Rev. Dr. Monroe’s social media post, the Blake family history written on four tipped-in leaves, hold their own value. Several notes indicate that Edward Blake’s wife, Sarah (Parkman) Blake authored many of the notations. They document both remarkable and everyday moments in the life of a nineteenth-century family: dates of births, marriages, and deaths; medical records, such as when various family members were sick with or inoculated against “meazles” (measles), “kine pox” (cow pox), and “chincough” (whooping cough); and directions to “a well in good condition of excellent water” in the yard of No. 10 Franklin Place, Boston.

New Funding Sources Contribute to Preserve Facilities and Collections

Grants Support Major HVAC Renovation at 14 Beacon

This fall the Congregational Library & Archives will complete a significant HVAC renovation of its historic reading room and librarian's offices, addressing system issues that pre-dated the CLA's substantial renovation in 2019. The existing twenty-year-old systems were no longer energy efficient or environmentally friendly. These new climate control measures will help to preserve the CLA's historic collections and ensure the comfort of the public, staff, and researchers who visit 14 Beacon.

To support this \$120,000 project, the CLA secured a generous Capital Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund (\$60,000). To support the Fund's 1:1 match, the CLA received additional funding from the Ruby W. and Lavon P. Linn Foundation (\$30,000), H.W. Wilson Foundation (\$20,000), and an anonymous donor (\$10,000). Funding received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council was awarded from its highly competitive Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council.



As an historical institution with key documents relating to both the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the 400th anniversary of Boston's founding, the CLA is preparing exhibitions, programming, and scholarly research to contribute to regional and national interpretation of these events. The CLA is grateful to the funders whose generosity will allow the CLA to finish this critical work in time for those commemorations.

Adopt-a-Book Program Connects Donors with CLA Collections



The CLA launched its first Adopt-a-Book program in January 2024. The entire list of eleven items, many drawn from the *Founding 56* exhibition, was adopted within just three weeks of launch. The adopted materials now have catalog records and bookplates featuring the donor's name(s). Donors and honorees also received images of their adopted book, historical background information, catalog descriptions, and framed certificates.

One donor shared that this program gave them a unique opportunity to feel more connected to the CLA's collection. Upon adopting *A Funeral Sermon on the Death of Mrs. Hannah Williams*, a donor was inspired to do their own research on Hannah's life and shared that "despite the fact that I drive through the town of Weston often, I was not aware of the lives and legacies of Hannah and her husband and their connections to the town until reviewing the Adopt-a-Book selections. It is thus rewarding in more than one regard to be sponsoring a publication which pays tribute to her." Watch for news coming soon about our 2025 Adopt-a-Book program, featuring new selections for adoption.

American Congregational Association Statement of Activities

From April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024

OPERATING REVENUES

Contributions and Grants	\$260,349
In-Kind Contributions	2,806
Endowment Assets appropriated for operations	1,410,000
Other Income	8,958
Net Assets released from restrictions	0
Total Revenue and other support	1,682,113

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Occupancy	593,374
Employee Compensation and Related	716,152
Professional Fees	241,590
Depreciation	114,803
Program Costs	73,648
Program: Digitization	16,863
Books, binding and periodicals	20,846
Insurance	35,143
Office	32,369
Total Expenditures	1,844,788

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(162,675)
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NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Investment gains (losses), net	4,290,614
Endowment Assets appropriated for operations	(1,410,000)
Total Non-Operating Activities	2,880,614

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	27,492,747
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NET ASSETS, ENDING	30,210,686
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,717,939
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DONOR HONOR ROLL

FELLOWS (\$5,000 AND ABOVE)

American Theological Library
Association
Anonymous
First Church *Malden, MA*
First Congregational Church of
Gardner *Gardner, MA*
Grace North Church *Berkley, CA*
Mount Vernon Congregational
Church *Boston, MA*
Solon Community Church *Solon, OH*
Taftville Congregational Church
Taftville, CT

SPONSORS (\$1,000 TO \$4,999)

Jean Alexander
Christopher & Videen McGaughey
Bennett
Chapel Street Congregational
Church *Lincoln, RI*
Christ Congregational Church
Pueblo, CO
Mark F. Clark
David Cleaver-Bartholomew
Connecticut Women of UCC
Davis Dyer
First Congregational Church of Fall
River *Fall River, MA*
Mark & Betsy Gabrielson
R. Maxwell Grant & Elizabeth Perry
Jeffrey Griffith
Jonathan C. Guest
Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe
Laura Hamby
Donaldson Hill
James A. Hopkins
Lowell Linden
Charles Packer
Kyle Roberts
Julia Michelle Speller
Nancy S. Taylor
Richard H. Taylor
Anne Louise C. Van Nostrand
Beth Wilkins

PATRONS (\$500 TO \$999)

Michael Ahearn
Mark S. Bauer
Ashley Cleere
Richard W. Elliott
Fellowship of Northeast
Congregational Christian Churches
Harper Family Foundation
Nancy Stowe Inui
Philip Laughlin
Marshall E. & Eloise W. Linden
Michael Passmore
Nicholas Pruitt
Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Robert & Barbara Smith
Julie Johnson Staples

SUSTAINERS (\$100 TO \$499)

Addison Association, UCC
Anonymous (2)
Talitha Jane Arnold
Jeffery S. Atwater
Susannah C. Baker
Barnstable Association, UCC
Edith L. Bartley
Ross W. Beales, Jr.
Kazimierz Bem
Bethany Congregational Church
Foxborough, MA
Mary E. Biedron
Cynthia B. Biggar
Black River-St. Lawrence Association,
UCC
Richard J. Boles
Carol S. Boles
Catherine Brockington
Roger Burke
Margaret Bush
Scott Chase
William G. Chase
Richard W. Cogley
Columbia Congregational Church
Columbia, CT
Conservative Congregational
Christian Conference

Timothy Crist
Jaimie Crumley
Katherine Dimancescu
Norman & Barbara Erlendson
Mary R. Ferris
First Congregational Church
Hanover, MA
First Congregational Church
Lebanon, NH
First Congregational Church
Williamsburg, MA
First Parish Congregational Church
Dover, NH
Brett Freiburger
John F. Gately
Garland Gates
Sara Georgini
Mary Hamlen
Robert Kalayjian
John Kipp
Dennis R. Knight
Thomas & Lucia Knoles
Nancy E. Krody
Devon & Heather Kurtz
William C. Lange
Arlin Larson
Alyssa Lodewick
Douglas S. & Sarah A. Marshall
Thomas J. & Jane Comins McCord
Karl Miller
Kenneth P. Minkema
Amantha Moore
Kimberly Murphy
Carolyn J. Nash
Katherine Newman
Donald N. Nichols
Robert P. Noble, Jr.
North Congregational Church
Farmington Hills, MI
Old Colony Association, UCC
Alfred Persson
David M. Powers
Preston City Congregational Church
Preston, CT
David B. & Linda S. Rhoads
Jonathan Roach
Lori D. Rogers-Stokes

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Marjorie H. Royle
Daniel Sack
Dean S. Skelley
Reiner Smolinski
Southeastern Michigan Association,
NACCC
Joseph D. Stinson
Suffolk Association, New York
Conference, UCC
Anna Taylor Sweringen
John C. Van Epps
Patricia Vondal
Margaret M. Warner
Stephen Washburn
Adrian Weimer
Karin Wetmore
John W. Wilson
C. Ronald Wilson
Elaine M. Wolf
Barbara Brown Zikmund

CONTRIBUTORS (UP TO \$99)

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Diane Badger
Shelby M. Balik
Michelle G. Benvenga
Richard Boccuzzi
Laura Jo Boyd
Ariel Brain
Bryan Breault
Timothy J. Brown
Richard S. Carter
Mary Kupiec Cayton
Richard Chaffee
Karen Clute
Donald & Linda Cohn
Davida Foy Crabtree
James W. & Linda Crawford
Robert Croskery
Dennysville-Edmunds
Congregational Church
Dennysville, ME
Janika Dillon
Priscilla Dorman Hall

Douglas Drown
Julee Durkee
John Richard Edens
Jenny Factor
John A. Fatherley
First Congregational Church of
Rockport *Rockport, MA*
Lonnie Forbes
Michelle Ganz
Linda K. Gard
Betsy Aldrich Garland
Henry Gates
Marlene Gil
Stephen C. Gray
Cynthia Hardy
Robert O. Hawes
E. C. Heath
Christopher C Horvath
Hudson Mohawk Association
Barry Huff
Boardman W. Kathan
Robert L. & Martha L. Keber
Diane C. Kessler
Andrew Lang
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Martha Lape
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Kate Silfen
Cynthia M. Slater
Andrew F. & Caroline E. Sloat
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Carolyn H. Sundquist
Susquehanna Association
Ann M. Van Cleef
Randi J. Walker
Sharon A. & Carter O. Wiese
Daniel S. Wright
Valerie York

GIFTS GIVEN IN TRIBUTE

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Congregational Foundation
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Richard Elliott (2)
Rev. Dr. Mark Scott Fountain
Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe
Billy McCarthy
Nancy Taylor
Rev. Richard H. Taylor
The Joyful Noise of the Webster,
Boyce and Brockington Families

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Mark F. Clark
Alice McInstry Hawes

DONORS OF COLLECTION MATERIALS

American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts
 Anonymous (6)
 Alan Argent
 Kazimierz Bem
 Lisa Bircher
 Richard Boles
 Richard D. Chaffee
 Christian Congregational Church *Pueblo, CO*
 Congregational History Society
 Connecticut Women of the UCC
 James S. Darnell
 Margaret Domber
 Clare Edwards
 Norman & Barbara Erlendson

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
 John Fatherley
 First Church in Swampscott *Swampscott, MA*
 First Congregational Church *Gardner, MA*
 Davida Foy Crabtree
 Barbara Gerlach
 Grace North Church *Berkeley, CA*
 Hildor Harding Stricker
 Gordon Howard
 Julie Johnson Staples
 Bill Johnson
 Robert Kalayjian
 Thomas & Lucia Knoles
 Mary Lane
 William Lange

David Lennox
 Library of America
 John B. McCall
 Melissa McCarl
 Old South Church
 Kimberly Provo
 Jacquie Quirk and Laura Wright
 Sandisfield Historical Society
 Second Congregational Church *Winchester, MA*
 Terry Shortsleeve
 SNEUCC
 Solon Community Church *Solon, OH*
 Marnie Warner
 Patricia E. Welch
 Sharon Wiese
 Alwyn York

In addition to individual memberships, the CLA launched a new church membership program this year that provides a number of institutional benefits for Congregational congregations. With our wide range of virtual programs, in-person workshops, and region-specific research tools, membership can enhance your church's annual program offerings.

If members of your community are visiting Boston, we offer in-person group tours and workshops focusing on church record preservation and stewardship. In addition, our genealogical resources and community histories can build a greater sense of belonging and understanding of your church's place within the larger Congregational story. Find out more at congregationallibrary.org/membership.

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

CONTRIBUTORS

\$50+

\$25+ for current students

CORE BENEFITS:

- + Copies of the *Bulletin* mailed to your home or office
- + Early access to videos of the CLA's virtual programs
- + Special member events
- + Ability to take home books published in the last 35 years

SUSTAINERS

\$100-499

ALL CORE BENEFITS, PLUS:

- + Discounts on photocopying and scanning documents

PATRONS

\$500-999

ALL CORE BENEFITS, PLUS:

- + Discounts on photocopying and scanning documents
- + Invitation to behind-the-scenes programming

SPONSORS

\$1,000-4,999

ALL CORE BENEFITS, PLUS:

- + Discounts on photocopying and scanning documents
- + Invitation to behind-the-scenes programming
- + Personal guided tour for a group of up to ten with a CLA staff member



Save the Date for These Fall Programs

Congregational Library & Archives Open House

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024
5-7 PM EDT

Join us to celebrate the launch of our new online exhibition, *Religion of Revolution: Congregational Voices on Liberty*, with an in-person display of materials from Revolutionary America and a special performance by Norumbega Harmony.

Congregationalists interpreted liberty through their own religious framework, which included principles of autonomy, fellowship, and consensus. The exhibition highlights what Congregationalists had to say about liberty as documented in important printed works of the period as well as manuscript church records, letters, and sermon literature from the CLA's collections and the New England's Hidden Histories project.

Norumbega Harmony is one of the largest and most active groups of Sacred Harp and shape-note singers in New England. Its repertoire consists of music from the colonial and Revolutionary eras of New England as well as music from the Sacred Harp and other American folk-hymn traditions.

Squanto: A Native Odyssey – A Virtual Book Talk with Andrew Lipman

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
1-2 PM EST

American schoolchildren have long learned about Squanto, the welcoming Native who made the First Thanksgiving possible, but his story goes deeper than the holiday legend.

Prize-winning historian Andrew Lipman explores the mysteries that still surround Squanto: How did he escape bondage and return home? Why did he help the English after an Englishman enslaved him? Why did he threaten Plymouth's fragile peace with its neighbors with a daring plot that shocked colonists and Natives alike? Was it true that he converted to Christianity on his deathbed?

Drawing from a wide range of evidence, Lipman reconstructs Squanto's upbringing, his transatlantic odyssey, his career as an interpreter, his surprising downfall, and his enigmatic death. The result is a fresh look at an epic life that ended right when many Americans think their story begins.

Sharing Your Story: Using the Archives to Write Your Church's History

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024
1-2 PM EST

Church histories are not only of interest to today's congregants, but to members of the town community, genealogists, family historians, those interested in church and town histories, archivists writing historical notes, and prospective new members. Fortunately, the tools necessary to research your church's history can be found within your archive.

In this online webinar, CLA archivists Billy McCarthy and Zachary Bodnar will explore the types of records that appear within church archives and how they can be used to write a church's story. They will discuss options for writing community-focused histories that focus on people and celebrate your church's accomplishments, overview practices of reparative history, and consider how churches should write about the portions of their past which may not reflect their current beliefs or values.