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Summer Hill, N.Y. Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977. RG0733

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Description is written in: English.

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Summer Hill Congregational Church (Summer Hill, N.Y.)
Creator:	Cortland-Summer Hill Parish
Title:	Summer Hill, N.Y. Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977.
ID:	RG0733
Date [inclusive]:	1831-1977
Physical Description:	1.53 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Summer Hill Congregational Church of Summer Hill, N.Y., was founded in 1827. The church dissolved in 1974. This collection contains administrative records of the church some and records of the Cortland-Summer Hill Parish, of which the church was a member, and that parish's two predecessors, the Tri-County Parish and the Cortland Larger Parish.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Summer Hill, N.Y. Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977, RG0733. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical note

The Summer Hill Congregational Church was founded on April 17, 1827, with seventy members and had begun earlier that year as The East Church of Locke and the East Congregational Society of Locke. Fire claimed the original church building in January of 1841 but the church quickly built a new building and dedicated it in September of that year. That new building served the church on the Homer-Locke Highway, Route 90, for the remainder

of its history. The church was rededicated in May 1896. The church is also known as the one-word variant "Summerhill," as is the town it served.

The church was part of a local consortium of churches known as the Cortland Larger Parish, formed in 1925, that also included the Second Congregational Church of Cortland and the Congregational Church of Groton. The Cortland Larger Parish dissolved with the exit of the Cortland church in 1947 and was replaced by an entity known as the Tri-County Parish, comprising churches in the counties of Cortland, Cayuga, and Tompkins. The church's final affiliation was part of the Cortland-Summer Hill Parish.

Members of a single family served as clerk for Summer Hill Congregational Church for more than a century, 1835 to 1838. The legacy began with Winslow Hamblin, who was followed by his son-in-law, George Allen, who was in turn followed by his son, J. Gurnsey Allen, who held the post for 41 years.

Members of the church voted to close the church permanently and sell its assets on May 5, 1974. The church held its last service on September 29, 1974.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains administrative records of the Summer Hill, N.Y., Congregational Church and records of the Cortland-Summer Hill Parish, of which the church was a member.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series. Records in each series have been arranged chronologically by start date.

Series 1: Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977

Series 2: Cortland-Summer Hill Parish records, 1940-1955

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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

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.

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Johanna Carll and Virginia Hunt, December 1998. This collection was re-processed by Flint McColgan, April 2026, according to the rules of DACS Second Edition.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional materials related to the Summer Hill Congregational Church, N.Y. are located at the Cornell University Library's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, #6275.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church closures.
- Church finance.
- Church records and registers.
- Church membership.
- Legal documents.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Cortland-Summer Hill Parish
- Summer Hill Congregational Church (Summer Hill, N.Y.)
- Summer Hill (N.Y.) -- Church history.

Collection Inventory

Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977

Physical Description: 11 Volumes

Physical Description: 29 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series includes transfer and dismission correspondence, meeting minutes, financial reports, committee and pastor's reports, and activity records of clubs and auxiliary groups. Notable documents include the "List of Strays" notebook recording farm animals escaping their pens in the immediate area, wills and bequests of some church members, and documentation of the church's closure.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1831-1957	box 2	volume 1
List of strays, 1833-1902	box 1	volume 1
Lists of voters and electors, 1861-1866		

Summer Hill, N.Y. Summer Hill Congregational Church records, 1831-1977. RG0733

	box 2	folder 1
Ladies Heart and Hand Society records, 1886-1909	box 1	volume 2
Dismissal receipts, 1886-1967	box 1	folder 1
Young People's Society records, 1887-1893	box 1	volume 3
Church records, 1887-1938	box 1	volume 4
Letters of transfer/dismissal, 1887-1950	box 1	folder 2
Ecclesiastical Council minutes, 1892	box 1	folder 3
Requests for dismissal, 1894, 1942-1974, undated	box 1	folder 4
Church history and special events programs, 1896-1974	box 1	folder 5
General correspondence, 1896, 1947-1976	box 1	folder 6
Treasurer's account book, 1900-1937	box 1	volume 5
Contracts and legal documents, 1905-1975	box 2	folder 2
Wills and bequests, 1905-1975	box 2	folder 3
Ladies Aid and Home and Foreign Ministry records, 1914-1935	box 2	volume 2
Letters of resignation, 1926-1966	box 1	folder 7
Pledge books, 1927-1946	box 1	folder 8
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1927-1976	box 1	folder 9
Bank pass books, 1929-1977	box 1	folder 10
Society of Congregational Christian Women records, 1937-1948	box 2	volume 3
Treasurer's account book, 1938-1977	box 1	volume 6
Church records, 1939-1974	box 1	volume 7
Congregational Yearbook reports, 1940-1961	box 1	folder 11
Legal correspondence, 1941-1972	box 1	folder 12
Sunday school records, 1945-1948, undated	box 1	folder 13
Pilgrim Fellowship report, 1947	box 1	folder 14
Church attendance and membership reports, 1947-1959	box 1	folder 15
Ministers, Missionary, and Widows Old Age Fund reports, 1948	box 1	folder 16
Treasurer's account book, 1948-1951	box 1	folder 17
Financial documents, 1948-1976	box 1	folder 18
Society of Congregational Christian Women records, 1949-1962	box 2	volume 4

Society of Congregational Christian Women records, 1951-1960	box 1	folder 19
Ordination of Rev. Griffiths, 1952	box 1	folder 20
Financial secretary's reports, 1955-1956	box 1	folder 21
Annual meeting minutes, 1961-1974	box 1	folder 22
Account book, 1969-1977	box 1	folder 23
Bank statements, 1969-1977	box 1	folder 24
Documents pertaining to church closing, 1974	box 1	folder 25
Photographs, undated	box 1	folder 26

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Cortland-Summer Hill Parish records, 1940-1955

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series includes records pertaining to the Cortland-Summer Hill Parish, including financial records, pastor's reports, mortgage documents, and cabinet minutes.

Title/Description	Instances	
Cortland Larger Parish financial records, 1940-1948	box 1	folder 27
Pastor's annual reports, 1940-1952	box 1	folder 28
Cortland-Summer Hill Parish mortgage document, 1942	box 2	folder 4
Cortland-Summer Hill Parish cabinet minutes, 1945-1955	box 1	folder 29

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