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Boston, Mass. Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1827-1879. RG1070

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Salem and Mariners' Church (Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Mariners' Church (Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Salem Street Church (Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Tenney, Samuel, 1777-1854
Title:	Boston, Mass. Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1827-1879.
ID:	RG1070
Date [inclusive]:	1827-1879
Physical Description:	1.09 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	When the Salem Street Church formed from the Hanover Church in 1822, there were 98 members. The building was dedicated in 1827, and then George Blagden became the first minister of the Salem Street Church around 1830. During his term as minister, 275 people joined the congregation; during Joseph Towne's term as minister, 153 people joined as well. While Edward Beecher was minister, the Salem Street Church underwent numerous renovations, and after he left the church, there were discussions of selling the church. Mariners' Church was formed in 1823, and also struggled with retaining a permanent minister. The two churches merged in 1871, and became the Salem and Mariners' Church. The church occupied the Methodist House on Hanover Street until it dissolved in 1879. Within this collection there is member information, correspondence between clergy members, notes on voting sessions, meeting minutes, and treasury reports.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Boston, Mass. Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1827-1879, RG1070. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical / Historical

The Hanover church was organized in 1822, and out of that grew the Salem Street church. Salem church had 32 male and 66 female members, of these 77 came from the Hanover Church. The building was dedicated in 1827, measured 74 by 71 feet, with 134 pews on the lower floor and 32 in the gallery. They were at a disadvantage to other churches in the Boston area because they did not have a permanent clergyman to lead them, until George Blagden finally accepted their offer, possibly in 1830.

During Reverend Blagden's almost six-year term at the Salem Street Church, the congregation grew by 275 people. His wife started the juvenile society and maternal meetings at the church. After his term in 1837, a new pastor was elected, Joseph H. Towne. In 1842 alone, 153 people were welcomed into the church under Towne's pastorship. Edward Beecher was then installed as pastor in 1844.

During Edward Beecher's pastorship, the church building underwent a series of renovations from 1844-1852, and cost \$13,500. There was no pastor for a while after his resignation, but then George W. Field took the pulpit from 1856-1862. After the renovations were completed, there were discussions about selling the church in 1866, because there was no permanent minister to lead the services.

Mariners' Church was formed in 1823, and they too had trouble keeping a permanent pastor. It was renamed to the Green Street Church in 1826, and then renamed again back to the Mariners Church in 1830. There were 4 ministers that represented the Mariners' Church; William Jenks, Stephen Bailey, Jonathan Greenleaf, and D. M. Lord.

The Salem Street Church finally merged with the Mariners' Church in January of 1871, and together formed the Salem and Mariners' Church. They sold the building to The First Methodist Episcopal Church for the cost of the renovations, which totaled \$13,500.

After the merger, the Salem and Mariners' Church occupied the Methodist House on Hanover Street. The church dissolved in 1879.

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Scope and Contents

Within this collection, there are multiple different volumes of information on church members, as well as historical context for the church building. There are many meeting minutes, treasury

reports, and voting sessions present in this collection. Correspondence between clergymen and church members is also abundant, as well as information about church services. Ecclesiastical council meetings between different churches in the Boston area that include the Salem Street and Mariners' Church(es) are also present in this collection.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into 3 series, one containing Salem Street Church records, one containing Mariners' Church records, and one containing Salem and Mariners' Church records. Each of these series are arranged chronologically by start date.

Series 1: Salem Street Church records, 1827-1868

Series 2: Mariners' Church Records, 1837-1867

Series 3: Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1868-1879

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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

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

Processing Information

Processed by Liv Murphy on February 25, 2025.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church correspondence.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Clergy conferences.
- Covenants (Church polity).
- Pews and pew rights.
- Beecher, Edward, 1803-1895
- Blagden, George W. (George Washington), 1802-1884
- Boston (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Mariners' Church (Boston, Mass.)
- Salem Street Church (Boston, Mass.)
- Salem and Mariners' Church (Boston, Mass.)

Bibliography

Hayes, Stephen H. Memorial Volume of Salem Church. Boston, Massachusetts: Committee, 1874.

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Collection Inventory

Salem Street Church records, 1827-1868

Physical Description: 8 Volumes

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains lists of active and inactive church members, policies of church membership, form of admission for members, voting sessions, and budgetary reports. The series also contains historical context for the church, plans for the church building, clerk notes, and meeting minutes. The series also contains correspondence between clergy members and members, sermons and reports delivered by reverends, and financial treasury information.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles of faith, covenant, and membership, 1827-1864	box 1	volume 1
A History by Tenney, 1827-1846, 1855	box 1	volume 2
List of members, 1827-1853	box 1	volume 3
Records, 1827-1847	box 1	volume 4
Order of services and dedication, 1828	box 1	folder 1
Financial records, 1830-1844	box 1	volume 5
Congregational society records, 1833-1867	box 1	volume 6
Report, 1834	box 1	folder 2
Pew records, 1835, 1846	folder 6	
Examining committee, 1838-1846	box 1	volume 7
Meeting minutes, 1847-1867	box 1	volume 8
Treasury reports, 1854-1864, undated	box 1	folder 3
Records, 1855-1862, undated	box 1	folder 4
Records, 1863-1868, undated	box 1	folder 5

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Mariners' Church records, 1837-1867

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Scope and Contents

The series contains confessions of faith, a list of members, and meeting minutes. The series also contains a letter from Mary Jane Nelson requesting to be dismissed from the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Mariners' Church Records, 1837-1865	box 1	volume 10
<u>Language of the Material</u> : English.		
<u>Separated Materials</u> :		
Separated Materials		
The item Mary Jane Nelson dismissal request, 1867 was removed from this volume. We did this because of preservation concerns and content differences.		

Mary Jane Nelson dismissal request, 1867	box 1	folder 6
<u>Language of the Material</u> : English.		
<u>Separated Materials</u> :		
Separated Materials		
This item was removed from the last page of text of Mariners Church Records, 1837-1865. We did this because of preservation concerns and content differences.		

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Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1868-1879

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Scope and Contents

The volume in this series contains a list of active and inactive church members, plans for the churches, clerk notes on the sabbath and prayer services.

Title/Description	Instances	
Records, 1868-1879	box 1	volume 9

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