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Westport Monthly Meeting (Society of Friends) Records

1766-2004
18 vols., 1 box (2.25 linear feet)
Call no.: MS 902 W4787

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Read collection overview

In 1699, Quaker meeting for worship began in Acoaxet, Mass., a coastal village within the boundaries of what would become the town of Westport. The worship group was set off from Dartmouth Monthly as a monthly meeting of its own in 1766, the Acoaxet Monthly Meeting, and became affiliated with Rhode Island Quarter. Between 1803 and 1812 the name Acoaxet was gradually replaced with Westport.

Westport Monthly Meeting of Friends is well documented, with nearly continuous minutes of business meetings stretching from 1766 to 1989, a collection of vital statistics from the establishment of the meeting through 1887, and over fifty years of newsletters (1961-2004).

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Background on Westport Monthly Meeting

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

Photo by Alton H. Blackington

In 1699, Quaker meeting for worship began in Acoaxet, Mass., a coastal village within the boundaries of what would become the town of Westport. The worship group was set off from Dartmouth Monthly as a monthly

meeting of its own in 1766, the Acoaxet Monthly Meeting, and became affiliated with Rhode Island Quarter. Between 1803 and 1812 the name Acoaxet was gradually replaced with Westport.

Over the years, Westport has cared for worship groups at Centre (1766-1789, 1853-1870, 1760-1880), Little Compton, R.I. (1777-ca.1882), and Tiverton, R.I. (1777-1780), as well as the Centre Preparative Meeting (1789-1853), which became the Westport Preparative.

Scope of collection

Westport Monthly Meeting of Friends is well documented, with nearly continuous minutes of business meetings stretching from 1766 to 1989, a collection of vital statistics from the establishment of the meeting through 1887, and over fifty years of newsletters (1961-2004).

Inventory

Westport Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1766-1989

Minutes: Men's meeting
1766-1886

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Men's meeting
1766 June-1787 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Men's meeting
1788 Jan.-1797 May
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Men's meeting
1797 June-1836 Mar.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Men's meeting
1836 Apr.-1886 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Minutes, Women's meeting
1783-1884

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Women's meeting (formerly Acoaxet)
1783 Sept.-1839 June
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Women's meeting
1839 July-1884 Oct.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Women's meeting (rough)
1850 Apr.-1870 Feb.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes, Women's meeting (rough)
1870 Jan.-1884 Nov.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Minutes: Joint
1887-1989

Westport Monthly: Minutes
1887-1935
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes
1936-1959
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes
1959-1983
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes (rough)
1983 Apr. 10-1985 Dec.
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes (rough)
1984 June-1987 May
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Minutes
1986 Jan.-1987 June
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly Meeting: Minutes
1987-1989
Box 1: 1

Westport Monthly Meeting: Worship and ministry
1949-1994

Westport Monthly: Ministers and Elders
1949-1984
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly Meeting: State of the Society reports [lacking 1989]
1988-1994
Box 1: 7

Westport Monthly Meeting: Vital records
1766-1887

Westport Monthly: Vital records: Births, deaths, and marriages (formerly Acoaxet)
1766-1882
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly: Vital records: Epistles and removals
1786-1887
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly Meeting: Financial and property
1807-1903

Westport Monthly: Treasurer (Acoaxet Monthly)
1807-1903
Bound vol.
09:E3

Westport Monthly Meeting: Building costs for meetinghouse
1813
Box 1: 2

Westport Monthly Meeting: Valuation of property
1852
Box 1: 8

Westport Monthly Meeting: Other records
1827-1916

Westport Monthly Meeting: Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting
1827
Box 1: 3

Westport Monthly Meeting: Meeting history: "The two-hundredth anniversary of Friends Meeting, Westport, Massachusetts," by Khalil A. Totah and Edward L. Macomber
1916
Box 1: 4

Westport Monthly Meeting: Miscellaneous
1871-1886
Box 1: 5

Westport Monthly Meeting: Removals
1828-1886
Box 1: 6

Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1961-2004

Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1961-1978
Box 1: 9

Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1979-1981

Box 1: 10
Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1982-1986
Box 1: 11
Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1987-1990
Box 1: 12
Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
1998-1999
Box 1: 13
Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
2000-2001
Box 1: 14
Westport Monthly Meeting: Newsletters
2002-2004
Box 1: 15
Little Compton Worship Group
1784
Little Compton Worship Group: (John Ward and John Griffith deed to Monthly Meeting)
1784 Sept. 28
Framed

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

[Westport Friends Meeting website](#)

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

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Search terms

Subjects

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- Society of Friends--Massachusetts

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