

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Andover Association Records

RG 307



Yale Divinity Library staff

2021

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 307

CREATOR: Andover Association

TITLE: Andover Association Records

DATES: 1719–1913

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Minutes, reports, correspondence and other documents trace the history of the Andover Association, an association of Congregationalist churches in Massachusetts, from 1719 to 1913.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.307>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.307>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to the Yale Divinity Library from Andover Newton Theological School in 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The material is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Andover Association Records (RG 307), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

In 1719, a few dozen Congregational ministers from the Merrimac Valley region of Massachusetts formed a "Ministers' Meeting" for mutual support, holding monthly meetings with rotating lecturers and lasting until 1793. The popularity of George Whitefield in the mid-18th century sparked an internal theological controversy, however, leading to the formation in 1763 of a new association called the Wilmington Association, founded by several of the more theologically Arminian ministers. In 1797, the group changed its name to the Andover Association, after the approximate geographical center of its constituency. At first, their covenant required unanimous approval for the admission of new members, though they lessened this stringency with their new constitution in 1823. Throughout the 19th century, the Andover Association examined hundreds of candidates for ministry including many overseas missionaries. In 1913 the Association celebrated its 150th anniversary. For the occasion, leading member Rev. C.C. Carpenter wrote a historical sketch of the group covering the period from 1763 to 1913. The documents in this collection include records from the Ministers' Meeting period, the Wilmington Association, and the Andover Association.

Scope and Contents

This collection was originally held at Andover Newton Theological School and came to the Yale Divinity Library when Andover Newton became affiliated with YDS in 2017. Early records in bound volumes, meeting records, reports, and correspondence document the history and operations of the Andover Association and its predecessors. Reports from local churches that were part of the Association provide detailed information about Congregational churches in Massachusetts in the early 19th century. This collection is notable for its detailed and thorough documentation.

Arrangement

The collection is organized in seven series:

- I. Bound Volumes
- II. Meeting Minutes and Records
- III. Church Reports
- IV. Administrative Records
- V. Event Programs
- VI. Correspondence
- VII. History of the Association

Collection Contents

Series I: Bound Volumes

b. 1, f. 1	A Book of Records, by Rev. John Tufts	1719-1822
b. 1, f. 2	Records	1823-1850
b. 1, f. 3	Constitution and records	1850-1863
b. 1, f. 4	Records	1863-1910
b. 1, f. 5	Records	1875-1904
b. 2, f. 6	Register of delegates and visitors, from Rev. C.C. Carpenter	1901
b. 2, f. 7	Records written by Rev. C. C. Carpenter	1901 November

Series II: Meeting Minutes and Records

b. 2, f. 8	Wilmington Association of Ministers Records	1789-1792
b. 2, f. 9	An address to families	1801 May 6
b. 2, f. 10	Ad hoc committees	1815-1861
b. 2, f. 11	Meeting to ordain Artemas Ballard	1831

Series III: Church Reports

b. 2, f. 12	Bedford and South Andover	1814
b. 2, f. 13	Andover, Burlington, Woburn	1815
b. 2, f. 14	Bedford, Burlington, Billericas, Woburn	1816
b. 2, f. 15	Andover, Burlington, Chelmsford, Tewksbury	1817
b. 2, f. 16	Andover, Bedford, Billerica, Woburn, Burlington	1818
b. 2, f. 17	Bedford, Billerica, Burlington, Woburn	1819
b. 2, f. 18	Andover, Bedford, Burlington, Chelmsford, Woburn	1820
b. 2, f. 19	Bedford, Burlington, Woburn	1821
b. 2, f. 20	Andover, Burlington, Bedford	1822
b. 2, f. 21	Andover, Bedford, Burlington, South Reading, Woburn	1823
b. 2, f. 22	Burlington, Wilmington, Tewksbury	1824
b. 2, f. 23	Andover, Bedford, Burlington, Lynnfield, Stoneham, Woburn	1825
b. 2, f. 24	Andover, Bedford, Lynnfield, Reading, Woburn	1826
b. 2, f. 25	Andover, Bedford, Burlington, Woburn, Wilmington, Reading	1828
b. 2, f. 26	Andover, Bedford, Concord, Lowell, Stoneham, Reading	1829
b. 2, f. 27	Andover, Bedford, Tewksbury, Reading, Wilmington	1830
b. 2, f. 28	Andover, Bedford, Burlington, Stoneham, Reading, Woburn	1831
b. 2, f. 29	Collection of statistics	1862
b. 2, f. 30	Collection of statistics	1863

Series IV: Administrative Records

Resolutions, statements		
b. 2, f. 31	Covenant to form the association, at Wilmington	1763 July 5
b. 2, f. 32	Approbation of candidates for ordination	1790–1802
b. 2, f. 33	General form of approbation	1792 April 3
b. 2, f. 34	Proposed alteration to regulations	1831 July 5
b. 2, f. 35	Other resolutions	1821–1906
b. 2, f. 36	Statements on baptism	no date
Member and delegate lists		
b. 2, f. 37	All members and licentiates	1763–1913
b. 2, f. 38	Ecclesiastical Council delegates	1835 November 18
b. 2, f. 39	Vote-by-mail cards regarding affiliation with Norfolk Ministerial Association	1906 March 24
b. 2, f. 40	Delegates (handwritten)	no date
Applications for licensing		
b. 2, f. 41	Applications for ministerial licensing (multiple candidates)	1819–1828
b. 2, f. 42	Applications for ministerial licensing (multiple candidates)	1829–1878
b. 2, f. 43	Applications for ministerial licensing (individual candidates)	1798–1820
b. 2, f. 44	Applications for ministerial licensing (individual candidates)	1826–1906
Financial records		
b. 2, f. 45	Treasurer notes and receipts	1904

Series V: Event Programs

b. 3, f. 46	Association meeting programs	1862-1870
b. 3, f. 47	Association meeting programs	1871-1874
b. 3, f. 48	Association meeting programs	1875-1888
b. 3, f. 49	Association meeting programs	1889-1893
b. 3, f. 50	Association meeting programs	1894-1901
b. 3, f. 51	Association meeting programs	1902-1906
b. 3, f. 52	Blank invitation forms	no date

Series VI: Correspondence

b. 3, f. 53	Dismissal/withdrawal from the association	1822–1888
b. 3, f. 54	Dismissal/withdrawal from the association	1905–1906
b. 3, f. 55	Transfers from other associations to Andover	1829–1885
b. 3, f. 56	Transfers from other associations to Andover	1886–1906
b. 3, f. 57	General correspondence	1804–1805
b. 3, f. 58	General correspondence	1807–1828
b. 3, f. 59	General correspondence Some discussion of "pre-millennialism"	1829–1831
b. 3, f. 60	General correspondence Some discussion of "the new evangelism"	1887–1897
b. 3, f. 61	General correspondence	1901–1904
b. 3, f. 62	General correspondence	1905
b. 3, f. 63	General correspondence	1906 March– 1906 September
b. 3, f. 64	General correspondence	1906 November–1906 December
b. 3, f. 65	General correspondence	1907
b. 3, f. 66	General correspondence	no date

Series VII: History of the Association

b. 3, f. 67

Written for the 150th anniversary by Rev. C. C. Carpenter

1913 October 7

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Congregational churches -- Massachusetts

Corporate Body

Andover Association