

Special Collections and University Archives

UMass Amherst Libraries 

Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends Records

1698-2005

2 boxes, 4 vols. (1.25 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 902 d378



[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Minutes](#)

[Correspondence and reports](#)

[Vital records](#)

[Newsletters and publications](#)

[Admin info](#)

[Download](#)

[xml version](#)

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



[Read collection overview](#)

Located in South Dartmouth, Mass., the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting is one of the oldest Friends meetings in the United States, having been founded by Quakers seeking a haven from religious persecution in nearby Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies. Private worship may have begun in area homes as early as the 1660s, with the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting formally established in 1699. Today, the Meeting has two distinct meetings: the pastoral Smith Neck Meetinghouse and the Apponegansett Meetinghouse.

The records of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting are divided into two centers of gravity. First, the collection contains nineteenth century copies of the meeting's early minutes (1698-1792) and vital records covering most of that period. Secondly, the collection contains to the meeting since the late 1960s, including minutes (1968-1989) and newsletter (1999-2005). The remaining records of the meeting -- the bulk of them -- were maintained by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society into at least the 1990s, although their present location is unknown.

See similar SCUA collections:

Quakers

Religion

Massachusetts

Background on Dartmouth Monthly Meeting

Located in South Dartmouth, Mass., the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting is one of the oldest Friends meetings in the United States, having been founded by Quakers seeking a haven from religious persecution in nearby Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies. Private worship may have begun in area homes as early as the 1660s, with the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting formally established in 1699.

Dartmouth has been associated with only two quarterly meetings throughout its long existence, Rhode Island Quarterly (1699-1788) and Sandwich Quarterly (1788-present). As an early and important center for Friends, however, it served as a starting point for other monthlies in the region. During the eighteenth century, two monthly meetings were set off from Dartmouth: Acoaxet (later known as Westport) in 1766 and New Bedford in 1792. Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting was set off in 1956, since which time, the Dartmouth Monthly has generally been referred to as Smith Neck (or Smith's Neck) Friends Meeting. The Wilburite separation in 1845 resulted in the formation of a parallel Wilburite Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in North Dartmouth, which retained its separate identity after the split was healed in 1945, taking the name of North Dartmouth Monthly Meeting.

Even more notably, Dartmouth has been the parent of a long list of worship groups and preparative meetings, including:

Worship groups

Acoaxet (1699-1745)

Acushnet (1699-1745)

Allen's Neck (1798-1950): also known as Slocum's Neck

Apponegansett (1784-1960), 1975-present (independent 1961-1974)

Centre (1721-1766)

New Bedford (1772-1792): also called Bedford

New Swansea (1764-1765)

Newtown (1745-1882)

Nosequchuck (1758-1759)

Rochester(1702-1707)

Smith Neck (1784-1901): also called Apponegansett

Preparative meetings

Acoaxet (1745-1766)

Allen's Neck (1950-1956)

Apponegansett (1708-1784): also called Dartmouth of South Preparative

North (1784-1872): also known as Newtown and Bedford

Rochester (1707-1740): also known as Sippican

West (1813-1829): also called Allen's Neck

The first meetings for worship at Smith Neck were held in members' homes in 1768 under the care of the Monthly Meeting at Apponegansett. In 1822, Caleb Anthony donated land for a meetinghouse, which has served as home for the Smith Neck Friends Meeting since. Although Smith Neck began as a traditional unprogrammed meeting, in 1890, an Elder, Eldridge Faunce, stood up to read a chapter of the Bible, offering commentary, and he was followed by a similar talk by Elizabeth Smith. Their actions fed into the evangelical currents already operating on the meeting, thanks in part to the influence of Joseph John Gurney, leading Smith Neck to seek a regular minister and establish themselves as a programmed or pastoral meeting.

Dartmouth Monthly Meeting currently has two distinct meetings and two meetinghouses: Smith Neck (594 Smith Neck Rd) and



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

Apponegansett (Russells Mills Rd.).

Scope of collection

The records of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting are divided into two centers of gravity. First, the collection contains nineteenth century copies of the meeting's early minutes (1698-1792) and vital records covering most of that period. Secondly, the collection contains to the meeting since the late 1960s, including minutes (1968-1989) and newsletter (1999-2005). The remaining records of the meeting -- the bulk of them -- were maintained by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society into at least the 1990s, although their present location is unknown.

Note that some content for the meeting prior to the Gurneyite-Wilburite separation is included in volumes filed with the **Wilburite Dartmouth Monthly Meeting**.

Inventory

Minutes

1698-1989

Dartmouth Monthly: Minutes: copied

1698 Nov.-1770 June

Bound vol.

09:A3

Dartmouth Monthly: Minutes: copied

1770 July-1792

Bound vol.

09:A3

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1968-1989

Box: 0.25

Box 1

(11:B4)

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1968 Nov.-1971 Jan.

Box 1: 3

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1971 Feb.-1973

Box 1: 4

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1974-1978 Mar.

Box 1: 5

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1978 Apr.-1981 Jan.

Box 1: 6

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1981-1983

Box 1: 7

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1984-1986

Box 1: 8

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1987

Box 1: 9

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1988

Box 1: 10

Dartmouth Monthly at Smith Neck: Minutes

1989

Box 1: 11

Correspondence and reports

1765-1994

Smith Neck Friends Meeting: State of the Meeting

1989-1994
Pamphlet
Box 1: 2

(11:B4)

Also includes a certificate of removal, 1994.

Memorial: Elizabeth Sherman Gridley
1765
Box 2

(11:E5)

Vital records

1699-1841

Dartmouth Monthly: Vital records: Births and deaths

1766-1841

Bound vol.

09:A3

Dartmouth Monthly: Marriages: Extracts from the records of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of marriages from 6mo 1699 until the establishment of New Bedford Monthly Meeting: Copy
1699 June-1792 Dec.

Bound vol.

09:A3

Newsletters and publications

1947-2005

Apponogansett Meetinghouse, July 25, 1948: Annual meeting of worship called by Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, 1790-1948

1948

Pamphlet

Box 1: 1

(11:B4)

125th anniversary of the passing of the deed of the Smith Neck Friend's Meeting

1947

Pamphlet

Box 1: 1

(11:B4)

Smith Neck Monthly Meeting Newsletter

1999-2010

Box: 0.25

Box 2

(11:E5)

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**.

Additional records for the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting were reported by Rick Statler in 1997 as being in the possession of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society and housed at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. These records have not currently been located.

Men's minutes (1699-1727): 1 vol.

Men's minutes (1727-1830): 3 vols.

Men's minutes (1803-1891): 3 vols.
Women's minutes (1699-1812): 2 vols.
Women's minutes (1812-1892): 2 vols.
Joint minutes (1891-1955): 1 vol.
Joint minutes (1968-1989): 0.25 linear feet
Births, deaths, marriages (1699-1880): 1 vol.
Births and deaths (1841-1956): 1 vol.
Marriages, New Bedford copy (1699-1792): 1 vol.
Membership (1766-1841): 1 vol.
Removals (1792-1847): 2 vols.
Ministers and elders, with New Bedford (1796-1901): 4 vols.
Ministry and oversight (1901-1922): 1 vol.
Ministry and oversight (1922-1961): 2 vols.
Trust fund (1823-1962): 1 vol.
Discipline (1762): 1 vol.
Treasurer: W to 1945 (1931-1960): 1 vol.
Newsletters (1970-1995): 2 folders

Current contact for the meeting

Smith Neck Friends Meeting website

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends Records (MS 902 d378). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Dartmouth (Mass.)--Religious life and customs
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
Quakers--Massachusetts
Smith Neck Friends Meeting
Society of Friends--Massachusetts

Contributors

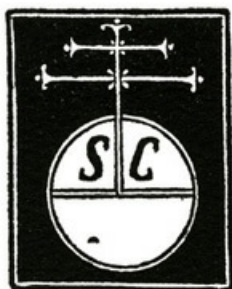
Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

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

Link to similar SCUA collections

Quakers
Religion
Massachusetts



Special Collections & University Archives
University Libraries : UMass Amherst
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275

