

Guide to the North Congregational Church (North Middleboro, Mass.) Records

RG 309



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2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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CALL NUMBER: RG 309

CREATOR: North Congregational Church (North Middleboro, Mass.)

TITLE: North Congregational Church (North Middleboro, Mass.) Records

DATES: 1747–1967

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Detailed and complete records document the history of North Congregational Church in North Middleboro (Middleborough), Massachusetts, where Isaac Backus was minister from 1748 to 1756.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.309>

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.309>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from Andover Newton Theological School, 2017

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research

Biographical / Historical

There was a church in Titicut Parish, which is now part of North Middleboro (Middleborough), Massachusetts from 1675, composed of "praying Indians" who had been taught by John Eliot and others.

This church continued as a Native American church for a number of years, during which time white settlers came into the area. The white settlers petitioned the General Court and Governor of Massachusetts in 1743 to form a new parish from parts of Bridgewater and Middleboro. This petition was granted and they set about organizing the Parish.

Isaac Backus (1724-1806) was appointed as the first minister of the church in 1748 and served until 1756, when he left to join the Baptist church. Backus was succeeded by Solomon Reed who served from 1756 to 1785. Other ministers of the church are listed in the 1931 Yearbook contained in the collection. Philip Colby, who served from 1817 to 1851, started a Sabbath School for children of the parish in 1817.

The first meeting house of the church was erected in 1748, a simple edifice that was replaced in 1808 with a new meeting house with a belfry and bell. This church building burned in 1852 and a third building was erected in the same place by later that year. In 1893 the third church building burned and was replaced by a church designed by architect J. Williams Beal.

Scope and Contents

This collection is notable for the detailed and comprehensive records it provides for a New England Congregational church. Church record books document meetings and actions of the church from 1748 to 1967. There are also detailed records related to the Sabbath School of the church from 1817 to 1902, and of women's groups of the church, including the Ladies Benevolent Society.

Arrangement

Series I: Church Records

Series II: Sabbath School Records

Series III: Women's Groups

Series IV: Financial Records

Series V: Related to the Church Building

Series VI: Microfilm

Collection Contents

Series I: Church Records

Covenants and handbooks		
b. 1, f. 1	Manuscript covenants	1747/8, 1817
b. 1, f. 2	Printed covenant	1831
b. 1, f. 3	Handbook containing by-laws, creed, list of members Includes insert listing members 1903-1928	ca. 1902
b. 1, f. 4	Yearbook and Church Directory	1931
Record books		
b. 1, f. 5	Volume 1, with typed transcript	1747/8 - 1754
b. 1, f. 6	Volume 2 - original booklet and hand-copied version in bound notebook	1756-1785
b. 1, f. 7	Volume 3	1787-1850
b. 1, f. 8	Volume 4	1851-1890
b. 1, f. 9	Volume 5	1886-1900
b. 2, f. 1	Volume 6	1900-1953
b. 2, f. 2	Volume 7	1953-1967
b. 2, f. 3	Bound volume of parish records	1836-1907
b. 2, f. 4	Bound volume of records of pewholders clerk	1876-1893
Program material		
b. 2, f. 5	3 leaflets from events, including installation of pastor and dedication of church	1859, 1894, undated

Series II: Sabbath School Records

b. 3, f. 1	Volume 1	1859–1865
b. 3, f. 2	Volume 2	1865–1877
b. 3, f. 3	Volume 3	1877–1902

Series III: Women's Groups

Ladies Benevolent Society		
b. 3, f. 4	Record books Group also referred to as Ladies Sewing Circle	1849-1886, 1887-1904
b. 3, f. 5	Record book	1905-1919
b. 4, f. 1	Record book	1920-1927
b. 4, f. 2	Record book	1928-1933
b. 4, f. 3	Record book	1934-1946
b. 4, f. 4	Correspondence and other documents	1901, 1924-1927
b. 4, f. 5	Correspondence and other documents	1928-1929
b. 4, f. 6	Correspondence and other documents	1930-1931
b. 4, f. 7	Correspondence and other documents	1932-1933
b. 4, f. 8	Correspondence and other documents	1934-1935, 1945
b. 4, f. 9	Correspondence and other documents	n.d.
b. 4, f. 10	Financial records, receipts	1926-1946, n.d.
b. 4, f. 11	Collected material related to programs supported Including booklets related to Allen Normal School, Thomasville, Georgia	1926-1930
Ladies Church Aid Society		
b. 5, f. 1	Secretary's book	1893-1897
Ladies Missionary Society		
b. 5, f. 2	Record book	1935-1943

Series IV: Financial Records

b. 5, f. 3	Ledger	1812–1932
b. 5, f. 4	Receipt book	1815–1927

Series V: Related to Church Building

b. 5, f. 5	Specifications for church building from architect J. Williams Beal	Circa 1893
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Series VI: Microfilm

This preservation microfilm was prepared by the Andover Newton Theological School library prior to the transfer of the material to Yale Divinity Library in 2017

b. 6	Reel Mic 137: Middleboro, Mass. North Congregational Church Records, 1747-1953 "Harvard negative number 61-2602"
b. 6	Reel 80-6: North Congregational Church, Middleboro, Mass. Church Record Book, 1953-1968; Congregational Church of Titicut Precinct Treasurer's Account Book, 1812-1932 (1 positive, 1 negative reel)

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 -- New England --
History -- Sources

Names

Backus, Isaac, 1724-1806