

Dover Friends Meeting Records

1678-2002

23 vols., 2 boxes (6 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 902 D684

Collection overview

The Friends Meeting at Dover, New Hampshire, is one of the oldest in British North America, with worship held there as early as 1662 when three Quaker women missionaries arrived on Dover Neck. Originally called Piscataqua, the meeting emerged as Dover Monthly Meeting by the latter decades of the seventeenth century and became the hub of a thriving Quaker community and the font from which several other New Hampshire meetings derived. In addition to overseeing a number of worship groups and preparatory meetings, Dover became the mother of monthlies and Berwick and Sandwich, which were set off in 1802, and Gonic in 1981.

The records of Dover Monthly Meeting offer extensive documentation of one of the oldest Quaker meetings in northern New England. Although most of the earliest records have not survived, the collection includes a nearly unbroken set of minutes from the turn of the eighteenth century to 1981; extensive records of births, deaths, and marriages; spotty records for Ministry and Oversight and finance, and an array of recent newsletters. Minutes for the Women's Meeting for the years 1783-1814 are not present and presumed lost.

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Background on Dover Friends Meeting

The Friends Meeting at Dover, New Hampshire, is one of the oldest in British North America, visited by two of the "Boston Martyrs," William Robinson and Marmaduke Stevenson in 1659. The first Quaker worship in Dover probably dates to 1662, when three Quaker women missionaries (Mary Tompkin, Ann Coleman, and Alice Ambrose) arrived on Dover Neck. Originally called Piscataqua, the meeting emerged as Dover Monthly Meeting by the latter decades of the seventeenth century and became the hub of a thriving Quaker community and the font from which several other New Hampshire meetings derived. In addition to overseeing a number of worship groups and preparatory meetings, Dover became the mother of monthlies and Berwick and Sandwich, which were set off in 1802, and Gonic in 1981.



Dover (N.H.) Meeting House, 1914

Population growth at Dover itself required construction of a second, larger meetinghouse in 1712 with a third following in 1768. This last structure remains in use today and is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. It is considered the only surviving eighteenth century Quaker meetinghouse in the state. Reaching a peak in the early nineteenth century, however, the Quaker community in Dover began a slow decline, leading to a cessation of regular worship between 1912 and 1955. Dover remained active administratively overseeing meetings for worship at Gonic and Meaderboro.

Within New England Yearly Meeting, Dover was part of Salem Quarterly for more than a century (1705-1815) until Dover Quarterly was established. The long list of worship groups and preparatory meetings under its care have included :

Scope of collection

The records of Dover Monthly Meeting offer extensive documentation of one of the oldest Quaker meetings in northern New England. Although most of the earliest records have not survived, the collection includes a nearly unbroken set of minutes from the turn of the eighteenth century to 1981; extensive records of births, deaths, and marriages; spotty records for Ministry and Oversight and finance, and an array of recent newsletters. Minutes for the Women's Meeting for the years 1783-1814 are not present and presumed lost.

Inventory

| Minutes | 1701-2002 | | |
|---|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Men's Minutes | 1703-1890 | | |
| Dover Monthly: Men's minutes and vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages | 1703-1750 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Men's minutes and vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages | 1750-1784 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Men's minutes | 1786-1819 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Men's minutes, removals | 1819-1840 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Men's minutes, removals | 1840-1865 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Men's and joint minutes, removals | 1865-1890 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Women's Minutes | 1701-1886 | | |
| Dover Monthly: Women's minutes | 1701-1785 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Women's minutes | 1814-1845 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Dover Monthly: Women's minutes | 1846-1886 | Bound vol. | 09:A4 |
| Joint Minutes | 1890-2002 | | |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1890-1951 | Bound vol. | 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1951 Mar.-1981 Aug. | Bound vol. | 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1986 | | Box 2: 8 (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1987 | | Box 2: 9 (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1988 | | Box 2: 10 (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1989 | | Box 2: 11 (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1994 June-1996 Jan. | | Box 2: 12 (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1996 Feb.-1997 Dec. | | Box 2: 13 (11:B4) |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 1998 Feb.-1999 Apr. | Box 2: 14 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 2000 Feb.-2001 Aug. | Box 2: 15 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Minutes | 2001 Sept.-2002 Apr. | Box 2: 16 <i>(11:B4)</i> |

Correspondence and reports

1727-1997

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Denials | 1761-1801 | Box 1: 12 |
| Dover Monthly: Denials (marrying out) | 1721-1800 | Box 1: 13 |
| Dover Monthly: Denials (military service) | 1775-1788 | Box 1: 14 |
| Dover Monthly: Letter from Flushing Quarterly Meeting on visit of ministers Mehitable and Sarah Jenkins | 1773 | Box 1: 15 |
| Dover Monthly: State of the Society (rolled up in tube) | 1997 | Bound vol. 10:13 |
| Memorials: Joel Bean and Roanna F. Bean [with accompanying documents] | 1900-1914 | Box 1: 4 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Philadelphia Epistles | 1758-1808 | Box 1: 5 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Testimonies | 1728-1760 | Box 1: 7 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Tyler, Jonathan: Testimony of service as a minister | 1728 July | Box 1: 11 |
| Steel, John: Testimony of service as a minister | ca.1760 | Box 1: 11 |

Vital records

1678-1959

| | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Births, deaths, and marriages (begun 1787) | 1678-1862 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Births, deaths, and marriages (copied) | 1678-1949 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Marriages | 1789-1959 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |

Worship and ministry

1793-1917

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Ministry and Oversight | 1793-1833 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Ministry and Oversight | 1873-1891 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Ministry and Oversight | 1896-1917 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |

Financial and property

1877-1972

| | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Treasurer (Walter Sawyer bequest) | 1877-1893 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Treasurer | 1892-1917 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Treasurer | 1917-1944 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |
| Dover Monthly: Treasurer (Contributions book: Seacoast Friends) | 1970-1972 | Bound vol. 09:A3 |

Newsletters and publications

1756-1999

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|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1972-1976 | Box 1: 8 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1978-1979 | Box 1: 9 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1980-1987 | Box 1: 10 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1988 | Box 1: 11 <i>(11:B4)</i> |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1989 | Box 1: 12 <i>(11:B4)</i> |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1986 | Box 2: 1 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1987 | Box 2: 2 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1988 | Box 2: 3 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1989 | Box 2: 4 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1994 June-1996 Jan. | Box 2: 5 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1996 Feb.-1997 Dec. | Box 2: 6 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Dover Monthly: Newsletters | 1998 Feb.-1999 Apr. | Box 2: 7 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| London Yearly Meeting epistles | 1756, 1766, 1767, 1768 | Box 1: 16 |
| London Yearly Meeting epistles | 1771, 1773, 1781, 1789, 1790 | Box 1: 17 |

Miscellaneous

1728-1992

| | | |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Dover Friends Monthly Meeting [history, with copies of related documents] | 1979-1992 | Box 1: 1 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Histories of the Dover Friends Meeting | 1914-1935 | Box 1 |
| Bean, James: Dover Quarterly Meeting | 1910 | Box 1: 2 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Pinkham, Annie E.: Historical Sketch of the Friends Meeting, Dover, New Hampshire | 1914 | Box 1: 2 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Pinkham, Annie E.: A brief history of Dover Meeting | 1935 | Box 1: 3 |
| | | (11:B4) |
| Spaulding, Violet: Letter to Thyra Jane Foster on marriage certificate of Seth Griffith and Joanna Hoag (1801) | 1965 Oct. 20 | Box 1: 6 |
| | | (11:B4) |

Rochester Preparative Meeting

1862-1873

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|--|-----------|------------|-------|
| Rochester Preparative (under Dover Monthly): Minutes | 1862-1873 | Bound vol. | 09:C2 |
|--|-----------|------------|-------|

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

Website.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

- Dover (N.H.)--Religious life and customs
- New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
- Quakers--New Hampshire
- Society of Friends--New Hampshire

Contributors

- Dover Friends Meeting **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

- Minutes (Administrative records)
- Newsletters
- Vital records (document genre)

Link to similar SCUA collections

Quakers **Religion** **New Hampshire**