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# York, Me. First Parish Church 1731-1927. RG5392

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Boston, MA 02108

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	First Parish Church (York, Me.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Lyman, Isaac, 1724-1810
<b>Creator:</b>	Second Parish Church (York, Me.)
<b>Title:</b>	York, Me. First Parish Church records, 1731-1927.
<b>ID:</b>	RG5392
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1731-1927
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 Files (7 volumes, 2 folders)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The First Parish Church in York, Maine was established at some point between 1662 and 1673 with Shubael Drummer ordained as the first minister. Rev. Drummer was killed during a Native American raid in 1692 and was followed by Samuel Moody in 1698. Rev. Moody's pastorate ended in 1747 with his death. He was followed by Samuel Lyman in 1749 who served as minister until his death in 1810. Included within the collection are church and parish records, financial records, and vital records.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the York, Me. First Parish Church records, 1731-1927, RG5392. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Historical Note

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The first religious organization in York, Maine dates back to the establishment of a meetinghouse, or oratory, in the mid to late 1630s. This first organization was likely established according to the Royal Charter given Sir Ferdinando Gorges by Charles I in 1639 and therefore was an extension of the Church of England. The land that encompasses today's York, Maine was incorporated in 1742 as Gorgeana and became the capital of Gorges' province. After the death of Gorges in 1647, the Massachusetts

Bay Colony claimed Gorges' land. In 1652 York, Massachusetts was incorporated from a portion of Gorgeana. Little is known about the first established religious organization but following the death of Gorges and the administration of his lands by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, it is likely that whatever remained of that first church organization was either dissolved or slowly replaced with Puritan influence during the 1650s.

The exact date of the establishment of the First Parish Church in York is not known, though it likely dates to somewhere between 1662 and 1673. In 1662, Shubael Drummer, a 1656 graduate of Harvard, became the first Congregational minister in York. Under his leadership, the "second" meetinghouse was constructed in 1667. He was officially ordained as the pastor of the Church of Christ at York on December 3, 1673. In 1692, during King Williams War, a Native American raid on York, also referred to as the Candlemas Massacre, resulted in the death of Rev. Drummer and the burning of much of the town. Apparently the church building survived and in 1698 Samuel Moody was ordained as the second pastor.

During Rev. Moody's pastorate, the Third Meetinghouse was constructed. In 1710 the 1667 meetinghouse was deemed unsafe and so the town procured funds for a new building which was finally completed in 1712. Under Moody church membership grew to about 300. In 1732 the Second Church was established by Scottish immigrants with Rev. Joseph Moody, son of Rev. Samuel Moody, installed as the first minister. In 1744 the town voted to raise funds through subscriptions to raise a fourth meetinghouse. Plans for construction were stalled until 1747 and construction completed that same year. Rev. Moody's ministry ended with his death in 1747. He was followed by Rev. Isaac Lyman who was ordained on Dec. 20, 1749 and likewise ended his pastorate with his death on March 12, 1810.

During the 1820s the church underwent a period of instability as disagreements over religious doctrine resulted in multiple waves of members leaving to join other area churches such as the Methodist and Universalist churches. The Sabbath School was established in the 1830s and was soon followed by the establishment of the Sabbath School Library. A religious revival during the 1860s greatly increased church membership. In 1882, the parish came to a decision to move the church so that it physically faced the road. That year it was lifted and placed in the church's present location in York. In 1951 the church building underwent a major renovation project.

The First Parish Church Congregational, United Church of Christ, in York Maine, continues to serve the community today. It is the oldest still active religious society in Maine.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains the earliest records on the administration of the First Parish Church in York, Maine. Included within the collection are church and parish records, such as meeting minutes and records of town votes, financial records, and vital records, such as marriage and baptismal records. Also included are the some of the records of the Second Parish Church in York.

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## Arrangement

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This collection has been arranged in chronological order by the start date.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Boston, MA 02108

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

### Restrictions on Access

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### Restrictions on Use

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Materials were loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, October 2018, for the purpose of digitization by the First Parish Church in York, Maine; Accession 2018-35.

## **Location of Originals**

The physical materials are held by the First Parish Church in York, Maine.

## **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, October 2018, using DACS Second Edition.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Baptismal records.
- Church charities.
- Church membership.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Slave trade.
- Slavery -- Maine.
- First Parish Church (York, Me.)
- Second Parish Church (York, Me.)
- York (Me.) -- Church history.

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## Technical Requirements

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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

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"First Parish History." *First Parish Church Congregational, United Church of Christ* online. Accessed October 15, 2018. <http://www.firstparishyork.net/contentpages/48307/dc33d863-796c-454a-a42a-e04e8e068ff4/FirstParishHistory.aspx>.

*Manual of the First Congregational Church: York, Maine.* York Village: York Publishing Company, 1915. 17.11.1 Y63.5 FIRPCC

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
<p>Parish book, 1731-1739</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b></p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a>.</p>	

### Scope and Contents

This volume contains the administrative records for the Parish of York. The majority of the records are related to votes held to appoint assessors and tax collectors for the York Parish and to raise funds to maintain the meeting house and church lands. Significantly though, about three years of records detail the votes held in relation to the purchase of a slave for the use of the parish and for the assistance of Rev. Samuel Moody. The records begin in 1733 when there was a vote to

form a committee to purchase a slave. In 1734 there was a vote to raise 120 pounds to purchase a slave "to be Employed in his Service during the Parish's Pleasure". Apparently the committee did procure an African slave who was identified only as "the Negro man named Andrew". In 1735, the records indicate that the committee voted to sell Andrew and hired a domestic worker instead, citing Moody's dissatisfaction with Andrew.

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Parish record book, 1731-1840

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 contains records related to the administration of the church and parish by the members of the church. Included within the parish records are meeting minutes, records of votes and actions, committee reports, certificates of membership, pew plans, and the appointments of lay positions, such as tax collector and town clerk. The Parish records contain records related to the land owned by the church and the use of that land, including the leasing of church land, votes to repair of church property, and votes to build a new meeting house. Also of note is an early record from 1732 where it was voted that the Parish purchase a slave for the church and Rev. Samuel Moody.

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Church record book, 1749-1829

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**

These church records contain both ministerial records and important membership records. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, ecclesiastical council minutes and decisions, committee reports, baptismal records, marriage records, and records of deaths. Also included within the records are the Church Covenant, with a list of all members who belonged to the covenant, and the Confession of Faith.

Separated Materials:

### **Separated Materials**

There were a number of loose documents within the volume located between pages 32 and 33. Most of these were records

of death and placed in the folder titled "Death records, 1807-1810." Another loose document was a continuation of the "Isaac Lyman marriage records, 1765-1829" and was therefore placed with that volume.

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Isaac Lyman's marriage records, 1765-1829

Digital Copies:

### **Digital Copies**

These ministerial 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 a list all marriages officiated by Rev. Isaac Lyman, organized in chronological order.

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Deacons account book, 1781-1814

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 an account book which documents the contributions brought in by the Deacons on the York First Parish as well as outgoing expenses. Some outgoing expenses were charity with some church funds being dispersed to specific poor members.

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Baptisms and deaths, 1807-1810

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 folder contains records which report the names of individuals who were baptised and individuals who died within a given year.

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Second Parish church records, 1825-1870

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](#).

### Separated Materials:

## **Separated Materials**

This volume of church records from the Second Congregational Church in York includes governance records, such as the Confession of Faith and Covenant, meeting minutes and ecclesiastical council results, membership records, baptismal records, marriage records, records of deaths, and some financial records.

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Church records, 1836-1927

### 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 contains both ministerial records and the vital records of the church's members. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, ecclesiastical council minutes and results, baptismal records, marriage records, records of deaths, and records of dismissions. Also included in the record book are multiple versions of important church governance documents such as the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant. The volume also contains some financial records related to contributions, records related to the temperance movement, and the text of the Will of John Pell.

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Eliza Donnell will extract, 1894

### 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 single-page document contains an excerpt from the will of parishioner Eliza Donnell, granting a monetary bequest to the First Church.