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Merrimac, Mass. Pilgrim Congregational Church records, 1725-1900. RG0123

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	First Congregational Society of Merrimac
Creator:	Pilgrim Congregational Church (Merrimac, Mass.)
Creator:	Second Church of Christ (Amesbury, Mass.)
Creator:	Wingate, Paine
Title:	Merrimac, Mass. Pilgrim Congregational Church records, 1725-1900.
ID:	RG0123
Date [inclusive]:	1725-1900
Physical Description:	0.88 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Parish organized in 1725; church founded in 1726 as Second Church of Christ in Amesbury, Mass. Merrimac separated from Amesbury in 1876 and in 1879 the church became the First Congregational Church, popularly known as Pilgrim Congregational Church. In 1879 the First Orthodox Congregational Society was incorporated, replacing the earlier West Parish Congregational Society. The First Orthodox Congregational Church of Merrimac was incorporated in 1894 and the First Orthodox Congregational Society was dissolved. Extant as Pilgrim Congregational UCC in 1996. This collection consists of church and parish records and miscellaneous papers, including deeds, ordination papers, and printed materials. Includes diary of Rev. Paine Wingate, minister from 1726-1782, with added vital statistics to 1789 and ecclesiastical functions of Amesbury, Mass. West Parish, Second Congregational Society.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Merrimac, Mass. Pilgrim Congregational Church records, 1726-1894, RG0123. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The parish was first organized in 1725 and a year later the church itself was founded as the Second Church of Christ in Amesbury. The town of Merrimac separated from Amesbury in 1876 and in 1879 the church was renamed to the First Congregational Church, though it was popularly referred to as the Pilgrim Congregational Church. Also in 1879, the First Orthodox Congregational Society was incorporated, replacing the earlier West Parish Congregational Society. The First Orthodox Congregational Church of Merrimac was incorporated in 1894 and the First Orthodox Congregational Society was dissolved.

The church continues to serve the Merrimac community as the Pilgrim Congregational Church.

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Scope and Contents

The Merrimac Mass. Pilgrim Congregational Church records document the history, administration, and life of the church and the social life town residents. The types of records include membership lists and certificates of membership to religious societies, baptismal records, marriage records, death records, church and parish meeting minutes, financial documents, church publications, land deeds, a will, pew deeds, subscription lists, records related to the building and expansion of church property, and the diary of the first minister, Paine Wingate.

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Arrangement

The records are arranged by chronological order, when possible, and by topic.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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.

Acquisition Information

Placed on permanent loan with the Congregational Library & Archives in February 1987 by the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Merrimac, Massachusetts.

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

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, October 2017, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptism and church membership.
- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Diaries.
- Marriage records.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Wills.
- Amesbury (Mass.) -- Church history.
- First Congregational Society of Merrimac
- Merrimac (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Pilgrim Congregational Church (Merrimac, Mass.)
- Second Church of Christ (Amesbury, Mass.)

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.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Book of Records in Amesbury, 1725-1848	box 1	volume 1

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

The Book of Records in Amesbury includes annual meeting minutes, records of payment for the minister's annual salary,

parish meeting minutes, records of votes, records of officer selection, minutes for meetings related to Reverend Wingate's contract, pew sales, calls for town meetings, and tax collector appointments.

Church Records, 1726-1782

box 1

volume 2

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

These Church records include records pertaining to the formation of the church, ordination records, records of votes, payments made, church meeting minutes, list of members who came from another church, list of members taken into full communion, and marriage records.

Paine Wingate Book, 1726-1821

box 1

volume 3

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

The Paine Wingate Book contains largely church records, but also some personal records. Included within these records are the church's Articles of Faith, church meeting minutes, payment records, personal diary entries related to church members and church activities, records of dismissal from the church, records of votes, list of ordinations, list of ministrants of Last Supper, a list of members who joined from other churches, a list of members taken into full communion, death records, vital records for the Wingate family, baptismal records, and a list of members who renewed their baptismal covenant.

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

The final will and testament of Paine Wingate was folded and placed in the back of this volume. It was removed, flattened, and placed in its own folder for preservation purposes.

Church Records, 1788-1843

box 1

volume 4

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

These church records include a date of purchase, church meeting minutes, records of votes, ecclesiastical council meeting minutes, church communications, ordination records, baptismal records, members lists, marriage records, and death records.

Tax and Account Book, 1812-1883	box 2	volume 1
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Scope and Contents

This volume contains 312 pages of financial records dating from 1812-1883. Included within these records are payment records, records related to salary, payments and taxes collected by the church, the church ledger, accounts for membership dues, and lists of names with their individual tax burdens.

Records of the Second Congregational Church of Amesbury, 1842-1894	box 1	volume 5
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Deed to Parsonage Lands, 1747	box 2	folder 1
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Selection of Minister, 1842	box 2	folder 2
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Annual Meeting Officer Selection, undated	box 2	folder 3
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Publications, 1844-1918	box 2	folder 4
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Wingate Will, 1777	box 2	folder 5
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Physical Description: 1 Item

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 is the final will and testament of Paine Wingate and includes ten clauses related to how his property, money, and livestock were to be divided among his family.

Parish Records, 1743-1788	box 2	folder 6
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Physical Description: 51 Items

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

These parish records are loose documents covering various parish activities. Included in the records are financial documents, records of votes, church and parish meeting minutes, subscribers meeting minutes, calls to assembly, certificates of membership, and certificates of office.

Parish Records, 1790-1839	box 2	folder 7
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Physical Description: 33 Items

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 104 pages of loose parish records. Included in the records are financial documents, records of votes, church and parish meeting minutes, subscribers meeting minutes, calls to assembly, and a list of subscribers.

Payments and Taxes, 1781-1829	box 2	folder 8
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First Baptist Society Membership, 1806-1833	box 2	folder 9
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Physical Description: 16 Items

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 32 pages of loose documents. Included in the folder are early membership lists for the First Baptist Society, certificates of membership for individuals, and an 1814 petition to the Massachusetts legislature to form a religious society.

Second Baptist Society Membership, 1824-1833	box 2	folder 10
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Physical Description: 22 Items

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 44 pages of loose documents. Included in the folder are certificates of membership to the Second Baptist Society.

Methodist Society Membership, 1826-1832	box 2	folder 11
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Physical Description: 7 Items

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 14 pages of loose documents. Included in the folder are certificates of membership to the Methodist Society.

Universalist Society Membership, 1833

box 2

folder 12

Physical Description: 3 Items

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 6 pages of loose documents. Included in the folder are certificates of membership to the Universalist Society.

Parsonage Construction, 1828-1829

box 2

folder 13

New Meeting House, 1836-1840

box 2

folder 14

Pew Deeds, 1839-1900

box 2

folder 15