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# Swansea Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) Records

1708-1953  
29 vols., 2 boxes (5.75 linear feet)  
Call no.: MS 902 S936

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Read collection overview

Quaker worship began at Swansea, Mass., by 1701, under the care of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, with the Swansea Monthly Meeting being set off in 1732. Situated in an area with a relatively large Quaker population, Swansea oversaw worship groups and preparative meetings in nearby Fall River, Freetown, Somerset, Taunton, and Troy. Swansea was divided by the separation of 1845, with the Wilburite meeting persisting for about twenty years.

The records of Swansea Monthly Meeting are a rich assemblage of meeting minutes, vital records, and other materials, covering nearly two and a half centuries of Quaker activity on Cape Cod. The collection also includes records of the Fall River and Swansea Preparative Meetings.

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## Background on Swansea Monthly Meeting

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

Photo by Alton H. Blackington

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Swansea was transferred to Sandwich Quarter in 1951 and the monthly remained active until recent years.

The Swansea Meetinghouse in Somerset, Mass., was initially built in 1702, with subsequent additions and modifications in 1747 and 1889, and is today considered the oldest surviving Quaker meetinghouse in Massachusetts. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.

Swansea Monthly Meeting: worship groups and preparative meetings

- Fall River Worship Group (1818-1824: became Troy)
- Fall River Preparative Meeting (1834-1960)
- Freetown Worship Group (before 1735-1778, 1856-1917)
- Freetown Preparative Meeting (1778-1831)
- Somerset Worship Group (ca.1790- )
- Taunton Worship Group (before 1735-1831)
- Troy Preparative Meeting (1824-1834: became Fall River Preparative)

## Scope of collection

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## Inventory

Swansea Monthly Meeting Records  
1732-1928

Swansea Monthly Meeting: Minutes  
1732-1928

Swansea Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Men  
1732-1928

Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1732-1788

Bound vol.

09:D5

Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1788 Mar.-1824 Aug.

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1824 Sept.-1844 Aug.

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1844 Aug.-1867 May

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1867 June-1888 Dec.

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1889 Jan.-1897 Dec.

Bound vol.

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Men)  
1898 Jan.-1910 Apr.

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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Clerk's notes 1829-1831)  
1910 May-1928 Jan.

Bound vol.

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Swansea Monthly Meeting: Minutes, Women  
1732-1895

Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Women)  
1732 Sept.-1804 Oct.

Bound vol.

09:E1

Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Women)  
1804 Nov.-1837 Apr.  
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Minutes, Women: rough  
1829-1831  
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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Women)  
1837 May-1878 Sept.  
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Swansea Monthly: Minutes (Women)  
1878 Oct.-1895 Jan.  
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Ministry and Worship  
1839-1950  
Swansea Monthly: Ministry and Oversight  
1911 July-1950 Oct.  
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Swansea Monthly: Select Preparative  
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09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: Select Preparative  
1839-1911  
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09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: List of Ministers who have visited NEYM, 1656-1896, by Gulielma Freeborn  
1896  
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Swansea Monthly: Index to ministers and companions visiting Swansea  
Box 2  
Vital records  
1733-1953  
Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Acknowledgments and denials  
1787 Mar.-1801  
Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Births and deaths  
1784-1843  
Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Births and deaths (card index) in box (Card file wrapped)  
1656-1895  
Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages  
1740-1901?  
Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages  
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Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Marriages  
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Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Marriages  
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Swansea Monthly: Vital records: Removals  
1803-1857  
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Other records  
1708-1897  
Books and papers belonging to Swansea Monthly Meeting  
1897  
Box 1: 2  
Brayton, Patience  
1796  
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Discipline  
1672-1763  
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Epistles: London Yearly Meeting  
1795  
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Indigent members: receipts for support  
1859-1879  
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Establishment of Swansea Monthly Meeting  
1918  
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Meetinghouse: Deeds and copies  
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Meetinghouse (Fall River): Bills and receipts for construction  
1836-1837  
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Miscellaneous  
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Receipts  
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Reinstatement requests  
1806-1823  
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Swansea Monthly Meeting. Treasurer  
1834 Feb. 20-1878 June 24  
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Taunton Meeting  
1816-1823  
Box 1: 13  
Traveling certificates: Brayton, Patience  
1783-1787  
Box 1: 14  
Year book and church directory of the Swansea Friends Meeting  
1931  
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Fall River Preparative  
1852-1931  
Fall River Preparative: Friends Bible School  
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Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Fall River Preparative: Minutes  
1888 Mar. 21-1909 Dec. 27  
Bound vol.  
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Fall River Preparative: Minutes  
1910 Jan. 6-1931 Jan. 18  
Bound vol.  
09:E1  
Swansea Preparative

1708-1932  
Swansea Monthly  
1708-1932  
Box: 0.5 lin. ft.  
11:E6  
Swansea Preparative: Minutes  
1873-1901  
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1901-1914  
Bound vol.  
09:E1

## 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](#).

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

### Language:

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

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

### Contributors

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

### Genres and formats

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

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