Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911. RG5193

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English
DACS2 - 2013
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Summary Information

Repository: Congregational Library & Archives
Creator: First Congregational Church (Hopkinton, Mass.)
Title: Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911.
ID: RG5193
Date [inclusive]: 1722-1911
Physical Description: .88 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The First Congregational Church in Hopkinton was organized in 1724, shortly after the establishment of the town of Hopkinton by Harvard College, who had purchased the land from a local community of "praying Indians". Five versions of the meeting house have existed, two of which were destroyed, first by fire in 1882 and then by a hurricane in 1939. In September 2011 the name of the church was officially changed to Faith Community Church. This collection includes the earliest records of the church, including meeting minutes, financial reports, listings of marriages, baptisms, deaths, and dismissions, and relations of faith.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Hopkinton, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1722-1911, RG5193. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

Historical Note

The area that now comprises the towns of Hopkinton and Ashland was once known as Magwonkkommok (or Magunco), and consisted of 51 families of "praying Indians", Christianized Native residents probably drawn from the Massachusett and Nipmuc tribes indigenous to the area. This community was the seventh such "praying town" established by the English Puritan missionary Rev. John Eliot. Harvard College subsequently purchased the land from the Native residents in 1715,
renaming it Hopkinton after Edward Hopkins, a major benefactor of the college. Harvard then proceeded to lease the land for 3 cents per acre.

On May 21, 1723, the town voted "to have preaching constantly on the Sabbath." A church, initially composed of 15 members, was organized in September of 1724. They simultaneously ordained the Rev. Samuel Barrett, a graduate of Harvard, as their first minister. A simple two-story meeting house, measuring 48x38, was constructed in 1725. In 1731 the church voted to observe the Cambridge Platform of Church Discipline, adopting a congregational form of governance.

Rev. Barrett remained as pastor until his death in 1772, at which time his colleague Rev. Elijah Fitch took over the ministry until his own death in 1788. In 1791 the Rev. Nathaniel Howe was ordained, although as a condition of his ordination he specified that he would not personally admit members to the church under the Half-Way covenant. He preached a famous "Century Sermon" in 1815 to commemorate the centenary of the town, which was subsequently published worldwide.

The parish was officially incorporated in 1827, the town having managed the church before that time. The parish committee quickly voted to build a new meeting house, and the first building was sold and moved off-site. The second meeting house was finished and dedicated in January of 1830, measuring 50x62 feet, with a seating capacity of 600 in the main auditorium. It also included a steeple and bell. An organ was installed at a cost of $600 in 1847. This second church was extensively remodeled and enlarged in 1859, when Hopkinton's population grew to 4,500 as a result of the town's success as a center of boot and shoe manufacturing. The organ and bell were also replaced with larger versions, and a parsonage was purchased in 1870 at a cost of $3,500.

In 1882, a fire swept through Hopkinton, destroying the second meeting house, along with the town hall, post office, a hotel, and a shoe factory. Funds were quickly raised for the construction of a new and third meeting house, costing a total of $31,000, which was dedicated in May of the following year. This building was also the victim of a cataclysmic event, when the hurricane of September 21, 1938 toppled the steeple and effectively destroyed the entire church. Consequently, a fourth iteration of the meeting house was built in 1939. The large former bell, salvaged from the third meeting house, was installed in the new church and was rung at its dedication.

The church eventually affiliated with the United Church of Christ, but voted to leave on October 2, 1994 due to theological differences. In 1997, the current church building was constructed in order to accommodate expanding membership. In September 2011 the name of the church was officially changed to Faith Community Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes the earliest records of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, Mass. Primarily these include church meeting minutes, financial reports, and listings of marriages, baptisms,
deaths, and dismissions, and relations of faith by members seeking admission to the church. There is also a legal contract for the construction of a new meeting house in 1829.

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Arrangement

Materials have been arranged in chronological order by start date. Within the relations file, individual records have been listed in alphabetical order by surname.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
info@14beacon.org
URL: http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org

Restrictions on Access

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Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for "Request for reconciliation, 1747".

All other materials were temporarily deposited for digitization with the Congregational Library & Archives by Faith Community Church in Hopkinton, MA in June 2014; 2014-42.

Location of Originals

The physical records are held and maintained by the Faith Community Church in Hopkinton, Mass., with the exception of the "Request for reconciliation, 1747" which is housed at the Congregational Library and Archives.

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


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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Covenants (Church polity).
- Installation (clergy).
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- First Congregational Church (Hopkinton, Mass.)
- Hopkinton (Mass.) -- 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.

Bibliography


Nylen, Edwin B. *The Dedication Services of the First Congregational Church Hopkinton, Massachusetts.* Hopkinton, 1940. 17.11.1 H 77.67 F

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tr>
<td>Church records, 1722-1874</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 primarily comprised of a year-by-year history of the town from 1708 until 1859. Events noted
in each year include a list of town citizens prior to 1730, petitions, the activities of notable residents, genealogical information, deaths, appointments to the church, the church's finances, and major church or town events. There are unusually detailed descriptions of several slaves in the town of Hopkinton, including mention of their children and other life circumstances. Other material includes newspaper clippings, some of it detailing Brigham Young's journey to Utah, and some loose correspondence.

**Church records, 1724-1864**

**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 includes births, marriage, deaths, admissions, baptisms, meeting minutes, records of complaints, a discussion of the original settlers of the town, and an index at the back.

**Church records, 1724-1911**

**Digital Copies:**

*These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online.*

**Digital Copies**

Materials in this volume include a copy of the church covenant, births, marriages, baptisms, deaths, admissions, dismissions, church meeting minutes, correspondence, and the selection and installation of pastors.

**Request for reconciliation, 1747**

**Scope and Contents**

This single document is a petition by six signatories requesting reconciliation with disaffected members of the church. The dispute arose over differences of opinion regarding the administration of the Lord's Supper (Communion). The document is dated May 4, 1747.

**Church records, 1791-1838**

**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 comprised of a copy of the church covenant, confessions of faith, church meeting minutes, admissions, baptisms, dismissions, marriages, deaths, excommunications, and ministers' ordinations. There is a table of contents at the front of the volume.

Relations, 1799-1830

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Benjamin</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowker, Charlotte</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowker, Patience</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briggs, Betsy</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briggs, John</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnam, Josiah</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnam, Ruth</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody, Abigail</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody, John</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody, Sally</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cozzens, Ruth</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crook, Sally</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>dated 1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davids, Polly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dench, Anna
relation, undated

Eames, Anna
relation, dated 1803

Eames, Patty
relation, dated 1819

Ellis, Irene
relation, undated

Ellis, Julia
relation, undated

Fisk, Abel
relation, undated

Fitch, Emily
relation, undated

Flagg, Azubah
relation, dated 1821

Freeland, Catharine
relation, dated 1823

Freeland, Nancy
relation, undated

Gibson, John
relation, dated 1830

Gibson, Margery
relation, dated 1799

Greenwood, Miriam
relation, undated

Haven, Azenath
relation, dated 1829

Haven, Elisha
relation, dated 1821

Haven, Martha
relation, undated

Hayden, William
relation, dated 1810

How, Betsy
relation, dated 1802

Howe, Eliza
relation, undated

Johnson, Adeline
relation, undated

Jones, Martha
relation, dated 1820

Littlefield, Elisabeth
relation, undated

Lovering, Hilley
relation, dated 1811

Lovering, Lydia
relation, undated

Loving, Mary
relation, undated

Loving, Nathaniel
relation, dated 1803

Morse, Elisha (w/ Patty)
relation, undated

Morse, Patty (w/ Elisha)
relation, undated
Morse, Winthrop
  relation, dated 1811
Phipps, Sarah
  relation, dated 1812
Pike, Sally
  relation, dated 1812
Pond, Benjamin
  relation, undated
Pond, Polly
  relation, dated 1829
Pool, Abigail
  relation, dated 1821
Prentiss, Mary
  relation, dated 1821
Proctor, Benjamin
  relation, undated
Reed, Emily
  relation, undated
Richards, Betsey
  relation, dated 1827
Richards, Nancy
  relation, dated 1811
Thompson, Charity
  relation, dated 1819
Walker, Elizabeth
  relation, dated 1821
Walker, Samuel
  relation, undated
Wark, Emma
  relation, dated 1823
Wheton, Ruth
  relation, dated 1796

Church records, 1827-1858

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 includes correspondence, church meeting minutes, financial records, pew appraisal records, and by-laws of the parish.

Church building contract, 1829

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 3-page document comprises a legal contract from the Hopkinton parish to build a meetinghouse for the church. It is dated March 14, 1829.

Church records, 1838-1880

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

Material in this volume includes ecclesiastical council notes, pastor installations, church meeting minutes, committee meeting notes, officer lists, monthly and annual church conference minutes, committee reports, a church manual with the confession of faith revised in 1856, resolutions on the topic of temperance, correspondence, financial records, and disciplinary case records.