

## Pembroke Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) Records

1674-1988

7 vols. (1.25 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 902 P463



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[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

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The town of Pembroke, Mass., was home to one of the oldest monthly meetings in the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. Established as the Scituate Monthly Meeting in 1672 and settled in Pembroke after 1706, the meeting operated until it was formally laid down in 1876. Worship groups met in Pembroke sporadically from 1964 to 1992.

The records of Pembroke Monthly Meeting contain an extensive series of both the men's and women's meetings from the early eighteenth century to 1876, when the meeting was laid down.

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## Background on Pembroke Monthly Meeting

In the heart of the Massachusetts South Shore, the town of Pembroke was host to meetings for Quaker worship as early as 1660, just three years after Quakers first began to infiltrate the Puritan colonies. The dedication of officials in Massachusetts Bay to eradicate the scourge of Quakerism from their midst was not precisely mirrored in Plymouth County, where local opposition in Scituate and neighboring towns provided a moderating influence. While authorities in Boston executed four Friends between 1659 and 1661, Plymouth merely arrested, beat, and fined their infiltrators.

Mounting pressure from the crown after 1661 brought an end to capital punishment for New England dissenters and Quakerism took root. When the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends was formally established in 1672, the South Shore spawned one of the first meetings for business to be recognized -- under the name Duxbury Monthly Meeting -- and Quakerism spread through adjoining towns from Scituate and Duxbury to Marshfield and Pembroke. The first meetinghouse was constructed near the North River in Scituate in 1678, and for half a century after 1685, the meeting operated under the name Scituate Monthly Meeting.

A second South Shore meetinghouse was constructed in 1706 within the northern limits of the town of Pembroke, although the Scituate meetinghouse continued in simultaneous use until about 1730. Known as Pembroke Monthly Meeting by 1735, the meeting continued until 1876, when it was laid down due to declining attendance. Its remaining members were transferred to meetings in New Bedford or Sandwich. The meetinghouse continued to host meetings for worship sporadically until at least 1895, under the care of New Bedford Monthly Meeting, but after they ceased, the meetinghouse began a slow decay. Local preservation efforts in the 1920s saved the building and after its inclusion in the Historic American Building Survey in 1934, the Pembroke Friends Meeting Association provided continuous support. Quaker worship groups operated there sporadically from 1964 to 1979 under the care of Cambridge Monthly Meeting and from 1988 to 1992 under Sandwich Monthly. The meetinghouse itself was deeded to the Pembroke Historical Society in 1974 and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks on the tercentenary of its construction in 2006.

## Scope of collection

The records of Pembroke Monthly Meeting contain an extensive series of both the men's and women's meetings from the early eighteenth century to 1876, when the meeting was laid down.



Abbie Loring in Cape Cod Quaker attire, ca.1930.

Photo by Alton H. Blackington

# Inventory

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Pembroke Monthly: Minutes (Men)

1702 May-1836 Dec.

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Minutes (Men)

1741 Mar.-1801 Apr.

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Minutes (Men)

1831 Jan.-1876 Sept.

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Minutes (Women)

1765 Apr.-1834 July

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Minutes (Women)

1834 Mar.-1876 Oct.

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Restoration of meetinghouse plans

1987-1988

Folder

10:D4

Pembroke Monthly: Treasurer

1829 June-1876

Bound vol.

09:B5

Pembroke Monthly: Vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages

1674-1876

Bound vol.

09:B5

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

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

### Bibliography

The website of the Pembroke Historical Society contains excellent information on the Quaker Meetinghouse and history of Quakerism in the region.

### Related Material

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

### Processing Information

Processed by Nora D. Charles, Feb. 2020.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

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

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Pembroke Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) [\[main entry\]](#)

### Genres and formats

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

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