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Corban Society records, 1811-1860. RG0721

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Corban Society
Title:	Corban Society records, 1811-1860.
ID:	RG0721
Date [inclusive]:	1811-1860
Physical Description:	1.09 Cubic Feet (1 case)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Founded in 1811, the Corban Society was an all-female benevolent society that provided clothing and funds to local theological school students, most notably Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. The birth of this society reflects the growth of charitable institutions in New England between the latter part of the 18th-century and the first part of the 19th-century. During this period, the number of Bible societies, missionary societies, Masonic lodges, orphanages and other charitable organizations in New England grew from approximately 50 to approximately 2000. The Corban Society's membership decreased by 1848 and the financial resources dwindled. Although the records indicate that the organization was disbanded in 1848, there is some correspondence dating to 1850. This collection includes records of the board of directors, the office of secretary, and office of treasurer, printed materials and also correspondence to the Corban Society.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Corban Society records, 1811-1860, RG0721. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical / Historical

Founded in 1811, the Corban Society was an all-female benevolent society that provided clothing and funds to local theological school students, most notably Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. The birth of this society reflects the growth of charitable institutions in New England between the latter part of the 18th-century and the first part of the 19th-century. During this period, the number of Bible societies, missionary societies, Masonic lodges, orphanages and other charitable organizations in New England grew from approximately 50 to approximately 2000. These organizations were significant in women's history, since they allowed women to serve in management and leadership roles that were otherwise not permitted to them. Many of the women in the Corban Society were married to or related to founding members of the Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction of the Poor. In 1831 the Corban Society absorbed the Graham Society, another Boston, Massachusetts women's benevolent group. Despite this growth, however, the Corban Society's membership decreased by 1848 and the financial resources dwindled. Although the records indicate that the organization was disbanded in 1848, there is some correspondence dating to 1850.

The 1811 founding officers were: Mary Bowers, president; Dorcas Homes, vice president; Elizabeth Haskins, secretary; Martha Colhoun, Mary Ingraham, Mary Perry, Susan Huntington, Sarah Parker, Elizabeth Devens, Lucy M. Ingalls and Mary Webb, assistants. The annual meeting was held the last Monday in September of each year.

Officers for 1812, 1815-1818

Mary Bowers	President
Dorcas Homes	Vice President
Elizabeth Haskins	Secretary
Harriet Moore	Treasurer

Officers for 1813-1814

Mary Bowers	President
Martha Calhoun	Vice President
Elizabeth Haskins	Secretary

Harriet Moore	Treasurer
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Officers for 1819

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Elizabeth Haskins	Secretary
Harriet Moore	Treasurer

Officers for 1820

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Charlotte Lane	Secretary
Eliza J. Ruspell	Treasurer

Officers for 1821-1822

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Eliza Clap	Secretary
Eliza J. Rupsell	Treasurer

Officers for 1823-1827

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Eliza Clap	Secretary

Maria Odiorne	Treasurer
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Officers for 1828-1830

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Eliza Clap	Secretary
Sarah Snow	Treasurer

Officers for 1831

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Mrs. David Green	Secretary
Sarah Snow	Treasurer

1832-1833

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Nancy Brown	Secretary
Susan Gore	Treasurer

Officers for 1834-1836

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Nancy Brown	Secretary

Mrs. William A. Scott	Treasurer
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Officers for 1837

Mary Bowers	President
Isabella Homes	Vice President
Nancy Brown	Secretary
Miss Mary Ann Scott	Treasurer

Officers for 1838

Isabella Homes	President
Mrs. John C. Proctor	Vice President
Eudora Nickerson	Secretary
Mrs. Samuel Davis	Treasurer

Officers for 1839

Isabella Homes	President
Mrs. John C. Proctor	Vice President
Eudora Nickerson	Secretary
Mrs. Nancy Brown	Treasurer

Officers for 1840

Isabella Homes	President
Mrs. John C. Proctor	Vice President
Eudora Nickerson	Secretary

Elvira Nickerson	Treasurer
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Officers for 1841

Isabella Homes	President
Mrs. John C. Proctor	Vice President
Eudora Nickerson	Secretary
Mary Proctor	Treasurer

Officers for 1842

Isabella Homes	President
Mrs. John C. Proctor	Vice President
Miss M. Quincy	Secretary
Mary Proctor	Treasurer

Officers for 1843

Mrs. John C. Proctor	President
Mrs. Daniel Safford	Vice President
Sophia Crocker	Secretary
Mary Proctor	Treasurer

Officers for 1844-1848

Mrs. John C. Proctor	President
Mrs. Daniel Safford	Vice President
Mary Proctor	Secretary and Treasurer

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes records of the board of directors, the office of secretary, office of treasurer, printed materials and also correspondence to the Corban Society.

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Arrangement

This collection is separated into three series and three subseries. Each one is further arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Board of Directors, 1811-1850

Subseries 1: Office of the Secretary, 1811-1842

Subseries 2: History of the Corban Society, 1811-1849

Subseries 3: Office of the Treasurer, 1811-1850

Series 2: Printed Material, 1811, 1860

Series 3: Correspondence to the Corban Society, 1830-1850

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection has no accession number and its source of acquisition is unknown.

Processing Information

Collection was originally processed in 1995 and was updated for ArchivesSpace by William McCarthy in December 2017.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Associations, institutions, etc.
- Corban Society

Bibliography

Wright, Conrad Edick. *Transformation of Charity in Postrevolutionary New England*. (Boston, Mass.: Northeastern University Press, 1992), p.5.

Dexter, Franklin Bowditch. *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*. Volume 4, September 1805-September 1815. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1912.

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Collection Inventory

Board of Directors, 1811-1850

Physical Description: 22 Cubic Feet (13 folders, 9 volumes)

Scope and Contents

Series I consists of materials generated by the Board of Directors. This includes director meeting minutes, constitution, membership list, secretary notes and treasurer notes.

Office of the Secretary, 1811-1842

Physical Description: 3 Items (1 folder, 2 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains material from the Office of the Secretary, including a notebook and accounts book.

Title/Description	Instances	
Corban Society Secretary's Book, 1811-1824	box 1	volume 5
Meeting Notes, 1842 September 26	box 1	folder 1
Order of Accounts kept in Corban Society Secretary's Book, undated	box 1	volume 4

History of the Corban Society, 1811-1849

Physical Description: 3 Volumes

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes material that documents the history of the Society and includes the Board of Directors minutes from 1811-1848 and the Corban Society raison d'être, constitution, original membership list, minutes of meetings and reports of the Board of Directors from 1811-1848.

Title/Description	Instances	
Corban Society Records, 1811-1848	box 1	volume 1
Corban Society Records, 1811-1849	box 1	volume 2
Corban Society Constitutions and Members, 1811-1849	box 1	volume 3

Office of the Treasurer, 1811-1850

Physical Description: 15 Items (11 folders, 4 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains material related to the office of the treasurer, including receipts and financial records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Presidents Orders on the Treasury, 1811-1819	box 1	volume 9
Corban Society Treasurers Accounts, 1811-1847	box 1	volume 6
Treasurer's Receipts, 1812-1848	box 1	volume 7
Receipts, 1824	box 1	folder 2
Receipts, 1825	box 1	folder 3
Receipts, 1826	box 1	folder 4
Receipts, 1828	box 1	folder 5
Receipts, 1830-1831	box 1	folder 6
Receipts, 1832	box 1	folder 7
Receipts, 1834	box 1	folder 8
Receipts, 1835-1838	box 1	folder 10
Corban Society Financial Records, 1838-1848	box 1	volume 8
Receipts, 1841-1844	box 1	folder 11
Receipts, 1846-1847, 1849-1850	box 1	folder 12
Receipts, 1842-1848	box 1	folder 13

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Printed Material, 1811, 1860

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains printed material related to the Corban Society. Included are copies of the constitution, member meeting form and a collection titled "order of exercises".

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Correspondence to the Corban Society, 1830-1850

Physical Description: 28 Folders

Scope and Contents

Series III contains correspondence to the Corban Society. The letters were originally folded up into rectangles and bundled together with string or ribbon. It was decided to reorganize these letters in chronological order and separated by year.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondences, 1830	box 1	folder 17
Correspondences, 1833	box 1	folder 18
Correspondences, 1834	box 1	folder 19
Correspondences, 1836	box 1	folder 20
Correspondences, 1836	box 1	folder 21
Correspondences, 1837	box 1	folder 22
Correspondences, 1839	box 1	folder 23-27
Correspondences, 1840	box 1	folder 28
Correspondences, 1841	box 1	folder 29
Correspondences, 1841	box 1	folder 30
Correspondences, 1842	box 1	folder 31
Correspondences, 1842	box 1	folder 32
Correspondences, 1842	box 1	folder 33
Correspondences, 1843	box 1	folder 34
Correspondences, 1843	box 1	folder 35
Correspondences, 1844	box 1	folder 36
Correspondences, 1845	box 1	folder 37
Correspondences, 1846	box 1	folder 38
Correspondences, 1847	box 1	folder 39
Correspondences, 1848	box 1	folder 40
Correspondences, 1850	box 1	folder 41
Correspondences, undated	box 1	folder 42
Correspondences, undated	box 1	folder 43
Correspondences, undated	box 1	folder 44

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