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Amesbury Friends Meeting Records

1700-2010

11 vols., 3 boxes (2.5 linear feet)

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[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Minutes](#)

[Correspondence and reports](#)

[Vital records](#)

[Worship and ministry](#)

[Finance and property](#)

[Newsletters and publications](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Admin info](#)

[Download](#)

[xml version](#)

[print version \(pdf\)](#)



[Read collection overview](#)

The Amesbury Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, tied historically to the Hampton and Seabrook Monthly Meetings, has met on the coast of Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over three hundred years.

The records of Amesbury (Hampton and Seabrook) Monthly Meeting document over three centuries of Quaker practice in New England coastal communities. The meeting minutes for both men's and women's meetings are relatively complete for the period 1701 to the late 1880s, and after nearly a century-long hiatus, pick up again in the mid-1980s.

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Background on Amesbury Friends Meeting

A Friends' meeting on the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border, the Amesbury Monthly meeting has met in three closely-linked coastal communities since the turn of the eighteenth century. Friends were already a presence near Hampton, New Hampshire, before 1701, when Thomas Chase donated a parcel of land and Quakers from the surrounding towns raised the funds for construction of a meetinghouse there.

In the nearby town of Amesbury, Mass., Quakers were recorded as early as 1705, when locals began to meet under the care of Hampton Monthly Meeting. Between 1710, when a meetinghouse was completed in Amesbury, and 1768, monthly meeting alternated between the two towns. To complicate matters further the Hampton Monthly Meeting changed name to Seabrook Monthly in 1792, and in 1883 or 1884, the meeting adopted its current name, Amesbury Friends Meeting. They are known as the home of John Greenleaf Whittier, the most celebrated Quaker poet of the nineteenth century. As clerk of the Amesbury Building Committee in 1851, Whittier oversaw construction of the meetinghouse that is still in use today.



Abbie Loring in Cape Cod Quaker attire, ca.1930. Photo by Alton H. Blackington

Part of the New England Yearly Meeting from its founding, Amesbury-Hampton have been part of Salem Quarterly Meeting since quarterly meetings were first established in 1705. As an early meeting in the region, Amesbury has given risen to a number of offshoots. Weare Monthly Meeting was set off in 1795, and Amesbury-Hampton have nurtured a number of worship groups and preparative meetings, including:

Worship groups

Brentwood, N.H. (1751-1756)

Chichester, N.H. (1778)

Epping, N.H. (1757-1803)

Haverhill, Mass. (1756-1758)

Kensington, N.H. (1755-1825)

Newbury, Mass. (1701-1761, 1790-ca.1830): became West Newbury

Newton, N.H. (1754-1803)

Pittsfield, N.H. (1763-1802, 1860-1885)

Salisbury, Mass. (1710-1803)

Seabrook, N.H. (1842-1885)

South Pittsfield, N.H. (1901-1954)

Weare, N.H. (1769-1777)

West Epping, N.H. (1901-1945)

West Newbury, Mass. (ca.1830-1853, 1881-1889)

Preparative meetings

Amesbury (1710-1889)

Epping (1803-1901)

Hampton (1701-1778): became Seabrook Preparative

Newbury (1761-1790)

Pittsfield (1802-1860, 1885-1901): became South Pittsfield Worship Group

Seabrook (1778-1842)

Weare (1777-1795)

West Newbury (1853-1881)

Scope of collection

The records of Amesbury (Hampton and Seabrook) Monthly Meeting document over three centuries of Quaker practice in New England coastal communities. The meeting minutes for both men's and women's meetings are relatively complete for the period 1701 to the late 1880s, and after nearly a century-long hiatus, pick up again in the mid-1980s. The collection contains valuable, but incomplete, records of births, deaths, and marriages during the early years of the meeting and small bodies of materials relating to meeting finances.

In this finding aid, we use the meeting name appropriate to the time when describing the contents of the archive.

Inventory

Minutes

1701-2003

Men's minutes

1701-1888

Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes

1701-1757

Bound vol.

09:A5

Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes

1758 Jan. 19-1804 July 19

Bound vol.

09:A5

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes

1804 Aug. 16-1844 Mar. 7

Bound vol.

09:D2

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes

1844 Apr. 4-1888 Jan. 5

Bound vol.

09:D2

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1842-1843

Box 3: 2

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1844-1846

Box 3: 1

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1848-1850

Box 3: 1

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1851-1853

Box 3: 1

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1853-1860

Box 3: 2

Seabrook Monthly: Men's minutes (rough)

1863-1864

Box 3: 3

Women's minutes

1701-1885

Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Minutes (Women)

1701-1752, 1780

Box 4

(11:B7)

Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Minutes (Women)

1785 Feb. 17-1826 May 4

Bound vol.

09:A5

Seabrook Monthly: Minutes (Women)

1826 June 1-1851 Dec. 4

Bound vol.
09:D2
Seabrook Monthly: Minutes (Women)
1852 Jan.-1885 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:D2
Joint minutes
1985-2003
Amesbury Monthly: Minutes
1985-1987
Box 2: 2
Amesbury Monthly: Minutes
1988-1989
Box 2: 3
Amesbury Monthly: Minutes (includes State of Society reports for 1987, 1989-1991)
1990-1992 May
Box 2: 4
Amesbury Monthly: Minutes
1999-2001 Nov.
Box 2: 5
Amesbury Monthly: Minutes
2002-2003 July
Box 2: 6
Correspondence and reports
1700-1878
Seabrook Monthly: Removal certificates
1840-1876
Box 3: 5
Vital records
1700-1878
Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Births, deaths, and marriages
1700-1878
Bound vol.
09:A5
Hampton-Seabrook Monthly: Minutes and marriages
1701 June 15-1757 Dec. 15
Bound vol.
09:A5
Amesbury Monthly: Stephen Sawyer and Sarah Rowell wedding certificate
1719 Feb. 20
Framed
Seabrook Monthly: Membership list
1873, 1875
Box 3: 4
Worship and ministry
1858-1893
Seabrook Monthly: Select Preparative Meeting
1858 Oct. 6-1893 Aug. 2
Bound vol.
09:D2
Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Beede, Daniel
1858-1867
Box 3: 7
Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Folsom, Thomas and Soviah
1865-1876
Box 3: 8
Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Gove, Edward and Elizabeth
1843-1873
Box 3: 9

Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Huntington, Moses
1841-1872

Box 3: 10

Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Meader, Martha
1864

Box 3: 11

Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Ordway, Newell
1841-1865

Box 3: 12

Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Ordway, Newell
1866-1871

Box 3: 13

Seabrook Monthly: Traveling ministers: Thompson, William
1846-1853

Box 3: 14

Finance and property

1835-1988

Seabrook Monthly: Treasurer

1835-1900

Bound vol.

09:D2

Seabrook Monthly: Property Committee

1980-1988

Box 2: 1

Seabrook Monthly: Property Committee

1980-1988

Box 1: 1

Seabrook Monthly: Property Committee grants

1983

Box 1: 2

Seabrook Monthly: Property Committee: Meetinghouse property data

1980-1981

Box 1: 3

Seabrook Monthly: Salem Quarterly correspondence re: Yearly Meeting stock

1841-1878

Box 3: 15

Newsletters and publications

1822

Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London. Boston: Stephen G. Jones

1876

Box 3: 16

Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London. Boston: Stephen G. Jones

1878

Box 3: 16

The Friends Library [subscription sheet]. Philadelphia: s.n.

1842

Box 3: 16

New-England Tract Association of Friends: *Form of a constitution for auxiliaries*. Providence, R.I.: s.n.

1838

Box 3: 16

A testimony issued by a conference of Friends held at Sugar Grove, Hendricks County, Indiana. S.I.: s.n.

1877

Box 3: 16

Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England: *Correspondents of New-England Yearly Meeting*. S.I.: s.n.

1845

Box 3: 16

Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England: [subscription list for "Memorials of deceased Friends of New-England Yearly Meeting"]. S.I.: s.n.

1841

Box 3: 16
Miscellaneous
1822
Beebe, Ruth: Letter to Jonathan Beebe (son at Friends Boarding School)
1822 Jan. 16
Box 3: 5

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records, March 2016.

Related Material

This collection is part of the [New England Yearly Meeting Records](#).

Current contact for the meeting

[Amesbury Friends Meeting website](#) (accessed Nov. 2018).

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

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Search terms

Subjects

Amesbury (Mass.)--Religious life and customs
Hampton(N.H.)--Religious life and customs
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
Quakers--Massachusetts
Quakers--New Hampshire
Seabrook (N.H.)--Religious life and customs
Society of Friends--Massachusetts
Society of Friends--New Hampshire

Contributors

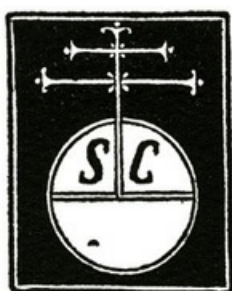
Amesbury Friends Meeting [[main entry](#)]

Genres and formats

Minutes (Administrative records)
Newsletters
Vital records (Document genre)

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