



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911. RG5193

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 29, 2019.

English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

info@14beacon.org

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

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Historical Note | 3 |
| Scope and Contents | 4 |
| Arrangement | 5 |
| Administrative Information | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 6 |
| Technical Requirements | 7 |
| Bibliography | 7 |
| Collection Inventory | 7 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Congregational Library & Archives |
| Creator: | First Congregational Church (Hopkinton, Mass.) |
| Title: | Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911. |
| ID: | RG5193 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1722-1911 |
| Physical Description: | .88 Cubic Feet (2 boxes) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The First Congregational Church in Hopkinton was organized in 1724, shortly after the establishment of the town of Hopkinton by Harvard College, who had purchased the land from a local community of "praying Indians". Five versions of the meeting house have existed, two of which were destroyed, first by fire in 1882 and then by a hurricane in 1939. In September 2011 the name of the church was officially changed to Faith Community Church. This collection includes the earliest records of the church, including meeting minutes, financial reports, listings of marriages, baptisms, deaths, and dismissions, and relations of faith. |

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911, RG5193. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The area that now comprises the towns of Hopkinton and Ashland was once known as Magwonkkommok (or Magunco), and consisted of 51 families of "praying Indians", Christianized Native residents probably drawn from the Massachusetts and Nipmuc tribes indigenous to the area. This community was the seventh such "praying town" established by the English Puritan missionary Rev. John Eliot. Harvard College subsequently purchased the land from the Native residents in 1715,

renaming it Hopkinton after Edward Hopkins, a major benefactor of the college. Harvard then proceeded to lease the land for 3 cents per acre.

On May 21, 1723, the town voted "to have preaching constantly on the Sabbath." A church, initially composed of 15 members, was organized in September of 1724. They simultaneously ordained the Rev. Samuel Barrett, a graduate of Harvard, as their first minister. A simple two-story meeting house, measuring 48x38, was constructed in 1725. In 1731 the church voted to observe the Cambridge Platform of Church Discipline, adopting a congregational form of governance.

Rev. Barrett remained as pastor until his death in 1772, at which time his colleague Rev. Elijah Fitch took over the ministry until his own death in 1788. In 1791 the Rev. Nathaniel Howe was ordained, although as a condition of his ordination he specified that he would not personally admit members to the church under the Half-Way covenant. He preached a famous "Century Sermon" in 1815 to commemorate the centenary of the town, which was subsequently published worldwide.

The parish was officially incorporated in 1827, the town having managed the church before that time. The parish committee quickly voted to build a new meeting house, and the first building was sold and moved off-site. The second meeting house was finished and dedicated in January of 1830, measuring 50x62 feet, with a seating capacity of 600 in the main auditorium. It also included a steeple and bell. An organ was installed at a cost of \$600 in 1847. This second church was extensively remodeled and enlarged in 1859, when Hopkinton's population grew to 4,500 as a result of the town's success as a center of boot and shoe manufacturing. The organ and bell were also replaced with larger versions, and a parsonage was purchased in 1870 at a cost of \$3,500.

In 1882, a fire swept through Hopkinton, destroying the second meeting house, along with the town hall, post office, a hotel, and a shoe factory. Funds were quickly raised for the construction of a new and third meeting house, costing a total of \$31,000, which was dedicated in May of the following year. This building was also the victim of a cataclysmic event, when the hurricane of September 21, 1938 toppled the steeple and effectively destroyed the entire church. Consequently, a fourth iteration of the meeting house was built in 1939. The large former bell, salvaged from the third meeting house, was installed in the new church and was rung at its dedication.

The church eventually affiliated with the United Church of Christ, but voted to leave on October 2, 1994 due to theological differences. In 1997, the current church building was constructed in order to accommodate expanding membership. In September 2011 the name of the church was officially changed to Faith Community Church.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection includes the earliest records of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, Mass. Primarily these include church meeting minutes, financial reports, and listings of marriages, baptisms,

deaths, and dismissions, and relations of faith by members seeking admission to the church. There is also a legal contract for the construction of a new meeting house in 1829.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials have been arranged in chronological order by start date. Within the relations file, individual records have been listed in alphabetical order by surname.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
info@14beacon.org

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

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.

Digital Reproductions are protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use the Digital Reproductions in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. In addition, no permission is required from the Congregational Library & Archives for educational uses. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the Congregational Library & Archives. For additional information regarding copyright, please consult the Congregational Library & Archives' [Digital Collections Copyright & Use](#) policy.

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for "Request for reconciliation, 1747".

All other materials were temporarily deposited for digitization with the Congregational Library & Archives by Faith Community Church in Hopkinton, MA in June 2014; 2014-42.

Location of Originals

The physical records are held and maintained by the Faith Community Church in Hopkinton, Mass., with the exception of the "Request for reconciliation, 1747" which is housed at the Congregational Library and Archives.

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

Processed and described by Jules Thomson, October 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Covenants (Church polity).
- Installation (clergy).
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- First Congregational Church (Hopkinton, Mass.)
- Hopkinton (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](#)

Bibliography

Barber, John Warner. *Historical collections: being a general collection of interesting facts, traditions, biographical sketches, anecdotes, &c., relating to the history and antiquities of every town in Massachusetts, with geographical descriptions.* Worcester, MA: Dore, Howland & Co., 1841.

Davis, Emerson. *Biographical Sketches of the Congregational Pastors of New England: Volume III*, n.d. 9.3.90

"Historical Facts about Hopkinton." Hopkinton Historical Society. Accessed October 17, 2019. <https://hopkhistsoc.org/facts.php?sid=1>.

Nylen, Edwin B. *The Dedication Services of the First Congregational Church Hopkinton, Massachusetts.* Hopkinton, 1940. 17.11.1 H 77.67 F

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------|
| Church records, 1722-1874 | |
| <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

This volume is primarily comprised of a year-by-year history of the town from 1708 until 1859. Events noted

in each year include a list of town citizens prior to 1730, petitions, the activities of notable residents, genealogical information, deaths, appointments to the church, the church's finances, and major church or town events. There are unusually detailed descriptions of several slaves in the town of Hopkinton, including mention of their children and other life circumstances. Other material includes newspaper clippings, some of it detailing Brigham Young's journey to Utah, and some loose correspondence.

Church records, 1724-1864

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

This volume includes births, marriage, deaths, admissions, baptisms, meeting minutes, records of complaints, a discussion of the original settlers of the town, and an index at the back.

Church records, 1724-1911

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](#).

Digital Copies

Materials in this volume include a copy of the church covenant, births, marriages, baptisms, deaths, admissions, dismissions, church meeting minutes, correspondence, and the selection and installation of pastors.

Request for reconciliation, 1747

box NEHH-
Small 1

folder 31

Scope and Contents

This single document is a petition by six signatories requesting reconciliation with disaffected members of the church. The dispute arose over differences of opinion regarding the administration of the Lord's Supper (Communion). The document is dated May 4, 1747.

Church records, 1791-1838

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

This volume is comprised of a copy of the church covenant, confessions of faith, church meeting minutes, admissions, baptisms, dismissions, marriages, deaths, excommunications, and ministers' ordinations. There is a table of contents at the front of the volume.

Relations, 1799-1830

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

This is a collection of personal relations, written accounts of individuals' religious experience that were often required in the process of applying for full membership. They are organized alphabetically by last name.

Relations by Surname

Adams, Benjamin

relation, dated 1806

Bowker, Charlotte

relation, dated 1813

Bowker, Patience

relation, dated 1811

Briggs, Betsy

relation, dated 1808

Briggs, John

relation, dated 1808

Burnam, Josiah

relation, dated 1818

Burnam, Ruth

relation, dated 1803

Cody, Abigail

relation, dated 1812

Cody, John

relation, dated 1812

Cody, Sally

relation, dated 1812

Cozzens, Ruth

relation, dated 1810

Crook, Sally

relation, dated 1829

Dauids, Polly

relation, dated 1811
Dench, Anna
relation, undated
Eames, Anna
relation, dated 1803
Eames, Patty
relation, dated 1819
Ellis, Ireene
relation, undated
Ellis, Julia
relation, undated
Fisk, Abel
relation, undated
Fitch, Emily
relation, undated
Flagg, Azubah
relation, dated 1821
Freeland, Catharine
relation, dated 1823
Freeland, Nancy
relation, undated
Gibson, John
relation, dated 1830
Gibson, Margery
relation, dated 1799
Greenwood, Miriam
relation, undated
Haven, Azenath
relation, dated 1829
Haven, Elisha
relation, dated 1821
Haven, Martha
relation, undated
Hayden, William
relation, dated 1810
How, Betsy
relation, dated 1802
Howe, Eliza
relation, undated
Johnson, Adeline
relation, undated
Jones, Martha
relation, dated 1820
Littlefield, Elisabeth
relation, undated
Lovering, Hilley
relation, dated 1811
Lovering, Lydia
relation, undated
Loving, Mary
relation, undated
Loving, Nathaniel
relation, dated 1803
Morse, Elisha (w/ Patty)
relation, undated
Morse, Patty (w/ Elisha)
relation, undated

Morse, Winthrop
relation, dated 1811

Phipps, Sarah
relation, dated 1812

Pike, Sally
relation, dated 1812

Pond, Benjamin
relation, undated

Pond, Polly
relation, dated 1829

Pool, Abigail
relation, dated 1821

Prentiss, Mary
relation, dated 1821

Proctor, Benjamin
relation, undated

Reed, Emily
relation, undated

Richards, Betsey
relation, dated 1827

Richards, Nancy
relation, dated 1811

Thompson, Charity
relation, dated 1819

Walker, Elizabeth
relation, dated 1821

Walker, Samuel
relation, undated

Wark, Emma
relation, dated 1823

Wheton, Ruth
relation, dated 1796

Church records, 1827-1858

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

This volume includes correspondence, church meeting minutes, financial records, pew appraisal records, and by-laws of the parish.

Church building contract, 1829

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

This 3-page document comprises a legal contract from the Hopkinton parish to build a meetinghouse for the church. It is dated March 14, 1829.

Church records, 1838-1880

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

Material in this volume includes ecclesiastical council notes, pastor installations, church meeting minutes, committee meeting notes, officer lists, monthly and annual church conference minutes, committee reports, a church manual with the confession of faith revised in 1856, resolutions on the topic of temperance, correspondence, financial records, and disciplinary case records.