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Middleboro, Mass. First Church of Middleboro records, 1702-1925. RG4970

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

info@14beacon.org

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Conant, Sylvanus, 1720-1777
Creator:	First Congregational Church (Middleboro, Mass.)
Creator:	Thatcher, Peter, Jr., 1688-1744
Title:	Middleboro, Mass. First Church of Middleboro records, 1702-1925.
ID:	RG4970
Date [inclusive]:	1702-1925
Physical Description:	2.22 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 reels)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The First Congregational Church of Middleboro was first organized on December 26, 1694 and Samuel Fuller was ordained as the first minister. The First meeting house had been constructed previously in 1680 and the second was constructed in 1701. Ecclesiastical differences between competing factions resulted in the congregation splitting and the third meeting house being constructed in 1745. The congregation remerged in 1754. The fourth and present meeting house was built in 1828. The congregation continues to serve the Middleboro community today. The collection contains valuable membership records along with administrative records, financial records, manuscript sermons, and print materials.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Middleboro, Mass. First Church of Middleboro records, 1702-1925, RG4970. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The area of Middleborough was first settled by English colonizers from the Plymouth Colony in March 1662 after the purchase of land from the Native American sachem, Wampatuck. The settlement was

destroyed in 1675 during the King Phillips War. It was resettled in 1679. Among the new group of settlers was Samuel Fuller, son of Dr. Samuel Fuller of the Mayflower, who acted as minister for the new settlement. The first meetinghouse was constructed in 1680. The First Congregational Church in Middleboro, also referred to as the First Church of Christ, was organized on December 26, 1694 (O.S.) and Fuller was ordained the same day. Fuller died the following summer.

The second meetinghouse was constructed in 1701 and the First was auctioned off shortly after. Rev. Peter Thacher oversaw a revival movement during his ministry which ended with his death in 1744. Following his death, ecclesiastical differences between the "standing party" and the "revival men" resulted in a split in the congregation. The "standing party" maintained the majority of the congregation and the second meetinghouse. This group called Rev. Thomas Weld to be their pastor. The "revival men" built a third meetinghouse in 1745 and called Sylvanus Conant as their pastor. In 1746, George Whitefield preached from the third meetinghouse and tradition holds that the building was so crowded that Whitefield could only leave by climbing out a window behind the pulpit. The church reunified in 1749 after the dismissal of Weld.

The fourth, and current, meeting house was built in 1828 and designed by the architect, James Sproat. Sproat had joined the church in 1816 and he later became a deacon in 1833. The building was dedicated in 1829 and the dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Lyman Beecher. The church largely saw growth during the nineteenth-century.

After the General Council of Congregational Churches voted to merge with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ in 1957, the First Congregational Church in Middleboro decided to instead join the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The first half of the twentieth-century also saw declining church membership. Membership grew after the ordination of Manfred Kohl in 1969. In 1993, the church also joined the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. The church continues to serve the Middleboro community today.

Ministers	
Samuel Fuller	1694-1695
Thomas Palmer	1702-1708
Peter Thatcher, Jr.	1709-1744
Sylvanus Conant	1745-1777
Thomas Weld	1745-1749
Elijah Packard	1753-1754
Joseph Barker	1781-1815
Emerson Paine	1816-1822

William Eaton	1824-1835
Israel W. Putnam	1835-1865
Rufus M. Sawyer	1866-1869
Ephraim N. Hidden	1869-1874
Theophilus P. Swain	1875-1878
Nathan T. Dyer	1878-1885
Howard A. Hannaford	1885-1888
Josiah W. Kingsbury	1889-1891
George W. Stearns	1891-1905
Arthur G. Cummings	1905-1954
James R. Williams	1954-1957
Warren C. Campbell	1957-1958
Albert D.C. McIlroy	1958-1968
Frank H. Oxenford	1968-1969
Manfred W. Kohl	1969-1977
Robert T. Pardon	1977-1984
Robert Olson	1984
Bruce R. Brown	1984-1991
Charles McCrillis	1991-1993
James R. Henry	1993-1997
David White	1997-1999

Peter W. Murdy

1999-present

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Scope and Contents

This collection of records from the First Congregational Church in Middleboro, Massachusetts, documents the administrative history of the church and the religious life of its members. The membership records within the collection are particularly robust and include hundreds of individual's relations, marriage intentions, membership requests and dismissions, and disciplinary records. The collection includes administrative and financial records, including meeting minutes, committee reports, ecclesiastical council results, receipts, and pew records. The collection also includes manuscript sermons, the majority written by Sylvanus Conant, and some print materials related to the history of the church.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into six series, listed below. Except within the membership series, records have been arranged in chronological order, by start date. Within the membership series, records have been grouped by topics, and further divided by either alphabetical or chronological order.

Series 1: Church and parish records, 1702-1895

Series 2: Financial records, 1744-1908

Series 3: Membership records, 1741-1880

Series 4: Ministerial records, 1832-1891

Series 5: Manuscript sermons, 1737-1779

Series 6: Publications, 1759-1925

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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

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

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for the Ecclesiastical council records, 1832, which originally formed the "Middleboro, Mass. First Church ecclesiastical records, 1832, RG0126."

No acquisition information is available for the microfilm surrogates of the 1707-1821 church record book. These microfilm surrogates were likely created in 2009 by the NEDCC. The location of the original ledger is currently unknown. These microfilm surrogates formed the "Middleboro, Mass. First Congregational Church records, 1707-1821, RG4919."

The remaining materials within the collection were placed on permanent loan to the Congregational Library & Archives by the First Church of Middleboro in the summer of 2011; accession 2011-08.

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

Collection processed by Jim McDonald, Middleboro Church historian, Jessica Steytler, and April Johnson in 2011. Collection re-described by Sari Mauro in September 2013 in accordance with DACS 2013. Collection fully reprocessed and merged with RG0126 and RG4919 by Zachary Bodnar, November 2018, using DACS Second Edition. Additional descriptions by Jules Thomson.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church discipline.
- Church finance.
- Church lands.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Church societies.
- Confession.
- Creeds.
- Funeral sermons.
- Marriage records.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Registers of births, etc.
- Sermons, American -- Early works to 1800.
- First Congregational Church (Middleboro, Mass.)
- Middleboro (Mass.) -- Church history.

Technical Requirements

A microfilm reader is required in order to access microfilmed 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

Book of the First Church of Christ, In Middleborough, Plymouth County, Mass. Boston: C. C. P. Moody, 1852. 17.11.1 M58.4 FirCC B 1852

"Our History." First Congregational Church in Middleboro. Accessed December 5, 2018. http://www.fccmiddleboro.org/?page_id=14.

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Collection Inventory

Church and parish records, 1702-1895

Scope and Contents

This series contains the administrative records of the church and parish in Middleboro. The series includes meeting minutes, pew plans and pew deeds, committee reports, ecclesiastical council minutes, records of the parsonage, church correspondence, and other records relating to the operation of the church.

Title/Description	Instances
Church records, 1702-1867	box 1 folder 1
Church record book, 1707-1821, 2009	reel Service Copy
<u>Restrictions on Access:</u> Restrictions on Access	reel Print Master
Only the service copy is available for library use. The print master copies are restricted for preservation purposes.	
<u>Location of Originals:</u> Location of Originals	
The location of the original record book is currently unknown.	

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](#). In addition, transcriptions of this volume can be seen along side the digital images linked to above.

Scope and Contents

This volume contains membership records, including admissions, dismissions, and confessions of faith, as well as records of baptisms, marriages, and a few disciplinary cases. The later pages are primarily devoted to minutes of church meetings, and includes a copy of the church covenant.

Deacon's declaration of duties, 1724	box 1	folder 2
Committee report on division of ministry lands, 1750	box 1	folder 3
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		
Separated Materials		
This item was removed from the Proprietor's book, 1744-1816, for preservation purposes.		
Church communications, 1770-1853	box 1	folder 4
Robinson Society communications and complaints, 1823-1837	box 1	folder 5
Robinson Society membership certificates, 1832	box 1	folder 6
Committee reports, 1825-1854	box 1	folder 7
Pew plans and releases, circa 1828	folder 6	
Pew deeds, 1829-1881	box 1	folder 8
Pew releases, 1829-1834	box 1	folder 9
Parsonage records, 1831	box 1	folder 10
Ecclesiastical council records, 1832	box 1	folder 11
Ecclesiastical council proceedings, 1834	box 1	folder 12
Prayer meeting reports, 1836-1837	box 1	folder 13
Parish records, 1837-1895	box 1	folder 14
Area council meetings, 1840-1851	box 1	folder 15
Church "Doings" record book, 1866-1873	box 1	volume 2
Church records inventory, 1866	box 1	volume 3

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Financial records, 1744-1908

Physical Description: 14 Files (1 volume, 13 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the financial records of the church and parish. The bulk of the series are nineteenth-century receipts that cover a wide range of payments and services rendered. The series also contains records related to the management of the church building, pew payments, charity contributions, and membership subscriptions.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Proprietor's book, 1744-1816	box 1	volume 1
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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 two distinct sections starting at either cover. The front of the volume contains the administrative and financial records for the precinct. The reverse of the volume contains the treasurers' records of pew fees and other payments.

Parish assessment and subscriptions, 1824-1866	box 1	folder 16
Parish financial records, 1824-1888	box 1	folder 17
Financial records, 1829-1871	box 1	folder 18
Receipts, 1830s	box 1	folder 19-21
Stockholders notice, 1831	box 1	folder 22
Ecclesiastical council bills, 1832	box 1	folder 23
Receipts, 1840s	box 1	folder 24
Receipts, 1850s	box 1	folder 25
Receipts, 1860s	box 1	folder 26
Receipts, 1868-1908	box 1	folder 27
Receipts, 1870s	box 1	folder 28
Charity receipts, 1876	box 1	folder 29
Receipts, 1880-1900	box 1	folder 30

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Membership records, 1741-1880

Physical Description: 34 Folders

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

Many of the membership records found within this series have been digitized and made available online as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. An alphabetical index of these [Relations and Personal records](#) may be searched for easy digital access. In addition, transcriptions of the majority of these records can be seen along side the digital images.

Scope and Contents

This series contains the church's membership records, which are largely composed of relations. Relations are written accounts of individuals' religious experience, often required in the process of applying for full membership. Many of the relations in this series are written in the congregants' own handwriting. The relations also includes related membership records, such as letters of transfer to and from other churches, requests for baptism, and confessions of sins written in order to return to the good graces of the church. In addition to relations, this series contains marriage intentions, which were recorded by the town clerk prior to marriage, membership requests, letters of dismission, disciplinary records, including testimony, and membership certificates to various religious societies.

Title/Description	Instances		
Membership: A, 1743-1853 <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 Items	box 2	folder 1	
Alden, Elihu, 1794, 1800	box 2	folder 1	Item 1-2
Alden, Elijah, 1794	box 2	folder 1	Item 3
Alden, Mary, 1794	box 2	folder 1	Item 4
Alden, Noah, 1743	box 2	folder 1	Item 5
Anthony, Alice, 1783	box 2	folder 1	Item 6
Atwood, Joanna, 1840	box 2	folder 1	Item 7
Atwood, John, 1808	box 2	folder 1	Item 8
Atwood, Mary, 1838	box 2	folder 1	Item 9
Atwood, Rhoda, 1808	box 2	folder 1	Item 10
Atwood, Sarah Alden, 1853	box 2	folder 1	Item 11
Membership: B, 1747-1864 <u>Physical Description</u> : 45 Items	box 2	folder 2	
Barker, Anna, 1810	box 2	folder 2	Item 1
Barker, Elizabeth, 1814	box 2	folder 2	Item 2
Barker, Eunice, 1785	box 2	folder 2	Item 3
Baker, William, 1808	box 2	folder 2	Item 4
Barrows, Freeman, 1831	box 2	folder 2	Item 5
Bates, Joseph, 1807	box 2	folder 2	Item 6

Bates, Susanna, 1807	box 2	folder 2	Item 7
Bennet, Jacob, 1814	box 2	folder 2	Item 8
Bennet, Mercy, 1813	box 2	folder 2	Item 9
Bent, Experience, 1807, 1825	box 2	folder 2	Item 10-11
Billington, Deborah, 1761	box 2	folder 2	Item 12
Billington, Eleanor, 1764	box 2	folder 2	Item 13
Billington, Ichabod, 1762	box 2	folder 2	Item 14
Booth, Priscilla, 1747	box 2	folder 2	Item 15
Bosworth, Mr., 1826	box 2	folder 2	Item 16
Bourne, Abigail, 1784, 1810	box 2	folder 2	Item 17-18
Bourne, Abner, 1782, 1800, 1806	box 2	folder 2	Item 19-21
Bourne, Joseph, 1813	box 2	folder 2	Item 22
Bourne, Lydia, 1791, 1808	box 2	folder 2	Item 23-24
Bourne, Mary, 1783	box 2	folder 2	Item 25
Bourne, Newcomb, 1786	box 2	folder 2	Item 26
Bourne, Sophia, 1813	box 2	folder 2	Item 27
Bradford, DeWitt, 1848-1864	box 2	folder 2	Item 28-29
Bradford, Lydia, 1864	box 2	folder 2	Item 30
Brannack, Consider, 1766	box 2	folder 2	Item 31
Briggs, Ebenezer, 1767, 1785	box 2	folder 2	Item 32-33
Briggs, George, 1807	box 2	folder 2	Item 34
Briggs, John, 1768	box 2	folder 2	Item 35
Briggs, Patience, 1807	box 2	folder 2	Item 36
Brown, Elizabeth, 1782	box 2	folder 2	Item 37
Bryant, Hannah, 1785	box 2	folder 2	Item 38
Bryant, Jesse, 1797	box 2	folder 2	Item 39
Bryant, Margaret, 1776	box 2	folder 2	Item 40
Bryant, Mercy, 1797, 1813, 1851	box 2	folder 2	Item 41-43
Bump, Mercy, 1788	box 2	folder 2	Item 44
Burgess, Temperance, 1814	box 2	folder 2	Item 45
Membership: C, 1747-1863	box 2	folder 3	
Carver, Josiah and Jerusha, 1793	box 2	folder 3	Item 1

Middleboro, Mass. First Church of Middleboro records, 1702-1925. RG4970

Caswell, Benjamin, 1829	box 2	folder 3	Item 2
Caswell, Polly, 1829	box 2	folder 3	Item 3
Clarke, Zilpha, 1842	box 2	folder 3	Item 4
Coade, Hannah, 1813	box 2	folder 3	Item 5-6
Cobb, Abijah, 1765	box 2	folder 3	Item 7
Cobb, Azubah, 1800	box 2	folder 3	Item 8
Cobb, Binney, 1800	box 2	folder 3	Item 9
Cobb, Ebenezer, 1795	box 2	folder 3	Item 10
Cobb, Lydia, 1795	box 2	folder 3	Item 10
Cobb, Jacob, 1807, 1825	box 2	folder 3	Item 11-12
Cobb, Olive, 1829	box 2	folder 3	Item 13
Cobb, Polly, 1807	box 2	folder 3	Item 14
Cobb, Priscilla, 1809	box 2	folder 3	Item 15
Cole, Thomas, 1747	box 2	folder 3	Item 16-17
Colwell, Mary Ann, 1840	box 2	folder 3	Item 18
Cornish, Charles F., 1858	box 2	folder 3	Item 19
Cornish, Louisa, 1851	box 2	folder 3	Item 20
Cornish, Mary L., 1858	box 2	folder 3	Item 21
Cornish, William, 1787	box 2	folder 3	Item 22
Cushman, Adoniram, 1842	box 2	folder 3	Item 23
Cushman, Ann, 1842	box 2	folder 3	Item 24
Cushman, Deborah, 1760	box 2	folder 3	Item 25
Cushman, Lucy Ann, 1863	box 2	folder 3	Item 26
Cushman, Mercy, 1783	box 2	folder 3	Item 27
Cushman, Priscilla, 1763	box 2	folder 3	Item 28
Cushman, Susan H., 1863	box 2	folder 3	Item 29
Cushman, Sylvia, 1808	box 2	folder 3	Item 30
Membership: D, 1794-1859	box 2	folder 4	
Darling, Daniel, 1808	box 2	folder 4	Item 1
Darling, Polly, 1808	box 2	folder 4	Item 2
Dean, Eliab, 1840	box 2	folder 4	Item 3
Dean, Lois, 1840	box 2	folder 4	Item 4

Dean, Lydia, 1840	box 2	folder 4	Item 5
Deane, Nancy, 1859	box 2	folder 4	Item 6
Deane, Ruth, 1848	box 2	folder 4	Item 7
Doane, Calvin, 1843	box 2	folder 4	Item 8
Doty, Isaac, 1794	box 2	folder 4	Item 9
Drews, Atwood, 1829	box 2	folder 3	Item 2
Dunham, Henry, 1840	box 2	folder 4	Item 10
Membership: E, 1765-1841	box 2	folder 5	
Eddy, Anna, 1811	box 2	folder 5	Item 1
Eddy, Anne E., 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 2
Eddy, Betsey, 1831	box 2	folder 5	Item 3
Eddy, Betsey M., 1831	box 2	folder 5	Item 4
Eddy, Charlotte, 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 5
Eddy, Eliza, 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 6
Eddy, Jane Ellen, 1838	box 2	folder 5	Item 7
Eddy, Jerusha, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 8
Eddy, Joshua, 1797	box 2	folder 5	Item 9
Eddy, Joshua, 1837	box 2	folder 5	Item 10
Eddy, Lucy Ann, 1841	box 2	folder 5	Item 11
Eddy, Lydia, 1797	box 2	folder 5	Item 12
Eddy, Lydia, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 13
Eddy, Lydia M., 1829	box 2	folder 5	Item 14
Eddy, Mary Jane, 1841	box 2	folder 5	Item 15
Eddy, Nathan, 1765	box 2	folder 5	Item 16
Eddy, Nathaniel, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 17
Eddy, Sally, 1808	box 2	folder 5	Item 18
Eddy, Seth, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 19
Eddy, Susanna, 1777	box 2	folder 5	Item 20
Eddy, Susanna, 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 21
Eddy, Sylvanus, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 22
Eddy, Zachariah, 1808	box 2	folder 5	Item 23
Ellis, Deborah, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 24

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Ellis, Lucia, 1794	box 2	folder 5	Item 25
Ellis, Lucia, 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 26
Ellis, Southworth, 1807	box 2	folder 5	Item 27
Ellis, Susanna M., 1840	box 2	folder 5	Item 28
Membership: F, 1792-1861	box 2	folder 6	
Finney, Margaret, 1806	box 2	folder 6	Item 1
Finney, Martha, 1792	box 2	folder 6	Item 2
Foley, James, 1844	box 2	folder 6	Item 3
Freeman, Harriet, 1861	box 2	folder 6	Item 4
Freeman, Jane, 1840	box 2	folder 6	Item 5
Freeman, John, 1807, 1846	box 2	folder 6	Item 6-8
Freeman, Virtue, 1851	box 2	folder 6	Item 9
Fuller, Betty, 1801	box 2	folder 6	Item 10
Fuller, Consider, 1850	box 2	folder 6	Item 11
Fuller, Lucy, 1807, 1839	box 2	folder 6	Item 12-13
Fuller, Sally, 1807	box 2	folder 6	Item 14
Fuller, Sophia, 1807	box 2	folder 6	Item 15
Membership: G, 1813-1859	box 2	folder 7	
Gisby, Deborah, 1859	box 2	folder 7	Item 1
Gisby, Olive Elmes, 1857	box 2	folder 7	Item 2-3
Gisby, William, 1813	box 2	folder 7	Item 4
Membership: H, 1788-1840	box 2	folder 8	
Harlow, Betsey, 1840	box 2	folder 8	Item 1
Harlow, Betsy, 1796	box 2	folder 8	Item 2
Harlow, Hepzibah, 1813	box 2	folder 8	Item 3
Harlow, Jonathan, 1840	box 2	folder 8	Item 4
Harlow, Mercy, 1813	box 2	folder 8	Item 5
Harlow, Sarah, 1840	box 2	folder 8	Item 6
Harlow, Steven Jr., 1840	box 2	folder 8	Item 7
Harrington, Lucy, 1838	box 2	folder 8	Item 8
Haskell, Abigail, 1788	box 2	folder 8	Item 9
Haskell, Zebulon, 1789	box 2	folder 8	Item 10

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Haskins, Jerusha, 1840	box 2	folder 8	Item 11
Hill, Harriet, 1837	box 2	folder 8	Item 12
Holmes, Thankful, 1794	box 2	folder 8	Item 13
Hubbard, Serena, 1808	box 2	folder 8	Item 14
Membership: K, 1807-1831	box 2	folder 9	
Kidder, Sally, 1807	box 2	folder 9	Item 1
King, Mercy, 1814	box 2	folder 9	Item 2
King, Nathan, 1831	box 2	folder 9	Item 3
Membership: L, 1763-1851	box 2	folder 10	
Lawrence, Sarah, 1840	box 2	folder 10	Item 1
Leach, Betsey, 1850	box 2	folder 10	Item 2
Leach, Betty, 1763	box 2	folder 10	Item 3
Leach, John, 1763, 1792	box 2	folder 10	Item 4-5
Leach, Phebe, 1765	box 2	folder 10	Item 6
Leach, Susannah, 1807	box 2	folder 10	Item 7
Leonard, Betsey, 1807	box 2	folder 10	Item 8
Leonard, John, 1772	box 2	folder 10	Item 9
Leonard, Lucy, 1789	box 2	folder 10	Item 10
Leonard, Sally, 1837	box 2	folder 10	Item 11
Ling, Jane, 1806	box 2	folder 10	Item 12
Littlejohn, Elizabeth, 1851	box 2	folder 10	Item 13
Lovell, Jerusha, 1810	box 2	folder 10	Item 14
Lovell, Joseph, 1773	box 2	folder 10	Item 15-18
Lucas, Elijah, 1789, 1804	box 2	folder 10	Item 19-20
Lucas, Sarah, 1789	box 2	folder 10	Item 21
Lyon, Mary, 1787	box 2	folder 10	Item 22
Lyons, Jediah, 1786	box 2	folder 10	Item 23
Membership: M, 1760-1853	box 2	folder 11	
McFarland (Barrows), Ruth, 1782	box 2	folder 11	Item 1-2
Meglathlin, Freeman, 1853	box 2	folder 11	Item 3
Meglathlin, Harriet, 1853	box 2	folder 11	Item 4
Miller, Sarah, 1782	box 2	folder 11	Item 5

Middleboro, Mass. First Church of Middleboro records, 1702-1925. RG4970

Miller, Susanna, 1824	box 2	folder 11	Item 6
Morse, Charles, 1850	box 2	folder 11	Item 7
Morse, Desire, 1761	box 2	folder 11	Item 8
Morse, Desire, 1795	box 2	folder 11	Item 9
Morse, Isaac, 1782	box 2	folder 11	Item 10
Morse, Marston, 1842	box 2	folder 11	Item 11-12
Morse, Mary Maria, 1853	box 2	folder 11	Item 13
Morse, Sage, 1807	box 2	folder 11	Item 14
Morse, Thankful, 1784	box 2	folder 11	Item 15
Morton, Daniel, 1807	box 2	folder 11	Item 16
Morton, Eliza, 1829	box 2	folder 11	Item 17
Morton, Hepzibah, 1812	box 2	folder 11	Item 18
Morton, Ichabod, 1760	box 2	folder 11	Item 19
Morton, Lendall, 1840	box 2	folder 11	Item 20
Muxham, Edmund, 1773	box 2	folder 11	Item 21
Membership: N-O, 1771-1859	box 2	folder 12	
Nichols, Marie Lucia, 1840	box 2	folder 12	Item 1
Norcull, Mary, 1794	box 2	folder 12	Item 2
Norcutt, Mary, 1829	box 2	folder 12	Item 3
Oliver, Peter Jr., 1771	box 2	folder 12	Item 4
Oliver, Sarah, 1771	box 2	folder 12	Item 5
Orcutt, Harriet, 1840	box 2	folder 12	Item 6
Orrington, Mary Ann, 1838	box 2	folder 12	Item 7
Osgood, Julia H., 1859	box 2	folder 12	Item 8
Membership: P, 1757-1863	box 2	folder 13	
Paddock, Lydia, 1807	box 2	folder 13	Item 1
Penniman, Virtue M., 1863	box 2	folder 13	Item 2
Perkins, Eunice, 1842	box 2	folder 13	Item 3
Perkins, John, 1815	box 2	folder 13	Item 4
Perkins, Lothrop, 1809	box 2	folder 13	Item 5
Perkins, Mercy, 1809	box 2	folder 13	Item 6
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Orrin S. Pratt and Thalia E. McAllister, 1847	box 2	folder 25	Item 32
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Levi Reed and Joanna W. Harlow, 1838	box 2	folder 25	Item 42

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Ebenezer D. Shaw and Nancy E. Bisbie, 1848	box 2	folder 26	Item 8
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John A. Shaw and Sophia A. Tinkham, 1841	box 2	folder 26	Item 14
Luther Shaw and Abigail Cobb, 1849	box 2	folder 26	Item 15-16
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Lothrop Shurtleff and Elizabeth H. Whittemore, 1843	box 2	folder 26	Item 18
Nathaniel Shurtleff 4th and Susannah Thomas, 1840	box 2	folder 26	Item 19
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Reuben R. Simmons and Jane Morton, 1838	box 2	folder 26	Item 22
George Sisson and Clarinda A. Macomber, 1848	box 2	folder 26	Item 23
Ira Smith and Nancy D. Paddock, 1837	box 2	folder 26	Item 24-25
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Jerome B. Snow and Naomi L. Reckard, 1846	box 2	folder 26	Item 28-29
Samuel N. Snow and Angeline Dean, 1843	box 2	folder 26	Item 30-31
Thomas Snow and Sally Dilaswell, 1840	box 2	folder 26	Item 32
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Charles Soule and Mary Wilder, 1841	box 2	folder 26	Item 34-35
Jacob Soule and Lydia Thompson, 1837	box 2	folder 26	Item 36-37
John M. Soule and Betsey B. Harlow, 1848	box 2	folder 26	Item 38-39
Jonathan Souler and Abigail R. Hayward, 1839	box 2	folder 26	Item 40
Jacob Sparrow and Lois S. Macomber, 1843	box 2	folder 26	Item 41
Josiah Sparrow and Clarisa H. Howard, 1841	box 2	folder 26	Item 42-43
Ranville T. Sproat and Florantha Thompson, 1838	box 2	folder 26	Item 44
Alfred C. Standish and Sarah A. White, 1849	box 2	folder 26	Item 45

Miles Standish and Sarah C. Thomas, 1847	box 2	folder 26	Item 46
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Benjamin F. Thomas and Judith S. Thomas, 1837	box 2	folder 27	Item 5
Harrison Thomas and Lucy F. Ricard, 1844	box 2	folder 27	Item 6
Ichabod Thomas and Respah M. Thomas, 1849	box 2	folder 27	Item 7
John L. Thomas and Almida E. Gammons, 1845	box 2	folder 27	Item 8-9
Lorenzo Thomas and Martha Atwood, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 10
Lothrop Thomas and Louisa F. Thomas, 1841	box 2	folder 27	Item 11
Nathanial Thomas and Emeline Thomas, 1847	box 2	folder 27	Item 12
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Perez Thomas and Sarah Cobb, 1846	box 2	folder 27	Item 15
Robert M. Thomas and Susan H. Barker, 1845	box 2	folder 27	Item 17
Seneca Thomas and Zilpah B. Shurtleff, 1842	box 2	folder 27	Item 18
Stephen Thomas and Almira Thomas, 1839	box 2	folder 27	Item 19
Winslow Thomas and Mary Thomas, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 20-21
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Francis Thompson and Dorlisea N. Vinica, 1842	box 2	folder 27	Item 23
Ichabod Thompson and Lucy T. Carver, 1842	box 2	folder 27	Item 24-25
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israel W. Thompson and Lydia R. Walker, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 28
Martson Thompson and Harriet G. M. Bump, 1837	box 2	folder 27	Item 29
Reuel Thompson and Sarah T. Wood, 1839	box 2	folder 27	Item 30
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Oliver G. Tinkham and Jane Freeman, 1846	box 2	folder 27	Item 36-37
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Silas Tinkham and Angelina B. Hathaway, 1842	box 2	folder 27	Item 39
Benjamin F. Tripp and Pauline Bryant, 1849	box 2	folder 27	Item 40-41
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Lewis F. Warren and Zilpha M. Clark, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 50
Azel Washburn 2nd and Anne Strawbridge, 1840	box 2	folder 27	Item 51-52
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Henry Weston and Martha W. Eddy, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 54
Thomas Weston and Maria L. Tillson, 1848	box 2	folder 27	Item 55-56
Perry A. Wilbur and Betsey B. Wilder, 1843	box 2	folder 27	Item 57
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Melissa Burgess, 1844	box 2	folder 29	Item 20
John Perkins, 1844	box 2	folder 29	Item 21
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Olivia Hitchcock, 1844	box 2	folder 29	Item 23
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Almira Goddard, 1846	box 2	folder 29	Item 25
George Leach, 1846	box 2	folder 29	Item 26
Ezekiel Goss, 1846	box 2	folder 29	Item 27
Melinda Eddy, 1851	box 2	folder 29	Item 28
Adeline Cobb, 1852	box 2	folder 29	Item 29
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Susan Caswell, 1852	box 2	folder 29	Item 31
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Elmes versus Pratt controversy and testimony, 1826	box 2	folder 32	
Religious society membership certificates, circa 1830-1835	box 2	folder 33	
John Fuller boarding house advertisement, undated	box 2	folder 34	

Separated Materials:**Separated Materials**

This advertisement was removed from the Marriage intentions: D-M folder.

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Ministerial records, 1832-1891

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records pertaining specifically to the ministers of the First Congregational Church in Middleboro. Included in this series are correspondence, receipts, letters related to dismissions, and disciplinary records. Also included are the invitations the church received to the ordinations and dismissions of other area ministers.

Title/Description	Instances	
Reverend William Eaton, 1832-1834	box 2	folder 35
Reverend Rufus M. Sawyer, 1869	box 2	folder 36
Reverend Ephraim N. Hidden , 1870	box 2	folder 37
Reverend Nathan T. Dyer, 1885	box 2	folder 38
Reverend Howard A. Hanaford, 1885-1886	box 2	folder 39
Reverend Josiah W. Kingsbury, 1888-1891	box 2	folder 40
Invitations to installations and ordinations, 1835-1864	box 2	folder 41
Invitations to pastoral dismissions, 1835-1863	box 2	folder 42

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Manuscript sermons, 1737-1779

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains the manuscript sermons of the Reverends Peter Thatcher and Sylvanus Conant. Both ministers were revivalist preachers and Conant was an avowed supporter of American independence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Peter Thatcher sermon, 1737	box 1	folder 31

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

This manuscript sermon was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

Scope and Contents

This single sermon on Acts 2:37, originally delivered by Rev. Peter Thatcher of Middleboro in 1737, was copied and preached subsequently by his great-grandson at the First Church of Middleboro, in February of 1847.

Sylvanus Conant sermons, 1744-1747	box 1	folder 32
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Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

These manuscript sermons 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 significant number of sermons by Rev. Silvanus Conant, delivered between 1744 and 1747. They were preached both at his own church in Middleboro and also in neighboring parishes.

Index of Sermons

Colossians 3:1

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God..."

Psalms 119:2

"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart..."

Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts..."

Leviticus 26:23-24

"And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins..."

Ephesians 2:1

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins..."

Habakkuk 2:4

"...but the just shall live by his faith..."

Matthew 27:51

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent..."

Canticles 8:7

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned..."

Romans 1:17

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith..."

Luke 17:32

"Remember Lot's wife..."

Amos 3:6

"Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?"

Deuteronomy 32:5

"They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation..."

Acts 16:14

"whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul..."

Luke 10:20

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven..."

Matthew 22:4

"All things are ready: come unto the marriage..."

Amos 3:6

"Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?"

Canticles 1:12

"While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof..."

Jeremiah 2:13

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water..."

Ruth 1:16

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I

will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God..."

James 3:17

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy..."

James 1:19

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath..."

Revelations 5:9

"...and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation..."

Canticles 8:7

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned..."

Sylvanus Conant sermons, 1748-1749

box 1

folder 33

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

These manuscript sermons were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

Scope and Contents

This folder continues with Rev. Silvanus Conant's sermons through the years 1748-1749. Most of them appear to have been preached first at Middleboro, and often at other venues subsequently.

Index of Sermons

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour..."

Galatians 5:18

"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law..."

Matthew 27:51

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent..."

Matthew 22:42

"Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David..."

1 Corinthians 2:12

"...that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God..."

2 Corinthians 6:17

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you..."

2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord..."

Psalms 110:7

"He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head..."

Isaiah 26:20

"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast..."

Galatians 5:18

"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law..."

Mark 10:52

"And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way..."

Psalms 103:17

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children..."

2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord..."

Sylvanus Conant sermons, 1770-1776

box 1

folder 34

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

These manuscript sermons were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

Scope and Contents

This folder represents the latest dated sermons preached by Rev. Conant, during the course of the 1770s, until his death from smallpox in 1777.

Index of Sermons

Isaiah 40:15-17

"Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing... All nations before him are as nothing; and

they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity..."

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them..."

Ephesians 6:4

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord..."

1 Peter 1:5

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time..."

Isaiah 45:22

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else..."

Genesis 24:63

"And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming..."

Jeremiah 5:9

"Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

1 Timothy 1:15

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief..."

2 Timothy 2:3

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ..."

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd..."

Ephesians 1:11

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will..."

1 Corinthians 13

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal..."

Sylvanus Conant sermon, 1776

box 1

folder 35

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

This manuscript sermon was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

Scope and Contents

In this single sermon preached in May of 1776, Rev. Conant urges humility among his congregants and discusses how

errant brethren should be dealt with according to Matthew 18:15-18.

Sylvanus Conant sermons, undated

box 1

folder 36

Digital Copies:

Digital Copies

These manuscript sermons 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 Rev. Conan's undated sermons.

Index of Sermons

Romans 5:11

"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement..."

Romans 5:1

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Philip 1:6

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ ..."

Hebrews 2:3

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him..."

Deuteronomy 32:5

"They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation..."

Jeremiah 2:13

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water..."

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Publications, 1759-1925

Physical Description: 11 Items

Scope and Contents

This series contains printed materials published by, and for, the First Congregational Church in Middleboro. The series includes published sermons, printed versions of the covenant and confession of faith, and historical accounts of the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
The Art of War, the Gift of God, 1759 <u>Creator - aut:</u> Conant, Sylvanus, 1720-1777	box 1	folder 37
The Confession of Faith and Church Covenant, 1771	box 1	folder 38
On the Unity of Christ's Church, 1807 <u>Creator - aut:</u> Barker, Joseph, 1751-1815	box 1	folder 39
A Discourse at the Ordination of the Rev. Emerson Paine, 1816 <u>Creator - aut:</u> Williams, Thomas, 1779-1876	box 1	folder 40
The Articles of Faith and Covenant, 1826	box 1	folder 41
An Account of the Great Revival in Middleborough, Mass. A. D. 1741, 1742, 1842	box 1	folder 42
Public worship circular, 1843	box 1	folder 43
Two Discourses on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Author's Ordination, March 15th, 1815, 1865 <u>Creator - aut:</u> Putnam, Israel W. (Israel Warburton), 1786-1868	box 1	folder 44
A Sermon Preached at the Funeral of Rev. Israel Warburton Putnam, D. D., 1868 <u>Creator - aut:</u> Dexter, Henry Martyn, 1821-1890	box 1	folder 45
Ordination and Installation of Nathan T. Dyer, 1878	box 1	folder 46
Will Honor an Historic Church, 1925	box 1	folder 47

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