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## **Brunswick, Me. First Parish Church records, 1735-1829. RG5236**

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

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

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## Table of Contents

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	First Parish Church (Brunswick, Me.)
<b>Title:</b>	Brunswick, Me. First Parish Church records, 1735-1829.
<b>ID:</b>	RG5236
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1735-1829
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.09 Cubic Feet (1 box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The township of Brunswick was incorporated on May 3, 1717. Until 1747 the town was served by temporary missionary ministers. In 1747 the First Parish Church was actually split into two buildings, one following Congregational polity and the other following Presbyterian polity. In 1772 both groups agreed to follow Congregational polity and in 1808 both groups physically merged into a single meeting house. The church had close relations to Bowdoin College and Harriet Beecher Stowe found inspiration for Uncle Tom's Cabin while attending the church. The Church, now a member of the UCC, continues to serve the community. The collection includes the early administrative and vital membership records of the church including church and parish meeting minutes, vital statistics of members, and ministerial records for Asa Mead.</p>

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brunswick, Me. First Parish Church records, 1735-1829, RG5236. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Historical Note

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The township of Brunswick was incorporated on May 3, 1717. The Massachusetts General Court voted to allocate funds for the dispatching of missionaries to the Native Americans still settled in Brunswick, an act which established the First Parish Church in Brunswick. The first missionary to visit was Rev.

Joseph Baxter. He was followed by Rev. James Woodslide, a Brunswick local, who was deemed not puritanical enough to continue preaching. The first permanently settled minister of the First Parish Church was Rev. Robert Dunlap, a Presbyterian, who served as the pastor of the church from 1747-1760.

Funding for the first meeting house was first authorized on January 9, 1717, but the building was not completed until 1735. This meeting house, in the western part of the town, was largely Presbyterian. A second meeting house was constructed in the eastern part of the town in 1756 and was largely Congregational. The minister of the First Parish served as pastor of both churches. In 1772, the two church populations agreed to officially follow Congregational polity. In 1790 some parishioners withdrew from the church in order to form a Baptist Society, in part because they did not wish to pay taxes to the town to support the Congregational minister.

Construction on the third meeting house began in 1806 and was completed in 1808. At that point, the two church communities largely combined and met jointly in the third meeting house. The first meeting house became property of Brunswick until it was destroyed by fire in 1834. The second meeting house was largely abandoned after 1808 and was demolished by 1835. The fourth, and final, meeting house, designed by Richard Upjohn, was dedicated on March 18, 1846. Harriet Beecher Stowe sat in pew 23 in this building in 1851 when she was inspired to write "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The First Parish Church had a close relationship with Bowdoin College during the 19th and 20th century. The college provided some of the funds needed for the construction of the third and fourth meeting houses and Baccalaureate Services and Commencement Exercises were held annually at the church building until 1966.

In 1960, the First Parish Church in Brunswick voted to join the United Church of Christ. The church continues to serve the community today.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains the early administrative and vital membership records of the First Parish Church in Brunswick, Maine. Included in the collection are the minutes of church and parish meetings, baptismal records, marriage records, records of deaths, historical sketches, and the ministerial records of Asa Mead.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

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

### Restrictions on Access

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### Restrictions on Use

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### Acquisition Information

Loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, for digitization, by the First Parish Church in Brunswick, Maine, October 2014; 2014-83.

### Location of Originals

The physical records are held and maintained by the First Parish Church in Brunswick, 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

Originally processed by Sari Mauro, January 2015. Redescribed by Zachary Bodnar, March 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Installation (clergy).
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Brunswick (Me.) -- Church history.
- First Baptist Church (Brunswick, Me.)
- First Parish Church (Brunswick, Me.)
- Mead, Asa, 1792-1831

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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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Bibliography

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*The First Parish and the First Parish Church (United Church of Christ) Brunswick, Maine.* Brunswick: 1967. 17.11.1 B83.63 FIRP

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Parish records, 1735-1822	
<u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b>	
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> . Transcriptions for this volume are also available and may be viewed alongside the digital images.	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
This volume contains the early administrative records of the parish. These records are copies of originals which were collected and expanded upon at a later unknown date. The volume also contains historical information about the early church.	
Church records, 1760-1794	
<u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b>	
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> .	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
This folder contains church records including baptismal records, records of admissions, records of deaths, a letter of reconciliation, and a historical sketch.	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	

## Separated Materials

These materials were separated from the Church book, 1762-1794 for preservation purposes.

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Church book, 1762-1794

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 administrative records and valuable membership records. Within the volume are meeting minutes, records of votes, and membership lists.

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Constitution change, circa 1770

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 a record related to the 1770 decision that resulted in the Presbyterian branch of the First Parish Church to conform to Congregational polity.

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Church records, 1793, 1810-1822

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 the administrative records of the church and the vital records of members. The volume includes meeting minutes, copies of the church covenant, baptismal records, marriages records, membership lists, and records of deaths.

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Church records, 1806-1829

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 folder contains records related to the operation of church programs, membership records, and ministerial records. The folder contains a letter of dismissal, ministerial correspondence, disciplinary testimony, records of the establishment of a Sunday school and church library, the relation of Joshua Edwards, and an address delivered by Jesse Appleton, the second president of Bowdoin College.

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Baptist Society formation, 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 a record which documents the early history of the formation of the Baptist Society in Brunswick and the gathering of the First Baptist Church.

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Historical summaries, 1810-1814

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 folder contains some historical sketches which relate to the early history of the First Parish Church and the formation of the Maquoit Baptist Church.

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Asa Mead records, 1822-1827

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 documents related to the call, ordination, and pastorate of Asa Mead. Included in the records are salary receipts, correspondence, and transfer letters.