Sandwich Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) Records

1672-2019
31 vols., 6 boxes (5.75 linear feet)
Call no.: MS 902 S263

- About SCUA
  - SCUA home
  - Credo digital
- Scope
- Inventory
  - Sandwich Monthly Meeting
  - Constituent and associated meetings
- Admin info
- Download
  - xml version
  - print version (pdf)

Read collection overview

The oldest continuously-organized Quaker meeting in North America, Sandwich Monthly Meeting began holding meetings for worship on 1657 and has been a center for the faith in Cape Cod ever since. Surviving the turbulence of nineteenth century Quakerism in relatively good order, the meeting today oversees three meetinghouses and four centers for worship on the Cape.

The records of Sandwich Monthly Meeting are suitably rich for a meeting of such age, including over three hundred years of minutes of meetings for business. Although the early years of the twentieth century are underdocumented and records of committees are mostly absence, coverage since the 1980s is relatively strong.

See similar SCUA collections:

Quakers
Religion
Massachusetts (East)

Background on Sandwich Monthly Meeting

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

Photo by Alton H. Blackington

Sandwich Monthly Meeting is the oldest continuously organized Quaker meeting in North America. The first meetings for worship at Sandwich were held in 1657 under the preaching of Nicholas Upsall, Christopher Holder, and John Copeland, the latter two of whom had been exiled from Puritan Massachusetts Bay colony, having been beaten for their efforts in introducing Quakerism to New England.

Represented at the first Yearly Meeting of Friends in North America, held in Newport in 1661, Sandwich

recorded its first minutes in 1672, reporting that they had thatched the meetinghouse roof. The subsequent growth of the meeting necessitated expansion of the meetinghouse in 1674 and construction of a second meetinghouse thirty years later, which was itself improved and expanded in 1709 and 1757. Today, three meetinghouses remain: in South Yarmouth (built 1809), Sandwich (1810), and West Falmouth (1842).

The tensions that wracked New England Quakerism during the nineteenth century had a strong impact on Sandwich. As early as 1778, the meeting experienced a separation when Timothy Davis of Rochester, Mass., was read out for urging his fellow Quakers to pay taxes willingly to the Continental Congress, tacitly lending aid to the revolutionary war effort. Davis and a handful of other "Free Quakers" formed a pro-Revolutionary "Davisite" splinter meeting, and although Davis recanted and petitioned for reunion with Sandwich, the Davisites appear to have met separately through at least 1815.

Sandwich survived the turmoil of early nineteenth century Quakerism in relatively good order. The Hicksite separation of 1829 that had a profound impact on other American meetings had little impact on Sandwich, and during the Wilburite separation in 1845, Sandwich remained intact, aligned with the evangelically-influenced Gurneyite ("large body") faction. Members of the meeting at West Falmouth transitioned to programed meetings in the last decade of the nineteenth century and introduced an organ into the meetinghouse shortly thereafter. South Yarmouth, in contrast, remained unprogrammed, although it was reduced to holding only sporadic summer meetings by 1909.

Following reunification of the Gurneyite and Wilburite factions throughout New England in 1945, the fortunes of Sandwich and its constituent meetings brightened. South Yarmouth was reactivated in 1954, and West Falmouth became a year-round meeting a decade later. As of the 2019, Sandwich Monthly consisted of three Preparative Meetings (West Falmouth, East Sandwich, and Yarmouth) plus a Lower Cape Worship group.

Initially overseen by New England Yearly Meeting from 1672, Sandwich Monthly has been part of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting since 1705, the year that quarterly meetings were first established.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Constituent meeting

- East Sandwich Preparative Meeting (1962-present)
- Long Plain Worship group (1750-1786)
- Long Plain Preparative Meeting (1786-1795)
- Lower Cape Worship group (1995-present): in Wellfleet, under Yarmouth Preparative Meeting
- Pembroke Worship group (1988-1992)
- Rochester Preparative Meeting (1740-1786): then Long Plain
- Rochester Worship group (1786-1795)
- South Yarmouth Worship group (1809-1909, 1958-1962)
- Truro Worship group (1987-1994): under Yarmouth Preparative Meeting; became Lower Cape Worship group
- West Falmouth Worship group (1681-1709)
- West Falmouth Preparative Meeting (1709-present): also Suckonesset
- Yarmouth Worship group (1681-1811)
- Yarmouth Preparative Meeting (1811-1909, 1955-present)

Scope of collection

The records of Sandwich Monthly Meeting are suitably rich for a meeting of such age, including over three hundred years of minutes of meetings for business. Although the early years of the twentieth century are underdocumented and records of committees are mostly absence, coverage since the 1980s is relatively strong.

Inventory

Sandwich Monthly Meeting
1672-2011
Minutes
1672-2011
Men's minutes
1672-1899
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1672 Apr.-1754 Nov.
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1755 Jan.-1795 Sept.
Bound vol.
09:C5

Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1795 Nov.-1818 May
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1818-1840
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1841-1864
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men's Meeting
1864 Oct.-1899 July
Bound vol.
09:C5
Women's minutes
1674-1890
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's meeting
1674-1706
Box 1: 1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1776-1794
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1794-1825
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1826-1848
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1849-1882
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1882 Jan.-1890 Nov.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women's meeting (rough)
1838 Apr.-1841 Feb.
Box 1: 2
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Rough minutes, Women's Meeting (rough)
1867 Jan.-1876 June
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Rough minutes, Women's Meeting (rough)
1878 Aug.-1887 Apr.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Rough minutes, Women's Meeting (rough)
1883-1890
Bound vol.
09:D1
Joint minutes
1899-2011
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1899-1938
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes (Joint)
1939 Jan.-1978 Feb.
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1978-1986

Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1978 Apr.-1985 Jan.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1978 Apr.-1988 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes (folder)
2005 Feb.-2006 Feb.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
2006-2007
Box 1: 3
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes
2008-2011
Box 1: 4
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Minutes (Index by David Douglas of minutes, 1672-1978)
undated
Bound vol.
09:D1
Correspondence and other records
1672-2010
New England Yearly Meeting: Minutes (extracts)
1817-1846
Box 1: 5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Correspondence and documents laid into women's minutebook, 1672-1755
1710-1719
Box 1: 6
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Correspondence and documents laid into minutebook, 1842-1887
1842-1874
Box 1: 7
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Discipline
1672-1774
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Discipline (printed)
1785
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Epistles received by women's meeting
1811-1821
Box 1: 8
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Epistles, London Yearly Meeting
1800-1824
Box 1: 9
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Epistles: London Yearly Meeting
1806-1812
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Histories
1907-1978
Box 1: 10
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Histories: Apponegansett
1931-1948
Box 1: 11
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Histories: Quakers and Quaker meeting house of Sandwich, 1639-1939, by Thomas A. Tripp
1939
Box 1: 12
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Miscellaneous
2008-2010
Box 1: 13
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Properties owned by Sandwich Monthly Meeting, by James Gould
2000

Box 1: 14
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Receipts and invoices
1896-1903
Box 1: 15
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Receipts and invoices
1904-1913
Box 1: 16
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Sandwich Monthly Meeting, 1778 [Bicentennial play]
1975
Box 1: 17
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: State of Society reports
1989-1994
Box 1: 18
Vital records
1646-1850
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Vital records: Births and deaths
1717-1850
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Vital records: Births and marriages (photostats)
1646-1761
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Vital records: Marriages
1762-1841
Bound vol.
09:C5
Publications
1967-2004
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1967-1970
Box 2: 1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1971-1973
Box 2: 2
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1974-1976
Box 2: 3
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1977-1978
Box 2: 4
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1979-1980
Box 2: 5
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1981-1983
Box 2: 6
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1984-1986
Box 2: 7
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1987-1990
Box 2: 8
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1991-1993
Box 2: 9
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1994-1996
Box 2: 10
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1997-1999
Box 2: 11
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
2000-2002
Box 2: 12
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
2003-2004
Box 2: 13

Constituent and associated meetings
1757-1891
Davisite "Free Quakers"
1757-1815
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Davis separation: Elizabeth Wing and Timothy Davis agreement, 1757 [copy made 1895]
1895
Box 6: 1
Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Davis separation: Minutes, Quarterly and Monthly
1781-1815
Bound vol.
09:C5
Sandwich Preparative
1849-1997
Sandwich Preparative: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1849 Dec.-1868 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Preparative: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1869 Jan.-1879 Apr.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Preparative: Minutes, Women's Meeting
1879 May-1891 Jan.
Bound vol.
09:D1
Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Members directory
1997
Box 1: 19
Sandwich Preparative Meeting: State of Society reports
1989-1991
Box 1: 20
East Sandwich Preparative
1984-2011
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1984-1985
Box 3: 1
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1986
Box 3: 2
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1987
Box 3: 3
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1989
Box 3: 4
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1990
Box 3: 5
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2000
Box 3: 6
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2001
Box 3: 7
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2003 Nov.-2004
Box 3: 8
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2005
Box 3: 9
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2006
Box 3: 10
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2007-208
Box 3: 11
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes

2009-2010
Box 3: 12
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2011
Box 3: 13
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting: State of Society report
2003
Box 3: 14
West Falmouth Monthly
1983-2022
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1983-1984
Box 4: 1
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1985-1987
Box 4: 2
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1988-1989
Box 4: 3
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1990-1991
Box 4: 4
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1992-1993
Box 4: 5
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1994-1995
Box 4: 6
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1996-1997
Box 4: 7
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
1998-2000 Jan.
Box 4: 8
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2001 Jan.-July
Box 4: 9
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2003 Dec.
Box 4: 10
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2004
Box 4: 11
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2005
Box 4: 12
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2007-2008
Box 4: 13
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2009-2010
Box 4: 14
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2011-2012
Box 4: 15
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2013-2014
Box 4: 16
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2015-2017
Box 4: 17
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2018
Box 4: 18
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2019
Box 4: 19
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes

2019-2022
Box 4
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Members' directory
1998
Box 4: 20
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting: Histories: Quakers in West Falmouth, 1685-1985
1985
Box 4: 21
Yarmouth Preparative
1984-2011
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Minutes
2011
Box 5: 1
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Additional notes to Laurence Barber's Persons Buried in the Quaker Graveyard, South Yarmouth, Massacchusetts, by Robert Dudley Kelley
undated
Box 5: 2
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Information regarding the South Yarmouth Preparative Meeting, by Laurence L. Barber
1984
Box 5: 3
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Information regarding Yarmouth Preparative Meeting, by Laurence L. Barber
1992
Box 5: 4
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Invitation to visit Friends Meeting House, South Yarmouth, Cape Cod [brochure]
ca.1960
Box 5: 5
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting: Quakers of the Mid-Cape, by Laurence L. Barber
1990
Box 5: 6
Who they were: Notes on the South Yarmouth Quaker Graveyard, by Laurence L. Barber
1990
Box 5: 7

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.

Bibliography

Dillingham, John H., The Society of Friends in Barnstable County, Massachusetts(1891)

Gould, James Warren, A new account of the history of the Society of Friends on Cape Cod(accessed Nov. 2018)

Current contact for the meeting

Sandwich Monthly Meeting website (accessed Mar. 2020).

Processing Information

Processed by Nora D. Charles, Mar. 2020.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Sandwich Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) Records (MS 902 s263). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

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

Contributors

- Sandwich Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Minutes (Administrative records)
- Newsletters

Link to similar SCUA collections

- Quakers
- Religion
- Massachusetts (East)

Special Collections & University Archives
University Libraries : UMass Amherst
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)
Email an archivist

2020Site PoliciesAccessibility