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Bowen, Ill. Bowen Congregational Church records, 1856-1944. RG5229

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on April 24, 2026.
Description is written in: English.
DACS 2019.0.3

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Bowen Congregational Church (Bowen, Ill.)
Creator:	Bowensburg Congregational Church (Bowensburg, Ill.)
Creator:	Cedron Church (Hancock county, Ill.)
Creator:	First Congregational Church of Chili (Chili, Ill.)
Title:	Bowen, Ill. Bowen Congregational Church records, 1856-1944.
ID:	RG5229
Date [inclusive]:	1856-1944
Physical Description:	0.22 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The First Congregational Church of Bowen was organized on May 24th, 1856, as the Cedron Church of Hancock County. Reverend Samuel Dilley served as its first pastor. Before its dissolution in 1944, it was known as the First Congregational Church of Chili, the Bowensburg Congregational Church, and the Bowen Congregational Church. This collection includes two volumes of church records from 1856 to 1943 in addition to records regarding its 1944 dissolution.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Bowen, Ill. First Congregational Church records, 1856-1944. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The First Congregational Church of Bowen was organized on May 24th, 1856, as the Cedron Church of Hancock County and admitted its first members on May 1st, 1857. Reverend Samuel

Dilley was appointed as pastor of the church on April 10th, 1858. Under his leadership, the church's name was changed to the First Congregational Church of Chili on March 2nd, 1863. Reverend Samuel Dilley resigned on December 6th, 1863, although he returned as pastor on January 1st, 1870.

On June 21st, the church moved into a new meeting house in Bowen, Illinois, which was known as Bowensburg, Illinois at the time. The name of the church was changed once again to the Bowensburg Congregational Church on April 19th, 1869. Reverend T.G. Owens was appointed as pastor on November 1st, 1873.

The church had another name change to the Bowen Congregational Church, most likely in or after 1887 when the town's name changed from Bowensburg to Bowen. In 1944, the church dissolved.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains two volumes of church records from 1856 to 1943, including working and absentee rolls, church history, resolutions of respect, baptismal records, ministry staff records, meeting minutes, and financial records. It also includes meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and an order of worship regarding the 1944 dissolution of the church.

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Arrangement

Records in this collection have been arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is restricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on use

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Acquisition information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Chicago Theological Center in April 2014; accession number 2014-76.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Adrianna Keller-Wyman, April 2026, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church closures
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Necrologies.
- Bowen (Ill.) -- Church history.
- Bowen Congregational Church (Bowen, Ill.)
- Bowensburg Congregational Church (Bowensburg, Ill.)
- Cedron Church (Hancock county, Ill.)
- First Congregational Church of Chili (Chili, Ill.)

- Hancock County (Ill.) -- Church history.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1856-1916	box 1	volume 1
Church records, 1917-1943	box 1	volume 2
Church dissolution records, 1944	box 1	folder 1

Physical Description: 1 Folder