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Mattapoisett, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1736-1984. RG4840

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	First Congregational Church (Mattapoisett, Mass.)
Creator:	Second Church (Rochester, Mass.)
Title:	Mattapoisett, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1736-1984.
ID:	RG4840
Date [inclusive]:	1736-1984
Physical Description:	0.68 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 3 reels)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The church was gathered in July of 1736 as Second Church in Rochester, Massachusetts, and didn't become Mattapoisett Congregational Church until 1860 after the town of Mattapoisett was incorporated. The early years of the church were marked by much contention, most notably regarding pastoral appointments and policies on singing. The collection contains records relating to membership, vital statistics, ecclesiastical councils, meeting minutes, and financial records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Mattapoisett, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1736-1984, RG4840. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

Mattapoisett was gathered as the Second Precinct of Rochester by an act of the Massachusetts General Court in June 1736, though the village did not become a separate town until 1857. The first meetinghouse was constructed in 1737. The early years were contentious, as congregants disagreed over everything from who to accept as their pastor to the propriety of singing "by rule" (using hymnals that include musical notation) and instrumental accompaniment.

The original building was lost in the "great gale" of 1815. The congregation met at the town's schoolhouse for a time until its new building was constructed. Due to a strong revival movement, they soon outgrew this building, and moved to yet another new structure in 1842. In 1836, the first "Sabbath School" at the church was opened. After the town was incorporated, the church officially became the First Precinct in Mattapoisett in 1860, and later simply Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Additional work and expansions to the church and its facilities were completed in the 1950s and 1970s. In 1974, the church acquired a carillon which plays church hymns every day at noon and 6:00pm.

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, continues to serve the community today.

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Scope and Contents

These ledgers contain records relating to the administration of the church and the daily lives of its members. Included within the materials are records pertaining to membership, baptisms, marriages, death, church meetings and ecclesiastical councils, and the administrative and financial records of the church.

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Arrangement

Materials in this collection have been arranged by chronological, by start date, and by topic.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Zachary Bodnar: Minor revision to the description of microfilm records, minor change to the arrangement, changed the date range in the collection title, added Haverhill to the collection title, minor adjustments made to notes. July 17, 2019

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.

Digital Reproductions are protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use the Digital Reproductions in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. In addition, no permission is required from the Congregational Library & Archives for educational uses. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the Congregational Library & Archives. For additional information regarding copyright, please consult the Congregational Library & Archives' [Digital Collections Copyright & Use](#) policy.

Acquisition Information

Materials were permanently loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, September 2007, by the Mattapoissett Congregational Church.

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

Redescribed by Sari Mauro, September 2013, using DACS Second Edition. Additional processing by Zachary Bodnar, August 2018, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church music -- Congregational Church.
- Church records and registers -- Massachusetts -- Mattapoissett.
- Church records and registers -- Massachusetts -- Rochester.
- Marriage records.
- Music in churches.
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- First Congregational Church (Mattapoissett, Mass.)
- Mattapoissett (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Rochester (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Second Church (Rochester, Mass.)

Technical Requirements

A microfilm reader is required in order to access microform materials. One microfilm reader is available to the public upon request.

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

Leonard, Mary Hall. *Mattapoissett and Old Rochester, Massachusetts : being a history of these towns and also in part of Marion and a portion of Wareham*. New York: The Grafton press, 1907. T M43.25

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
<p>Book of Records for Mattapoissett Precinct, 1736-1886</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u> Digital Copies</p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online.</p>	box 1	volume 1
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>This volume contains the administrative and financial records of the church. Since the precinct of Mattapoissett was formed more than a century before it was incorporated as a distinct town (in 1857), the records do refer to the church as Rochester Second.</p>		
<p>Microfilm records, 1736-1886, 2008</p> <p><u>Restrictions on Access:</u> Restrictions on Access</p> <p>A microfilm reader is required in order to access microform materials. One microfilm reader is available to the public upon request.</p>	reel Service Copy	
	reel Archival Master	
	reel Print Master	
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>This microfilm contains photographic copies of the Book of Records for Mattapoissett Precinct, 1736-1886 and The Church Book, 1736-1855, which are both a part of this collection.</p>		
Records of the First Precinct in Mattapoissett, 1887-1984	box 1	volume 2
<p>The Church Book, 1736-1855, 1907</p> <p><u>Location of Originals:</u> Location of Originals</p> <p>This volume is an early twentieth-century photographic reproduction of the original volume using color copies of the original pages. During this process, the original was disbound. It is unknown if the original survives today.</p>	box 2	volume 1
<p><u>Digital Copies:</u> Digital Copies</p> <p>These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online.</p>		

Scope and Contents

These records contain primarily membership records, including admissions, dismissions, baptisms, and marriages. It also has minutes of church meetings and ecclesiastical councils, particularly when the topics discussed pertain to the conduct of church members.

Church records, 1858-1894	box 2	volume 2
Church records, 1894-1923	box 2	volume 3
