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Berwick Monthly Meeting of Friends Records

1700-1956
10 vols., 1 box (1.25 linear foot)
Call no.: MS 902 b479



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Read collection overview

The fortunes of the Berwick (Maine) Monthly Meeting reflect the rise and decline of Quakerism in southern Maine more generally. Worship began in North Berwick in about 1750 and the Berwick Monthly Meeting was formally set off from its parent, Dover, in 1802. Following the Wilburite split, however, the meeting gradually declined. Regular meetings were suspended in 1919 and the meeting was formally laid down in 1952.

The surviving records of the Friends Monthly Meeting in North Berwick, Maine, contain the minutes of men's, women's, and joint meetings from throughout 1802, when it was set off from Dover Monthly Meeting, until it was laid down in 1952. The collection also contains records of births, deaths, and marriages under auspices of the meeting from the first worship in North Berwick in 1750 into the mid-nineteenth century.

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Background on Berwick Monthly Meeting of Friends



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

Friends in North Berwick, Maine, organized worship under the Dover Monthly Meeting by about 1750 at a time when Quakerism was thriving in the region, and by 1802, they had grown enough to be set off formally as their own monthly meeting. Part of Salem Quarterly Meeting until 1815, and then Dover Quarterly thereafter, Berwick supported worship grounds in Eliot and Oakwoods (also North Berwick) between about 1805 and 1850.

Divided during the split of 1845, with the Wilburite meeting remaining active until 1881, Quakerism entered a period of slow decline. Regular meetings in Berwick ended in 1919, although the meetinghouse was used sporadically for a number of years. The meeting was officially laid down in 1952.

Scope of collection

The surviving records of the Friends Monthly Meeting in North Berwick, Maine, contain the minutes of men's, women's, and joint meetings from throughout 1802, when it was set off from Dover Monthly Meeting, until it was laid down in 1952. The collection also contains records of births, deaths, and marriages under auspices of the meeting from the first worship in North Berwick in 1750 into the mid-nineteenth century.

Inventory

Minutes
1802-1951
Men's minutes
1802-1854
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Men)
1802 July 25-1832 May 25
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Men)
1832 June 29-1854 Oct. 19
Bound vol.
09:A1
Women's minutes
1826-1878
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Women)
1826 May 25-1858 Aug. 20
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Women)
1858 Sept. 24-1878 Feb. 21
Bound vol.
09:A1
Joint minutes
1845-1951
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Men); Joint sessions (1878-1888)
1845 Aug. 21-1888 Sept. 20
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Minutes (Joint)
1888 Oct. 11-1951 Jan. 6
Bound vol.
09:A1
Vital records
1700-1956
Berwick Monthly: Births and deaths
1700-1956
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Births, deaths, marriages, members
1700-1864
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Marriages
1802-1868
Bound vol.
09:A1
Berwick Monthly: Marriages
1846-1867
Bound vol.
09:A1
Miscellaneous
1832-1919
0.25 linear feet
Box 1

(11:A6)
Maine Church Corporation (incorporation papers)
1919
Box 1: 2

Removals and transfers [transcript of records]
1832-1888
Box 1: 3

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Part of the [New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records](#), October 2018.

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](#).

See also the records of the [Wilburite offshoot of the Berwick Monthly Meeting](#) (MS 902 W553 B479).

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

- Berwick (Me.)--Religious life and customs
- New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
- Quakers--Maine
- Society of Friends--Maine

Contributors

- Berwick Monthly Meeting of Friends [main entry]

Genres and formats

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

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