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Sanford, Me. North Congregational Church records, 1786-1905. RG5036

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Congregational Church (Sanford, Me.)
Creator:	North Congregational Church (Sanford, Me.)
Title:	Sanford, Me. North Congregational Church records, 1786-1905.
ID:	RG5036
Date [inclusive]:	1786-1905
Physical Description:	0.22 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>The town of Sanford, originally in Massachusetts, was incorporated in 1768 and the Congregational Church in Sanford was gathered on March 28, 1786. Construction on the first meeting house was completed in 1792. The second meeting house was constructed in the northern half of Sanford in 1831. The Congregational Church became the North Congregational Church in 1847 after 14 members left to form the South Congregational Church. The second meeting house was destroyed in a fire in 1878 and replaced the following year. In 1911 the church and parish society were incorporated as one entity called the North Parish Congregational Church. In 1960 the church joined the United Church of Christ and it continues to serve the community today. The collection includes the administrative records of the early church and parish society as well as vital membership records.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Sanford, Me. North Congregational Church records, 1786-1905, RG5036. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The town of Sanford, originally in Massachusetts, was incorporated in 1768. Between then and 1786 the town, at various points, voted to raise money to both hire a minister and build a meeting house, but

apparently that did ever result in the formation of a church. On March 28, 1786, the Congregational Church of Sanford was formally gathered with Moses Sweat as the minister. Construction on the first meeting house was completed in 1792. Rev. Sweat served as minister for 36 years but the church membership remained small during his pastorate.

By the 1830s the population of Sanford had begun to migrate northward. In 1831 the second meeting house was constructed in the new northern population center. Also in 1831 the church adopted the articles of faith and covenant of the Cumberland Conference of Churches. The move northwards caused some conflict within the church among those who still lived in the southern portion of Sanford during the 1830s and 1840s. In 1847 a group of 14 members broke away from the church after a period of increased antagonism. Those members, by order of an Ecclesiastical Council, gathered the South Congregational Church on November 18, 1847. At that time the Congregational Church changed its name to the North Congregational Church. The South Church, later called the Second Congregational Church, was dissolved in 1903. On July 1, 1878, the second meeting house was destroyed by a fire that destroyed a total of 14 buildings. In 1879 construction on the third and final meeting house was completed.

During the latter half of the nineteenth-century and into the early twentieth-century, the church began to suffer financially and lose members. Demographics in Sanford again changed in the early twentieth-century with increased industrialization. The result of this was an influx of members and money after 1910. In 1911 the church and parish organizations were combined and incorporated and the name of the church changed to the North Parish Congregational Church. In 1912 plans were put together to renovate the meeting house. While plans were considered to construct a new meeting house they were thought to be cost-prohibitive and so the plan was to build, behind the church, a parish house. Construction on the parish house began in 1914 and was completed in 1915.

In October, 1960, the North Parish Congregational Church joined the United Church of Christ. The church continues to serve the community of Sanford Maine today.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the earliest records of the church organization and the parish society. Included within the records are the meeting minutes of the church and society, financial records, membership lists, marriage records, baptismal records, and records of deaths.

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Arrangement

Materials have been arranged in chronological order by start date.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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info@14beacon.org

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

Restrictions on Access

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Acquisition Information

Loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, November 2011, by the North Parish Congregational Church; 2011-66.

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 by Zachary Bodnar, April 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church discipline.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Ordination.
- Congregational Church (Sanford, Me.)
- North Congregational Church (Sanford, Me.)
- North Parish Congregational Church (Sanford, Me.)
- Sanford (Me.) -- 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.

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Bibliography

Prosser, Albert L. *A History of the North Parish Congregational Church of Sanford Maine: 1786-1961.*
 Sanford: 1961. 17.11.1 S28.2 NorPCC

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1786-1823	box 1	volume 1

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](#). Transcriptions for this volume are also available and may be viewed alongside the digital images.

Scope and Contents

This volume contains valuable administrative and membership information dating to the founding of the church. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, records of voted, baptismal records, marriage records, and records of deaths.

Church records, 1843-1888	box 1	volume 2
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Scope and Contents

This volume of records contains the administrative meeting minutes of the church as well as a list of members in the church.

Parish records, 1885-1905	box 1	volume 3
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Scope and Contents

This volume contains the records of the Parish Society. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, financial reports, committee reports, and a manuscript copy of the parish constitution.