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Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society records, 1798-2002. RG4696

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Beckwith, Kenneth Daggett, 1896-
Creator:	Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society
Creator:	Boynton, Nehemiah
Creator:	Nettleton, Albert
Title:	Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society records, 1798-2002.
ID:	RG4696
Date [inclusive]:	1798-2002
Physical Description:	.97 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>The Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Foundation was a missionary society that was officially founded in February 1798. It is considered to be the oldest missionary society in the US, predating the "Haystack Movement" by eight years. The year prior, members met at the Green River in Hillsdale, N.Y. where it was suggested that a group form to send out missionaries both far and near. The locations that they decided upon included parts of Vermont, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. By 1810, the movement has ten missionaries who gave out tracts and bibles to help the areas determined to be "destitute settlements". In the two centuries that followed, the foundation donated funds to over 100 different organizations and individuals. The organizations officially closed its doors in 2002. This collection contains meeting and secretary notes, financial information, newspaper clippings, histories, correspondences and programs.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society records, 1798-2002, RG4696. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Information

The Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Foundation was a missionary society that was officially founded in February 1798. It is considered to be the oldest missionary society in the US, predating the "Haystack Movement" by eight years. The year prior, members met at the Green River in Hillsdale, N.Y. where it was suggested that a group form to send out missionaries both far and near. The locations that they decided upon included parts of Vermont, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. By 1810, the movement has ten missionaries who gave out tracts and bibles to help the areas determined to be "destitute settlements". In the two centuries that followed, the foundation donated funds to over 100 different organizations and individuals. The organizations officially closed its doors in 2002.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains meeting and secretary notes, financial information, newspaper clippings, histories, correspondences and programs.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 5 series and each one is further arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Meeting Minutes and Records, 1798-1998.

Series 2: Finances, 1798-2002.

Series 3: History, 1831-1982.

Series 4: Correspondences, 1853-2002.

Series 5: Programs, 1962-1963, undated.

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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.

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

Received in 2003; 2003-12.

Processing Information

Accessioned and processed by Jessica Steytler in December 2012. Re-processed by William McCarthy in October 2018.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missionary societies.
- Missionaries -- Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
- Church finance.
- Beckwith, Kenneth Daggett, 1896-
- Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society

- Boynton, Nehemiah
- Nettleton, Albert

Bibliography

Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society. Oldest Missionary Society in the United States. Massachusetts, n.d.

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Collection Inventory

Meeting minutes and records, 1798-1998

Physical Description: 9 Items (7 folders, 2 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains meeting minutes, secretary notes, member lists and the constitution for the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society.

Title/Description	Instances	
Meeting records, 1798-1917	box 1	folder 1
Constitution with copies, 1798, 1961	box 1	folder 2
Meeting records, 1819-1853	box 3	volume 3
Meeting records, 1827-1853	box 1	folder 3
Secretary records, 1858-1928	box 3	volume 4
Meeting records, 1947, 1963-1983	box 1	folder 4
Meeting records, 1948-1951	box 1	folder 5
Meeting records, 1984-2002	box 1	folder 6
Membership lists, 1990, 1996-1998	box 1	folder 7

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Finances, 1798-2002

Physical Description: 15 Cubic Feet (13 folders, 2 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains financial information for the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society, including treasury records, contributions, transfer of stewardship, tax and bank information and canceled bankbooks.

Title/Description	Instances	
Financial records, 1798-1835	box 3	volume 1
Treasury records, 1825-1948	box 3	volume 2
Financial information, 1834, 1852	box 3	folder 1
Financial information, 1901-1919	box 3	folder 2
Financial information, 1912-1917	box 2	folder 4
Financial information, 1918-1929	box 2	folder 5
Financial information, 1932-1939	box 2	folder 6
Financial information, 1940-1949	box 2	folder 7
Contributions and donations, 1961-1993	box 2	folder 8
Financial information, 1966-1972	box 2	folder 9
Tax and bank information, 1970-1995	box 2	folder 10
Financial information, 1981-1989	box 2	folder 11
Financial information, 1990-2002	box 2	folder 12
Transfer of stewardship, 2001-2002	box 2	folder 13
Canceled bankbooks, undated	box 2	folder 14

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History, 1831-1982

Physical Description: 10 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains historical information related to the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society, such as newspaper clippings, maps, scrapbook pieces and a history of the society.

Title/Description	Instances	
Newspaper clippings, 1831-1839	box 3	folder 3
Histories, 1934, 1961	box 1	folder 16
Scrapbook pieces, 1946-1962	box 1	folder 17
Scrapbook pieces, 1960	box 1	folder 18
Newspaper clippings, 1963-1982	box 3	folder 4

History of the Society, 1798-1961 (original), undated	box 1	folder 19
History of the Society, 1798-1961 (copy), undated	box 1	folder 20
Historical maps, undated	box 1	folder 21
History pamphlet, undated	box 1	folder 22
Sample of letterhead and envelope, undated	box 2	folder 1

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Correspondence, 1853-2002

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondences of the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society, including those of Albert Nettleton, Kenneth Beckwith, Nehemiah Boynton and more.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1853, undated	box 1	folder 8
Correspondence, 1916-1919	box 1	folder 9
Correspondence with Albert Nettleton, 1951-1965	box 1	folder 10
Correspondence with Kenneth Beckwith, 1951-1968	box 1	folder 11
Correspondence with Nehemiah Boynton, 1955-1966	box 1	folder 12
Correspondence, 1960-1972	box 1	folder 13
Correspondence, 1980-1998	box 1	folder 14
Correspondence, 2001-2002	box 1	folder 15

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Programs, 1962-1963, undated

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains information on the Mission to America and Helping Migrants programs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Mission to America, 1962-1963	box 2	folder 2
Helping Migrants program, undated	box 2	folder 3

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