



1976

The First Parish, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

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Recommended Citation

Mann, D.L. & Bates, A.H. (1976). *The First Parish, Bridgewater, Massachusetts*. Bridgewater, Mass.: Bridgewater-Raynham Graphics Arts Department. Available at http://vc.bridgew.edu/local_histories/1/

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THE
FIRST
PARISH
BRIDGEWATER
MASSACHUSETTS



THE FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN CHURCH BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

“An accounting of its history as
revealed by its records”

Written, Compiled and Edited By

Dorothy L. Mann and Anne H. Bates

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Anne H. Bates

Published By BRIDGEWATER-RAYNHAM GRAPHIC ARTS DEPARTMENT

BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

In this Bi-Centennial year of 1976, it is our desire to tell the story of the First Parish Unitarian Church of Bridgewater as found in our church records, supplemented by other sources.

November 1715

Records of the Massachusetts General Court-Volume 10, pages 60, 61, 62.

"The Report of the Committee appointed the fourth of December last to repair to Bridgewater and view the town and consider of the most convenient Place for erecting a New Meeting House; viz.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay: ---Bridgewater, April 18, 1716

Whereas the General Court of the said Province on the fourth day of December last upon the position of sundry of the Inhabitants of said Bridgewater did order and appoint to the Subscribers a Committee to repair to the said town of Bridgewater and view the Town and consider of the map Convenient Place for the erecting of a new Meeting House. Having a regard to a suggestion of the Town that there will soon be need of a third Meeting House. Pursuant to the aforesaid Order, we the aforesaid Committee have repaired to the aforesaid Town and viewed the same and heard the Allegations of the Inhabitants, and the said Town being most together and Reconsidering their former Vote and the circumstances of their Town referring to the Affairs aforesaid Manifested and Declared by their Vote their Desire to be Divided into two Precincts and no more, for the Maintenance of the Worship of God; and Submitted the Filing of the Places for the erecting or standing of the two Meeting Houses and the Dividing Line unto the Determination of the aforesaid Committee; Are humbly of the Opinion that it will well accomodate the Inhabitants of the said Town to be divided into two Precincts for the Maintenance of Worship of God amongst them and that the Dividing Line between the said two Precincts be as follows:

Viz: Beginning at the Brook called the Mile Brook; Where the Road leading from Boston to Taunton crosses the said Brook; and from thence by a line running

West by South to the uttermost Extent of said Township, And from the Station first mentioned by a Line running Easterly in the Mid-Way between the Dwelling House of William Hudson and the Dwelling House of David Perkins, and from thence the said line to be continued in the Midst betwixt the Dwelling House of Edward Mitchel & the Dwelling House of Nathaniel Hayward; And from thence the said Line to be continued Easterly in the Midst betwixt the Dwelling House of James Latham, & the Dwelling House of Joseph Washburn, & from thence by a due East Line to the extent of the said Bridgewater Township.

And that all the Lands & inhabitants within the said Township on the Southerly Side of the said Line be & belong to the Southerly Precinct, and that all the Land & Inhabitants within the said Township on the Northerly Side of the aforesaid Line be & belong to the Northerly Precinct.

And further We are of Opinion that the High Way or Rising Ground on the Southerly Side of the High Way going by John Washburn House being the Easterly Part of his Field is a very proper & convenient Place for the Erecting a Meeting House for the Southerly Precinct, And that the old Meeting House now standing in the Northerly Precinct be continued in the Place where it now standeth for the Space of five Years next ensuing, & then that it be removed Easterly or a new one erected for the said Northerly Precinct upon the High or Rising Ground in the Southerly Part of said Johnson Field, where diverse Roads or High Ways do most convenient for that Purpose.

Provided that the whole Town stand obliged to an Honorable Maintenance of the Rev. Mr. Keith their present aged Minister, if he shall outlive his Power & Capacity of Discharging the office & Duty of their Minister."

To all Christian people unto whom these presents shall
 come John Washburne of the Town of Bridgewater in the County of
 Plymouth in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England
 husbandman Greeting Know ye that the said John Washburne
 Burne sundry good reasons beside Love and affection which he beare toward
 the inhabitants of the southerly part of Bridgewater the same morning
 hereunto have given and granted and do by these presents fully
 and absolutely give and grant unto the above mentioned inhabitants
 of the southerly part of the Town of Bridgewater commonly called the
 inhabitants of the South precinct unto all of them jointly a certain
 tract of two acres of Land for them the said inhabitants to build there
 a meeting house on being near unto my now dwelling house in said
 South precinct but on the other side of the Country Road called an
 bounded as followeth to wit on the northerly or north Easterly by the Corner of the
 said South precinct
 South Easterly by said Road
 by said Fence with a heap of Stones about the said
 Running westerly or South westerly between Rods unto
 of Stones about it standing in the old field and so from thence
 a northerly or north westerly Course between Rods unto a bush marked
 with a heap of Stones about the said adjoining unto the fence and
 then a long Easterly by the said fence between Rods unto the Bound fence
 mentioned To Have and to hold the said two acres of Land with all the tenements
 appurtenances and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto them the inhabi-
 tants of said southerly precinct their heirs Executors administrators and
 assigns unto their sole use benefit and behoof for ever and the said
 John Washburne do promise and engage to defend the above mentioned pre-
 mises unto said South precinct from all Lawfull Claimers by an
 under me and in witness and Confirmation hereof I have set
 to my hand and affixed my Seal in the third year of his Majesty
 King George the Third the sixth day of December Anno Domini 1722

Signed sealed and delivered

In presence of

Lieut. Gov. Kings

John Washburne

Hannah Paul
mark

Plymouth on the day and year above written the above
 mentioned John Washburne appeared before me the Subscriber
 being one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace for the County of
 acknowledged this Instrument to be his Voluntary act and
 deed

Josiah Edson

Received June: 20: 1722: Record'd with the Records of
 Deeds for the County of Plymouth - Book. 16th
 Folio - 61 - and compared & Josiah Edson

On April 6, 1717, John Washburn deeded two acres of his land to the inhabitants of the "Southern part of Bridgewater to build them a Meeting House." Little time was wasted as the Meeting House was dedicated on June 14, 1717. The Rev. James Keith delivered the dedication sermon. The building was forty-three feet by thirty-eight feet with eighteen-foot posts and was located near the present church.

Part of the two acres was set aside for a burial ground. The first graves were on the high ground near the Meeting House. It is of interest to note that Rebecca Washburn, wife of John Washburn, was the first to be buried in the year.

The first minister of the South Precinct was the Rev. Benjamin Allen who served from 1717 to 1730. He was ordained July 9, 1718. A list of the original members, dated July 7, 1718, follows:

Benjamin Allen, Minister	Mrs. Elizabeth Allen
Nathaniel Hayward	Mrs. Nathaniel Hayward
Benjamin Hayward	Mrs. Frances Wood
Samuel Chandler	Mrs. Samuel Chandler
Nathaniel Willey	Mrs. Nathaniel Willey
John Fobes	Mrs. John Fobes
Nathaniel Woodward	Mrs. Nathaniel Woodward
John Keith	Mrs. John Keith
Nathaniel Conant	Mrs. Nathaniel Conant
Josiah Edson, Esq.	Mrs. Josiah Edson
David Perkins	Mrs. David Perkins
John Bolton	Mrs. John Bolton
Eleazer Carver	Mrs. Eleazer Carver
Joseph Alden	Mrs. Joseph Alden
Samuel Keith	Mrs. Samuel Keith
Richard Jennings	Mrs. Richard Jennings
Benjamin Snow	Mrs. Benjamin Snow
William Conant	Mrs. William Conant
James Washburn	Mrs. James Washburn
Joseph Leonard	Mrs. Joseph Leonard
Joseph Pratt	Mrs. Joseph Pratt
Jonathan Willey	Mrs. Joseph Pratt, Jr.
Richard Davenport	Mrs. Jacob Leonard
John Washburn	Mrs. Isaac Leonard
Samuel Washburn	Mrs. Joseph Bassett
Nathaniel Conant, Jr.	Widow Willey

In the beginning, the Committee for the South Precinct ordered the clerk to call the meetings. Later, the Parish Committee notified the Constable to post a notice a specified number of days before a called meeting. The warrant of March 1, 1828, is typical of many found in the records:

"To Mitchell Keith, Esq., one of the constables of the town of Bridgewater.

Greeting ---

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn the male inhabitants of the First Congregational Society in said Bridgewater, being twenty-one years of age and upwards, qualified, as the law directs to vote in Parish affairs to meet at the meeting house of said Society, on Saturday, the fifteenth day of March instant at one of the clock P.M. to act upon the following articles viz., ".....etc.

The Constables always signed a statement that he had indeed "Notified and warned the members" of the Society the required number of days before the meeting and usually stated where he had posted the Notice. The following is an example: "Bridgewater, April 12, 1845 - I have this day posted up in the stores of Hale and Hobart, Perkins and Barrett and George W. Pratt, and in the Barroom of Edward Mitchell Hotel, being public places in Bridgewater,"

These meeting warrants listed articles to be acted upon and the clerk, elected the previous year, called the meeting to order. Always the first article was to elect a Moderator. This procedure continued until 1957 when the Parish Chairman conducted the meetings.

As was the custom, the Parish Minister and the Meeting House were supported by a tax. Assessors, usually three, were chosen and, in "His Majesty's name," ordered to assess real and personal property and to keep records. Small booklets were kept listing parish members, their real and personal property, and polls (for votes). The collectors or constables, sometimes two, turned the money and reports over to the Parish Treasurer for disbursement.

Three assessors were chosen to assess real and personal property to be taxed for the support of the minister and the meeting house. Often they were sworn in before starting the duty they were to perform. Some years there appears to have been more than three assessors. The names and dates shown all appear on papers found. The records are far from complete.

1758-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Nathan Hayward
 1759-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Nathan Hayward
 1763-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Nathan Hayward
 1764-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Samuel Kinsley
 1765-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Jacob Washburn
 1766-Josiah Edson, Jr., Benjamin Willis, Jacob Washburn

1811-Solomon Hayward, Simeon Pratt
 1815-Silvanus Pratt, Sears Washburn, Asa Pratt
 1816-Daniel Mitchell, Lothrop R. ?
 Mitchell Keith, Nathan Lazell, Silvanus Pratt
 1817-Silvanus Pratt, Asa Pratt, Mitchell Keith
 1818-Silvanus Pratt, Nathan Lazell, Nathan Mitchell, Daniel Mitchell
 1819-Silvanus Pratt, Nathan Lazell, Benjamin Pope
 1820-Silvanus Pratt, Nathan Lazell, Asa Pratt, George Chipman
 1821-Silvanus Pratt, Seth Washburn, Artemas Hale
 1822-Silvanus Pratt, Benjamin Pope, Waldo Ames, Artemas Hale
 1823-Silvanus Pratt, Samuel Sanger, Nathaniel Washburn
 1824-Silvanus Pratt, Calvin Washburn, Abram Washburn
 1825-Silvanus Pratt, Artemas Hale, Philo Leach, Calvin Washburn,
 Abram Washburn
 1826-Solomon Hayward, Artemas Hale, Philo Leach
 1827-Solomon Hayward, Artemas Hale, Philo Leach, Caleb Leonard
 1828-Solomon Hayward, Artemas Hale
 1829-Solomon Hayward, Artemas Hale, Philo Leach, Silvanus Pratt
 1830-Solomon Hayward, Artemas Hale
 1831-Nathan Lazell, Jr., Abram Washburn, Philo Leach
 1832-Philo Leach, Abram Washburn
 1833-Dion Bryant, Nathan Lazell, Artemas Hale
 1834-Mitchell Keith, Nahum Stetson

1845-Williams Latham, Jon Cushing
 1846-Williams Latham, Jon Cushing
 1847-Williams Latham, Jon Cushing
 1848-Williams Latham, Jon Cushing

1853-Calvin B. Pratt, Nahum Stetson

1892-Isaac Damon, Nathan Willis, H. M. Blackstone
 1893-Isaac Damon

S. 11

	Notation	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit
Charles Warren	42.00	25.75	76	4	41
John Dunder & Son	52.00	7.00	75	5	46
William Sharples	10.00	1.00	70	1	05
Richard Dean			75		
Colde & P. M. Cook & Son	88.00	22.25		9	24
William Ortes & Son	115.00	17.25	295	12	08
Bob Johnson Ortes	0.00		75		
Walter & Co. Ortes	3.00			53	
Paul Ortes	25.00	3.00	75	2	94
David Ortes & Son	22.00	5.25	190	2	31
Johnnie Gilbert	39.00	8.00	75	6	20
John Henderson	19.00	4.50	75	1	26
John E. Gordon			75		
Wm. Gordon	22.00		75	2	31
John Henderson			75		
Walter Lang Henderson	0.00			1	05
Charles Hayward	4.00	00.75	75	4	2
Wm. Hayward	5.00			84	
John Hayward	8.00	2.50	75	8	4
Johnnie Hayward			75		
Johnnie Hayward	485.00	97.25	14.25	50	94

19

75

12 Many of the early available records of the Parish have to do with the support of the minister and the meeting house. Assessors were chosen to assess the real and personal property. Collectors, usually constables, were elected to collect the assessed taxes and they in turn were ordered to turn the pounds, shillings and pence over to the treasurer. Designated as collectors were Timothy Perkins in 1759, Mitchell Keith in 1816; Capt. Sears Washburn, 1817; William Mitchell, 1818; Mitchell Keith, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826; Calvin B Pratt, 1846, 1848, 1849, 1850; Baalis Sanford, 1851; Artemas Hale, Jr., 1852; Calvin B. Pratt, 1853, 1854; Caleb Hobart, 1855; Calvin B. Pratt, 1856, 1857.

The Constables, whose names appear as collectors, and later as officers of the law, posted the warrants.

1758-Josiah Washburn, Benjamin Keith
1759-Nehemiah Leach, Josiah Hayward, Timothy Perkins
1764-John Fobes, Robert Latham
1766-John Fobes, Joseph Packard
1791-Joseph Fobes
1816-1817-1818-Mitchell Keith
1819-Mitchell Keith, Fiske Ames
1820-1821-1822-Mitchell Keith
1823-Capt. Joseph Alden
1824 to 1832-Mitchell Keith
1833-1834-Dion Bryant
1835-Dion Bryant, Edward Mitchell
1836-Edward Mitchell
1837-Philip Kingman
1839 to 1844-Philip Kingman
1845-Philip D. Kingman, Daniel C. ?
1846-Philip D. Kingman
1847-George W. Bassett
1848-1849-Calvin B. Pratt
1850-1851-Willard W. Fobes
1852-Philip D. Kingman
1853-Philip D. Kingman, Francis D. King
1854-Francis D. King
1855-1856-1857-Calvin H. Wilbur
1859-Philip D. Kingman
1861-1862-Calvin H. Wilbur
1863-Asa E. Copeland, Samuel Hawes
1864-1865-1866-1868-Samuel Hawes
1874-I.S.Wilbur
1877 to 1881-Francis D. King
1882-Lemuel M. Keith, Francis D. King
1883-Henry F. Braman
1884-Francis D. King
1885-John W. Perkins
1886-1887-Francis D. King
1888-1889-James Witherell

Constables (Continued)

1890-Francis D. King
 1891-James Witherell
 1892-James Witherell, Lester Witherell
 1893-1894-James Witherell
 1895-1896-Lester Witherell
 1897-James Witherell
 1898-A.Z. Pratt
 1899-1900-Andrew Merrill
 1901-1902-1903-E. Frank LeBaron
 1904-Albert I. Simmons, Eustis Sturtevant
 1905 to 1908-Albert I. Simmons
 1912-John Cochrane

The treasurers and the dates their names appear are:

Josiah Leonard-1757-1758-1759
 Benjamin Willis-1764-1766
 Isaac Lazell-1802
 Caleb Carey-1811-1812-1815
 Holmes Sprague-1816 to 1821
 Nathan Lazell, Jr.-1822 to 1829
 Nahum Stetson-1830-1832
 Mitchell Keith-1831
 Philo Leach-1833 to 1849
 William Latham-1850 to 1857
 Eli Washburn-1858 to 1876
 Henry T. Pratt-1877
 Charles Robbins-1878
 Edward Sawyer, M. D. - 1879 to 1881
 Darrius Ford-1882
 Charles Robbins-1883
 Ambrose Keith-1884 to 1886
 Henry T. Pratt-1887 to 1891
 Harry W. Bragdon-1892 to 1910

To Josiah Leonard Treasr. for the South Prec. in Bridgewater
 You are hereby empowered and directed to Demand and Receive of
 Josiah Washburn Constable the Sum of - £ 33, 3, 11.
 also of Benjamin Keitts Constable the Sum of - £ 33, 4, 4.
 by the first Day of March next, agreeable to the Bills of Appointment
 and Warrants to them committed, to collect & pay in the same
 Dec: 5. 1758.
 Josiah Leonard junr. } Bridgw.
 Benj^r Willis junr. } South Prec.
 Nathaniel Hayward } Assessor

Thomas mens Proportion of the Tax

Thomas and Francis Perkins	L. 8. 12. 2
Ebenezer Perkins	3. 2 ²
John Doly	2. 11
Abel Edson	6. 1
Benjamin Leach	7. 3
Benjamin Peterson	3. 4
Elihu Leach	6. 11
Samuel Leach	3. 8
Eben ^r Edson	3. 6
Obed Edson	5. 1
Thomas Perkins junr	5. 4
Nathaniel Hayward jun	3. 5
	<hr/> 3. 2. 10. 2

To Josiah Leonard Treasr. Treasr.
 These are to Orders, to pay Out of the Treasr. the following Sums
 viz.
 To the Treasr. Mr. John Shaw - - - - - £ 60. 14. 1. 3/4
 To Mr. Jos. Washburn for (are about the meeting House &c. - 0. 10. 8.
 To Jonathan Edson junr Cap^t. Benjamin Willis junr & Mr.
 Nathaniel Hayward for making Rates 1757. to each lot - 0. 12. 0.
 To Mr. Jon^a Cary for repairing a meeting House - - - - - 5. 0.
 £ 62. 1. 9. 3/4
 Josiah Washburn } South Prec.
 Jonathan Edson } Treasr.
 Nathaniel Hayward } Assessor

month to Social Work...

his Majesty's Name you are Required to collect and collect as
 in the List here with committal... of the Sum total of such...
 and agreed upon by the Inhabitants of the Southwicks in kind and regular
 Assesses on the 25th Day of November 1758 for defraying the necessary
 Charges arising within the said Free and to deliver and pay on the Sum and
 of said Free and to compute and make up an Account of your collection of the
 whole Sum at or before the first Day of March next and if any Person or Per-
 sons shall refuse or neglect to make Payment of the Sum or Sums whereat he
 or they are respectively assessed and set in the said List to Dispute the goods or
 Chattels of such Person or Persons to the value thereof and the Dispute or Disputes
 so taken to keep by the Space of four Days at the Cost and Charge of the Owner
 if the Owner do not pay the Sum or Sums of money so assessed upon him
 within the Term of four Days, then the Dispute or Disputes so taken you
 expose and Openly sell at an Out-Cry for payment of the said Money and give
 Notice of such Sale being posted up in some publick Place within the said Town
 twenty four Hours before Hand, And the Charges coming by said Sale if any
 be beside the Sum or Sums of Money so assessed and the Charges of taking and keeping
 the Dispute or Disputes to be immediately restored to the owner and for
 of Goods or Chattels whereon to make Dispute you are to set
 Person or Persons so refusing and...
 Goal of the County there to remain until they pay or satisfy the
 Sum, whereat they are respectively assessed as aforesaid, unless upon Application
 made to the Court of general Sessions of the Peace the same or any Part thereof
 shall be abated. Dated at Weymouth the fifth Day of December Anno Domini 1758
 And the thirty second year of his Majesty's Reign

William Pitt Rivers }
 Benjamin Willis jun. }
 Nathan Hayward }
 } South Free.
 } Assessors

(16) Plymouth Jo M. A. B. Constable of the Town of
 (17) Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth Greeting
 (18)

In his Masters name you are
 required to levy and collect of the several persons named in the list here =
 = with committed unto you, each one his respective proportion therein
 set down of the sum total of such list (being a Tax or a payment
 granted and agreed upon by the inhabitants of the South Precinct in
 Bridgewater regularly appointed Nov. 24th Dom: 1764 for defraying
 the necessary Charges arising within the same) and to deliver and
 pay in the said sum and sums, which you shall so levy and collect unto M:
 B. C. Treasurer of said Precinct, and to compile and make up an account
 of your Collection of the whole sum at or before the first day of
 March Next and if any person or persons shall neglect or refuse to
 make payment of the sum or sums whereat he or they are respectively
 assessed and set down in the said list to distrain the goods or Chattels of
 such person or persons to the value thereof, and the distress or distresses
 so taken, to keep by the space of four days at the cost and charge of the
 owner, and if the owner do not pay the sum or sums of money so
 assessed upon him within the said four days, the said distress
 or distresses so taken, you are to expose and openly sell at an
 outcry for payment of the said money and Charges, notice of such
 sale being posted up in some publick place within the same Town
 Twenty four hours before hand) and the overplus coming by the said
 sale, if any be beside the sum or sums of the Assessment and the
 Charges of taking and keeping the distress or distresses, to be immediately
 restored to the owner, and for want of goods or Chattels whercon to
 make distress you are to seize the body or bodies of the person
 or persons so refusing and him or them to commit to the common
 Goal of the County there to remain, until he or they pay and satisfy
 the several sum or sum whereat they are respectively assessed as
 aforesaid, unless upon Application made to the Court of general session
 of the year the same or any part thereof shall be abated Dated
 at Bridgewater on the 3^d day of December in the fifth year of His
 Majesties Reign Dom 1764

A. B. } Jo M. A. B. Constable
 C. D. }
 E. F. } A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

To Benj Willis jun^r Treasurer for the South
Precinct in Bridgewater

These are to direct you to receive
of M^r John Forbes Constable the sum of 40⁵ 4⁰ 6²

And of M^r Joseph Packard the sum of 41¹⁸ 10⁰ :

The respective sums apayed
on the Ch^h men are as followeth

John Doty	3	3	0
Obed Edson	7	5	2
Abel Edson	7	5	--
Tho ^s Perkins	13	11	2
Benj ^a Peteron	4	2	3
Sam ^a Edson	1	2	--
Eben ^a Perkins	11	2	3
Francis Perkins	4	8	2
	3	3	5

Benj Willis jun^r South Prec.
Jacob Washburn
Josiah Edson jun^r Assessors

And you are hereby required to ^{pay} the persons
hereafter named the following sums affixed to their names

To the Treas ^r M ^r John Shaw	80	14	10
To M ^r John Washburn	1	1	4
To M ^r Josiah Edson jun ^r	=	4	=
To M ^r Jacob Washburn	=	4	=
To Benj ^a Willis jun ^r	12	50	5
	82	14	7

Dated at Bridgewater Dec^r 4th 1766

John Washburn } South Prec.
Nathⁿ Mitchell } Com^{tee}
Silimone Leonard }

CLERKS

A clerk was chosen to keep the records of the South Precinct, South Parish and later the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater. It was the duty of the clerk, elected the previous year, to call the meeting to order. Always, the first article was to elect a Moderator. This procedure continued until 1957, when the Parish Chairman conducted the meetings. Col. Josiah Edson was the clerk for thirty years while some served for only part of a year. Clerks from 1716 through 1901 were:

Eleazer Carver
 Richard Davenport
 Josiah Edson
 Nathaniel Willis
 Thomas Hayward
 Abram Washburn
 Samuel Kinsley
 Dr. Samuel Shaw
 Winslow Hooper
 Isaac Lazell
 Caleb Cary
 Holmes Sprague
 Nathan Lazell, Jr.
 Nahum Stetson
 Mitchell Keith
 Philo Leach
 Williams Latham
 Eli Washburn
 Henry Pratt
 Harry W. Bragdon
 Martha Keith
 George W. Folsom, Jr.

in pursuance to an Order from the Com^{tee} of the South Prec^t

There are to notify the Freeholders and Other Inhabitants of the said Prec^t qualified to vote in Town Affairs to assemble and meet together at the public Meeting House in said Prec^t on Monday the nineteenth Day of November Instant at One of the Clock in the Afternoon to see if they will agree erect or build a new meeting House in said Prec^t and agree upon a Plan of the same, and also raise a Sum of money for that Purpose: And if the said Prec^t when they come together shall think proper to sell the ^{new} spots that may be marked out upon a Plan that they shall agree upon, before they raise a Sum of money for building said House, then to proceed according to sell the ^{new} spots aforesaid to the highest Bidder. also to choose a Com^{tee} to carry on said Building, also pass any votes proper relative to the Premises

Nov^r 2^d 1759

Jonas Edouard Carter

Copy examined by Jonas Edouard Carter

The above said Meeting was continued by adjournment to 4^o 30^o of said Nov^r and then Timothy Perkins was chosen Collector to collect the aforesaid Sum.

Copy Examined by Jonas Edouard Carter

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Often church documents were signed by a Justice of the Peace. Those whose names appear on available papers and the dates include:

1749-Josiah Edson, Jr.
 1816-Nathan Lazell
 1827-Nathan Lazell
 1830-Caleb Leonard
 1833-Daniel Mitchell
 1834-Nathan Lazell
 1834-Artemas Hale
 1838-Philo Leach
 1845-Williams Latham
 1845-Artemas Hale
 1846-Artemas Hale
 1860-Lafayette Keith
 1862-Joshua E. Crane
 1863-Eli Washburn
 1868-Joshua E. Crane
 1880-Joshua E. Crane

Windsor, Dec: 18, 1824 Then personally appeared
 Artemas Hale, Solomon Hayward, Jr. & Philo Leach
 and made oath that they would faithfully and
 impartially discharge the duties of a Justice of the Peace for
 the first term of the Court in Bridgewater
 for the year ensuing - before me -
 Nathan Lloyd Jr. Just: of Peace.

SCHOOL AGENTS

School districts were established in 1801 by vote of the town. Agents were chosen to manage the finances of each district.

February 1811 (for the year 1810)

- No. 1 Edward Mitchell, Jr.
- No. 2 Samuel Harden
- No. 3 Calvin Hayward
- No. 4 Silvanus Hall
- No. 5 Abial Richmond
- No. 6 Nehemiah Leonard
- No. 8 Timothy Hayward
- No. 10 Jacob Perkins

February 1819 (for the year 1818)

- Paschal Bassett
- Maj. Theodore Mitchell
- H ----- Monroe
- Caleb Fobes
- Cyrus Benson
- Nathl. Witheral
- Joshua Bates
- Soloman Hayward
- Seth Washburn
- Apollos Leach

March 1815

Nathanial Gilbert

May 1821

- Seth Washburn, Esq.
- Holmes Sprague
- Soloman Perkins
- Jonathan Bassett
- Lt. Ebenezer Whitman
- Levi Leach
- Caleb Fobes
- Caleb Keith
- Ansel Leonard
- Theodore Mitchell

March 1817

- Daniel Mitchell, Esq.
- Capt. Beng. Pope
- Deacon Ichabode Waterman
- Lt. Apollos Leach
- Lt. Rufus Wood
- Henry Munroe
- Jacob Perkins
- Oliver Washburn
- Ebeazer Alden

No. 2

To Mr Caleb Cary Parish Treasurer
do pay out of the Treasury to Samuel Harden
on order, the sum of Two Dollars and eighty four
cents, being the school money due to his
District for the year 1810.

February 25th 1811

Simon Hayward

Simon Pratt

\$ 2.84

Witness of
the South Parish
of Windsor

April 1823

- Caleb Fobes
- Soloman Perkins
- Thomas Cushman
- Jonathan Benson
- Nathl. Gilbert
- Seth Washburn, Esq.
- Capt. Joseph Alden
- Levi Hooper
- Lt. Daniel Whitman
- Joseph Bassett 2d

Februray 1830

- No. 1 Dion Bryant
- No. 2 Asa Copeland
- No. 3 Caleb Mitchell
- No. 4 Thomas Cushman
- No. 5 Samuel Leonard Jun.
- No. 6 Spencer Leonard
- No. 7 Ralph Copeland
- No. 8 William Bassett
- No. 9 Solomon Perkins

January 1827

- No. 1 Capt. Abram Washburn
- No. 2 William Andrews
- No. 3 Thomas Alden
- No. 4 Cornelius Pratt
- No. 5 Leonard Pratt
- No. 6 Seth Washburn, Esq.
- No. 7 Shepard Dunbar
- No. 8 Lt. George Bassett
- No. 9 Dyer Robinson
- No. 10 Caleb Fobes

NO. 9

To *Nathan Lowell Esq. Parish* Treasurer.
 Sir, Pay out of the Treasury to *Dyer Robinson*
 or Order, the sum of *four hundred thirty nine Cts*
for parish school money.

January 13th 1827

William Hayward
Caleb Bassett

Selectmen of

Parish

Dols. *439*

PRECINCT OR PARISH COMMITTEE

The South Precinct Committee, later the Parish Committee or Standing Committee, carried on the Parish business. The Committee consisted of three members until 1845 when the Parish voted to increase the Parish Committee to five members. The Committee membership changed from time to time from three to five or seven or nine. In 1877 three men and two women were chosen to serve and in 1890 the Parish Committee was made up of four men and three women, and, in 1900, the Parish voted to increase the Committee to nine - six men and three women.

1758 - John Washburn	Jonathan Cary	Samuel Kinsley
1759 - John Washburn	Jonathan Cary	Samuel Kinsley
1764 - Samuel Kinsley	Solomon Leonard	
1766 - John Washburn	Solomon Leonard	Nathan Mitchell
1791 - Eli Cary	Nathan Mitchell	
1810 - Nathan Mitchell		
1811 - Nathan Mitchell		
1816 - Daniel Mitchell	Nathan Lazell	Asa Pratt
1817 - Daniel Mitchell	Nathan Mitchell	Nathan Lazell
1818 - Daniel Mitchell	Nathan Lazell	Nathan Mitchell
1819 - Daniel Mitchell	Nathan Lazell	Asa Pratt
1820 - Nathan Lazell	Isaac Keith	Mitchell Keith
1821 - Nathan Lazell	Capt. Asa Pratt	Daniel Mitchell
1822 - Nathan Lazell	Capt. Asa Pratt	Daniel Mitchell
1823 - Nathan Lazell	Holmes Sprague	Daniel Mitchell
1824 - Nathan Lazell	Holmes Sprague	Daniel Mitchell
1825 - Daniel Mitchell	Abram Washburn	Nathan Lazell
1826 - Daniel Mitchell	Abram Washburn	
1827 - Benjamin Pope	Abram Washburn	
1828 - Artemas Hale	Abram Washburn	
1829 - Artemas Hale	Abram Washburn	
1830 - Artemas Hale	Abram Washburn	Mitchell Keith
1831 - Philo Leach	Abram Washburn	
1832 - Abram Washburn	Philo Leach	Dion Bryant
1833 - Abram Washburn	Nathan Lazell	Nahum Stetson
1834 - Nathan Lazell	Abram Washburn	Nahum Stetson
1835 - Nahum Stetson	Artemas Hale	Philo Leach
1836 - Abram Washburn	Nahum Stetson	Philo Leach
1837 - Mitchell Keith	Caleb Christian	Abram Washburn
1838 - Mitchell Keith	Caleb Christian	Paschal Bassett
1839 - Mitchell Keith	Zenas Crooker	Caleb Christian
1840 - Solomon Hayward	Samuel Sanger	Jabez Harden

Parish Committee (Continued)

1841 - Edward Mitchell	Dion Bryant	Calvin B. Pratt
1842 - Nahum Stetson	Edward Mitchell	Williams Latham
1843 - Artemas Hale	Abram Washburn	Mitchell Hooper
1844 - Artemas Hale	Abram Washburn	N. Tillinghast
1845 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Gad Robinson
Williams Latham	Eli Washburn	
1846 - Nahum Stetson	Calvin B. Pratt	N. Tillinghast
Williams Latham		
1847 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Williams Latham
1848 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Williams Latham
1849 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Williams Latham
1850 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Eli Washburn
1851 - Jonathan Cushing	Calvin B. Pratt	Robert Perkins
1852 - Artemas Hale	Calvin B. Pratt	Nahum Stetson
1853 - Artemas Hale	Calvin B. Pratt	Robert Perkins
1854 - Caleb Hobart	Ambrose Keith	Mitchell Hooper
1855 - Caleb Hobart	Mitchell Hooper	Ambrose Keith
1856 - Caleb Hobart	Mitchell Hooper	
1857 - David Perkins	Nathan Willis	
1858 -		
1859 - David Perkins	Nathan Willis	
1860 -		
1861 - Eldridge Keith	Nathan Willis	
1862 - Caleb Hobart	George M. Hooper	
1863 - Caleb Hobart	George M. Hooper	
1864 - Caleb Hobart	George M. Hooper	Gad Robinson
1865 - Eli Washburn	George M. Hooper	Gad Robinson
1866 - Eli Washburn	George M. Hooper	Gad Robinson
1867 -		
1868 - Eli Washburn	Ambrose Keith	Henry T. Pratt
1869 -		
1870 -		
1871 -		
1872 -		
1873 -		
1874 - Isaac Damon	S. Keith	Henry T. Pratt
1875 -		
1876 -		
1877 - Caleb Hobart	Williams Latham	Mitchell Hooper
Ambrose Keith	Mrs. Thomas M. Keith	Mrs. Sylvia Pratt
1878 - Caleb Hobart	Mitchell Hooper	Ambrose Keith
1879 - Isaac Damon	Gustavus Pratt	Charles T. Hall, Jr.
1880 - Isaac Damon	Gustavus Pratt	Charles T. Hall, Jr.

Parish Committee (Continued)

1897 - Hosea Kingman George W. Jewett	Isaac Damon J. Gardner Bassett	Hollis M. Blackstone
1898 -		
1899 - Hosea Kingman Hollis M. Blackstone	Isaac Damon Mrs. A. J. Elwell	J. Gardner Bassett
1900 - Isaac Damon J. Gardner Bassett Caroline B. Thatcher (9)	Hollis M. Blackstone Ernest L. Cook	Charles H. King Ruth F. Elwell Gustavus Pratt Martha Keith
1881 - Isaac Damon	Gustavus Pratt	Charles T. Hall, Jr.
1882 - Henry Braman	George P. Harden	Charles T. Hall, Jr.
1883 - Isaac Damon	Charles T. Hall, Jr.	Hosea Kingman
1884 - Isaac Damon	Hosea Kingman	Charles T. Hall, Jr.
1885 - Charles M. Reed	Hosea Kingman	George P. Harden
1886 - Charles M. Reed	Hosea Kingman	George P. Harden
1887 - H. H. Gay	Hosea Kingman	George P. Harden
1888 - Hollis M. Blackstone	Hosea Kingman	George P. Harden
1889 - Hosea Kingman Dr. Edward Sawyer Robert H. Ferguson	Hollis M. Blackstone Henry F. Braman	Isaac Damon J. A. Elwell
1890 - Isaac Damon Hollis M. Blackstone	Henry Braman Mrs. Hosea Kingman	Hosea Kingman Mrs. I. H. Phinney Mrs. I. Damon
1891 - Hosea Kingman Henry F. Braman	Hollis M. Blackstone	Isaac Damon
1892 - Hosea Kingman	Isaac Damon	Hollis M. Blackstone
1893 - Hosea Kingman	Isaac Damon	Nathan Willis
1894 - Hosea Kingman	Isaac Damon	Hollis M. Blackstone
1895 - Hosea Kingman	Isaac Damon	Hollis M. Blackstone
1896 - Hosea Kingman George W. Jewett	Isaac Damon J. Gardner Bassett	Hollis M. Blackstone

To Nathan Larell Daniel Mitchell & Asa Pratt Committee
for the South Parish of Bridgewater -

We the undersigned Inhabitants of the said South Parish
being inform'd that a Town meeting is to be holden on Monday
the 2^d of December next for the purpose of taking into con-
sideration a Request of the Inhabitants of the North Parish in
said Bridgewater of becoming a Town by themselves, being desirous
that the Opinion of the Inhabitants of the S^d South Parish may
be taken previous to S^d Town Meeting, upon the course proper for
us to take at S^d Meeting - And also whether under existing cir-
cumstances of the Town & Parish it will not be advisable to
Request of the Town to give their consent that the said South
Parish may become a Town by themselves - We therefore Re-
quest you to call a Meeting of the S^d Parish on Friday next
at 1 O'clock P. M. for the purposes above mentioned -

Edward Mitchell Jun^r

Levi Leach

Jacob Leonard

Waldo Ames

Calvin Wapburn

Benjⁿ Leonard

W^m Conant

Louis Bassett

W^m Truany

Hopner Sprague

Silvanus Pratt

W^m A. Pratt

Edm^d Thompson

Samuel Hurd

Howe Keith

Solomon Perkins

Jacob Perkins

Increase Robinson

~~Elijah Pratt~~

Lenas Crooker

Lenas Crooker jr

Isaac Smith

Mitchell Keith

Benjamin Holmes

Michael Wentworth

Plymouth to Daniel Mitchell Sheriff One of the Constables
of Town of Bridgewater Greeting

Agreeable to a request of a large & respectable number of
the Inhabitants of the South Parish in said Bridgewater you
are hereby required forthwith to satisfy and warn the Legal
Voters in the said South Parish in Bridgewater to Assemble &
meet at the Public meeting House in said Parish on Friday
the twentieth day of Nov^r. Instant At 10 o'clock P.M.
to act on the following Articles viz

- 1st To choose a Moderator for S^d Meeting
 - 2^d To take into Consideration whether under Existing circumstances
of the Town & Parish it will be advisable to request of
the Town to give their consent that the S^d South Parish
may become a Town by themselves upon fair & equitable
Principles
 - 3^d To see ^{what} course the Parish will think best to take at the Town
meeting next Monday on the subject of ^{consulting that} ~~getting~~ the North
Parish ^{may} become a Town by themselves
 - Lastly To do any thing respecting the above articles the Parish may
think proper
- Fail not and make due return of this warrant with your
doing therein as soon as may be given under our hands and
seals this twentieth day of Nov^r. 1766

Daniel Mitchell
Nathan Leevell
Asa Pratt

} South Parish
Committee

WARRANTS
1759 - 1896

Warrant for Precinct Meeting for November 9, 1759

Pursuant to an order from the Committee of the South Precinct.

These are to notify the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the said Precinct qualified to vote in Town affairs to assemble and meet together at the public Meeting House in said Precinct on Monday the nine day of November Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon to see if they will agree to erect or build a new meeting House in said precinct and agree upon a plan of the same, and also raise a sum of money for that purpose. And if the said Precinct when they come together Shall think proper to sell the Pew spots that may be marked out upon a plan that they shall agree upon, before they raise a sum of money for building said House, then to proceed accordingly to sell the Pews aforesaid to the highest Bidder. Also to choose a Committee to carry on said Building, also any proper relative to the

Nov. 2, 1759

Josiah Edson, Clerk

Copy examined by Josiah Edson, Junior, Clerk

The above said Meeting was continued by adjournment to 30th of said Nov. and then Timothy Perkins was chosen Collector to collect the aforesaid sums.

Copy examined - Josiah Edson, Junior, Clerk

Request for Parish Meeting, signed by:

Edward Mitchell, Jr.
Levi Leach
Jacob Leonard
Waldo Ames
Calvin Washburn
Benj Leonard
Seth Conant
Cyrus Bassett
Noah Fearing
Holmes Sprague

Silvanus Pratt
Nathan Pratt
Edson Hayward
Samuel Harden
Howe Keith
Solomon Perkins
Jacob Perkins
Increase Robinson
Elijah Pratt
Zenus Crooker
Zenus Crooker, Jr.
Isaac Swift
Mitchell Keith
Benjamin Holmes
Theophilus Wentworth

To Joseph Fobes one of the Constables of the Town of
Bridgewater, Greeting

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby
directed to Notify and Warn the Inhabitants of the South Precinct in Bridgewater
qualified to Vote as the Law directs, to assemble at the public Meeting house
in S. Precinct on Monday the Twenty first day of March Inst. at one of the
Clock P. M. to act on the following Articles, viz.

1st To chuse a Moderator for said meeting

2^d To chuse all necessary Precinct Officers for the Year ensuing

3^d To hear the report of Committee chosen for the purpose of procur-
ing a Bell. and give S. Committee some further instructions
if then thought proper

Lastly To Act and do any thing that may be thought proper respect-
ing the above S. Articles

Do not and make due return of this Warrant and your doings
thereon ~~under~~ Dated at Bridgewater this 7th day of March
A. D. 1791

Elyse Cain } Precinct
Nathan Mitchell } Committee

Warrant for Precinct Meeting for March 21, 1791

To Joseph Fobes one of the Constables of the Town of Bridgewater.

Greeting-

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed
to Notify and warn the Inhabitants of the South Precinct in Bridgewater qualified
to vote as the law directs, to assemble at the Public Meeting House in S. Precinct
on Monday, the twenty-first day of March Inst. at one of the clock P. M. to act on

the following Articles, viz,

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting.
- 2nd To choose all necessary Precinct Officers for the year ensuing
- 3dly To hear the report of the Committee chosen for the purpose of procuring a bell and give P. Committee some further instructions if then thought proper
- Lastly To act and do anything that may be thought proper respecting the above P. Articles

Fail not and make due return of this warrant and your doings thereon.

Dated at Bridgwater this 7th day of March A Dom 1791

Elipht Cary	Precinct
Nathan Mitchell	Committee

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 14, 1816

Plymouth S.S. To Mitchell Keith one of the Constables of Bridgwater

Greeting-

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed forthwith to notify and warn the legal voters of the South Parish in said Bridgwater to meet and assemble at the public Meeting House in said parish on Thursday the fourteenth of Nov. Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon to act on the articles following

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2dly To allow or disallow all such accounts may be offered against the Parish
- 3dly To procure 20 cords of wood for Dr. A. Sanger for the year ensuing also some proper person to take care of the Meeting House, and ring the bell
- 4thly To Dr Sangers stipulated salary for the year ensuing
- 5thly To see what the Parish will do with the pew and parts of pews which remain unsold and unoccupied belonging to the Parish
- 7thly To vote the several sums which may be allowed by said Parish into a tax to be assessed on polls and Estates according to law
- Lastly To act and do anything relative to the aforesaid articles which may be thought proper

And make and return of this warrant with your doings thereon as soon as may be--Given under our hands at Bridgwater this fifth day of November 1816

Daniel Mitchell	South Parish
Nathan Lazell	Committee

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Nov. 29, 1816

Agreeable to a request of a large and respectable number of the Inhabitants of the South Parish in said Bridgwater you are hereby required forthwith to Notify and warn the Legal Voters in the said South Parish in Bridgwater to assemble and meet at the Public meeting house in said Parish on Friday the twenty-ninth day of Nov Instant at 1 o'clock P.M. to act on the following Articles viz-

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said Meeting-
- 2ndly To take into consideration whether under existing circumstances of the Town and Parish it will be advisable to request of the Town to give their consent that the said South Parish may become a Town by themselves upon fair and equitable Principles
- 3dly To see what course the Parish will think best to take at the Town meeting next Monday on the subject of consenting that the North Parish may become a Town by themselves
- Lastly To do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think Proper -

Daniel Mitchell
Nathan Lazell
Asa Pratt

South
Parish
Committee

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 24, 1817

To Mitchell Keith one of the Constables of the Town of Bridgwater

Greeting-

You are hereby required forthwith to notify the Inhabitants of the South Parish in Bridgwater qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Congregational Meeting House in said Parish on Monday the twenty-fourth day of March Instant at one O clock P.M. for the following purposes - viz -

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2d To choose all necessary Parish Officers for the year ensuing
- 3d To make a nomination list of Town Officers for the South Parish in Bridgwater for the year ensuing
- 4th To receive a statement from the Trustees respecting the Fund
- 5th To see if the Parish will direct another coat of Painting on the meeting house
- Lastly To act and do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think proper

Daniel Mitchell
Nathan Lazell

South Parish
Committee

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 21, 1817

Articles as follows-

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2dly To see if the Parish will choose an agent or agents to represent the said Parish on the subject of their Petition now pending before the Legislature of this Commonwealth praying that the said South Parish may be Incorporated into a Town by themselves
- Lastly To act and do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think proper

Daniel Mitchell	Parish
Nathan Lazell	Committee
Nathan Mitchell	

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Nov 13, 1817 at 1 Oclock

Articles as follows

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said Meeting
- 2d To allow or disallow such accounts as may be offered
- 3d To choose some person to take care of the meeting house and do the duty of a Sexton
- 4th To procure 20 cords of wood for Dr Sanger
- 5th To raise a sum of money to pay Dr Danger's salary and other expenses of the Parish for the year ensuing - - - -
- 6th To see if the parish will take measures to procure stoves for the Meeting House

Nathan Lazell
Nathan Mitchell
Daniel Mitchell

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 30, 1818 at 1 o clock P.M.

Articles as follows-

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said Meeting
- 2d To choose all necessary Parish Officers for the year ensuing
- 3d To see if the Parish will make out a nomination list of Town Officers for the South Parish for the year ensuing
- 4th To receive the report of the Trustees of the Fund
- Lastly To act and do anything the above articles the Parish may think Proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 25, 1818 at 3 O'clock P.M.

Articles as follows

- 1st To choose a Moderator
- 2d To take the numbers for and against the Petition now pending before the Legislature for the division of the Town of Bridgewater
- Lastly To act and do anything respecting the above article they may think proper

Constable's notice of above meeting

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Nov 12, 1818

Plymouth S.S. To Mitchell Keith Constable of Bridgewater-Greeting-

These are to direct you forthwith to notify and warn the Legal Voters belonging to the Rev. Zedekiah Sanger Society in the South Parish of said Bridgewater to assemble and meet at the public Meeting House in said parish on Thursday the 12th day of Nov Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon, to act on the following articles, viz-

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2dly To allow or disallow all Prect accounts which may be offered at said meeting
- 3dly To procure 20 cords of wood for Doc. Sanger, also some proper person to take care of the Meeting house and ring the Bell the year ensuing
- 4thly To vote the Rev. Doc Sanger's salary and direct the Treasurer to pay him the same at the close of the year
- 5thly To vote a sum of money to defray the expenses of the parish the ensuing year and vote the same, together with such other sums as then may be allowed, into a tax to be assessed on Polls and estates as the law directs
- Lastly To see if the Parish will present the Singers with one dozen of Old Colony Anthems

Request for Parish Meeting for Friday, Jan 15, 1819 signed by

John Conant
James Alger 2d
Nath'l Gilbert
Cornelius Holmes

Isaac Swift
Edward Mitchell jr
John Bacon
Caleb Alden
Cyrus Bassett

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Friday, Jan 15, 1819

Articles as follows-

- 1st To choose a Moderator to govern said meeting
- 2d To see what instructions the society will give their Committee relative to the further supplying of the Pulpit in said Society and act on anything on that subject they may think proper

Request for Parish Meeting for Saturday, the 16th day of January 1819 signed by

Alpheus Fobes	Nath'l Witherell
Apollos Leach	Thomas Alden
Simeon Pratt	Caleb Keith
Silvanus Pratt	Abram Washburn
Joseph Alden	Zenas Crooker

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Jan 30, 1819

Art. 2 - To see what measures the society will adopt for the supplying of the Pulpit in said Society after the first of March next and act on anything relative to that subject they may think proper

Request for Parish Meeting for March 13, 1819 signed by:

Cornelius Holmes, Jr.	Spencer Leonard
Seth Conant	Samuel Jones
Zephaniah Casewell	George W.
David Parsons	Philander Wood

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 16, 1819

Art. 1st To choose a Moderator for said meeting
 2dly To choose all necessary Parish Officers for the year ensuing
 3dly To make a nomination list of Town Officers for the South Parish should they think it proper
 4thly To receive the report of the Trustees of the Fund
 5thly To see if the Parish will agree to have the Rev. Thomas Shepard to preach as a candidate after the first of April at the request of a number of the Parish - Lastly to act and do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 27, 1819

Art. 2 To see if the Society will agree to give Mr. Peter Osgood a call to settle as their Gospel Minister-
 Lastly to act and do anything they may think proper relative to that subject

Plymouth S.S. To Fisk Ames Constable of Bridgewater or any of the Constables of said Town-

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts these are to direct you forthwith to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the South Parish in Bridgewater Qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Congregational Meeting House in said Parish on Thursday, the 11th day of November Instant at one O clock P.M. for the following purposes viz-

- 1st To choose a Moderator for said Meeting
- 2d To allow or disallow all such amounts as may be offered at said meeting
- 3d To see what sum the Parish will allow Dr. Sanger for the year past
- 4th To see what directions or instructions the Parish will give their Committee respecting supplying the pulpit in future and receive any report or statement they may make of their past doings
- 5th To raise such sum or sums of money as shall be thought necessary to defray the expenses of the Parish for the year ensuing and vote the same into a tax to be assessed on Polls and Estates agreeable to law
- 6th To procure some proper person to take care of the meeting house and ring the bell the year ensuing
- 7th To act and do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think proper

Change in wording of warrant-

Greeting- We hereby command you in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn all the Male inhabitants of the South Parish of Bridgewater belonging to the Rev Doct Sanger's Society to assemble at the Meeting House in said Parish on Thursday the 9th of Dec Inst at 10'clock P. M. agreeable to a request of J. Perkins and nine others to act on the following purposes -viz-

- Art 2d To see if the society will agree to give W. Thomas Tracy a call to settle with them in the Ministry and also to see what sums of money they will offer him as an annual Salary
- Lastly To act and do anything that shall be thought necessary to carry fully into effect the above object

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 20, 1820

Articles 1 to 4 as usual

- 5th To see what measures the Parish will take with the legacy made them by Mr. Joshua Alden, deceased

Warrant for Parish Meeting for July 3, 1820 at 5 O'clock P.M. agreeable to a request of Maj. Theodore Mitchell and others-

- Art 2d To see what measures the Parish will take for supplying the pulpit after the Rev Mr Ritchie has fulfilled his present engagement

Warrant for Parish Meeting for September 6, 1820, at four o'clock P.M.

- Art. 2d To see if the Society will give the Rev Jonathan Nye a call to settle with them as their gospel minister.

Warrant for October 20, 1820

- Art. 2d To see if the Parish will request the Rev Jonathan Nye to preach for four Sabbaths or give him a call to settle with them in the Gospel Ministry

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 25, 1820

Art. 1 and 2 as usual

- 3 - To see what sums of money the Parish will raise to pay all expenses for the current year and vote the same into a tax
- 4 - To see what sum the Parish will give the Rev Doct Sanger for the past year
- 5 - To procure some suitable person to take charge of the Meeting House and Hearse and ring the bell the ensuing year
- 6 - To see if the Parish will vote the money voted to be raised the last year into a tax to be assessed upon polls and Estates of said Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 24 (Thursday) 1821 at 4 O'clock, agreeable to a request of Caleb Alden and others

3 articles as usual

Request for Parish Meeting for July 2, 1821, signed by

Nathan Mitchell
Noah Fearing
Seth Washburn
Artemas Hale

Mitchell Keith
Silvanus Pratt
Jacob Perkins
Nath'l Gilbert

Warrant for Parish Meeting for July 2, 1821 at 3 O'clock P.M.

- Art. 2 - To see if the Society will agree to give the Rev Richard M. Hodges a call to settle with them in the Gospel Ministry
- 3 - To see what sum of money the society will agree to give Mr. Hodges as an annual Salary
 - 4 - To act and do anything relative to the above articles the Society may think proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 17, 1821 at 1 O'clock

- 1 - To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To allow or disallow all accounts which may be offered against the Parish at said meeting

- 3 - To choose some person as sexton to take care of meeting house, ring the bell, etc.
- 4 - To see what sum of money they will raise to pay the necessary expenses of the year ensuing
- 5 - To vote the same into a tax to be assessed on Polls and Estates according to law
- Lastly - To act and do anything respecting the above articles the Parish may think Proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for December 10, 1821 at one O'clock

- 2 - To see what the Parish will do respecting the contemplated division of the Town
- 3 - To see in what way the Congregational Society in said Parish will choose to pay the extra expenses of the present year which have been incurred over and above the five hundred dollars which was voted to be raised last fall-and vote the same into a tax to be assessed on Polls and Estates according to law if they shall think proper

Constables Notice of Meeting on March 5, 1822 at 1 o'clock

- Art. 2 - To make out a nomination list of all necessary Town Officers for said Parish

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 25, 1822 at 2 O'Clock

- Art. 2 - To choose all necessary Parish Officers for the year ensuing
- 3 - To receive the report of treasurer of the fund belonging to said Society
- 4 - To see what sums of money the parish will raise to meet the current expenses of the ensuing year
- 5 - To receive the report of the Parish Committee as to the state of the funds in the hands of the Parish Treasurer
- 6 - To see if the Parish will fill up any vacancy in the board of Trustees or elect any new members

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 11, 1822 at 1 o'clock

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, forthwith to notify and warn the male inhabitants belonging to the Rev Mr. Hodges' Society in the South Parish in said Bridgewater qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Meeting House of said Society on Monday, the 11th day of November Instant at one o'clock P.M. for the following purposes viz-

- Art. 3 - To see what means the Society will take to defend the action
commence by Ezra Fobes, Jr against the assessors of said Society
also give the collector any direction respecting those who have
not paid their last tax the Society may think proper
- 4 - To procure some proper person to take care of the meeting House
and ring the bell and do all other duties of a Sexton for the
year ensuing

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 24, 1823 at one o'clock

- Art. 4 - To see if the Parish will agree to new shingle the Meeting House
roof and raise money for that purpose

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 22, 1823 at one o'clock

Four articles

- Lastly - To act and do anything the Society may think proper respecting
the above articles and further to see if the Society will con-
sent to procure a stove for the Meeting House

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 20, 1824 at one o'clock

Articles 1 through 6 as usual

- 7 - To see what measures the Society will take to build or procure
a suitable and convenient house for the hearse
- 8 - To see what measures the Society will take respecting the
uncollected taxes

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 22, 1825 at two o'clock

All articles as usual

Constables Notice of above meeting

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 21, 1826 at one o'clock

All articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 10, 1827 at one o'clock

All articles as usual

Constables notice for Parish Meeting for March 10, 1827

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 15, 1828 at one O'clock

To Mitchell Keith Esq. one of the Constables of the Town of Bridgewater -

Greeting -

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn the male inhabitants of the first Congregational Society in said Bridgewater, being twenty one years of age and upwards, qualified as the law directs to vote in Parish affairs to meet at the meeting house of said Society, on Saturday, the fifteenth day of March at one of the clock P.M. to act upon the following articles viz-

Articles 1 through 6 as usual

- 7 - To see whether the Society will adopt any measures for repairing the Meeting House and act any thing thereon they may think proper

Constable's Notice for meeting for March 15, 1827

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 21, 1829 at 2 o'clock

- Art. 3 - To see what sum or sums of money the Parish will agree to raise and appropriate for the payment of the Rev. Richard M. Hodges' Salary and for defraying the necessary incidental expenses of said Society
- 4 - To vote the several sums of money they may agree to raise into a tax to be assessed upon the Polls and Estates of said Society according to law
- 5 - To see what measures the Society will take to procure some person to perform the duties of Sexton the year ensuing
- 6 - To see if the Society will agree to make any alteration in the pulpit in their meeting house
- 7 - To act and do any thing respecting the above articles they may think proper

Warrant for meeting of March 19, 1831 of First Congregational Society in Bridgewater of all male inhabitants being twenty one years of age and upwards, qualified as the law directs--

- 1 - To choose a moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To choose all necessary Parish officers
- 3 - To allow or disallow all accounts which may be offered
- 4 - To receive the report of the Parish Committee as to the state of the funds in the hands of the treasurer
- 5 - To receive the report of the treasurer of the Trustees of the Funds belonging to said Society
- 6 - To choose some person to perform the duties of Sexton for the ensuing year

- 7 - To see what sum or sums of money the Society will raise to defray the expenses of the current year
- 8 - To vote the several sums of money the Society will agree to raise into a tax to be assessed upon polls and estates according to law
- 9 - To see if the Society will agree to vote the Rev Richard M. Hodges salary for the past year and what part of the interest of the fund they will appropriate to that use.
- 10 - To see what measures the Parish will direct to be taken to collect the notes belonging to said Society now in the hands of the Treasurer
- Lastly - To act and do anything relating to the above articles they may think proper

Warrant for Parish meeting on March 17, 1832

- 1 - To choose a moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To choose all necessary Parish officers for the year ensuing
- 3 - To hear the report of the Parish Committee respecting the funds in the hands of the Treasurer and to act thereon
- 4 - To hear the report of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the fund belonging to the Society
- 5 - To choose some person to perform the office of Sexton for the year ensuing.
- 6 - To allow or disallow such accounts as may be offered
- 7 - To see what sum or sums of money the Society will agree to raise to defray the expenses of the current year
- 8 - To vote the several sums of money the Society agrees to raise into a tax to be assessed upon polls and estates according to Law
- 9 - To see if the Society will agree to exchange the Hymn books now used for some different collection
- 10 - To see if the Society will agree to vote the Rev R. M. Hodges salary for the past year and see what part of the interest on the fund they will appropriate to that use
- 11 - To see if the Society will vote the Rev. R. M. Hodges salary the ensuing year and what part of the interest of the fund they will appropriate to that use
- 12 - To act and do anything relating to the above articles the Parish may think proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting on March 23, 1833

Call to meeting and articles to be acted upon same as previous year

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 27, 1833

Call similar to others

Article 1 - To choose a Moderator

- 2 - To hear the request of the Rev R. M. Hodges and to act thereon
- 3 - To choose a committee to supply the pulpit should Mr. Hodges' request be granted
- 4 - To act and do anything relating to the above articles

Warrant for meeting on September 9, 1833

- 1 - To choose a Moderator
- 2 - To see if the Parish will agree to give any person a call to settle with them, as their Gospel Minister
- 3 - To see what method said Society will take to supply the pulpit in future
- 4 - To act and do anything relative to the above articles

Warrant for meeting on October nineteenth, 1833

- 1 - To choose a Moderator
- 2 - To see what measures the Society will adopt for ordaining Mr. Theophilus P. Doggett as their Pastor
- 3 - To act and do anything relative to the above

Warrant for meeting for November 21, 1835

- 1 - To choose a Moderator
- 2 - To see what measures the Society will take to preserve their meeting house and other property in Bridgewater
- 3 - To see whether said Society will permit their said house to be used by the Inhabitants of said Bridgewater for a town house
- 4 - To see whether their meeting house shall be used for any other purpose than that of public worship by said Society
- 5 - To see what measures said Society will take to paint and repair said house
- 6 - To act and do anything relating to the above articles the Society may think proper

Warrant for Parish meeting on March 28, 1835

Call to meeting and articles to be acted upon same as usual

Letter to Parish Committee from Inhabitants, Freeholders and Legal Voters of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, requesting a meeting to act on the articles in the Warrant for the Nov 21, 1835 meeting

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 5, 1834

Call to meeting and articles of Warrant same as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Dec 19, 1835

- 1 - To choose a Moderator
- 2 - To see if the Society will petition the Legislature for authority to tax the pews in their meeting house for the purpose of receiving money for repairing said meeting house
- 3 - To see what measures the Society will adopt in relation to the organ presented to said Society by Capt Abram Washburn

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 23, 1836

- 1 - To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To choose all necessary Society officers for the year ensuing
- 3 - To choose such member of Trustees to the Ministerial Fund as may be necessary
- 4 - To allow such accounts as may be presented
- 5 - To hear and act upon the reports of the Parish Committee
- 6 - To hear and act upon the report of the Treasurer of the Trustees
- 7 - To vote the Rev. Theophilus P. Doggett's salary for the year ensuing
- 8 - To see what portion of the interest of the Fund the Society will direct to be appropriated to the payment of the Rev. Theophilus P. Doggett's salary for the year ensuing
- 9 - To see what means the Society will take to procure a Sexton
- 10 - To see what measures the Society will take to repair the meeting house
- 11 - To see if the Society will agree to enclose the common belonging to said Society and to set trees around the same
- 12 - To do anything in relation to the above articles the Society may think proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 6, 1837

Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 as usual

- 5 - To see if the Society will make and establish by-laws prescribing the measures in which persons may become members thereof
- 6 - To see if the Society will alter or repair their meeting house, - or take down and rebuild the pews therein and take measures to carry the same into effect
- 7 - To raise such sum or sums of money as the Society may think necessary and vote the same into a tax to be assessed upon polls and estates according to law

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 4, 1839

Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 as usual

- 5 - To take such measures as the parish may see fit, to raise suitable funds for the payment of Rev. Mr. Doggett's salary and for other necessary expenses
- 6 - To see what measures the parish will adopt to alter or repair their meeting house
- 7 - To vote such sum or sums of money as the parish may raise into a tax to be assessed upon the polls and estates according to law
- 8 - To see if the Parish will relinquish their right of erecting sheds on the south side of Common near the meeting house

Warrant for Parish Meeting for June 15, 1840

- 1 - To choose a moderator
- 2 - To see if the Parish will grant the use of their meeting house for holding town meetings during the time the Town House shall be occupied for a Normal School and act and do anything in relation thereto they may think proper
- 3 - To see if the Parish will take any measure to repair their Meeting House and act upon the matter as they may see fit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 28, 1840

- 1 - To choose a Moderator
- 2 - To take into consideration a request of a committee of the Town, to see at what price the Society will sell their Meeting House to remain where it now is
- 3 - To see what price they will sell it and have it removed from its present site
- 4 - To see at what annual rent, they will grant the use of it to the Town for all the meetings of the Town
- 5 - To act and do anything in relation to the above they may think expedient

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 19, 1842

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as usual

- 6 - To see if the Society will vote the Rev. Mr. Doggett's salary and what portion of the interest of the Fund shall be appropriated to the payment of the same
- 7 - To see what measures the Society will take in regard to supplying the pulpit for the year ensuing
- 8 - To see if any alteration can be made in the arrangement of the stove so as to more effectively warm the Meeting House

In 1840 the wording is changed to read--"You are hereby required to notify and warn THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY" etc.

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Feb. 8, 1843

- 1 - To choose a moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To see if the Society will sell their meeting house with the site on which it stands to be kept and used for a Town House and if so at what price
- 3 - To see if the Society will unite with the Town in altering and fitting said house for the use of the Society and town by having a basement story and if so upon what terms?
- 4 - To see if the Society will sell their meeting house to the Town to be removed from the land of the Society and if so at what price?--
- 5 - To see if the Society will leave their meeting house to the Town for a Town House and upon what terms
- 6 - To see what measure the Society will take to build a meeting House or repair the old Meeting House

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 21, 1843

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as usual

- 6 - To see if the Parish will cease to use its burying ground for future interments.

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 26, 1844

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as usual

- 6 - To see what the Society will do in relation to rebuilding the wall around the Burying Grounds
- 7 - To hear the request of the Rev. T. P. Doggett for a dissolution of his connection with the Society and act thereon

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 13, 1844

- 2 - To hear the proposal of Rev. T. P. Doggett in relation to a dissolution of his connection with the Society and act thereon

Warrant for Society Meeting for January 11, 1845

- 2 - To decide whether the Meeting House has become unfit for public worship
- 3 - To adopt any measures the Society may deem proper for building a new meeting house or for altering or repairing the one they now have
- 4 - To raise any sum or sums of money the Society may think proper for the above purposes

Warrant for Parish Meeting for Jan. 25, 1845

- 2 - To adopt any measures the Society may deem proper for the settlement of a minister or for the further supply of the pulpit of said Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 8, 1845

- 4 - To allow or disallow any accounts that may be offered
- 5 - To see what portion of the interest of the Fund the Society will appropriate to the payment of the balance due Rev. T. P. Doggett and the other expenses of the Society
- 6 - To adopt such measures as the Society may think proper for the installation of Rev. Claudius Bradford as the Pastor of this Society

The legal seals differ widely on the warrants for the meetings. Most are diamond shaped. Some the red sealing wax shows through. Usually there are three placed in the upper left corner of the warrant. Some are bright green, some blue. On one paper the patches are torn from white paper and the red wax does not show. Another has very small diamonds less than a half inch in length. Several have bright pink seals.

Notice to the Subscribers for the New Meeting House

The undersigned give notice that a meeting of the Subscribers will be held at the Meeting House of the First Congregational Society on Saturday, April 19, 1845 at 3 P.M. to act on the following articles -

- 1 - To choose a Moderator of said meeting
- 2 - To choose a clerk
- 3 - To decide upon the location of the New Meeting House, or see if the Subscribers will submit its location to the determination of said Society

Bridgewater April 12, 1845

Williams Latham
Eli Washburn
Artemas Hale

Three of the
Subscribers
for the New
Meeting House

Bridgewater April 12, 1845. I have this day posted up in the stores of Hale and Hobart, Perkins and Bassett, and George W. Pratt, and in the Barroom of Edward Mitchell Hotel, being public places in Bridgewater, in each place aforesaid a true copy of the within notice, each notice being signed by three subscribers aforesaid, in the presence of Artemas Hale, Jr. Williams Latham

Bridgewater April 12, 1845. I hereby certify that I have this day posted up on the outside door of the Meeting House of the First Congregational Society a notice of which the within is a true copy

Melvin Swift

Warrant for Parish Meeting for August 30, 1845

- 2 - To adopt any measure which the Society may deem proper for the disposal of the Meeting House of the Society
- 3 - To adopt any measures which the Society may deem proper in reference to the shed lands belonging to the Society
- 4 - To fill any vacancies that exist in the Board of Trustees of the Funds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for September 20, 1845

- 2 - To determine what action the Society will take with reference to the injury lately done to the Meeting House of the said Society
- 3 - To determine if the Society will give the Building Committee direction respecting the sale and removal of the old Meeting House

Warrant for meeting of the Society for October 11, 1845.

- 2 - To determine if the Society will purchase of the Trustees of the fund the land upon which the New Meeting House is erected and to adopt such measures in relation thereto as the Society may deem proper
- 3 - To adopt any measures the Society may think proper for dedicating the New Meeting house
- 4 - To choose a committee to appraise the Pews in the new meeting house
- 5 - To adopt such measures as the Society may deem proper respecting the erection of horse sheds on the land of the Society

Fig. 3.

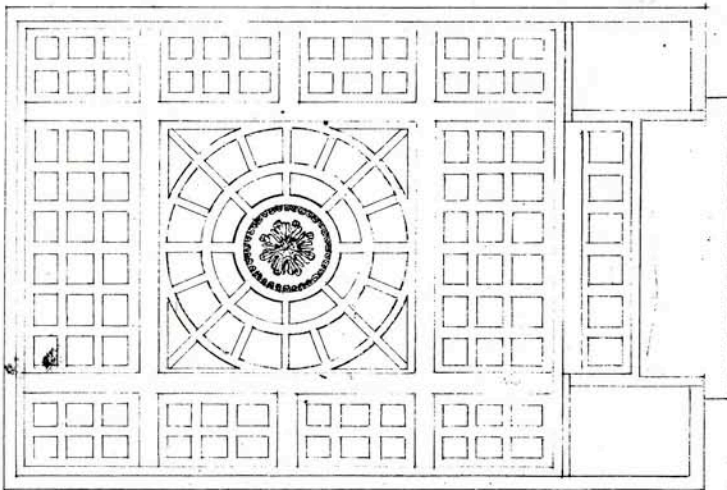
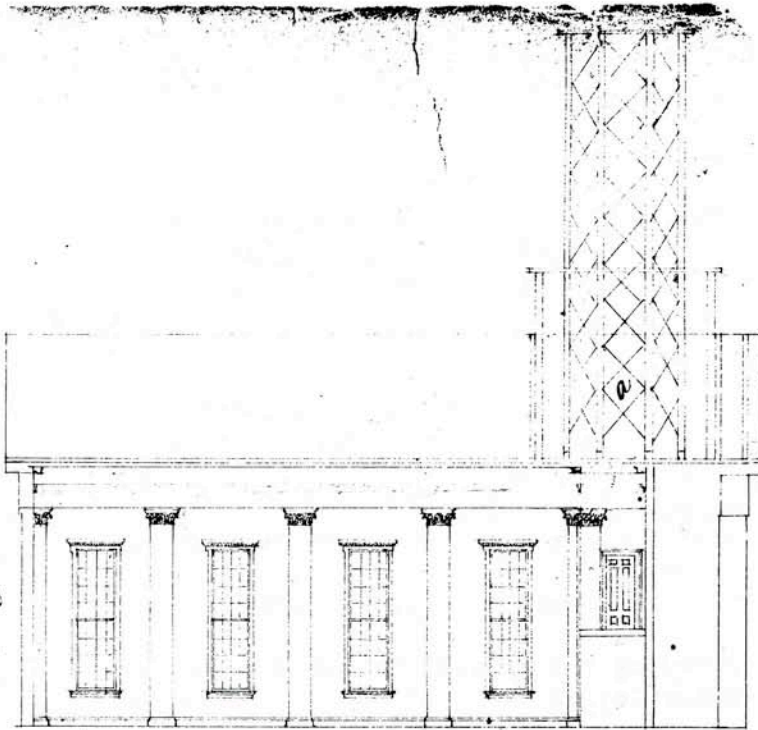
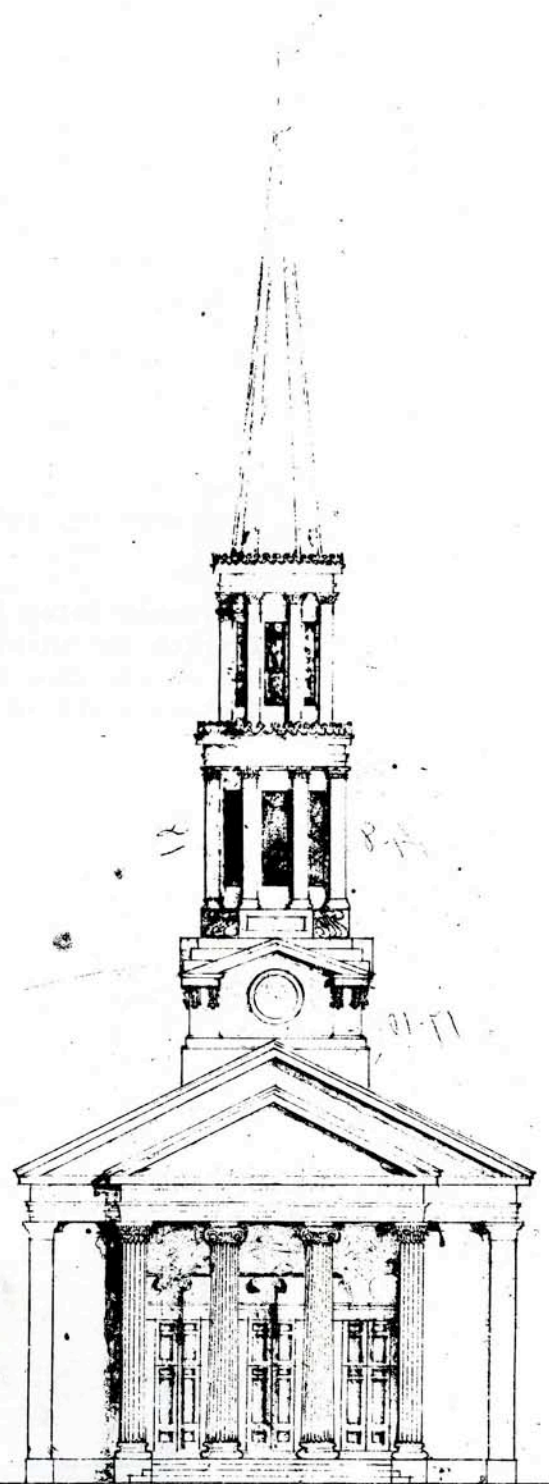


Fig. 2.



Solomon K. Eaton Sketches

Meeting of the Subscribers for the New Meeting House

The undersigned three subscribers of stock for the new Meeting House hereby call a meeting of said subscribers to be held at their meeting house on Monday Nov. 17, 1845 at 10 o'clock A. M. to act on the following articles--

- 1 - To choose a clerk and moderator
- 2 - To see if said subscribers will direct the committee for appraising pews to exempt certain pews from appraisal and to determine the sum at which the whole pews shall be appraised
- 3 - To fix on the time for selling pews at auction and to determine the kind of notice of such sale and to adopt such rules and regulations about the rate as may be necessary
- 4 - To see what shall be done with those pews, if any, which may not be sold at auction
- 5 - To provide ways and means for paying the expense of the New Meeting House if the pews do not sell for enough

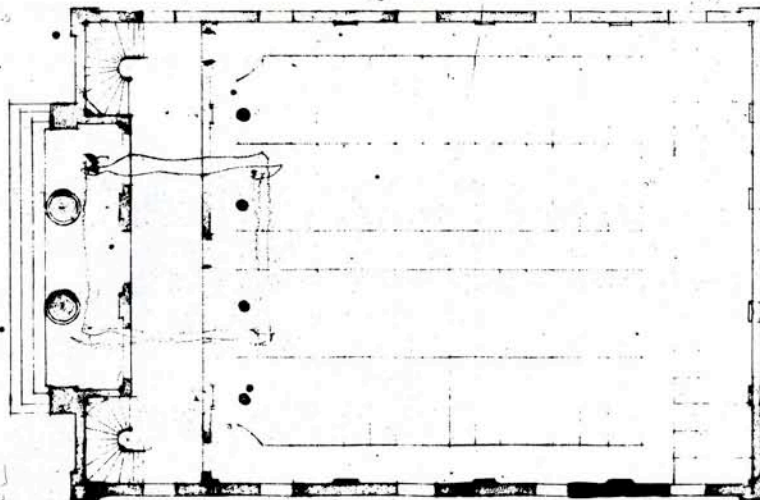
Bridgewater
November 10, 1845

Williams Latham
Eli Washburn
Artemas Hale

I, Artemas Hale, Jr., testify and say that I have posted up a notice of which the within is a true copy in the store of Carver Washburn Co., on the door of the New Meeting House and in the Post Office of Mitchell Keith in Bridgewater on this 10th day of November A.D. 1845

Artemas Hale, Jr.

Signed and sworn to before me Williams Latham, Justice of Peace



Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 28, 1845

- 2 - To see if the Parish will rescind a vote passed at a former meeting of the Society whereby they fixed the price of the shed lots at five dollars a piece
- 3 - To see if the Parish will take any measures with regard to the unsold pews
- 4 - To see if the Society will get their interest in the meeting house insured

Warrant for Parish Meeting for January 24, 1846

- 2 - To authorize the treasurer to hire money to pay the debts of the said Society
- 3 - To adopt any measures relative to the pews belonging to said Society
- 4 - To authorize some person or persons to give the Treasurer of the Society a deed to his pew
- 5 - To authorize the Trustees of the Parish Funds to make improvements in the Parsonage

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 24, 1846

- 6 - To see what measures the parish will take to raise money for the support of preaching and other necessary expenses for the past and ensuing years
- 7 - To see if the Parish will vote Mr. Bradford's salary
- 8 - To hear the report of the Building Committee and give them such instructions as they may think proper

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 25, 1848

- 2 - To see what measures the Parish will adopt in relation to the use and improvement of their Burial Ground

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 20, 1847

- 4 - To see if the Parish will accept the clock presented to the Society by the Rev. R. M. Hodges
- 5 - To adopt some measures in relation to the unsold pews
- 6 - To adopt some measures in regard to interments in the Parish Burying Ground and to the choice and duties of a Sexton of the Society
- 7 - To adopt measures in relation to the interest of the several funds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 18, 1848

- 5 - To see if the Parish will raise money by tax to pay the debts and current expenses of the Parish
- 6 - To prescribe the manner of calling future meetings
- 7 - To revise the By-laws in relation to membership

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 1, 1848

- 2 - To choose a Trustee for the Fund for supporting the Gospel Minister in said Society in place of Nathan Mitchell, deceased

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 24, 1849

Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 9, 1850

- 5 - To see if the Society will take any measures for painting the meeting house
- 6 - To vote Mr. Bradford's salary for the year ending March 31, 1850
- 7 - To see if the Society will raise Mr. Bradford's salary for the ensuing year commencing April 1st, 1850

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 8, 1851

- 5 - To hear and act upon the report of the Parish Committee and to revise and adopt rules of membership
- 6 - To raise money by sale of pews or otherwise to pay debts of Parish
- 7 - To enclose and improve the Parish grounds
- 8 - To provide means for paying the Minister's salary
- 9 - To fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees
- 10 - To see if the Society will give notice to dissolve the connection between them and their minister in pursuance of the original contract of settlement

To the Committee of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater

The undersigned members and legal voters of said Society request you to call a meeting of the legal voters of said Society on Saturday the 26th day of April at

3 o'clock in the afternoon to act on the following articles:

- 1 - To choose a moderator for said meeting
- 2 - To see if the Society will authorize their Treasurer to borrow money to pay the debts of the Society or take any measures they may deem proper, to raise money for the amount they now owe and for the expenses of the Society for the ensuing year
- 3 - To see if the Society will give to Rev. Claudius Bradford the notice stipulated in the contract of his settlement for dissolving his contract with the Society

Bridgewater April 18, 1851

Jacob Perkins
Nahum Stetson
Mitchell Keith
Edward S. Loring
Artemas Hale

Edward Mitchell
Gad Robinson
Jacob Robinson
Calvin Crocker
Caleb Hobart
Carver Washburn

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 26, 1851

- 2 - To see if the Society will authorize their Treasurer to borrow money to pay the debts of the Society or take any measures they may deem proper to raise money for the amount they now owe and for the expenses of the Society for the year ensuing
- 3 - To see if the Society will give to Rev. Claudius Bradford the notice stipulated in the contract of his settlement for the dissolving his connection with the Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for August 16, 1851

- 2 - To see what method the Society will adopt to supply the pulpit
- 3 - To authorize the Treasurer to borrow money or adopt any measures for meeting the current expenses of the Society
- 4 - To see if the Society will authorize the sale of the organ and by subscription or otherwise procure a new organ
- 5 - To hear the report of a committee chosen at the annual meeting to revise the By-laws

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 13, 1852

- 5 - To revise and adopt By-laws and votes of admission and expulsion of members
- 6 - To raise money to pay debts of the Society by sale of pews, taxes, subscription or otherwise
- 7 - To enclose and improve the Parish Grounds
- 8 - To accept of a legacy made to said Society by Mary M. Allen, deceased

- 9 - To see if the Society will apply to the legislature for an act to establish or change the name of said Society to confirm all lawful acts and doings of said Society
- 10 - To authorize any person to hire money to pay the debts of the Society and to pay the current expenses of the Society for the year ensuing
- 11 - To see in what manner the pulpit shall be supplied the year ensuing

Warrant for Parish Meeting for June 26, 1852

- 2 - To see if the Society will advise the Trustees of the Parish Fund as to the expediency of selling the Parsonage and the manner of invest said fund

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 30, 1852

- 2 - To see if the Parish will have their property insured
- 3 - To see what means the Parish will take in relation to a change of its corporate name and to a confirmation of its doings under the name of the First Congregational Society
- 4 - To request the Trustees of the Parish Funds to apply for an act changing their corporate name
- 5 - To adopt measures for the settlement of a minister

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 18, 1853

- 4 - To see what measures the Society will adopt for supplying the pulpit
- 5 - To dispose of the interest of the several Funds of the Society
- 6 - To raise money to pay the debts of the Society and for other purposes
- 7 - To accept of a legacy to said Society by William Mitchell
- 8 - To accept of an act of the Legislature changing the name of the Society and for other purposes
- 9 - To authorize some person to hire money to pay the debts of the Society and to pay the current expenses for the year ensuing

Warrant for Parish Meeting for December 10, 1853

- 2 - To adopt any measures the Society may think proper for the settlement of a minister
- 3 - To see if the Society will consent to have an engine house located on the land of the Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 11, 1854

- 3 - To fill any vacancies that may exist in the Board of Trustees of the Parish Fund
- 4 - To accept the legacy of Jacob Perkins, deceased, to the Society
- 6 - To see what means the Society will adopt for supplying the pulpit or settling the minister
- 7 - To raise money to pay the debts of the Society and for other purposes
- 8 - To authorize some person to hire money to pay the debts of the Society and to pay the current expenses of the Society for the year ensuing
- 9 - To see if the Society will adopt any measures for rebuilding the fence around the Meeting House grounds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 25, 1854

- 3 - To see if the Parish will invite Mr. Saml Abbott Smith to become their settled minister

Warrant for Parish Meeting for July 22, 1854

- 2 - To see if the Society will invite the Rev. Edmund Squire to become their Pastor or take any other measures for the settlement of a minister

Warrant for Parish Meeting for December 2, 1854

- 2 - To see if the Society will invite the Rev. O. Morely to become their pastor or take any other measures they may deem proper for the settlement of a minister

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 31, 1855

- 7 - To see what measures the Society will adopt towards settling a minister
- 8 - To hear and act upon the report of the Committee chosen in relation to rebuilding the fence enclosing the Parish grounds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for August 4, 1855

- 2 - To see if the Society will invite the Rev. Charles T. Canfield to become their Pastor and to act on anything relative thereto
- 3 - To see if the Parish will make any alteration in their house for the better accommodation of the Choir

Warrant for Parish Meeting for December 15, 1855

- 2 - To see what measures the Society will take for the purpose of settling a minister or for further supplying their pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 8, 1856

- 6 - To authorize some person to hire money to pay the indebtedness of the Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 21, 1857

- 6 - To adopt measures for building a fence around the Parish Green or otherwise improving the Parish land and buildings
- 7 - To fill any vacancies that may exist in the Board of Trustees of the Parish Funds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for September 19, 1857

- 2 - To see what measures the Society will adopt for painting their Meeting House and for making any repairs to the same or the improvement of the grounds of the Society that may be deemed necessary

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 19, 1859

- 6 - To adopt measures for building a fence around the Parish Green or otherwise improving Parish land and buildings
- 7 - To fill any vacancies that may exist in the Board of Trustees of the Parish Funds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 16, 1861

- 5 - To adopt any measures by tax or otherwise for raising money to defray the expenses of the Society and to pay the debts of the Society
- 6 - To fill any vacancies that may exist in the Board of Trustees of the Parish Funds
- 7 - To see if the Society will grant Rev. J. J. Putnam a vacation

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 15, 1862

All six articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 18, 1863

- 5 - To see if the Parish will raise the money necessary for their Minister's salary by tax on polls and Estates for the year ensuing
- 6 - To see if the Parish will raise the money for their Minister's salary and other expenses for the ensuing year by tax on pews in their house
- 7 - To see what measures the Parish will take to raise the money for the Minister's salary and other expenses for the ensuing year
- 8 - To transact any other Parish business that may come before them

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 30, 1863

- 2 - To see what measures the Society will take to pay their indebtedness which has accumulated for the year ending April 1st, 1863
- 3 - To see if the Society will take measures to reduce their expenses for the year ensuing

Warrant for Parish Meeting for November 23, 1878

- 2 - To act upon the letter of resignation from Rev George H. Hosmer
- 3 - To see what measures the Society will take to supply the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 19, 1879

- 8 - To see what measures the Parish will take to supply the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for July 19, 1879

- 2 - To see if the Society will take measures in regard to a permanent supply of the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 17, 1880

- 7 - To see what measures the Parish will take to pay their indebtedness
- 8 - To see what measures the Parish will take towards building a Chapel

Warrant for Parish Meeting for July 31, 1880

- 2 - To see if the Treasurer of the Chapel fund will place the amount of the fund in the hands of the Chapel Building Committee

- 3 - To see if the Parish will authorize the Building Committee to Pipe the Chapel for gas
- 4 - To see what action the Parish will take in regard to the Horse sheds

Warrant for Parish Meeting for February 5, 1881

- 2 - To hear the report of the Chapel Building Committee and to act thereon

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 16, 1881

Eight articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for August 6, 1881

- 2 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to a permanent supply of the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for March 11, 1882

Three articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 15, 1882

- 8 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to their Pastor's summer vacation

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 7, 1883

- 2 - To see if the Society will accept the list of members prepared by the Parish Committee
- 9 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to supplying the pulpit
- 10 - To see what action the Society will take in relation to the forming of a choir

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 5, 1884

- 8 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to the burial lot purchased by the Parish Committee

- 9 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to supplying the pulpit
- 10 - To see what action, if any, the Society will take in regard to securing possession of the pews

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 4, 1885

- 8 - To see what action the Society will take towards making necessary repairs required upon the building or other matters connected therewith
- 9 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to supplying the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for June 20, 1885

- 2 - To see what action the Society will take towards securing the services of the Rev. S. B. Flagg as it's pastor for the ensuing year or transact any business pertaining to the future supply of the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 17, 1886

- 6 - To see if the Parish will ratify and approve the action of the Parish Committee in the arrangements in securing the services of the Rev. Thomas W. Brown as Pastor of the Society

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 9, 1887

Six articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 14, 1888

- 8 - To see what action the Society will take towards making necessary repairs required upon the building or other matters connected therewith
- 9 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to supplying the pulpit

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 27, 1889 (printed form)

- 9 - To see what action the Society will take in relation to repair of Belfry clock

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 14, 1890 (printed form)

Usual articles

Warrant for Parish Meeting for May 16, 1891 (written warrant)

As usual including need for repairs on building

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 14, 1892 (typewritten)

- 7 - To see what action the Society will take towards making necessary repairs upon the building or other matters connected therewith
- 8 - To see what action the Society will take towards re-insuring the Church property

Warrant for Parish Meeting for September 14, 1892

- 2 - To see what action the Society will take in regard to heating the church

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 5, 1893

Eight articles as usual

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 14, 1894

Seven articles including need for repairs on building

Warrant for Parish Meeting for April 15, 1895

- 7 - To see what action the Society will take towards re-insuring the Church property

To either Constable in the Town of Bridgewater: - Greeting

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the legal voters of the First Congregational Society to meet at the Meeting House of said Society, in said Bridgewater, on Monday, the Twentieth day of April, A.D. 1896, at seven and one-half o'clock in the evening, to act upon the following Articles: -

Viz: -

First: - To choose a Moderator for said Meeting

Second: - To hear and act upon the report of the Treasurer of said Society, and upon the report of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Parish Funds, and of all Committees

Third: - To choose all necessary Parish Officers for the year ensuing

Fourth: - To dispose of the income of the Parish Funds for the year ensuing

Fifth: - To see what measures the Society will adopt to pay their indebtedness

Sixth: - To see what action the Society will take towards making the necessary repairs upon the buildings, or other matters connected therewith

Seventh: - To see what action the Society will take towards making the necessary repairs upon the stones in the churchyard, and to put the grounds in good order

Eighth: - To act upon any other business which may legally come before the meeting

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting an attested copy thereof, on the Meeting House of said Society, seven days at least before the time of said meeting, and hereof fail not, and make return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Clerk of said Society, at or before the time of said meeting.

Hosea Kingman

Isaac Damon

H. M. Blackstone

Parish Committee

Given under our hands this thirteenth day of April, A. D. 1896

A true copy by which said voters are warned

Attest: - Lester W. Witherell, Constable of Bridgewater

Plymouth: S.S. In pursuance of the foregoing Warrant, I have notified and warned the legal Voters of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, to meet at the Meeting House of said Society, at the time and for the purpose therein specified, by posting an attested copy of said Warrant on said Meeting House, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Lester W. Witherell, Constable of Bridgewater

MINISTER'S FILES

1717 - 1730

The Rev. Benjamin Allen

Ordained in Bridgewater, July 9, 1718

51 original members signed the covenant of the Brethren

b. 1689 - d. 1754

Built house on Central Square - occupied by Col. Josiah Washburn in

1775 - by Dea Isaac Lazell in 1810 -, and later by Mrs. Naham

Washburn , generally known as the Tory House.

1731 - 1791

The Rev. John Shaw

Ordained in Bridgewater, Nov. 17, 1731

b. 1708, m. Sara , 8 children d. 1791

40 - 14 - 10 = 1759

80 pounds 14 pence 10 shillings = 1764

Salary 60 pounds, 14:1 3/4 = 1758

From our records: 1758

Salary - 1758 - 60 pounds, 14 pence, 1 3/4 shillings

1759 - 40 pounds, 14 pence, 10 shillings, more for fire wood - 20 pounds

1764 - 80 pounds, 14 pence, 10 shillings

1788 - 1818

The Rev. Zedekiah Sanger, D.D.

Installed as colleague to Mr. Shaw, Dec. 17, 1788

b. Oct. 15, 1748, m. Irana (Irene) Freeman, 14 children

d. Nov. 17, 1820

Sanger file:

1812 - 1820 - 53 receipts for wood delivered to the Sanger home -
signed by George P. Sanger - all others by Sam F. Sanger)

1816 - Benjamin Price withdrawal certificate of membership of the
Episcopal Church, B'water

1817 - Hannah Packard withdrawal and certificate of membership of
the Episcopal Church, B'water

Nov. 4, 1818 - Letter of resignation from Zedekiah Sanger

Jan. 1820 - Receipt (for \$100 for my services as pastor of the Cong.
Society in Sd. Parish for the year 1819)

April 2, 1820 - Receipted Bill (South Parish of B'water to Z. Sanger -
for boarding, dining, housekeeping - re: supply ministers)

Jan. 1821 = Receipt for above bill - signed by Sam F. Sanger,
Administrator

Jan. 1821 - "Received of H. Sprague, treas., \$100 & 10 cords wood in
full of all demands of said estate against Parish." Signed by Sam
F. Sanger.

1821 - Receipted bill (South Parish of B'water - Lazell Perkins & Co.

Nov. 18 - Black Cloth

Nov. 22 - Mrs. Walker - making pall

Nov. 21, 1820 - Receipt "South Parish to Holmes Sprague

Cherry coffin with glass for Rev. d. Sanger \$10"

June 15, 1821 = Receipted bill (South Parish to Irana Sanger for
boarding ministers)

March 9, 1822 - Receipted bill (South Parish to Irana Sanger for
boarding mininsters - signed by Sam Sanger)

From the Bridgewater Book -

"In 1788 Zedekiah Sanger, afterward made a Doctor of Divinity, was called from Duxbury and installed as colleague to Mr. Shaw, who died three years later. Like Mr. Shaw, he educated young men for college and for the ministry. His salary was \$400 and 20 cords of wood. For two years he was master of the Academy, built in 1799, on the site of the present Inn, with a yard extending where the lower part of the Common now is."

"He became a subscriber of the great book of the day, Rees' Cyclopaedia. The salary of \$400 was outstripped by the encyclopedia of 87 volumes, and a general subscription gave the book broad ownership. This was the beginning."
(of the library)

1821 - 1833

The Rev. Richard M. Hodges

Ordained in Bridgewater Sept. 11, 1821

b. Aug. 5, 1794 d. Aug. 2, 1878

Member Bridgewater School Committee, 1825 - 1827.

Hodges file:

Receipt: Mar. 15, 1820 for preaching 4 sabbaths - \$40.

July 3, 1821 " " 5 " - \$50

Dec. 31, 1821 for sal. to date - \$180.

Jan. 1, 1823 "H. Sprague, treas. - \$600 being pd. in full
of all demands as minister for 1 yr."

Feb. 14, 1824 - \$600 - sal. to Jan. 24

Jan. 1825 - \$600 sal. for 1824

1824 to 1833 - 55 certificates of withdrawal & membership of the Episc.
Church of B'water

Receipts: Mar. 20, 1826 - \$733.34 for 1 yr., 2 months, 20 days

Mar. 20, 1827 - \$600 to date

Mar. 20, 1828 - \$600 to date

Mar. 20, 1829 - \$600 to date

Mar. 20, 1830 - \$600 to date

Mar. 21, 1831 - \$600 to date

Mar. 20, 1832 - \$600 to date

Mar. 20, 1833 - \$600 to date

May 17, 1831 - \$10 services of David Reed, after funeral of

_____ Reed

Parish Comm. order to pay R. Hodges \$20 for supplying pulpit 2 sabbaths

Letter - May 11, 1833 of resignation

"I shall leave town on Monday next, and any communication may
be addressed to me by stage to the care of Wm. Donneson, Esq.

- No 17 South Bennet St. Boston"

Letter: copy of letter from Parish Comm. accepting resignation and certificate from the society

Receipt: Aug. 23, 1833 for preaching 11 sabbaths - \$288.62

Sept. 24, 1833 - payment for board

Jan. 1852 for preaching Sept. 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19 - 1851

Sept. 4, 1854 Preaching 1 sabbath - \$13.50

Sept. 15, 1857 preaching 1 sabbath - \$10

Letter: July 22, 1846 presenting clock for new building

Letter: 1846 _____ copy of letter from the Parish in appreciation of clock

Book: Copy of Semi-Centennial Discourse - delivered Sept. 17, 1871

Letter: presenting copy of Semi - C. Discourse to "my friends in Bridgewater"

Letter: to the Parish Committee on the 50th Anniv. of the Sunday School

Letter: Sept. 12, 1875 to the First Cong. Society of B'water on the 54th anniversary of his ordination

Jan. 1872 - Copy of Resolutions voted by Society expressing "high appreciation of the many testimonials of the affectionate regard he has ever manifested for their property and happiness"

Joshua Crane wrote:

"Rev. Mr. Hodges assumed the responsible duties of his ministry at a period of great controversy which tended to the general separation of the Evangelical and Unitarian elements of the churches, and in the course of his pastorate witnessed the withdrawal of a number of his parishioners who

became identified with the newly organized church in Scotland. Mr. Hodges was inclined to the conservative school of his denomination adhering to the views of Channing which prevailed largely among the Unitarians of New England."

From the Bridgewater Book

"Soon after he was settled here, in 1823, he abolished the old time custom of the congregation rising and standing when the minister came in and went out."

1833 - 1844

The Rev. Theophilus Doggett

Ordained Nov. 13, 1833 in Bridgewater

b. d. May 18, 1875

Doggett file:

Salary receipts:

Nov. 6, 1833 - \$70 for seven sabbaths

Sept. 11, 1833 - \$70 for 7 sabbaths

Mar. 20, 1834 - \$126 sal. to date

June 11, 1834 - \$126 sal. to Mar. 20th last

Mar. 23, 1835 - \$700 sal. to Mar. 20, 1835

Mar. 24, 1836 - \$700 sal. to Mar. 20, 1836

Mar. 27, 1837 - \$700 sal. to Mar. 20, 1837

Mar. 20, 1838 - \$314 sal. to Mar. 1838

April 15, 1838 - \$303.51 "

Dec. 4, 1838 - \$82.49 Sal. to Mar. 1838
 Mar. 29, 1839 - \$700 sal. to Mar. 20, 1839
 Mar. 27, 1840 - \$600 sal. tax due Mar. 20
 July 10, 1840 - \$92 sal. "due me Mar. 20"
 April 2, 1841 - \$650 sal. due Mar. 20, 1841
 April 7, 1843 - \$1,440.35 "in full for all claims against
 the Society from Mar. 20, 1841 to Mar. 20, 1843 &
 bal. due on my salary in 1839 & 40."
 April 2, 1844 - \$700 sal. to Mar. 20, 1844
 April 5, 1845 - \$363.46 in full for all claims against Society
 up to this date
 June 15, 1853 - \$10 - 1 sabbath - 3 sabbaths - May 15, 10, June 15/53

Letters:

(Before 1844) Answering a proposal of the Parish Comm. to relinquish
 \$100 of salary.

1844 to the Parish Comm. offering to resign in 6 months - March 16,
 1844 - resignation

Minutes of the Council at the ordination of the Rev. Theophilus P.
 Doggett

List of churches invited to Mr. Doggett's ordination

Receipted bill to Rev. Theophilus Doggett - for 200 Order of
 Exercises - \$2.00

Minister's Record Book p 17

"It should have been observed that the 1st May 1841, the Pastor, on
 account of bronchitis, was obliged to visit the West Indies, & Southern

part of the United States, during which time the pulpit was supplied by a number of preachers. This state of affairs continued 'till June 27th, 1842, when the pastor returned with health sufficiently restored to resume the duties of office. For 10 successive Sabbaths previous to his departure, Mr. Thomas Thurston from Cambridge was employed to preach."

1845 - 1851

The Rev. Claudius Bradford

Installed May 7, 1845

Bradford file:

Salary receipts

Jan. 17, 1845 - \$80 for 8 sabbaths

April 15, 1845 - April 15 to April 1846 - \$670.84

Mar. 1, 1847 - part of salary for year ending Apr. 1847 - \$25

Mar. 10, 1847 - part of salary for year ending Apr. 1847 \$75

Mar. 19, 1847 - part of salary for year ending Apr. 1847 \$97

Mar. 24, 1847 - part of salary for year ending Apr. 1847 \$100

Mar. 31, 1847 - part of salary for year ending Apr. 1847 \$90

Apr. 2, 1847 - Accounting for salary to Apr. 1, 1847 \$700

April 3, 1848 - \$250 - "also \$130 for house rent"

April 21, 1848 - "stipulated salary - \$700"

Dec. 21, 1850 - \$700 for one year - April '49 to Apr. '50

Mar. 31, 1851 - \$340 "towards salary for year past"

April 14, 1851 - \$220 "towards my salary for past year"

Aug. 1, 1851 - \$700 - Apr. 1, 1850 to April '51

Oct. 14, 1851 - "for services as minister of said Society

1/3 of a year, from April 1, 1851 to Oct. 1, 1851 - \$233.33

By rent of parsonage from April '51 to Oct. '51 at

\$130 per year - 6 1/2 mo.

70.42

Receipt: May 27, 1850 - \$70

Balance due

\$162.91

Copy from Records in relation to Rev. Bradford's settlement (contract)

Minutes of Council at installation of C. Bradford

Copy of vote to settle Mr. Bradford - signed by N. Tillinghast, Deacon

Minutes of meeting - April 25, 1851 - and copy of notice to Mr. Bradford

"desolving his connection with the Society" signed by W. Latham, clerk.

From the Minister's Record Book:

There were 47 members at the time of Mr. Bradford's settlement, 39 members at his resignation.

The new meeting house was dedicated on Nov. 19, 1845.

A new communion service was used May 3, 1846. The old service was given to the Unitarian Church in Pomfret, Vt.

1856 - 1864

The Rev. John J. Putnam

Installed Jan. 16, 1856

Letter - May 26, 1855 - declining to accept invitation to settle

Receipt - A. Hale - \$2 expenses to Cambridge to see Mr. Putnam-June 1855

Letter - Dec. 22, 1855 - accepting invitation to become the minister
of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater

Abstract of the record by Williams Latham to choose a committee of
five persons to confer with Mr. Putnam & make arrangements for his
his installation Dec. 29, 1855

Report of the Committee for Installation of J. J. Putnam - Jan. 16, 1856

Subscription list to pay the expenses of the Putnam installation -
Jan. 20, 1856

Salary receipt: \$250, my salary from Jan. 1, 1856 to April 1, 1856
April 5, 1856

The Minister's Book - 1864: "The connexion between Rev. John J. Putnam
and the First Cong. Soc. in Bridgewater was dissolved January 1864.

Mr. Putnam began the record of baptisms."

From a letter of John White Chadwick:

"The Rev. John J. Putnam was then the Unitarian minister at Bridgewater,
and I preached my first sermon in his pulpit. He objected, I remember, to
the way I tossed my hat upon the pulpit sofa and told me how that function
should have been performed."

1865 - 1866

The Rev. George Dexter

Ordained in Bridgewater January 25, 1865

Installed January 25, 1865

File: Copy of letter to invite Mr. Dexter to become their settled minister.

From the Minister's Record Book: 4 persons were admitted to the church in 1865.

1865, April 19 - A service commemorative of the death of President Lincoln was held in the church in which the Central Square and New Church Societies engaged.

1868 - 1878

The Rev. George H. Hosmer

Installed December 17, 1868

Hosmer file:

Letter - Sept. 12, 1868 to Rev. G. H. Hosmer from Eli Washburn, inviting Mr. Hosmer to visit Bridgewater

Letter - Oct. 10, 1868 to Mr. Hosmer from Eli Washburn, Ambros Keith, Henry Pratt, Committee - "that we invite the Rev. George Herbert Hosmer to become our minister and that we offer him a salary of fifteen hundred per year."

Letter - Oct. 24, 1868 to Mr. Hosmer from Eli Washburn with Installation Committee report

Proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Council

Bill - April 13, 1869 - "Bought of the American Unitarian Association" - 4 doz. S. S. Hymn, Tune, and Service Book - \$24.00
(2¢ stamp affixed-hand cancelled)

Letter - July 4, 1873 to Rev. Geo. Hosmer - unsigned - Re:

commemoration service for Dr. Leonard

Salary receipts: April 1, 1877 - \$1,280 - bal. due \$375

April 3, 1877 - \$375 - Salary in full to Apr. 1, 1877

Aug. 8, 1877 - \$325 for service from Apr. 1, 1877

to July 1, 1877

Dec. 24, 1877 - \$325 for service from July 1, 1877

to Oct. 1, 1877

April 11, 1878 - \$279 on account

Receipt - 1877 - \$10.50 for service books - pulpit and choir

Letter - April 20, 1878, to First Congregational Society from G. H.

Hosmer offering to resign

Letter - Nov. 10, 1878 - letter of resignation

Nov. 10, 1878 - Copy of resolutions accepting resignation

Receipt - May 28, 1893 - \$20 for service rendered May 28, '93

From the Minister's Records:

1869 - Plymouth and Bay Conference held session here

1871 - Long report of exercises on 50th anniversary of settlement of

Rev. Hodges

1877 - New Hymn and Tune Book replaced Cheshire Collection - New Book,

revised edition - published by American Unitarian Association

and Society was the first to adopt it.

1879 - 1881

The Rev. Alfred E. Goodnough

Ordained in Ayer, Massachusetts

Installed September 25, 1877

Goodnough file:

Letter - July 22, 1879 to Rev. Goodnough from Caleb Hobart,
notification of unanimous vote..... also voted 4 Sundays
a year vacation and that 3 months' notice in writing be
be given by either party to terminate contract.

Letter - July 29, 1879 from A. E. Goodnough accepting call

Proceedings of the Council at the Installation of Rev. Goodnough

April 16, 1881 - Letter of resignation - to take effect the 1st of
the following month

April 16, 1881 Vote and Resolution passed in relation to
Mr. Goodnough's release

From the Minister's Book:

1880 - The "chapel" was built.

1882 - 1883

The Rev. John A. Wilson

Ordained and Installed May 11, 1882

Died in service April 7, 1883

Wilson file:

Letter - March 20, 1882 - to Mr. Wilson from Caleb Hobart - offering
a salary of \$1,200 for one year.

Letter - Mar. 23, 1882 - to C. Hobart from John Albert Wilson, accepting
invitation to occupy the pulpit for one year

May 11, 1882 - Council Meeting record - ordination of Mr. Wilson

May 11, 1882 - Order of Service at the Ordination of John A. Wilson

Letter - Feb. 7, 1883 from G. Reynolds, asking for "gift" to the
Unitarian Association.

Letter - March 22, 1883 - from H. Price Collier, asking for Parish
approval to give the services of its minister for 2 Sundays
during the year. The work (missionary) to be done within the
limits of the Plymouth and Bay Conf.

Letter - April 6, 1883 from L.Q.S. Osgood, planning a conference meeting

From the Minister's Book:

"His brief pastorate was sadly ended by his sudden death, as he had
preached on the Sabbath before his death."

1886 - 1892

The Rev. Thomas W. Brown

No installation service held - by mutual agreement

January 1, 1886 - preached his own installation sermon on the words,
"whosoever would be great among you, let him be your minister."

Brown file:

Action of Parish Committee in relation to settlement of T. W. Brown

Copy of letter - Dec. 8, 1885, extending "a most cordial and unanimous
call to become our minister"

Letter - Dec. 12, 1885, from Thos. W. Brown, accepting the call

Copy of Contract, Parish Committee and Thomas W. Brown 1886

Letter - April 9, 1892, letter of resignation

April 17, 1892 - Action of the Parish Comm., requesting Mr. Brown to
withdraw his resignation

Letter - April 20, 1892 from T. W. Brown, "I must, however, respectfully
press the acceptance of the letter, as I clearly feel it to be
my duty to accept the urgent invitation to Melrose."

From the Minister's Book:

Sept. 7, 1887 - Mr. Brown wrote, "During one of the severest thunder-
storms ever known here, the church edifice was stricken, and
damaged to the amount of about \$150."

1893 - 1902

The Rev. Charles A. Allen

Allen file:

Receipt: May 8, 1893 - Western Union Telegraph Co. for 3 messages

Letter - May 11, 1893 to Mr. Bragdon from Chas. A. Allen, accepting
the call to Bridgewater

Salary receipts:

April 23, 1893 - for services rendered April 23, 1893

April 30, 1893 - \$20 for Religious Services April 30, 1893

October 6, 1893 - \$100 for Religious Services to October 1, 1893

70 receipts - Nov. 1, 1893 to May 8, 1901

Sept. 14, 1901 - salary in full to Sept. 1, 1901 - \$400

October 15, 1901 - \$11 for preaching October 13, 1901

Annual Report to the Parish - April 16, 1895

Receipt - June, 1896 to Feb. 1898, submitted March 23, 1898 for
wine, tuning church piano - \$5.35

Receipt - April, 1898 to Jan. 1899 for wine, S. S. expenses, Easter
expenses - \$3.67

Receipt - August, 1899 to Feb. 1901 for wine, keys, cleaning church
yard - \$3.50

Receipt - May 19, 1901 - for expenses of Platform Meeting - \$2.62

From the Clerk's records:

1894 "Voted: That the unsolicited Report of the Rev. Mr. Allen be
accepted, and a vote of thanks be extended to him for same;
also that he be requested to continue similar reports at
future Parish Meetings."

MINISTERS AFTER 1902

1902 - 1908

The Rev. Cicero A. Henderson

1908 - 1913

The Rev. Harold G. Arnold

1913 - 1915

The Rev. Alfred K. Shurtleff

1916 - 1923

The Rev. Herbert L. Buzzell

1924 - 1926

The Rev. Robert W. Jones

1927 - 1957

The Rev. William L. McKinney

1957 - 1964

The Rev. Karl A. Bach

1965 - 1967

The Rev. Bruce M. Clary

1968 - 1970

The Rev. Edward A. Robbins

1970 - 1971

The Rev. Erling O. Duus

1971 - 1972

The Rev. James R. Sikes

1973 - 1976

The Rev. Hugh W. Weston

SUPPLY MINISTERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1818 - Seth Alden | Charles A. Farley |
| 1819 - Peter Osgood | Josiah K. Waite |
| John M. Brewer | Warren Burton |
| Oliver Hayward | Charles Briggs |
| Andrew Bigelow | Ralph Sanger |
| T. Tracy | Joshua Swan |
| 1820 - Isam Leonard | Cazneau Palfrey |
| William Ritcher | William F. Bridge |
| E. Clarke | - - - Moseley |
| Shubael Lowell | 1852 - Josiah K. Waite |
| Jonathan Nye | Charles Brooks |
| Silas Hall | Samuel F. Clarke |
| Oliver Hayward | Henry L. Myrick |
| 1821 - Peter Conant | Solon W. Bush |
| 1825 - Oliver Hayward | Joseph Angier |
| 1829 - Thomas Snow | Daniel W. Stevens |
| 1833 - M. Harding | John Lewis Russell |
| Curtis Cutler | Charles Lowe |
| 1841 - Matthew Harding | Moses G. Thomas |
| Thomas B. Gannett | George F. Clark |
| - - - Taylor | Joshua Young |
| W. H. Knapp | Thomas W. Brown |
| Charles C. Shackford | Stephen G. Bulfinch |
| Benjamin Kents | Francis Parkman |
| Augustas C. L. Arnold | James Thurston |
| 1842 - A. C. L. Arnold | Francis Tiffany |
| George A. Williams | Fiske Barrett |
| Norwood Damon | M. J. Motte |
| 1844 - Washington Gilbert | Arthur B. Fuller |
| Robert F. Wallcut | F. McIntire |
| John R. Wight | Charles A. Farley |
| 1845 - Rufus Ellis | Frederick A. Whitney |
| John Buckingham | John N. Bellows |
| William Sillsbee | Samuel Longfellow |
| S. B. Croft | Eliphalet T. Crafts |
| Benjamin Kent | William H. Knapp |
| W. D. Wiswell | Calvin Lincoln |
| O. H. Wellington | George M. Rice |
| Luther Hamilton | Charles H. Brigham |
| 1850 - Claudius Bradford | Charles C. Sewell |
| 1851 - William O. White | 1853 - Calvin Lincoln |
| Herman Snow | George M. Rice |
| William O. Cushing | Henry L. Myrick |
| Jonathan Cole | Charles Briggs |
| Henry F. Edes | Joseph Angier |
| Mellich I. Mott | Charles H. Brigham |

- Charles C. Sewell
 F. McIntire
 James Jennison
 William H. Knapp
 H. Stebbins
 George Osgood
 Edward Stone
 Samuel Abbot Smith
 Joseph Allen
 F. R. Newell
 Edmund S. Sewell
 N. A. Staples
 John T. Sargent
 Charles J. Bowen
 W. P. Tilden
 Benjamin West
 Thomas Dawes
 S. F. Clarke
 Jones Very
 William F. Bridge
 John N. Bellows
 Woodbury Melcher Fernald
 Liberty Billings
 Charles A. Farley
 A. B. Muzzey
 M. I. Motte
 Theodore H. Dorr
 Francis L. Capen
 Thomas Pons
 1854 - William H. Knapp
 A. D. Wheeler
 Thomas H. Pons
 William M. Bicknell
 Adam Ayer
 W. O. Moseley
 John M. Merrick
 M. I. Motte
 Calvin S. Locke
 James H. Fowler
 Robert Hassall
 Thomas Dawes
 Caleb Davis Bradlee
 Francis Cunningham
 Henry Emmons
 Edmund Squire
 George W. Webster
 William F. Bridge
 George A. Carnes
 Henry L. Myrick
 Thomas S. Lathrop
 Marshall G. Kimball
- Joshua A. Swan
 James Richardson, Jr.
 Moses G. Thomas
 George Hughes Hepworth
 Herman Snow
 William T. Clarke
 William Thomas Crapster
 1855 - Edward Stone
 Joseph Osgood
 A. T. Putnam
 William L. Jenkins
 George H. Hepworth
 Horatio Alger
 F. Cunningham
 H. L. Myrick
 Simeon B. Durfee
 F. W. Holland
 Thomas S. Lathrop
 A. Miner Williams
 William Mountford
 Charles Brooks
 Jonathan Cole
 John J. Putnam
 Asa M. Williams
 William A. Whitwell
 F. W. Howland
 Charles Briggs
 William T. Crapster
 R. A. Ballou
 Joshua Young
 Rufus P. Stebbins
 G. R. Noyes
 Charles T. Canfield
 Convers Francis
 George G. Channing
 M. G. Kimball
 Alfred Porter Putnam
 George F. Allen
 Charles B. Thomas
 Charles A. Farley
 George R. Noyes
 Charles H. A. Dall
 1856 - John J. Putnam
 1866 - Theodore H. Dorr
 1885 - S. B. Flagg
 1892 - L. D. Cochrane
 H. T. Bond
 B. A. Goodridge
 George F. Piper
 John A. Savage
 A. E. Stewart

J. B. Hargett
 J. Frederic Dutton
 H. C. McDougall
 1893 - J. Frederic Dutton
 Obed Eldridge

J. M. Leighton
 James H. West
 William H. Savary
 A. B. Vorse
 E. C. Abbott

~~S. S. Green to Wm. Latham &~~

1854
 Jan.
 10

~~To Cash lent to \$40.00~~

~~to secure which he left with me pledged
 2 Gold watches & one chain -
 & note of Rufus Decker for \$18.00~~

Feb. 28, 1854 Recd. of Wm. Latham Free!
 Thirteen dollars & forty cents

\$13.40

Sam^l Abbott

Sept. 9. 1855 paid F. C. Cunningham
\$13.60 I took no receipt -
 Very hot day
 Wm. Latham

OFFICE OF

THE HYLAND HOUSE,

CENTRAL SQUARE,

BRIDGEWATER, - - MASS.

L. DOW MONROE, PROPRIETOR.

Bridgewater, Mass., April 3, 1884.
 First Cong. Society
 To L. D. Monroe, Esq.

Dec.	10.	To	Four dinners	2.00
"	16	"	Rev. Mr. C. Franquist	2.50
"	23.	"	" F. H. Carlton	2.50
"	30	"	" F. H. Carlton	2.50
Jan.	6.	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.50
"	20	"	" J. C. Ward	2.50
Feb.	3.	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.00
"	17	"	" A. A. Brooks	2.50
"	24	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.00
Mar.	2.	"	" John. Day	2.00
"	9	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.50
"	16	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.50
"	22.	"	" A. A. Brooks	2.50
"	29	"	" J. C. Gaynes	2.50
Received Per L. Dow Monroe				<u>33.00</u>

It was the responsibility of the Deacons to conduct the church business. They always sat beneath the pulpit, facing the congregation during the church services.

Eleazer Carver and Joseph Alden were the first two "standard bearers" of Rev. Benjamin Allen's pastorate from 1717 to 1730, and have been credited with the organization and growth of the South Parish.

It was decided, in 1734, that the deacons be ordained. Names, some dates and comments follow:

Thomas Hayward - elected 1734 - died 1741
 Capt. Josiah Edson - born 1682 - died 1763
 Solomon Pratt - died 1757
 Jacob Hayward - died 1778
 Lt. Joshua Alden
 Judge Benjamin Willis, Jr. - elected 1775
 Seth Pratt (Selectman) - elected 1775
 James Perkins, Jr. - died 1827
 Ephram Orcutt - died 1831 (87 years)
 Major Isaac Lazell - chosen 1803 - born 1756 - died 1810
 Peter Conant - chosen 1803
 James Alger - chosen 1810 - resigned 1822
 son of Lt. James Alger of West Parish
 Cornelius Holmes - elected 1810 - resigned 1842 "on account of bodily infirmities"
 Cyprus Copeland, Sr. - elected 1822 - resigned 1827 and was dismissed from the church at his request.
 George Chipman - chosen 1828 - resigned 1842 on "account of the infirmities of age. July 7, 1850, requested dismissal from this church and recommendation to that in Scotland.
 Nicholas Tillinghast - unanimously elected. (He was principal of the Normal School). - resigned 1856 - died 1856
 Lewis Bryant - elected second deacon 1845 - died 1880
 Mitchell Hooper - elected to fill vacancy caused by death of Deacon Bryant 1880. Mitchell Hooper died 1886.

No further records of Deacons after the death of Mitchell Hooper.

EXCERPTS FROM THE COVENANT OF THE BRETHERN
OF THE SOUTH PARISH IN BRIDGEWATER

JULY 7, 1718

We, the subscribers, who in times past were full communicants in the Church of Christ in Bridgewater, being now under a Divine Call into a coalition in Church fellowship in the Order of the Gospel, do renew our Covenant with God and with one another under a soul humbling sense of all our violations of former Covenant engagements

that we take the Lord to be our God by a free choice of Him and a firm dependence on Him as our chief good

that in all the administrations in the house of God we will have due regard to the power of office belonging to the ministry and to the privileges belonging to the brethren as to judgment and consent

We will walk in love one towards another, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that there may be no schism or rent in the Body of Christ

As we have opportunity, we will seek the good one of another and so also of all men both with respect to the spiritual and temporal state

It shall be our endeavor to stand complete in all the will of God to cleave to the Lord and one to another through all adversity . . .

We do sincerely and solemnly engage in the sight of God and of men in a humble dependence of faith upon the mercy (of the Lord) and for the power of his Spirit to work all our works in us to perfect all that doth concern us to the praise of His Glory.

PROFESSION OF FAITH USED IN THE CHURCH AFTER 1821

I do solemnly declare that I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God; and the Saviour of the world, that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and perfect rule of faith and obedience, that I desire thankfully to accept salvation thro' Jesus Christ, in the way prescribed in the Gospel, resolving by the help of divine Grace to live in obedience to his holy commandments, and looking for the mercy of God unto Eternal life.

THE COVENANT OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF BRIDGEWATER

Adopted November 3, 1895

Believing it our duty, as disciples of Jesus, in filial obedience to the will of God, to do all we can for the welfare of others and help one another in every good work, and recognizing the great importance of frequently meeting together in religious assemblies to foster and strengthen our Christian faith and to deepen our personal consecration, we hereby unite ourselves as a Christian Church. We promise to give our hearty support to the public worship of this church, to encourage others in a reverent and regular attendance, to co-operate earnestly in all its religious work, and to endeavor to live in all ways obedient to our Heavenly Father and faithful in our relations to our fellow men.

TRUSTEES

Mention has been made of an Act by the State Legislature in 1803 incorporating certain persons as "Trustees of a Fund for the Support of a Congregational Gospel Minister in the South Parish in Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth." The five men named in that act to serve as Trustees were Eliphalet Cary, Samuel Shaw, Joshua Alden, Thomas Washburn and Jason Dyer. Article seven stated that "the number of Trustees may be augmented to seven provided that said Parish shall choose that number but shall never be less than five," etc. Until the turn of the century, the following men served as trustees:

Nathan Mitchell	John A. Shaw
William Mitchell	Dion Bryant
Benjamin Pope	Mitchell Hooper
Daniel Mitchell	Nahum Stetson
Artemas Hale	George B. Stetson
N. Taylor	Isaac Damon
Asa Pratt	Peleg Bradford
Abram Washburn	Edward Sawyer
Nathan Lazell, Jr.	Henry Pratt
Eleazer Carver	Hosea Kingman
Jacob Perkins	Gustavas Pratt
Paschall Bassett	Hollis M. Blackstone
Philo Leach	George W. Jewett
Jonathan Cushing	J. Gardner Bassett
Edward Mitchell	W. H. Sanderson
Williams Latham	Ernest L. Cook
Robert Perkins	John H. Ball

Early records show that the Trustees loaned money to local businesses and people and the interest collected was used "to support a Congregational Minister in the South Parish." Later the funds were invested in stocks and bonds. The Trustees bought and sold real estate. In 1845, for example, they purchased from the Rev. S. S. Tappan property which was used for a parsonage. \$2,700 was the purchase price. Later, the same year, part of the land was sold to the Society for \$300 and the present church was built on it. In 1852 the rest of

the Tappan property was sold to Nahum Stetson for \$2,575.

The Trustees' report for April 7, 1849, included as part of the fund, house and land occupied by Rev. C. Bradford, valued at \$2,300. From the report of 1852, the Singing Fund included the Mary M. Allen legacy of \$1,000, the legacy of William Mitchell - \$100 - and rent of the parsonage - \$130.

March 8, 1851, the resignation of Artemas Hale as treasurer of the Fund was included in his report. "In making this my last report of the condition of the fund which for the twenty-four years past, I have had the management of, and which I now propose to resign to more able hands, it may not be inappropriate to state that during this time there has not been the loss of a single dollar of the principal of the fund and I believe it is now all securely invested. Since I first received the funds I have collected and paid over to the Treasurer of the Society of interest, the sum of \$8,277.46. Invested as the capital was, in numerous notes of individuals, which were liable to be paid at any time without previous notice, it has been sometimes difficult to reinvest them without loss of interest. Upon examining my accounts I find that, during the whole time, the total loss from this cause has been only \$5.50. It is not on account of any diminution of interest in the welfare of the Society that I am induced to resign the trust I have so long held by the indulgence of the Trustees -

Believing that the proper observance of the Sabbath and a regular attendance upon public worship are essential to the peace and well being of the community as well as the happiness, both spiritual and temporal, of every individual composing it, I shall ever feel it a duty and pleasure to do all in my power to perpetuate these sacred instructions - and to preserve the integrity, harmony and perpetuality of the Society with which I have so many years associated.

Artemas Hale, Treasurer, Trustees"

The trustees of the Parish funds were instructed to purchase pews in 1885 as they were offered for sale by auction and otherwise look after the interests of the Society in the matter.

April 5, 1893, a continuation of the report of the Trustees states - "during the past year the five shares of the Maverick National Bank, which constitute a part of our funds, have not only yielded no income but have become utterly worthless, - and besides because of an assessment on account of those shares, five hundred dollars was withdrawn from the Bridgewater Savings Bank and paid to the Receiver of said Maverick Bank. Thus our trust funds have been reduced one thousand dollars and the income from said fund is on that account less for this year than last. Thus are the innocent punished for the evil deeds of certain persons entrusted with the management of the funds and property of the Maverick National Bank, while the guilty have as yet escaped punishment.

Hosea Kingman, Treas."

TAXES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

March 4, 1839 was the last time that an article appeared in the warrant
 "To vote such sum or sums of money as the parish may raise into
 a tax to be assessed upon the polls and estates according to
 law."

March 18, 1848, there was an article "To see if the parish will raise money
 by tax to pay the debts and current expenses of the Parish."

March 16, 1861, Article 5 was "To adopt any measures by tax or otherwise
 for raising money to defray the expense of the Society and to pay
 the debts of the Society."

March 18, 1863, the wording was changed, "To see if the parish will raise
 the money necessary for their Minister's salary by tax on polls and
 estates for the year ensuing."

March 4, 1868, a report of a committee to raise funds, proposed a tax on
 polls and property to produce \$1,500.00

Throughout the years, subscriptions (pledges) were made to raise funds
 for various specific purposes. There are many such lists in the church records
 for ministers' salaries, organists, buildings, pews and so forth. The following
 is a portion of a Subscription to purchase pews in 1757.

"We the Subscribers Purchasers of Pews in the New Meeting House do hereby
 severally promise to pay the several sums affixed to our names respectively
 being the price of the Pews we bid off unto the Committee that shall be chosen
 by the Prec't to carry on the building of said house - One third part in cash
 the other two thirds in Speices of Labour or both as we can agree with said
 Committee - or to pay the whole sum in Specie and Labour if we can do it to
 the Committee's acceptance. And to pay the Cash and Specie and perform the
 labour when the said Committee shall see it necessary to call for them - The
 price of the Species to be sett as the sd Committee Witnesses our hand this
 2nd Nov. 1759 - - "

FIRST MEETING HOUSE

The first meeting house was built in 1717, and dedicated June 14 of the same year.

Williams Latham wrote that the premises conveyed to the Inhabitants of the South Precinct from John Washburn in 1716, were twenty rods north and south and 16 rods east and west. The building was 43' by 38' and 18' high and fronted south with a large door in the middle and small doors on east and west side in the middle, stairs on east side, men's stairs on the west side.

From Joshua Crane's writings - - -

1759, Nov. 19, South Parish voted to build a new meeting house 64 x 50 ft. Nov. 30, the Parish voted to use the old meeting house in building the new one and to "take it down when they shall think proper."

In 1741, the meeting house was enlarged by adding 16 feet in the center. It had no tower or steeple.

SECOND MEETING HOUSE

In 1760, the first meeting house was taken down and a second one, 64' x 50', was built. Joshua Crane wrote that on March 3, 1760, it was voted not to build a belfry.

And from the same source we learn that in 1773, it was voted to paint the outside of the meeting house "as much as has been painted heretofore and the inside, the canopy, pulpit, the front work of the galleries, the posts and braces."

The following bills relate to renovating the Meeting House in 1810 and 1811, which give some idea of how the building must have looked.

Several include "To an allowance for services as one of the Building Committee."

Paid Zeph Caswell -	Work on Pulpit window frame	50¢	
	Box casing 3 windows	25¢	
	Making circular sash and setting glass	4.50	
Paid Holmes Sprague	for Lamp black and spruce yellow	\$.12
	3 lbs spruce yellow for the pews @ 16¢		.48
	1 lb red lead for Do @ 20¢		.20
	lamp black for Do		.10
	1 pt spirits turpentine		.17
	Mahogany color		.92
	Boiling 3 gal oil		.50
	1 pt japan varnish for piazza floor		.63
	painting sashes not included in the job		1.96
Paid Z. Caswell for	- 35 ft pine timber for old Belfry		1.44
	400 old shingles for Do		1.75
	Altering doors		1.00
	Underpinning piazza steps		.25
	2/3 Hh'd lime mortar		3.00
	circular glass		2.32
Paid Azor Howe for	25 feet 12 inch stone @ 25¢		6.25
	21 feet 18 inch stone @ .50		10.50
Paid Calvin Washburn	for 5½ days work laying the aisle floor @ \$1.25 per day		6.87
	15 lbs of 20' nails		1.69
Paid Thomas Cushman	for 13 lbs rope for bell		3.00
On several bills at the bottom appear the words "Errors excepted"			
Paid Abram Washburn	for nails, hooks, bolts, etc. and 1 dinner for Azor Howe		.13
	Sept. 13, 1 meal for ?		.13
Paid Lenas Crooker	- fixing gudgeon for bell		.75

South Parish to Nathan Mitchell		\$
Jan. 1810	To myself & horse to East to take dimensions of Tower & other services	1 50
	To notifying Committee to appraise old pews & day attendance & committee	1 50
May 31	To Sunday & day preparing & fixing the plan of repairs to lay before	1 50
	To myself 2 1/2 days Laying foundation of Tower & porch	3 50
June 2 ^d	To paid Lexar for digging &c	50
	To one day laying heavy Stones &c with Mr. Tobes	1 00
	To face & other Stones for West side of the Tower	1 00
6 th	To myself one day underpinning Piazza &c	1 00
	To hand with Team drawing Stones for D ^o	67
	To 1 gal. " worn found while doing the above work	1 30
	To writing 12 Com ^{rs} as directed by Building Committee	3 00
Oct ^r	To 2 B ^o of Num ^{rs} Seth Comant while calling Com ^{rs}	60
	To myself a 6 th 2 days taking up pews & carrying sand into yard	1 50
	To Cash p ^o p ^o Tobes for Lime & mason work on p ^o p ^o	1 50
	To D ^o p ^o Dev ^o Isaac Sarell for enter taining Dow ^{rs} Willbar & others when appraising old pews & p ^o p ^o of	2 00
	To Cash p ^o Dev ^o Isaac Willbar for appraising new pews	1 50
	To D ^o for the bull & lime for the P ^o p ^o	5 00
	To parts of two Days fixing for & tending Masons	1 00
	To Writing an agreement & settling with Mr. Copeland	75
	To services to prepare a plan & the ports to lay before the parish &c appointed by gr ^o Committee	1 50
	To myself 3 days to prepare for selling new pews & my horse to notify appraisers &c & those who had not given up their pews - appointed by the parish	3 00
	To writing & preparing a Book to settle with the p ^o purchasers	1 50
	To my Team & Calvin one day drawing Stones for Tower &c	1 50
	omitted above 4/ per day	39 80
	To the sum allowed for Sundry services &c & for building committee	10 00
	Rec ^d Payment - Nathan Mitchell	49 80

Paid Caleb Cary -		
To boarding carpenters	36 meals	3.60
To Caesar	2 days work	1.00
To 25 ft pine plank		.37
To 10 ft pine plank		.15
To carting stones for N. Gilbert		.25
To framing pulpit		<u>3.00</u>
		\$ 8.37

Paid Holmes Sprague		
To 1 oz. Prussian Blue		.50
4 lbs. reding @25¢		1.00
materials for boiling oil		.80
lamp black		.06
3 qts. x 3 gills jappan varnish @ \$5 per gal		4.22
7 days work myself		8.75
9 3/4 do do per (?)		7.31
Ball for the pulpit stairs		.11
Mahogany colour for painting the door		.70
2 sheets sand paper		<u>.12</u>
		\$23.57

Cr by 17 gal of oil \$17.00

Paid Abram Washburn -		
4 scrapers putting them up		\$ 4.00
making 5 lbs. of spikes		.40
making rod to gallery		<u>6.00</u>
		\$10.40

Paid R. Fobes -		
To white washing the meeting house, myself		\$14.00
7½ days and Joshua 4 days		<u>4.30</u>
To plastering tower, etc., underpinning etc.		\$18.30

Paid Nathan Lazell -		
To pd. P. Wilbor		\$ 1.50
To pd. Capt. Abial Ames		1.50
To pd. Ezra Whitman		1.50
To 9 lbs bell mettell		3.00
To 5 lbs. 20d nails		.60
To pd. Capt. Abial Ames		1.50
To pd. Ezra Whitman		1.50
To 3½ days' work by Dea Conant		4.37
To 1 load land and drawing the same		.50
To 3 papers Lamp Black		<u>.30</u>
		\$16.37
Cr by 2 qts oil		.67
By Cr on the Parish Book		<u>15.60</u>
Errors excepted		\$16.27

Paid Seth Conant for 300 shingles @ 25¢ per C	.75
2 days and an half setting glass	3.12
extra work round the pulpit window	1.00
To one half of the job Clapboarding as per contract	115.00
Paid Silvanus Pratt for carting two loads of hew stone	1.50
Paid Elias Dunbar for labor Hanging Bell	6.50
taking down old belfry	4.00
4 windows in tower	16.00
Use of rigging in hanging bell	1.50
Extra work on tower	5.00
Rigging to raise bell etc.	1.50
cord and pulleys	.75
Paid Daniel Mitchell and Co. for white lead, spruce yellow, nails, brads, lime, butt hinges, glass and 1 qt rum	
Paid Asa Pratt for ½ day underpinning the tower	.50
½ laying the front steps	.50
½ day taking down the belfry	.50
877 feet board for the floor	12.28
956 feet clapboard	8.14
Paid Theophilus Wentworth for 5 bushells hair	1.25
Paid Apollos Leach for lengthing the wing pews	2.00
Paid Azor Howe for 77 feet 15 inch hewn stone	19.25
24 feet of 12 inch Do	10.00
2 days laying stone	2.50
Paid Holmes Sprague for paint and painting the bell frame twice	1.00
Paid Abram Washburn for 4 scrapers and putting them up	2.00
making 5 lb of spikes	.40
making rod to gallery	5.00
Paid Peter Conant for Draying five loads of stone from Mr. Howe's to the Meeting House	4.25
one day making steps to the piazza	1.25
white pine boards 27 feet	.27
one days work on the tower	1.25
carting stuff to the Meeting House	.17

June 1810 - Committee of the South Parish Dr
 So casting two loads of new Stone
 to the South Meeting house \$1:50
 Silvanus Pratt
 Rec^d the above in full per me -

Paid Calvin Washburn Jr., for making a window frame and sash for the Meeting House and casing same	3.00
Paid Nathan Lazell - nails, brads, screws, hinges and 1 skein silk	.09
¼ yd Silk velvet	.40
Paid Isiah Thomas, Jr. (Boston) 1 Brown's bible 2 vols folio gilt	25.00
Paid Daniel Mitchell	\$10.96
Myself horse and sley to East Parish carried Mr. Dunbar by request to view the steeple, etc. one day	1.50
Myself 2 days work on the belfry	1.83
To Wm Hooper one day do	.92
To seven dinners for workmen do	.88
Myself and Lion Swift ½ day moving pews	.83
	<u>5.96</u>
To allowance for services as one of Building Committee	5.00
	<u>\$ 10.96</u>
Paid Alpheus Fobes -	
To 74 ft oak timber 7 inch square	3.25
To 22 ft do 6 inch do	2.25
To ½ day taking down the old belfry	.50
To an allowance as building committee	5.00
To Ruel Fobes in part for his bill	4.40
	<u>\$ 15.40</u>
Rec the above by being credited on the Parish Book	

Endless items on the bills for glass. If time allowed to check, the amount of money spent on replacing glass would be staggering.

Paid Rufus Perkins -		
To 2 boxes for the meeting house		\$ 5.50
To carting a box for the meeting house		
wt 4½ lbs.	1½ lbs. copper	<u>1.50</u>
		\$ 7.00
	Discount of 9 lbs. bell mettell	<u>2.25</u>
Rec'd. payment per endorsement on Benj.		
Keith note I say recd by me		\$ 4.75

Jan. 1, 1811 Expense of Repairing M. H. in 1810

Sundry Jobbs as per Contracts	viz.	
Elias Dunbar for erecting tower		\$ 1,000.00
Zeph h Caswell and others	Front porch	500.00
Seth Conant and others	Clapboarding, etc.	230.00
Holmes Sprague - painting and setting glass		89.88
Apollos Leach making pews on North side		210.11
Sol n Hayward do South side		196.75
Sears Washburn - Windows & frames & sashes		109.67
Sundry bills for underpinning Tower-Porch etc.		
Azor Howe-\$17.42, Abram Washburn-\$7.71, Capt. C \$3.		28.13
Calvin Washburn Jr-\$14.90, C. W. Jun-\$8.92, Sears Washburn-\$9.25		32.07
Ed Mitchell, Jr.-\$2.00, N. Lazell-\$15.60, Syl Pratt \$1.50		19.10
Seth Conant & Lt. John Conant-\$21.94, Lt. Nat Pratt \$1.25		23.19
Zeph Caswell-\$5.63, Zenas Crooker-\$1.75		7.38
Dan Mitchell-\$5.96, Asa Pratt-\$28.45, Sol. Hayward \$6.6		40.47
Shepard Fobes-\$13.87, N Mitchell-\$49.80		63.67
Danl Mitchell & Co Bill for paint etc.		148.33
Capt. Edwin Howard Bills for 100 gal of oil at 7/		116.67
Cash paid at Providence between Bells as per rec		<u>85.48</u>
		\$2,893.82

AGREEMENT TO PAINT THE MEETING HOUSE*-BENJAMIN CLARK-NOV. 15, 1817

Be it remembered that on this 15th day of Nov. A.D. 1817 it is agreed between Nathan Lazell, Nathan Mitchell and Daniel Mitchell, Committee of the South Parish in Bridgewater on the one part and Benjamin Clark of S. Bridgewater, on the other part - Witnesseth that the said Benjamin Clark, for the consideration herein mentioned, doth hereby covenant and agree with the said Nathan Lazell, H. and D. Mitchell in

their capacity, that he will, within the space of two months next after the date hereof in a good and workmanlike manner, according to the best of his skill will put on a good coat of paint on the outside of the Rev. Zedekiah Sanger Meeting House in said Parish - including the Tower, front porch and piazza floors and steps and window sashes and putty on the outside, as followeth viz to go over the whole that is heretofore been painted once and the window frames weather and corner boards and all that was heretofore painted white, except the Coving (molding); twice - and the door once, with boiled oil - and the said Benjamin Clark is to grind and mix the paint and prepare the oil by moderate boiling, and complete the whole by the time aforesaid in the best manner he is capable. -

In consideration of the painting to be performed as aforesaid we the said Nathan Lazell, N. and D. Mitchell for and in behalf of the said South Parish in their capacity aforesaid promise to pay the said Benjamin Clark the sum of Fifty Dollars, in Money or good securities in favor of the parish in the hands of their Treasurer - and also to find and deliver the said Benj. Clark a sufficient quantity of paint and oil, at the expense of said parish, to complete the work aforesaid -

In Witness whereof we the said parties have hereunto set our hand and Seals the day and year above written -

Signed and Sealed in presence Benj Clark

(Noah Fearing

of us (Charles H Freeman

Nathan Lazell)

Nathan Mitchell) Committee

Daniel Mitchell)

N. Mitchell & others Committee for repair of Meeting Room Dr.
 To Benjⁿ Clark

To making 87 Spitting Boxes at 14 ^{cts}	12.18-
To pulling up grates in the pass for Stairs - 74.80 ^{cts}	5.92
March - To 3 days myself & boy. 2 1/2 days	6.33
To work on pulpit Stairs &c.	75
	<u>\$25.18</u>

Rec^d. payment endorsement of Note.

Benjⁿ Clark

1817 - Warrant - last article, to see if the Parish will take measures to procure stoves for the Meeting House.

1818 - Paid Holmes Sprague -	
To 15 lbs. yellow ochre @ 7c	\$ 1.05
To 20 lights glass for fan light	3.00
To 1 light glass fan	.17
To painting sash and stool	.25
To 4½ lbs. putty	.56
To 6 ft. clean pine board	.12
To Assisting Capt. Washburn about the fan light	.75
	<u>\$ 5.90</u>

1819 - Paid Holmes Sprague - right end of paper cut off - only amount visible is total of bill.	
To to bell frame and steps to tower stairs	
To 1 square glass & setting	
To 15 squares glass and setting	
To 1 light for fan light and setting	
To 2 squares glass & setting	
To 1 square glass & setting	
	<u>\$ 3.43</u>

1823 - Warrant - last article, to see if the Society will consent to procure a stove for the Meeting House.

1823, March 24 - Warrant - To see if the Society will shingle the roof.

Evidently the Society voted to shingle the roof.

1824, March 6 - Paid Capt. Solomon Towne -	
30m shingles	\$100.00
carting same	12.00

1824, May 31 - Paid Jabez Harden and Caleb Christian -	
To laying 32 m shingles on the roof of the Meeting House	26.66
To putting on ridge boards	2.00

1824, June - To 2 thousand of shingles	\$ 8.00
900 feet of boards	2.00
use of boards for scaffolds	1.00
	<u>\$11.00</u>
Interest	.50
	<u>\$11.50</u>

1825, May 12 - Paid Paschall Bassett -	
To 100 lbs 4 d nails	\$ 6.50
10 lbs 10 d nails	.70
10 lbs 20 d nails	<u>.85</u>
	\$ 8.25
My oxen half day	<u>.33</u>
	\$ 8.58
1828, October - Paid Abram Washburn for 2½ m shingles	\$ 9.17
Paid Abram Washburn for 1¼ m shingles	4.58

A committee report for repairs on the meeting house follows -

The committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of repairing the meeting house of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, ask leave to submit the following report.

The house is in much need of repair. The coat of paint which was last put on is nearly all off. The tower leaks badly, and some of its important timbers have already decayed so much as to have sunk out of their proper places. The plastering likewise is so much cracked as to let in much of the cold of winter.

A thorough repair of the House, including the plastering of the whole, an alteration of the piazzas, the painting of both outside and inside, not excepting the pews and the carpeting of the alleys, your committee think would cost about one thousand dollars.

Should the plan of the House be altered, by removing the east and north galleries, placing a new pulpit at the north end, making the entrance at the south end, putting in large windows, etc., according to a plan presented with this report, your committee think the expense

would not be far from three thousand dollars, without including the appraisement of the present pews.

Should repairs be made according to the latter plan, the committee think that the expenses might be met by a sale of the pews but that the expenses of any thing short of this ought to be defrayed by a parish tax.

We do not feel authorized to propose a subscription in aid of a parish tax, but it is probable that a considerable part of the charge might be defrayed by the liberality of individuals, should the parish be well united in making repairs to the amount of only ten or twelve hundred dollars, all which is respectfully submitted.

J A Shaw for the Com.

Bridgewater, April 27, 1834.

LETTER FROM WILLIAMS LATHAM TO HON JOHN A SHAW

March 24, 1839

At the Parish Meeting yesterday, yourself, Mr. Sol. Hayward and myself were chosen a committee to procure a drawing of the Meeting House, according to a plan proposed, and to present the same together with an estimate of the expense of altering the House accordingly.

The plan of altering the House is to put the pulpit at the north end, turn the pews around, take away the north and East gallery. Singers to occupy the South gallery. One door at the South end for, outside entrance, three doors for inside entrance, aisles upon the

outside next to the walls and one in the middle - to remove the present windows and put in large ones, and to arch the top new pews aisles and pulpit has already been drawn, moving 56 pews in the body of the house and 12 in the two wings, being 6 on each side of the pulpit. The object is to get some architect or other person skilled in this matter, to cut and carve this old House up, so as to put it in as good shape as possible under the circumstances. Can this be done by a stranger without coming here to examine the House? Mr. Hayward and myself will on Tuesday take the dimensions of the House and measure all its parts. It seems necessary to have some plan or drawing of the House in the new form and shape before the expense of altering it can be well ascertained and the Parish want all this done if practicable before the next meeting, which is Wednesday afternoon, April 3, at 3 P.M. My own action as Committeeman is, that you and Mr. Hayward **each** make a drawing according to your respective views based upon the proposed alterations, and if you think we had better get an architect to do this business, I would suggest whether it would not be well for you to see some such person in Boston ascertain whether it is necessary for him to come out here, and what would be the probable expense of getting such person to do such business - all of which perhaps you can do and write me by Tuesday eve.

Williams Latham

1839 - April & May - Paid bill "To time spent in making plans and calculating expense of alterations in the Meeting House, etc." By request of said Society

Solomon Hayward

1839, March - Paid Caleb Christian for repairing steps to piazza \$3.00

1843, October 20 - Paid Seth Pratt
To Repairing stove pipe and putting
up stoves .63

South Parish Bridgewater

to Gayle Perkins & Co.

To the 11th Feb

\$ 2.13

Bridgewater Nov 1816

Corrected

Laurel Perkins
Voted

THIRD MEETING HOUSE

Report of Committee to provide plans for Meeting House 1845

"To the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater

The Committee chosen at the meeting of the Society on the 11th inst to procure plans and estimates for a meeting house for said Society have attended to that duty and respectfully submit the following report.

The attention of the Committee was first directed to the size or dimensions of a house which the Society would require and the number and arrangement of the pews in the house. After examining a number of modern built Meeting Houses and ascertaining the dimensions they have come to the unanimous conclusion that a House containing 72 or 74 pews on the floor with a gallery for singers will be of sufficient size for said Society. They find that the proper dimensions of a house for that number of pews with three aisles and a proper and sufficient space for the pulpit and a vestry or entry of convenient size will be 50 ft by 66 ft or 68 ft and with two aisles 44 ft by 66 or 68 ft. They are however of the opinion that the arrangement with three aisles as represented on the plan accompanying this report is the preferable mode of seating the house they therefore recommend that the arrangements be for three aisles one on each side of the house and a centre aisle. Should the Society think it best to make their pews shorter than 9 ft in length a corresponding diminution in width of the house might be made. The size of the pews contemplated in the foregoing dimensions are 9 ft in length by 2 ft 10" wide. The committee have also given considerable attention to the style of the building to be observed in the Meeting House. They have examined a number of specimens of Grecian and Gothic architecture and present a number of

deviations of both, that the Society may judge for themselves they are however of the opinion that taking into consideration the location of the house, the amount which the Society intend (or probably intends) to appropriate for the building, that a Grecian edifice would be preferable. From the best information which they have been able to obtain they are of the opinion that a Grecian Church 50 ft in width by 66 or 68 ft in length with one tier of windows a proper height say 28 ft from the bottom of the sill to the top of the cornice with a proper proportioned tower say 120 ft in height corresponding in style to a house in Cambridgeport and in many respects to a house in Dorchester may be built for \$6,000.00 exclusive of the foundation. The Committee would also recommend that the house be warmed with hot air furnaces as they are satisfied that it is more pleasant and economical.

Respectfully submitted

Philo Leach

Ambrose Keith

Solomon Hayward"

There was no mention of the Tower clock in the plans or construction of the Meeting House, however bills are available for its maintenance.

CONTRACT FOR MEETING HOUSE 1845

This agreement made and concluded this eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty five by and between Artemas Hale, Solomon Hayward, Philo Leach, Ambrose Keith and Eli Washburn, a committee of the First Cong Soc in Bridgewater in behalf of said Soc

of the first part and Joseph Sanger of Watertown in the County of Middlesex, builder of the second part - Witnesseth -

That the party of the second part, hereby covenants and agrees to and with the said party of the first part, to furnish all the materials and to do, perform, build, set up and completely finish a meeting house about to be erected by said party of the first part, in Bridgewater, upon land lately purchased of Rev. S. S. Tappan, in conformity with the plans and specifications of said Meeting House made by Solomon K. Eaton, which plans and specifications, as amended by said Committee have been signed by the said parties, and are to be considered as forming a part of this contract, the same as if they were herein, fully expressed and drawn, and to complete the said House in every particular, on or before the fifteenth day of October next -

Said party of the first part, hereby agrees in behalf of said Society to pay said party of the second part, for completing in every particular, the aforesaid works, to their entire satisfaction, the sum of fifty-eight hundred dollars, in the following manner - viz - One thousand four hundred and fifty dollars when the said building is raised - the same sum when the said building is ready for receiving the plastering the same sum when the said building is completed, and the remainder of said consideration, in three months from the completion of the same.

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands to this instrument this eighth day of April 1845.

Witness Abram Washburn 2nd

July 17, 1845 - Agreed to pay Mr. Sanger one hundred fifty dollars in addition to the sum named in the above contract for alterations made in the specifications.

Fairhaven July 21, 1845

Rec'd of Philo Leach as treasurer of the South Bridgewater Building Committee seventy dollars for plans and drawings for a Meeting House for the First Congregational Society in said Bridgewater.

\$75.00

S. K. Eaton

ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF THE HOUSE \$8801.17

Cushions	\$371.52
Carpets	282.20
Furnaces	200.00
Sanger (Jos)	3,000.00
Do	2,950.00
Do for extra	75.00
Col. Washburn's bill	185.37
Chimnies	54.00
Underpinning	320.00
Door steps	64.77
Setting underpinning	25.00
14 stone posts	19.50
Setting do	4.50
Cellar windows and door	20.00
Plans and specifications	75.00
Setting door steps	10.00
Filling and covering recess	20.00
Hanging bell	15.00
Consoles	70.00
Masons Extra	51.00
Pulpit	250.00
Loss on old House	160.00
Filling up and levelling off	30.00
Land	300.00
Miscellaneous	150.00
	<u>\$8,801.17</u>

GEORGE STUDLEY - - AGREEMENT FOR PULPIT

Articles of agreement entered into this seventeenth day of July 1845 by and between Artemas Hale, Philo Leach, Solomon Hayward, Ambrose Keith and Eli Washburn, a Committee for the first Congregational Society in Bridgewater on the one part and George Studley of Hingham on the other part witnesseth that the said George Studley hereby agrees to find all the materials and build and completely finish a Pulpit for the Meeting House now being erected by said Society in Bridgewater and place the same on the platform to be prepared for that purpose in said meeting house by the fifteenth day of October next-said pulpit to be in every respect both as to form materials and workmanship like that in the Anti-Slavery house, so called in Cambridgeport, to include a sofa, table and two chairs - the chairs to be instead of the sofa in front of the pulpit in said Anti-Slavery house.

In consideration of which said Committee hereby agree to pay said Studley the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars when said Pulpit, sofa, chairs and table shall be completed and placed in said meeting house as agreed by him.

In Witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

In presence of

Caleb Hobart

For the Committee

Artemas Hale

George Studley

SUBSCRIPTION FOR BUILDING A NEW MEETING HOUSE

SUBSCRIPTION FOR STOCK January 11, 1845

Whereas, the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater have voted to erect a new meeting house the present year provided sufficient funds can be procured and it is proposed that the expense be raised by deviding the same into shares of fifty dollars each. We the undersigned hereby agree to take and pay for the number of shares for the above purpose set against our respective names. Bridgewater, Jan 11, 1845.

Abram Washburn	10 shares	Eli Washburn	2 or 3 shares
Jacob Perkins	10	Axel Dearborn	2
Artemas Hale	10	Perkins and Bassett	5
Gad Robinson	10	Nathan Willis	2
Nahum Stetson	10	Seth Pratt	1
Dyer Robinson	5	Alvin Hayward	1
Jona Cushing	5	Silas Robbins	1
Philo Leach	3	Jacob Robinson	3
Sam'l F Sanger	3	Nathan Mitchell	3
N. Tillinghast	4	Paschall Bassett	3
N. Withington	3	Mitchell Keith	2
Solomon Hayward	3	Isam Leonard	2
D. Bryant	3	Jabez Harden	2
Carver Washburn	3	Zenas Crooker	1
Mitchell Hooper	3	Ambrose Keith	1
Edward Mitchell	3	Rotheus Washburn	2
W. Latham	3	Caleb Christian	1
Wm. Sampson	2	Van R. Swift	2
			<u>131</u>

From another paper "Assessment of Shares in New Meeting House 1845"

the following names and shares were added:

Williams Latham	4 shares
L. Crooker	1
Eli Washburn	3
John A. Shaw	10
Calvin H. Harlow	1
Jos. E. Carver	2
Caleb Hobart	1
Caleb S. Hunt	1

RECEIPTS FOR NEW MEETING HOUSE 1845

Mitchell Hooper	1000 bricks	\$ 6.50
	5500 bricks	27.50
	5000 bricks	25.00
(Artemas Hale	cash paid for Bulls eyes	1.60)
(Purchased from Caleb G Loring & Co, Boston, 8 lts 10/8 @ 20¢)
S K Eaton	for stock and cutting 16 Consoles	\$64.00
	for priming do	2.75
		66.75)
Richard Davis	cask lime	\$1.06
	Hair	.20
	buggy and horse	<u>1.25</u>
		2.51
S S Lovell	3 casks lime	3.75
H C Snell	Myself hand and oxen one day drawing stones	3.00
	Myself hand and oxen drawing 2 loads of cinder and slacking lime	1.70
Levi Reed	3 days work setting door steps	3.75
Philander Wood	Myself, son and oxen and cart one day	3.25
Thomas Bouldry	one day setting posts under the meeting house	1.50
Virgil Ames	1 days work setting underpinning	1.50
Reuel Fobes	8 days work on chimnies	12.00
Alvin Hayward	1 day painting numbers on pews	1.50
	3 days on cellarway	4.50
James Perkins	pointing lightning rod and gilding ball	1.67
	4 letters gilt and put on	3.00
	Tinning lightning rod	.50
Nahum Stetson	3 casks lime	3.75
	1 music stool	5.00
John Doggett Co, Boston	338½ yds carpeting @ .85	287.83
Wm Y Hollis, Boston	- 65 composition rosettes	2.93
D M C Knox	underpinning stone	300.00
Samuel Leonard	14 stone posts for cellar	19.50
Alvin Hayward	1½ day getting down and getting up bell	3.00
Wm Holmes	Cushions for pews - 10½ feet each @ 45¢ per foot	360.00

"AGREEMENT FOR CUSHINGS"

"We have agreed to make these 74 cushings 9 ft long 14 inch wide
 maid of 5 lbs of curled H hair in each and the balance of palm leaf
 maid from the sample received from Mr. Leach, each cusheon maid in
 2 parts $4\frac{1}{2}$ ---- each.

Delivered Nov. 5th.

The above cusheons to be maid from 45¢ per foot bound

Cash on delivery "

Wm. Holmes

To Cushings for 76 pews - $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet each at 45¢ per foot

making 798 feet \$360.00 (360.00)

November 11th, 1845

Received Payment

Wm. Holmes

Banking Committee
To J. H. Perry \rightarrow

1845
Oct - To bringing 16 Cushions
 from Mr. Peapack \$2.00

Rec^d Payment
J. H. Perry

First Con Society to Eli Washburn

Dr

To Fare to & expenses at Boston Quincy Cambridge	4.00
Linens & freight of Pew arms	1.38
Horse & Chaise to Quincy after steps & expenses	4.00
To Fairhaven & expenses	3.25
To Boston & expenses	3.75
Plank & Ironwork 36 lb @ 12 1/2	4.40
Boards & list of Sanyer	7.25
Nails 27 etc to buy to blow Organ	.52
Horse & Carriage to Middleboro	.90
do do do	.75
Desk Lights 2 doll	30.70
Ironwork	2.00
	<u>20.40</u>
Bridgewater Novr 17. 1845	32.70

Labor on & about the Meeting house	
Helping unload & set the underpinning	
and stone posts on cellar, 4 1/2 days	6.75
Preparing ricks & assisting about setting	
the steps 1 day	1.50
cutting & putting down carpets 3 days	4.50
removing & setting up Organ 1 day	1.50
cleaning Plastering 1/2 "	.75
making fence &c 1 day	1.50
numbering keys & fitting them to the locks	
making one new one & some ironwork for fence	1.50
putting steps to all the doors fixing the mats	
alterations in pulpit & making platform for same	1.50
putting up the clock &c &c & fixing the cellar	
wall, so that the weights would run properly	
one day & interest on cash	1.75
	<u>21.25</u>
4 days board of workmen on Meeting house	1.50
	<u>22.75</u>
	<u>32.70</u>
	<u>55.45</u>

Cost of Meeting House of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater

1845

Land	\$300.00	Thos Howard	\$1.50
Joseph Sanger's bill	5,906.81	H. M. Randall	1.50
Col A Washburn's bill	184.37	Thos Bouldry	1.50
William Holmes cushions	360.00	Sam'l Leonard	19.50
Virgil Ames	1.50	Hale and Hobart	17.05
Jonah Richards	9.00	Edw Mitchell	21.91
S F Perry	2.00	Nahum Mitchell	8.75
Levi Walker	3.08	Van R Swift	25.58
A Hale for Glass	1.60	Melvin Swift	22.42
Reed, Wing and Cutler	7.27	Carver Washburn & Co	14.17
Levi Reed	3.75	J. S. Alden	121.68
S & L Washburn	5.50	E W Hall	6.42
John Doggett & Co carpets	287.83	Joshua Fobes	2.75
Seth Leonard	7.50	Leander Fobes	4.00
S K Eaton	75.00	Ruel Fobes	12.00
do do	6.00	Francis D Homer	25.00
do do for consoles	66.75	Seth Pratt	1.81
do do for rosettes	2.92	O C Memorial	.75
A Hale for W Mitchell	2.32	Perkins & Bassett	1.81
Jotham Dunphe	7.50	H C Snell	5.37
S S Lovell	3.75	Postage	1.05
Mitchell Hooper	25.00	Mitchell Hooper	39.34
Levi Reed	7.50	For pews in Old Meeting	
George Studley (Pulpit)	255.00	House	401.00
Philander Wood	20.74	Solomon Hayward bill	43.40
D M C Knox	384.77	Artemas Hale	30.00
Benj F Perry	48.25	Ambrose Keith	58.03
Richard Davis	2.51	Eli Washburn	52.70
Alvin Hayward	22.48	Philo Leach	33.00
J M D Hall	1.75	Bryant & Herman Bills	135.36
		for Paddy	1.50
			<u>\$9,122.85</u>
		Deduct sale of Old	
		House	240.00
			<u>\$8,882.85</u>
		floor cloth	2.00
		Studley	10.00
		S F Sanger	4.00
			<u>\$8,898.85</u>
		Expense of Committee	15.00
			<u>\$8,913.85</u>
		Grading etc	161.75
			<u>\$9,075.50</u>
		K Winslows bill	3.00
			<u>\$9,078.50</u>

Abrah Washburn, 2nd - 3 hands, yoke of oxen and horse one day	
getting off soil on site for meeting house	\$ 4.75
2½ days shoveling out sides and corners of cellar	2.50
O. C. Memorial - for advertising notice to contractors	.75

"To the First Cong Soc in Bridgewater

It is with much satisfaction I have witnessed the erection of your new and beautiful edifice for the Public Worship of God and as a testimonial of my regard for the Society with whom my late venerated and beloved parents were so long associated and for which they entertained so great an interest; and of my deep solicitude for it's future usefulness and prosperity, I have caused a Chandelier and two Solar lamps to be placed in the house and have now the pleasure of presenting them to the Society for their acceptance.

With sentiments of respect and Christian regard

I remain yours

Mary M Allen

March 24, 1846."

1850 - March 9 - Repainted Meeting House

1853 - Dec. 10 - #3 on the Warrant - "To see if the Society will consent to have an engine house located on the land of the Society

1885 - Specifications for painting the Unitarian Church outside not to include the Chapel

Building to receive two coats excepting spire, base of columns, etc. to receive 3 coats.

Color - Building white. Blinds green.

Clock face and iron that vane swings on black.

Clock hands and figures. Vane letters and ball above to be gilded.

Doors to be cleansed oiled.

Thresholds oiled

Chimneys painted white.

Material - pure lead and oil

Time - previous to 1886 - weather permitting

All to be done in a workmanlike manner and subject to the approval of the
Standing Committee

Isaac Damon

Bridgewater, Mass.

28th Oct. 1885

We the undersigned severally agree to pay the sums respectively set
against our names for the painting of the Unitarian Church in Bridgewater
(about 32 names signed)

Bridgewater, Mass. 2nd Nov. 1885

Committee on painting Unitarian Church

I propose to paint the Church as per Specifications for two
hundred and ninety dollars.

H. A. Sparrow

1886, Jan. 5 - Paid to H. A. Sparrow, Middleboro, Mass \$297.60

To painting church building	\$290.00
New hands for clock	2.50
New Ornaments	3.50

Brass screws and copper tacks	- - -
4 lights glass 12 x 20 @ 35	1.40
Dots on clock face	<u>.20</u>
	\$297.60

Report of Committee on painting the Church

Received from Subscription	\$169.00
Received from Ladies	<u>150.00</u>
	\$319.00

Paid H. A. Sparrow as per bill \$297.60

Paid W. E. Waterman " " " 4.70

1850, March 9 - re painting meeting house

1853, December 10 - Warrant #3 - if the Society will consent to have an engine house located on the land of the Society.

1855, August - see if Parish will make alterations for better accommodation of choir.

1865, March 18 - Article re warming the meeting house

1871 - Meeting house closed for 3 months - done over

1880 - Ladies of Society put inside blinds upon windows of the church

1887 - Church struck by lightning during severest thunder storm ever known here.

From the Minister's Book - "The church was this day (Aug. 27, 1871) reopened for public worship, having been closed since the first of July for refurnishing and frescoeing. The pastor also returned after an absence

of three months. Interesting exercises were held upon the occasion. Beautiful flowers adorned the pulpit and a large crop of lovely flowers stood upon the table in front. The singing was excellent and the Pastor preached from the text Psalms 90-17 'let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and establish thou the work of our hands upon us - yea the work of our hands establish thou it'."

1888 - Introduction of water into the church left in the hands of the Parish Committee.

1892, April - Ladies Sewing Circle held note for \$76.00 for funds for shingling north side of church. In September a proposal was submitted by J. H. Fairbanks for heating the Unitarian Church. The cost would be about \$330. To repair the wood furnace would cost \$30.00 to \$40.00. Evidently neither proposal was accepted as the furnaces were purchased for \$186.00 and with other expenses listed in the treasurers report it cost the Society \$304.47.

2 wood furnaces	\$186.45
freight for same	4.90
work on same	36.89
mason work and mortar	26.43
tuning piano	2.50
repairing church bell	1.00
hawling 2 wood furnaces	1.50
carpenter work on furnaces	48.30

CHAPEL

1880, April 17 - Voted that a nominating committee of three be appointed to nominate a committee of nine to get up plans of a chapel with estimate of cost. Also report on location.

1880, May 4 - Rev. A. E. Goodnough reported for the committee, verbally, estimated cost to be \$2,001.50. The location to occupy the land now covered by 4 sheds near the northerly corner of the church building.

1880, May 25 - Voted that a nominating committee of 7 be appointed by the chair to nominate the building committee, the committee to consist of 4 ladies and 3 gentlemen. Mrs. Lloyd Parsons, Mrs. John Hayward, Mrs. John P. Townsend, Mrs. C. M. Bryant, Mr. Lloyd Parsons, Mr. George Harden and Mr. Nathan Willis were chosen nominating committee. They reported as building committee - Edward Sawyer, Isaac Damon, George P. Harden, Mrs. Williams Latham, Mrs. Lloyd Parsons. On motion of Mr. Hobart it was voted that the committee chosen to build a chapel be instructed before beginning the work to procure all working plans and estimate necessary in making contract for the whole work to be done by contract and that the cost not to exceed \$2,000.00.

1880, July 31 - Voted that the Chapel Building Committee be authorized to pipe the Chapel for gas.

REPORT OF THE CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Carpenter's contract	\$1,834.00
Extras and alterations	21.48
Extra painting	2.00
Excavating, building and cementing cellar \$205.52 less rec'd for earth	
\$21.00	184.52

Grading - Wing, Fobes and Mitchell	7.87	
Gas piping by vote of Society	<u>23.48</u>	\$2,073.50
By subscription	\$730.50	
Ladies Sewing Society	<u>1,000.00</u>	\$1,730.50
Balance unprovided for	\$342.85	

Recorded in the Minister's Book - During the year a chapel was built and paid for with the exception of about \$300. There had been a fund of \$500. for several years for that purpose.

1898 - Vote of thanks to the ladies (Ladies Sewing Circle) for improvements in the dining room and kitchen.

Show all Men by their ^{residence} that use ~~the~~ Dunbar and
 Charter Dunbar Gordon both of Bridgewater in the County of Wy-
 -mouth in and for the Registration of sixty pound to say in Hand said by
 Steyer Baron of Bridgewater Longen here reunited released and by these
 Deports must release and forever quit claim unto him the said Steyer
 Cover his Pleas and Apprais all six right tithes and Street in and to one
 Hat of a certain ~~Shed~~ on the lower floor in the south meeting house in
 said Bridgewater the number of which as sold according to the Plan of said
 Meeting house is forty two to have and to hold ~~remains~~ of the said house
 him the said Steyer Baron to him his Heirs and assigns forever in his own
 Use and benefit free and clear from us our Heirs Executors and Administrators
 -tors in witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands and seals
 this 27 day of may AD 1750

At-
 Solomon Stokes
 Steyer Stokes

Peter Dunbar
 Charles Dunbar

Know all men by these presents that we Peter Dunbar and Thaxter Dunbar Yeoman both of Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth in and for the Consideration of Fifty Pound to us in Hand Paid by Eleazer Carver of Bridgewater Surgeon have remited released and by these Presents remit release and forever quit claim unto him the Said Eleazer Carver his Heirs and Assigns all our right title and interest in and to one-Half of a certain Pew on the lower floor in the South meeting house in Said Bridgewater the number of which as sold According to the Plan of Said Meeting House is Forty-Two to have and to hold one-half of the Said Pew unto him the Said Eleazer Carver to him his Heirs and Assigns forever for his own use and benefit free and clear from us our Heirs Executors and Administrators in witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands and Seals this 27 Day of May A.D. 1780.

Peter Dunbar

ATT:

Solomon Fobes

Kezio Fobes

Thaxter Dunbar

PEWS

A list of the purchasers of pews in the new meeting house on November 24, 1759, shows the number of the pew and the amount in pounds each person bid. The highest appears to be 177 pounds for pew #16 and the lowest bid was for 80 pounds for pew #22 made by Joseph Bassett.

Joshua Crane wrote that in 1760, 47 pews were sold upon completion of the second meeting house for 3775 pounds, old tenor, and 12 pews were sold in the front gallery for 1020 pounds old tenor. Six pews on the men's side of the meeting house and six pews on the women's side, sold for 474 pounds, old tenor.

1810, Nov. 10 - after the alterations, an agreement was signed between Daniel Copeland and the South Parish, "on account of hearing, wishes to retain the use and improvement of his pew which is situated in front of the pulpit."

1810, Dec. 1 - Asa Pratt was paid \$40.00 in full for old pew #6. The receipt was signed by Nathan Mitchell who was chosen by the South Parish Committee to settle with the pew holders in the South Parish.

1810, Dec. 1 - Cyrus Benson was paid \$12.38 for 1/7 of old pew #51.

1810, Dec. 1 - Receipt for \$9.44 was signed by John Harden for 1/9 of old pew #21 belonging to his mother, and the same amount for 1/9 of the same pew belonging to his aunt, Lois Washburn.

1811, Jan. 21 - Note signed by Solomon Hayward, "Please pay to Capt. Simeon Pratt \$25 and charge to my pew account." Another note of the same date, "Please pay to Lt. Nathaniel Pratt \$30.00 and charge to my pew account."

Other pew owners who turned their pews in to the Parish in addition to the above were - Asa Keith

Charles Dunbar

Zachariah Whitman

Nathan Lazell

Mary Thayer (her mark X) Solomon Hayward, Jr.

Plato Turner	Ephraim Sprague
James Alger	Nathan Mitchell
Nehemiah Leonard	William Hooper
Philander Wood	Phineas Conant

Included were pews in the South and the front gallerys, also for parts of pews as well as the whole pew. The Committee appraised the pews and the appraisal was the agreed amount paid by the Committee for the old pews.

1812 - Receipts were signed by Oliver Allen, Nathan Mitchell, Silvanus Hall, Silva Hayward for son, David Conant, George Chipman, Daniel Copeland, Robert Keith, James Perkins, Eleazer Carver, Seth Conant and Eleazer Alden. Also, \$16.67 in full was paid for 5/6 of 1/5 part of pew #38 and 3, said sum was in full for the shares belonging to Amos Alden, Howard Alden, Huldah Bush, Mary Stone and Experience Wheeler, and \$20.00 in full for 1/5 part of pew #38 in the floor and 1/5 of 1/4 part of pew #3 in the front gallery, signed by Isiah Alden in behalf of the Rev. Timothy Alden.

1813 - \$50.81 in full for pew #28 in the floor - - Zenas Conant

8.10 in full for 1/2 part of pew #4 in the north gallery -
Oliver Washburn, Caleb Alden and Howe Keith.

10.10 in full for 1/9 part of pew #21 in the floor - Cyrus Benson

3.11 in full for 1/4 of 3/4 part of pew #7 in the front gallery

8.46 in full for 1/2 part of pew #11 in the front gallery

1815 - Receipts signed by Oliver Alden, Sears Washburn and Apollos Washburn for appraising pews.

1816, Nov. 14 - Article 5 - Warrant - To see what the Parish will do with the pews and parts of pews which remain unsold and unoccupied.

1822 - Nathaniel Witherall gave a deed to pew #71 on the south side of the north aisle to Lot Whitmarsh

1823 - Deed of pew #54 from Samuel Harden to the Parish

1828 - List of pews not sold

It was not unusual for one person to own more than one pew. Occasionally, a list of pews not sold is to be found.

1834, April 2 - Calvin Washburn placed a legal attachment on the pew of Theodore and Winslow Mitchell. August 27, 1835, there was further legal action against the same people by Calvin Washburn.

No date - Deed for pew #49 to Society from Estate of George M. Hooper

1838 - Deed for pew #8 from Calvin Washburn to Nahum Stetson

1839 - Paid Nathaniel Edson for appraising pews - one day \$1.00

Joseph Kingman for appraising pews - one day \$1.00

Solomon Ager for one day labor appraising pews \$2.00

1839, March 22 - Appraisal of pews in the gallery with amounts shown on floor plan

1839, March 22 - Appraisal of pews on lower floor

1840, Dec. 3 - Appraisal of pews in the gallery

1840, Dec. 3 - Appraisal plan with names, numbers and amounts (lower floor)

1840 - Paid \$6.00 to E. Hall, I. Alden and Daniel Ried (?) for appraising pews

1845, Jan. 15 - Appraisal of pews including lower floor and 26 pews in the gallery at one dollar each.

1845, Jan. 15 - Paid for appraising pews - Joseph Kingman \$1.50

(Paper showing plan and Thomas Ames \$1.50

amounts are in file.) Solomon Ager \$2.00

1845, April 10 - 36 names signed to a paper releasing and discharging all claims to their pews provided the Society will give the old Meeting House, except the bell and the organ to the Board of Education, provided said Board of Education shall establish the State Normal School in Bridgewater and shall cause the building to be moved from the grounds of the Society.

Another list of pews from the old Meeting House for the Normal School dated 1845:

Philo Leach	\$6.00	A. Washburn	\$11.00
A. Hale	11.00	Mrs. Hooper	4.50
E. Mitchell	6.00	Dea Holmes	3.50
N. Mitchell	9.00	S. Hayward	3.00
P. Bassett	10.50		1.00
N. Stetson	11.00	L. Whitman	1.00
C. Leavitt	3.00	V. R. Swift	3.00
A. Washburn	37.75	M. Hooper	6.00
E. Pratt	3.00	A. Pratt	6.00
C. Alden	6.00	E. Carver	6.00
D. Robinson	6.00	J. Harden	2.80
C. Bassett	6.00		1.00
S. F. Sanger	4.55	J. Dyer	3.00
Eleazer Alden	1.00	S. Washburn	2.00
N. W. & I. Leonard	4.00	I. Robinson	4.00
W. Dunbar	4.00	L. Bryant	4.00
T. Cushman	3.00	D. Copeland	3.00
Seth Pratt	3.00	Wid Lazell	6.00

Azor Howe	\$2.50	R. Copeland	<u>\$4.00</u>
C. Washburn	4.00		\$ 250.00
J. Perkins	5.00		
G. Robinson	6.00		
D. Mitchell	4.00		
Mrs. Ames	9.00		
N. Lazell	10.50		

1845, Nov. 17 - Paid S. Ager, Joseph and Thomas Ames each \$2.00 for appraising pews. Plan of pews and amounts are on file.

1845, Nov. 20 - Sale of pews, with names, number of pew and amount paid which does not agree with the deeds in the Book.

1845 - Sale of Pews - list of names and amounts, no pew numbers. At the end of the paper are two items -

Sale of Old House	\$240.00
Shed lots	54.00

1845, Nov. 17 - Appraisal of pews with amounts marked on plan - no names.

No date - plan of pews and amounts marked "new pews" - pencil initials.

No date - plan of pews with amounts and most names written in.

No date - plan of pews with numbers, amounts and names written in pencil.

No date - plan of pews, numbered and with a few names written in.

DEEDS TO PEWS

FROM THE BOOK OF DEEDS IN THE NEW MEETING HOUSE

1	John A. Shaw	\$285.	Dec. 2, 1845
2			
3	Miss Deborah Lazell	307.	" " "
4	Hon. Artemas Hale	307.	" " "
5	Williams Latham	306.	" " "
6	Jacob Perkins	306.	" " "
7			
8	Nahum Stetson	307.	" " "
9	Eli Washburn	292.	" " "
10	Gad Robinson	296.	" " "
11	Jonathan Cushing	263.	" " "
12	Carver Washburn	263.	" " "
13	Solomon Hayward and Alvam Hayward	231.	" " "
14 half	Mitchell Keith, Esq.	120.	" " "
14 half	Mary M. Allen	120.	" " "
15 half	Newton Mitchell and William Mitchell 2nd	93.	" " "
15 half	Caleb Mitchell	93.	Jan. 24, 1846
16	Rotheus Washburn	190.	Dec. 2, 1845
17	Henry Snell	155.	
18	Nahum Stetson	166.	
19	Benjamin W. Bates	126.50	
20	Artemas Hale	125.50	

21	Caleb S. Hunt	\$75.	Jan. 15, 1846
22	Jabez Harden	100.	Jan. 24, 1846
23	Henry F. and John G. Bramen	75.	Feb. 15, 1860
24	Gad Robinson	75.	Jan. 16, 1846
25	Robert Thomas	50.	Mar. 25, 1849
33	John B. Winslow	142.	Dec. 2, 1845
34	Crowell Alden	140.50	Dec. 2, 1845
35	Edward Mitchell	156.	" " "
36	Philo Leach	155.	" " "
37	Manassah Andrews	153.	" " "
39	Abram Washburn	145.	" " "
40	Kenelin Winslow	127.	" " "
41	Ambrose Keith	91.	" " "
42	Isam Leonard	92.	" " "
43	Joseph E. Carver	163.	Dec. 8, 1845
44	Paschal Bassett	159.	" " "
45	Seth Pratt	174.	" " "
46	Samuel F. Sanger	175.	" " "
47	Newell Withington	177.	" " "
48	Jacob Perkins	186.	" " "
49	Mitchell Hooper	179.	" " "
50	Dyer Robinson	184.	" " "
51	Dion Bryant	160.	" " "
52			
53	Abram Washburn, 2nd	145.	" " "

54	Nathan Willis	\$134.50	Dec. 8, 1845
55	William P. Cutter	110.50	" " "
56	Caleb Christian	120.50	" " "
57	Van R. Swift	113.	" " "
58	Nahum Stetson	126.	" " "
59	Cornelius Holmes	95.	" " "
60	Lewis Bryant and Willard Washburn	75.50	" " "
62	Calvin Crooker	75.	Jan. 15, 1846
63	Silas Robbins	65.	Dec. 8, 1845
64	Calvin Hayward	60.50	" " "
65	Willard Fobes and Ruel Fobes	45.	" " "
66	Nicholas Tillinghast	45.	Jan. 15, 1846
67	Oreb Mitchell	30.	June 3, 1848
69	Abram Washburn	28.	Dec. 8, 1845
70	Lucretia Turner	27.	" " "

***** CHANGES *****

- 12 Transferred to Clinton Washburn for \$250. by Eli Washburn, administrator of Estate of Carver Washburn - July 31, 1862.
- 13 Transferred to Sarah C. Hayward for \$115.50, one undivided half of pew #13 in the Meeting House of the First Cong. Society - June 3, 1863.
- 19 Transferred to Mary Hooper for \$100. by Philo Leach, administrator for Benjamin W. Bates - Sept. 13, 1851.
- 21 Transferred to Frederick Crafts for \$75. from Caleb S. Hunt of New Orleans, Louisiana. April 14, 1864.

- 36 "Artemas Hall, Esq., was authorized by a vote of the Society to give a deed of confirmation to me of this pew at a legal meeting of said Soc. held on June 26, 1846. P. Leach." Deed so recorded.
- 43 Deed to this pew for Joseph E. Carver was recorded Dec. 8, 1845. Another deed for the same pew purchased the same day (Dec. 2, 1845) was recorded Feb. 18, 1846.
- 56 Pew deeded to Caleb Christian by Abram Washburn, John Winslow, Joseph E. Carver, John C. Alden and Mary C. Alden, wife of John C. in her own right, etc. March 6, 1867.
- 60 - - -
- 5 Frank C. Woodward deeded pew to Gustavus J. Lowe for \$12.50, Jan. 23, 1903.
- 19 Diantha B. Rollins and Mary E. Cotton deeded pew to Harry F. Reiser for \$30. Jan. 1, 1892.
- 5 Hosea Kingman, Administrator of estate of Lydia L. Latham, deeded pew to F. C. Woodward for \$25. May 6, 1899.
- 38 Anselm D. Robinson deeded pew to Wm. G. Thacher, adm. of estate of Thos. Thacher, for \$75. May 25, 1870.

1845, Dec. 8 - Pew #44 was deeded to Paschal Bassett by the Society for \$159.00 also recorded, 1847, Feb. 8 - the Society sold pew #44 to Paschal Bassett for \$115.68.

1846, Jan. 24 - The Treasurer was ordered to pay Mrs. Ames the balance due on appraisalment of pew owned by Calvin Leavitt.

Know all Men by these Presents,

THAT the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN BRIDGEWATER, in consideration of *One Hundred & Seventy Nine Dollars* paid by *Mitchell Hooper* of said Bridgewater, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, sell and convey unto the said *Mitchell Hooper* his heirs and assigns, Pew numbered *Forty Nine* in the Meeting-house of said Society.

To have and to hold the said Pew, with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging to him the said *Mitchell Hooper* his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, I, *Wilton Leach* Treasurer of said Society, being hereto duly authorized, have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Society, this *Second* day of *December* in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty *four*

*Signed, sealed and delivered,
in presence of*

Wilton Leach

PLYMOUTH, SS.

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Personally appeared the above named and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of said Society.

Before me,

1849, May 28 - Received of W. Latham \$4.25 for pew #68 on the floor and 1/4 of pew #22 in the gallery of the Old Meeting House being the amount of appraisal.

1852, April 29 - William Thompson sold pew #60 to Charles W. Belcher for \$70.00. In the Book of Deeds, the following is found - 1857, Jan. 7 - I, Augustine S. Bemis, assignee of Charles W. Belcher of Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth, an insolvent debtor, in consideration of ten dollars to me paid by Amory Leland of said Boston do hereby give grant sell dowry to said Leland, all the right title interest and estate which I now have, as assignee of the estate of said insolvent Debtor, in and to a pew in the Meeting House of the First Congregational Society, in said Bridgewater, of which Society the Rev. John J. Putnam is the Minister, said pew being numbered sixty (60) and is situated on the north aisle in said House, and was formerly owned and occupied by one William Thompson, and owned by said Belcher at the time of the first publication of the Notice of the issueing of a warrant against the estate of said Insolvent Debter, not intending hereby to warrant and defend title to said pew, but intending to sell and convey the same to said Leland, provided the same was a part of his assets and liable to be taken for the payment of his debts, and not exempt. 1861, April 3 - Charles W. Belcher of Natchez, Mississippi, sold pew #60 to Nathan H. Dunphe for \$35.00.

1878 (?) - Nahum Stetson, administrator of the estate of Eli Washburn, sold pew #9 to Dr. Edward Sawyer for \$8.00.

1880, April 17 - Voted that the clerk be a Committee of one to furnish a plan of the pews in the Church, with the number and the name of owner upon each pew. This plan to be framed and kept in the vestibule. That he see each owner of pew and ascertain from them if they will let seats and how many, also how many seats may be occupied by visitors and a record kept of the

same. Also to ascertain if rent of seat in whole or in part shall be applied for parish purposes.

1880, May 4 - Voted that a committee be appointed to take up the matter of taxing pews owned by non-residents to be used for Society expenses.

1888, April 28 - Circular sent to all pew owners asking, "Will you convey to the Society all your right, title and interest" in your pew or pews at a price to be determined by fair appraisal, the pews to be rented annually to help maintain the church. The Answers on file varied - "Will release at any reasonable figure" - - - "I shall not give my pew up" - - - "Whatever the other pew owners do I will agree to" - - - "Will sell pew to Church at a reasonable price" - - - "Will give it up if the Society will TAX the pews and on no other condition" - - - "Will sell our 3 pews reasonable, cannot afford to give outright."

1889 - Probable date on a paper signed by pew owners transferring the right and title of their pews to the Society - the pews to be the property of the Society and all expenses incurred at any time for repairs and alterations to be paid for by the Society, and not the individuals. The pews were not to be sold as long as the present church building shall be used, for public worship, by the Society. The paper contains 45 signatures.

1897 - Paid John Ball \$11.19 for removing pews and work in the Church.

1898, Oct. 12 - Caroline Keith deeded pew #52 to Lemuel and Hassadiah Keith for \$100.00.

BELL

1767 - Voted: that Jacob Washburn and Co. purchase a bell and that Lieutenant Washburn hang the bell. It was also voted that the bell be rung on all public days in the year according to the custom of other parishes, and to be rung at nine o'clock if free of charge to the Parish, and at funerals, if desired free of charge. Abram Washburn rang the bell at the rate of 3 pounds, 15 shillings per year.

The bell was recast in 1771 (from the program for the 200th anniversary, 1916).

The warrant for 1791 called for a report of the Committee relative to procuring a bell.

1811 - A receipted bill for the Paul Revere bell is signed Paul Revere and son.

1811, Feb. 20 - Paid Calvin Washburn \$14.19 for work on bell (itemized

1811, August 23 - Paid Abram Washburn \$5.00 for hanging bell irons and iron to toll and set the bell, and \$1.00 for straps for fixing the bell.

1816 - Paid Thomas Cushman \$1.40 for making a bell rope

1818 - Paid Cesar Augustas \$15.00 for ringing the bell one year (an X was his mark).

1820 - Paid Cesar Augustas \$15.00 for ringing the bell one year.

Warrant article - Nov. 25, 1820

The following bills relate to maintenance of the bell

1821 - Lenas Crooker \$3.55

1821 - Carver Washburn Co - (E. Dunbar) .50

1825 - Carver Washburn Co. for bell rope 8.60

1827 - Philander Dean, mending bell frame	\$1.13
1827 - Almarine Hayward for repairs on hanging	1.00
1829 - Solomon Hayward - 5 3/4 days repairing	8.63
1830 - Col. Abram Washburn for bell rope	1.69
1840 - Artemas Hale - bal due for money	
advanced to pay Wm. Revere's bill	5.88
1845 - Seth Pratt - work on bell	1.81
1846 - Carver Washburn Co. for bell rope	2.70
for repairing bell tongue	1.50
1852 - Perkins and Hobart - for bell rope	3.88
1856 - Whitons, Browne and Wheelwright, Boston,	
for 20 pounds rope	4.00

Ringing the bell was usually combined with other duties.

1822 - Mitchell Keith, Esq. ringing the bell	\$17.00
1823 - Nathaniel Gilbert - ringing the bell and	
taking charge of the meeting house for 1 year	14.00
1829 - Cyrus Hayward ringing the bell and taking care	
of the fires the past year	20.00
1830 - Cyrus Hayward ringing the bell taking care of	
the meeting house and fires for one year	20.00
1832 - Cyrus Hayward - for ringing the bell and	
sweeping the meeting house	20.00
1833 - Cyrus Hayward for ringing the bell and per-	
forming duties as sexton	20.00

1845 - Marshall Thompson for ringing the bell and services as sexton for one year	\$20.00
1862 - Cyrus Hayward for ringing the bell and taking care of the meeting house for one year	20.00

The Paul Revere bell which first hung in the second Meeting House and later in the Christopher Wrenn Steeple of the present building was of great interest to all who courageously climbed the narrow stairs to read the inscription, "Paul Revere & Son 1811."

The steeple was destroyed during hurricane "Carol" on August 31, 1954. Later, although the decision to sell the bell was not a unanimous one, the bell was sold and shipped to Englewood, Colorado.

Until recently, the whereabouts of "our" bell was a mystery. The story was uncovered when the June, 1976 issue of Yankee Magazine printed a letter, "Lost - One Paul Revere Bell" from E. and E. Stickney. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stickney, who for many years have been researching the bells cast by Paul Revere and his sons, were contacted and through them, Yankee Magazine and the Los Angeles County Museum, the travels of "our bell" became known.

In 1965, after the death of its owner, the bell was shipped from Colorado to Connecticut, and in December of the same year, the bell was trucked to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History where it now hangs in its wooden cradle.

ORGAN

"To the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater -
 Entertaining a high regard for interest and prosperity of this
 Society and believing that the performance of sacred music is an important
 part of religious Worship; and with the design of aiding and improving
 that part of the public exercises of the Sabbath, I have procured an
 organ to be placed in the meeting house which I now have the pleasure of
 presenting to the Society -

With sentiments of
 respect and esteem

Your friend - -

Abram Washburn"

Bridgewater

December 19, 1835

1835, Dec. 19 - Warrant Article 3 - To see what measures the Society will
 adopt in relation to the organ presented to said Society
 by Abram Washburn.

1851, Aug. 16 - Warrant Article - To see if the Society will authorize
 the sale of the organ and by subscription or otherwise
 procure a new organ.

1851, July 25 - "We the subscribers agree to pay the sums set against
 our names for the purpose of purchasing a new organ for
 the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, provided
 the sum of Twelve Hundred Dollars is raised - - "
 62 names with amounts pledged are signed. Amounts range
 from \$200.00 to \$1.00.

The Committee appointed August 16, 1851 to dispose of the old organ, and to procure a new one, provided not less than \$1,200.00 be obtained by subscription or otherwise, submit the following report -

"Previous to our appointment, a subscription paper had been started to raise funds for a new organ. We received and circulated the paper and having obtained more than \$1,200.00 - We then examined several organs, consulted with organists and organ builders, and after making many inquiries as to the cost of organs, and receiving propositions of organ builders, we unanimously agreed with Messrs E & G G Hook of Boston to build an organ of the following specifications to wit - 877 pipes. They were to get up the same in our Church in complete order for use, and were to receive therefor the sum of \$1,500.00 as follows - They were to take the old organ for \$100.00 and were to receive \$700.00 in cash on delivery of the new organ, and \$700.00 in 6 months after. The organ contracted for was set up in church by said E & G G Hook during the last days of February now last past, and we have delivered to them the old organ, and have paid to them the sum of \$1,378.65 in cash in full for the new organ according to contract - We have collected from 54 subscribers the sum of \$1,353.00 received of Lazell Perkins the sum of \$15.79 for interest on the money since it was collected.

If 2 subscribers would pay their subscriptions omit \$8.00

This organ measures feet wide, feet deep and
feet high - we have procured a seat for the organist, and altered the seats
in the gallery to correspond with the new organ at a cost of \$ - - - - -
to the Society.

We have had but a short time since the organ was set up to ascertain and prove its character, but so far as we know and are able to judge, it is a good organ and faithfully made according to the above specifications. We have not accepted the organ in discharge of the obligations of the said E & G G Hook under their contract and if it should not prove to be a good one, we consider them still liable on their contract. The subscription paper and contract approved accompany this report.

W. Latham for the Com."

A small piece of paper contains the information that was probably left out of the above report. Bridge. Meeting House

72 ft. long - 50 wide

room below 57 by 47

place for organ

17.9 high

26.2 wide

12.1 deep

8.7 from backside to front pew

Corner moulding falls down 10 inches

projects out 14 inches -

So it is 16.11 from floor to corner moulding

Five papers concern the specifications, only one is dated - Sept. 1, 1851. To the uninformed, they seem to be much the same. They are marked (1) No Br organ, (2) Organ by Muenscher, (3) Copy of specifications for \$1,300., Sept. 1, 1851, (4) Specifications complete for \$1,300., (5) Copy of Spec. for \$1,500. Three of the specifications contain a stop for Bellows signal and one lists a bellows alarm. We were told that this stop was for the organist to (startingly) arouse the blower or pumper of the organ to get busy.

This agreement, this first day of October A.D. 1851. By and between Nahum Stetson, Williams Latham and Caleb S. Hunt, Committee of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater on the first and E & G G Hook of Boston on the other part, Witnesseth, that the said E & G G Hook agree to build an organ in accordance with the annexed specifications, and deliver it set up in said Church in complete order for use.

In consideration whereof the said committee agrees to pay to E & G G Hook upon delivery of the organ as above, the old organ now in said Church and Fourteen Hundred Dollars, in the following manner viz - Seven Hundred Dollars in cash, and a satisfactory note for Seven Hundred Dollars payable in six months, and they further agree to get the said note discounted for E & G G Hook at the legal rate of interest without further cash.

Nahum Stetson

Williams Latham

Caleb S. Hunt

E & G G Hook

The specifications referred to in the contract are attached with sealing wax and cannot be separated. The following is on the back of the contract - -

Bridgewater March 1, 1852 - Received of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater Thirteen Hundred and Seventy Eight 65/100 dollars in cash, and their old organ in full for a new organ now set up in their church, made by us in pursuance of the within agreement, and to be a good one according to said agreement -

\$1,378.65

E & G G Hook

The following is an excerpt from a letter to the Rev. Karl A. Bach in 1961, from Alan M. Laufman, member of the Executive Council of The Organ Historical Society. "In 1852, they (E & G G Hook) built their 132nd instrument for the Congregational Church at Bridgewater. It has two manuals and twenty-five stops as well as two combination pedals. The nineteen ranks, or rows of pipes, are divided between the great organ, the enclosed swell organ, and the pedal organ. The entire instrument is housed in a handsome three-sectional case, and stands completely free in the rear gallery. The church was then known, and is now known, as the First Parish Congregational Church.

Another Hook organ, their 162nd, exists in the First Unitarian Church at East Bridgewater, and their 375th organ, built originally for the Baptist Church at Chelsea, Massachusetts, is now in the Swedenborgian Church at Bridgewater. The Methodist Church at Bridgewater has a small Hook and Hastings organ built about 1905. All of these instruments have a long-

lasting and reliable tracker action that is easy to repair and pleasing to play. If given proper care they will last hundreds of years."

ORGANISTS

Thomas Keith - August 21, 1836 to May 1, 1839. Paid plus interest on amount due
 Mary Carver 1839 to 1849 - For year May 1, 1846 to May 1, 1847, receipt as follows:
 \$52.00 absence from work \$8.00 - \$44.00 paid
 1848 receipt signed by Hiram H. White
 Mary E. Homer - 16 weeks, 1849 at \$1.00 per Sunday
 Maximilian Hall - 1850
 J. E. Howard - 1851 to 1854 (1853 deduct 2½ Sundays)
 Edwin H. Keith 1855 - 1856
 ?
 1877 Gustavas Pratt to 1896 (resigned after 34 years as organist)
 1896 Annie M. Keith - - - - - to 1903 (?)

"The Subscribers, Inhabitants of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater for the purpose of procuring an Organist in said Society agree to pay the sums set against their names respectively provided the sum of One Hundred Dollars be subscribed. - Bridgewater, August 26, 1837."

The 41 signatures include the minister's, Theophilus P. Doggett, and that of Carver Washburn, Cornelius Holmes, Nathan Mitchell, Artemas Hale, Abram Washburn, Paul Revere, Nahun Stetson, Paschall Bassett, Gad Robinson, Van R. Swift, Caleb Mitchell, Mitchell Hooper, Jabez Harden, Lewis Bryant, Solomon Hayward, Cromwell Alden, Jacob Perkins, Dion Bryant, Edward Mitchell and Mitchell Keith.

SUBSCRIPTION TO PAY THE ORGANIST

March 4, 1839

The undersigned hereby agree to pay the sums we severly subscribe annually for the payment of an organist for the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater - payment to be made to the Treasurer of said Society, Bridgewater, March 4, 1839 -

Jacob Perkins	\$.00
Abram Washburn	15.00
Solomon Hayward	2.00
Paschall Bassett	3.00
Jabez Harden	1.00
Zenas Crooker	2.00
Mitchell Hooper	3.00
Artemas Hale	10.00
Benjamin Bates	1.00
Mary Hooper	2.00
Abner N. Hayden	1.00
Cornelius Holmes	2.00
Cromwell Alden	2.00
Hezekiah H. Keith	1.00
Sam'l F. Sanger	2.00
Dion Bryant	1.00
Nahum Stetson	5.00
Alvin Hayward	1.00
Benjamin Bryant	1.00
Lewis Bryant	1.00
Newell Withington	2.00
Kenelin Winslow	1.00
Philo Leach	2.00
Dyer Robinson	3.00
by Philo Leach	
Gad Robinson	5.00
Alden Hayward	.50
Charles Daniels	.50
Jacob Robinson	3.00
Paul Revere	2.00
Mitchell Keith	4.00
Nathan Mitchell	3.00
Edward Mitchell	2.00
Nathan Willis	1.00
Seth Pratt	2.00
J. A. Shaw	3.00
N. Withington	1.00
	<u>\$ 98.00</u>

BLOWING OR PUMPING THE ORGAN

- 1842 - Sumner Keith
1842 - Lor Z. Crooker
1844 - Ferdinand Washburn
1845 - Henry T. Pratt
1849 - C. B. Pratt signed for Henry T. Pratt
 same through 1852
1853 - Henry T. Pratt
1854 - Gustavas Pratt
1856 - Isaac Damon
1878 - Sam Hayward
1885 - R. H. Perkins 1 year, \$10.00 and G. Lowe wedding, \$.50
1893 - Wd K. Keith
1895 - Mortimer Benson
1896 - E. Mortimer Benson
1898 - Elton H. Beals
1899 - Isreal Everett Richmond

ORGAN MAINTENANCE

- 1840 - Josiah Richards
1844 - Josiah Richards
1845 - Josiah Richards

1845 - Removing and fixing organ Josiah Richards
 Bill to Building Com. - Bringing 16 consoles from New Bedford - \$2.00
 Bill to Building Com. - work on organ and boards for do - Caleb Christian

1855 - S. Hill reg. and tuning \$15.00 pd by E. H. Keith

1856 - Parish Com. reimbursed E. H. Keith for above

1885, April 11 - Hook and Hastings - Tune and adjust and regulate \$9.50

1885, Nov. 13 - Hook and Hastings same as above

1894, Nov. 28 - Hook and Hastings

1898 - Geo. Pierce, New Bedford - tuning \$6.00
 2 fares from New Bedford 1.70 \$7.70

1899 - Hook and Hastings repairs and tuning

GALLERY CLOCK

A letter from the Rev. Richard M. Hodges, dated July 22, 1846, to:
 "My Christian Friends,

I am happy in knowing that with all the means of religious culture
 you are so well and fully supplied, and that in your new and beautiful

house of public worship you have a home for your Christian affections, a place where your heavenly aspirations may find most grateful aid and encouragement.

I take great pleasure in presenting to you, for your church, a clock. As it silently but surely indicates the progress of time, may it be a momento to you of that higher and upward progress to which your souls were ordained. And may the hours of your sacred sessions as they glide irretrievably away bear with them only the memories of fervent prayers, of affections alive to all interests of humanity, of aspirations heavenly and eternal."

July 21, 1846, Williams Latham, Jonathan Cushing, Calvin Pratt, with Rev. Claudius Bradford as chairman, were chosen to serve as the committee to "express the sentiments of the Society."

The same year, the Parish paid Maximillian Hall for taking care of the clock on the Meeting House, and for winding up and regulating the clock in front of the gallery (no extra charge) \$7.00 for seven months.

An article in the warrant for March 20, 1847, included "to see if the Parish will accept the clock presented by Rev. R. M. Hodges."

From 1853 to 1901 bills for repairing and cleaning the gallery clock ranged from \$.50 to \$1.75. Work (labor) on the clock was done by Thomas Cushman, E. A. Hewett and H. O. Clark.

Willard Fobes was paid \$1.92 for taking care of the clock and \$45.00 for taking care of the Meeting House for one year.

HORSE SHEDS

- 1810, March 27 - Each shed to highest bidder copy of report
- 1839, March 8 Warrant - Article 8 - To see if the Parish will relinquish their right of erecting sheds on the south side of Common near the Meeting House.
- 1845, August 30 Warrant - Article 3 - To adopt any measures which the Society may deem proper in reference to the shed lands belonging to Society.
- 1845, October 11 Warrant - Article 5 - To adopt such measures as the Society may deem proper respecting the erection of horse sheds of the Society.
- 1845, Nov. 28 Warrant - 2 - To see if the Parish will rescind a vote at a former meeting of the Society whereby they fixed the price of shed lots at five dollars a piece.
- June 15, 1880 - Voted that Society move the 4 sheds nearest the church to the avenue leading from there to Summer Street and the choice of sheds be sold at auction, the purchaser to fit them up under the direction of the Building Committee and maintain them in good repair. The fee to the land under the sheds as there located remaining in the Society as before.
- 1881 - Gustavas Pratt sold 1 horse shed to J. Warren Perkins for \$20.00 originally owned by Gad Robinson.
- 1896 - Letter from John W. Perkins to Sarah Pratt stating he would rather sell than exchange his horse shed. He would not refuse any respectable offer.
- 1896 - Nathan H. Dunphe conveyed right, title and interest in Horse Shed #1 at Unitarian Meeting House to Sarah Pratt for \$10.00, Sept. 15.

Bridge water, Maine, 4 1880 this is to certify that James Hooper
 & Apphus Tobes & James Meyer's offer for Sale Land on the Southern
 End of the South one tenth ^{town} bridge water for the purpose of building
 Sheds beginning on the East Side of Thomas Washburn's bars which lead
 into his Sheep pasture and on the Northern side of Washburns Stone wall
 containing ten feet by 17 each containing ten Lots in the first Stone
 at ~~these~~ ^{these} Lots a Lot Each Subscriber to have an Equal Right to his
 Choice Except the three westerly ^{Lots} ~~one~~ Reserved to the Proprietors
 So each Subscriber paying or giving Security ~~to~~ ^{to} the satisfaction of
 the Proprietors ~~to~~ and agreeing among them selves shall be entitled
 to a good and sufficient Deed and we the Subscribers in testimony
 of our Confiding our selves parchment in the first Stone have hereunto
 set our hands

the Second Stone to contain ten Sheds Lots beginning at the East end of
 the above and Continuing Easterly by the Stone wall till their number
 is completed at Two Dollars ~~per~~ ^{per} Lot ~~and under the same~~
 restrictions and Regulations as the above in witness whereof &c

1. J. W. Gardner, March 19th 1881.

J. W. Gardner, Senior,
to J. W. Gardner, Pratt & Tr
1 Stone Street at Unitarian Church #20. —

The above check is the one originally issued by
Gardner & Robinson.

Pratt & Tr
Pratt & Tr

Pratt & Tr

HEARSE

One might wonder at the items on the bill from Abram Washburn

"For hearse	\$39.00
Mr. Sprague bill repairing	3.60
Repairing iron work	2.40
Straps for coffin	.75
Lock and hinges poor box	.25
Painting same	1.00
Harness	<u>15.00</u>
	\$ 62.00"

There is no date but part of the word March is possible.

1813 - Paid Edward Mitchell, Jr. \$1.42 for 111 feet Boards and 2 3/4 lbs.
10 p nails for building H. House.

1816, Nov. 16 - Paid to Edward Mitchell (amount not clear) for oiling the
harness of the Hearse.

The warrant for Nov. 25, 1820 included article #5 - To procure some person
to take charge of the meeting house and hearse and ring the bell.

The warrant for March 20, 1824, contained an article "to see what measures
the Society will take to build or procure a suitable and convenient house for
the hearse.

June 26, 1824, the South Parish of Bridgewater bou't of Lazell, Perkins
and Co. 1 padlock \$.38
and Nov 18 2 3/4 yds. blk bd cloth 15.13
10 1/2 yds. 10.05
2 skeins silk .22

Nov. 22 pd. Walker for making Pall	1.00
Nov. 27 6 Tassells for Pall	7.50
pd. for trimmings for the coffin	
of Rev. Doc. Sanger	<u>4.00</u>
	\$ 38.29

1823 - Paid Philander Dean for "Setting tier on hearse and nails - 50¢

1825, Feb. 3 - Paid 20¢ for 8 yds of rope for the hearse.

Another bill for repairing the hearse \$1.00 is dated Nov. 26, 1830.

BURYING GROUND

This Grave Yard, the first burying place in the South Precinct, is part of the two acres given by John Washburn in 1716 to the Inhabitants of the South Precinct. One acre was used for the burying ground.

1736 the South Precinct voted to build a board fence around the burying ground, the next year rescinded the vote, voted and did build a post and rail fence.

From Williams Latham's "Epitaphs," 1882, "Lt. John Washburn, born 1711 and died 1797, was the sexton and dug the graves from 1739 to the time of his death. He kept a record, now in the possession of the writer."

From the file on the Burying Ground are the following -

1811, Sept. 15 - Paid Nathan Mitchell for chain for gate	\$1.32
Pad lock for gate	<u>.42</u>
	\$1.74
1820 - Paid Isaac Keith for materials and time working on the Burying Ground	\$14.50
By use of burying ground for one year, viz 1821	<u>1.75</u>
	\$12.75
One year interest on above	<u>.76</u>
	\$13.51
1821 - Paid Lieut. Nath. Pratt for 1 day's work on burying ground	1.00
1821 - Paid Holmes Sprague for paint for gates for grave yard and for painting gates once	?
1821, June 2 - Bill to 1 pt W. J. Rum	.13
1 qt. do do	.25
1 lb. lead	.08
May 24 - Bag for Pall	.25
Sept. 10 - 1 Twin	<u>.65</u>
	\$ 1.36

1822 - Voted that the within account be paid by the proprietors of the burying ground and that if there be an income from feeding the burying ground that the proprietors of the same be entitled to it. (This is on the back of the 1820 bill).

1843, March 21 - Article in the Warrant to see if the Parish will cease to use its burying ground for future interments.

1844, March 26 - Article in the Warrant to see what the Society will do in relation to rebuilding the wall around the burying grounds.

1846, April 25 - Committee chosen to take charge of the burying ground account of expenses and list of those buried.

1846, Sept. 21 - Bill from Eli Washburn for one gate - \$15.00.

2 papers - 1 - Plan of tombs

2 - Dates, boundaries, names and amounts

1846, April 25 - Article in the Warrant to see what measures the Parish will adopt in relation to the use and improvement of their burial ground.

1847, March 20 - Article in Warrant to adopt some measures in regard to interments in the Parish Burying Ground.

1850, June 17 - From Boston City Registrars Office - permission for removal to Bridgewater for interment of Francis Hale Cutler, age 4 months and 6 days.

1850, August - Paid Cyrus Hooper for mowing, raking and picking up bushes in old Burying Ground. \$4.00

1852, Dec. 23 - Request from Amandon Alden to allow burial of his father in Old Burying Ground near his mother's grave. Inside same paper - Permission granted and reasons stated.

1854, Oct. 14 - Paid Timothy Healy \$7.00 for 7 days work in old Burying Ground digging out briars etc., and \$5.00 for 5 days work digging out stumps, cutting trees, getting out stones, building graves and fixing up grave stones.

1854, Oct. 28 - Paid Edwin Pratt \$7.50 for labor at \$1.50 per day in the burial ground - cutting out trees, digging out stumps and roots and stones, drilling and blasting rocks and helping fix and straighten the wall.

I see no objections to depositing the
the body in the Tomb

Rec^d of W Latham Fees twenty
dollars, for 2 Sabbaths, toward
Feb. 29 & March 7 - S. F. Clarke
\$20, March 11, 1852

1854, Nov. 13 - Paid Luther Clifford for labor fixing the wall.

1852 - Note of W. Latham on same paper as receipt for preaching for S.
F. Clarke.

1877 - Voted Burying Ground Committee established in 1846 be discharged
and duties devolve upon Standing Committee.

1888 - Report by Dr. Edward Sawyer for the Lawn Committee. Recommended
removal of some of the pine trees in the Old Burying Ground.

1900, Dec. 12 - Paid Henry Worcester \$1.25 for cleaning vault and carting
rubbish.

1902, Sept. 25 - Paid George Sherman \$1.00 for cleaning the vault.

GROUNDS

Through the years there has been concern for the improvement and maintenance of the Meeting House grounds.

1833, May 24 - Paid Philo Leach "To timber for making gate	
and hanging same	\$.80
To fixing hinges, for nails	
and screws and stuff	<u>.80</u>
	\$1.60
1836 - Article in the Warrant - To see if the Society will enclose the	
common belonging to the Society and set out trees.	
1846, April - Paid Willard Wood \$4.00 for	
Rufus and oxen $\frac{1}{2}$ day drawing trees	
myself Rufus and oxen $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours	
Rufus and horse to draw trees	
horse and wagon to Abington	
Rufus $\frac{1}{2}$ day digging trees	
1846, May 7 - Paid Old Colony Rail Road Corp. for transportation of 4	
bundles of trees from Boston to S. Abington	\$.75
1846, May 8 - Paid Sam'l F. Sanger $\frac{3}{4}$ day to set out trees	.75
1846, May 24 - Paid Ferdinand Washburn "To digging trees for Meeting	
House grounds 1 day"	.50
1846, May 29 - Paid Eli Washburn \$38.25 for	
Cash paid Mr. Warren for 30 trees @ 75¢	22.50
4 lindens @ 50¢	2.00
3 elm trees @ 17¢	.50

Expenses to Brighton after trees		3.50
Packing trees		6.00
3 days' labor digging trees		3.75
1847, June 3 - Paid E. Gay \$10.80 for	8 maple trees @ 30¢	\$2.40
	6 chestnuts @ 50¢	3.00
	6 lindens @ 90¢	5.40
1851, March 8 - Article in Warrant to enclose and improve the Parish grounds		
1852, March 13 - Article in Warrant to enclose and improve the Parish grounds		

Bridgewater July 10th 1852

First Congl Society

To	12 Fir trees 37¢ts apiece	Dr	4.50
"	15 White Ash trees 12 1/2¢		1.87
"	Repairs on gate		75
"	Paid three Irishmen for setting trees, cutting up briars, digging out stones, &c.		
	one, 1 day 4 1/2 hours		1.45
	" 1/2 day		50
	" 2 1/2 hours		25
	boy 2 1/2 hours		20
Sept 25/52	Received Payment of	\$	9.52
	Eli Washburn		<u>7.50</u>

1852, Aug. 10 - Paid Eli Washburn for

12 fir trees @ 37¢	\$4.50
15 white ash trees @ 12½¢	1.87
Repairs on gate	.75
Paid three Irishmen for setting trees, cutting up briars, digging out stones, etc.	
one, 1 day 4½ hours	1.45
one, ½ day	.50
one, 2½ hours	.25
one boy 2½ hours	<u>.20</u>
	\$9.52

1853, Dec. 10 - Article in Warrant to see if the Society will consent
to have an engine house located on the land of the
Society.

1854, March 11 - Article in the Warrant to see if the Society will adopt
any measures for rebuilding the fence around the
Meeting House grounds

1854, April 8 - Report of Committee about a fence

1200 feet of iron @ 3½¢ per lb. - 5¼ lbs. to the foot	\$220.50
72 stone posts delivered on the cars 85 12½ each	369.00
Freight on posts - 18 tons 80¢ per ton	14.40
Freight on iron	4.00
lead	5.00
painting 3 coats	10.00
carting stone from depot	12.00

rounding bars, etc. (paper torn

labor in setting fence out)

Eli Washburn)
Committee
Ambrose Keith)

1855, March 31 - Article in Warrant to hear and act upon the report of the Committee chosen in relation to rebuilding the fence enclosing the Parish grounds

1856, March 8 - "The chosen by the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater to build a fence around the grounds of said Society submit the following report. That they have opened a subscription for the purpose of obtaining funds for the above object in accordance with the vote passed by said Society in 1855 and that a subscription paper is now ready for those who wish to subscribe.

Eli Washburn)
Committee
Ambrose Keith)

1857, March 21 - Article in the Warrant to adopt measures for building a fence around the Parish Green or otherwise improving the Parish land and buildings.

1857, Sept. 19 - Article in the Warrant to see what measures the Society will adopt for painting their Meeting House and for making any repairs to the same or the improvement of the grounds of the Society that may be deemed necessary.

1858, March 19 - Article in the Warrant to adopt measures for building a fence around the Parish Green or otherwise improving the Parish land and buildings.

- 1888, - Report of Dr. Edward Sawyer of the lawn committee, recommended removal of some of the pine trees in the Old Burying ground.
- 1893, Nov. 25 - Paid L. A. Darling for raking and clearing the church green
 1½ days \$2.25
- 1896, April 20 - Article in Warrant to see what action the Society will take towards making the necessary repairs upon the stones in the churchyard, and to put the grounds in good order.

Office of

Eagle Cotton Gin Company,

Bridgewater, Mass., Jan 1 1886

The First Congregational Society
 to Geo. S. Rollins Dr

to three months Sewers as	
Septon ending at date	25.00
to Repairs on Clock	4.25
to 1 Coal riddle	1.50
	<u>27.75</u>

Recd Payment

1843, March 27 - "To my services as sexton for 1842	\$20.00
sawing, splitting and piling wood	<u>2.50</u>
	\$22.50
1844, Sept. 11 - Paid Cyrus Hayward \$6.00 in part for services as sexton for the year 1843	
1844, March 25 - To taking care of the Meeting House	
one year up to this date	\$20.00
sawing and carrying in 2½ cords O. Wood	2.50
sawing and carrying in 1 cord T. P. Wood	<u>.67</u>
	\$23.17
1844, June 1 - Paid Carver Washburn & Co.	
To 1 broom	.25
1845, March 20 - Paid Marshall Thompson	
To ringing Bell and services as sexton	
1 year from March 20, 1844	\$20.00
sawing, splitting and carrying wood	<u>1.75</u>
	\$21.75
1846, March 2 - Paid Marshall Thompson	
Services as sexton 8 months	\$13.33
Moving shingles from Old House to new cellar	.42
Taking care of new House Decoration Day	<u>1.00</u>
	\$14.75
1846, May 30 - Paid Caleb Christian	
To ringing the Bell, making fires and taking care	
of Meeting House from Nov. 20/45 to April 4/46	\$25.00
To fixing pipe	<u>.50</u>
	\$25.50

1847, April 3 - Paid Willard W. Fobes	
To taking care meeting house and ringing bell one year	\$50.00
extra work	<u>1.25</u>
	\$51.25
1848, April 26 - Paid Willard W. Fobes	
To taking care of their church from April 1st,	
1847 to April 1st, 1848	\$50.00
To care of clock	3.00
To work on pulleys on bell rope	<u>2.00</u>
	\$55.00
1849, July 4 - Paid Willard W. Fobes	
Work on clock	\$ 1.25
Putting new rope on clock	1.00
Shortening rope	.50
Taking down stove pipe & cleaning out cellar	1.00
Taking care of house from April 1, 48 to April 1, 49	<u>50.00</u>
	\$ 53.75
1850, May 3 - Paid W. W. Fobes	
To taking care of meeting house from April 1, 1849	
to April 1850	\$ 45.00
To lighting for singing 22 nights 50¢	11.00
1 lamp feder	.50
repair organ stool	<u>.33</u>
	\$ 56.63
1852, Jan 8 - Paid Willard W. Fobes -	
To taking care of the meeting house from April 50	
to April 51	\$ 45.00
Extra work lighting	<u>3.00</u>
	48.00

Cr. by cash 20. and 20. = 40.
 by my subscription 2
 by my Father's subscription 1 43.
5

Rec. of W. Latham Treas Forty-eight dollars
 less my subscription

To the first congregational society,
 To Willard W. Jones, To taking care of the
 meeting house from april 50 to april 51

Extra work lighting, &c \$ 45
3
48

Cr. By Cash 20. & 20. = 40.

Allowed } C. B. Pratts } Paid By My Subscription 2
 (Jan 5. 1852 - } Rob. Perkins } Comd By my Father's } 1 43.
 } } By my subscription } 5

Recd. of W. Latham Treas Forty Eight
 dollars. less My Subscriptions -
 Jan. 8. 1852

Bridgewater Jan 5. 1852 Recd Pay, W. Jones

1852, Nov. 26 - Paid Willard W. Fobes -		
1½ days work on furnaces		\$ 2.00
Boards and making coal bin		.75
Caring iorn to furnace & depot		.33
March 31, 1853 - To taking care of meting house one year		45.00
Taking care of clock		<u>1.92</u>
		\$50.00
1852, June 22 - Paid Willard W. Fobes -		
5¼ days woork 133		\$ 6.98
Mrs. Thompson 1½ days		1.00
Sarah Welch 3/4 day		.50
An Welch "		.50
Mrs. Smith 1½ days		<u>1.00</u>
		\$ 9.98
1852, Sept. - Paid James Boucher -		
1 days work cleaning windows in meeting house		\$ 1.00
1854, April 27 - Paid Willard W. Fobes -		
To taking care of meting house from April 1853 to		
April 1854		\$45.00
Dec. 9 - one days woork		1.33
care of clock		<u>1.67</u>
		\$48.00
1855, May 26 - Paid Willard W. Fobes -		
To services as sexton for 1 year from 1854 to 1855		
1st April		\$50.00
Lighting Meeting House for singing		<u>2.00</u>
		\$52.00

1876, April 24 - Paid Sidney Keith -		
To care of Church 4 Sundays		\$ 8.00
1877 - Paid Sidney Keith -		
To care of Church from April 12, 1876 to		
Jan. 1st 1877		\$72.66
Rec'd of W. Latham	\$35.25	
Rec'd of W. Latham	<u>10.00</u>	
	\$45.25	<u>\$45.25</u>
		\$27.41
	S. Keith Subscription	<u>10.00</u>
		\$17.41
1876 - Paid Sidney Keith -		
To care of House Fires Bell etc		
April 24/76 to April 30/77		\$100.00
Cr		
Oct. 11 By cash of W. Latham		\$ 36.00
Dec. 4 " " " " "		10.00
1877, Jan. 5 " " " " "		18.00
By bal of Sub for Singing		<u>1.65</u>
By sub		<u>10.00</u>
		<u>75.00</u>
	bal	25.00
1877, April 19 - Paid Sidney Keith - service as sexton -		\$25.00
1877, July 18 - Paid Sumner Keith - service as sexton -		\$18.75
1878, January - Paid Sumner Keith - services		\$37.50

1881, July 1 - Paid Geo S. Rollins - services as sexton three months	\$18.75
Oct. 1 - " " " " "	18.75
1885, Jan 1 - Paid Geo S. Rollins - services as sexton	18.75
1 cord slabs	<u>3.00</u>
	\$21.75
1885, Apr. 1 - Paid Geo S. Rollins -	
To three months services as sexton	\$18.75
To building fries for Sunday School in Chapel	<u>5.00</u>
	\$23.75
Cr by subscription	<u>5.00</u>
	\$18.75

Bridgewater Sept 26, 1885

The First Congregational Society of Bridgewater

to Geo S. Rollins Dr

To 3 months services as sexton ending Oct 1, 1885 \$25.00

On or after Oct. 1 pleas pay to J. B. Rogers the above bill and this shall be my re'pt for the same

Geo S. Rollins

1885, Sep 8 - Paid Geo S. Rollins to three months services as sexton \$25.00

1885, Dec. 31 - Paid Wm Walker and Roscoe Hunt -

For cleaning up the cellar of the Church, sifting
the ashes etc 8.00

1885, Dec. 19 - Paid Michael Wall -

For cleaning the Grounds of the Church and removing
charcoal into the cellar Oct 1885 \$3.50

1886, Jan 1 - Paid Geo S. Rollins -	
To three months services as sexton ending at date	\$25.00
to repairs on clock	1.25
to 1 coal riddle	<u>1.50</u>
	\$27.75
1886, April 1 - Paid Geo S. Rollins -	
To three months services as sexton	\$25.00
To 9 hours time on Clock and expense	2.75
To sawing and getting in wood by W W Fobes	<u>2.00</u>
	\$29.75
Cr by my yearly subscription	<u>5.00</u>
	\$24.75
1892, Sept 13 - Paid John Mayo for services as sexton	
From April 1/July 1, 1892	\$25.00
1893, April 1st - Paid John Mayo bal due for services as sexton to date	\$75.00
1893, July 5 - Paid John Mayo - Services as sexton to July 1, 1893	\$25.00
1893, Oct 8 - Paid John Mayo services as sexton to Oct. 1, 1893	\$25.00
1894, March 26 - Paid John Mayo Bal due as sexton to April 1/94	\$50.00
1894, July 2 - Paid John Mayo services as sexton to July 1, 1894	\$25.00
1894, Oct. 15 - Paid John Mayo services as sexton to Oct. 1, 1894	\$25.00
1894, Dec. 10 - Paid Jonas Mayo -	
To 2 days labor cleaning cellar @ \$1.50	\$ 3.00
To Sawing 2 cds hard wood @ .75	1.50
" " 1 " pine and splitting	<u>2.00</u>
	\$ 6.50

1895 - Paid John Mayo for services as sexton for the year	\$100.00
1896 - Paid John Mayo for services as sexton for the year	\$100.00
1897 - Paid Geo S. Rollins for services as sexton for the year	\$100.00
1898 - Paid Geo S. Rollins for services as sexton for the year	\$100.00
1899 - Paid Geo S. ROLLINS FOR SERVICES AS SEXTON FOR THE YEAR	\$100.00

The preceding receipts were copied accurately - the spelling is the same as the originals.

Bridgewater May 23. 1842

First Congregational Society

*To Cyrus Howard Dr
for ringing bell and taking care of
Meeting House one year to March
1842 \$20.00*

*for sawing 2 cords of wood 2.00
splitting and carrying in same 2.00
\$22.00*

*Paid part of Philo Leach Esq Treasurer
of same Society*

Cyrus Howard

*Attest
Mark*

Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A letter from the Rev. Richard M. Hodges was read on the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Sunday School, July 6, 1873. Quotations from Mr. Hodges's letter provide the story of the beginning of the Sunday School.

"It is allotted to but comparatively few persons to recognize themselves as belonging to a past age of two generations; and to fewer still to be associated with enterprises of a beneficent tendency. I take to myself, I hope, with Christian humility, some degree of satisfaction in having instituted the Sunday School, at so early a period in my pastorate, on a permanent basis, and the Society may well take pleasure in the historical record consequent on such an event. - In 1823, there were in all New England but two or three parishes that had made provision for the systematic instruction of children in the principles and precepts of Christianity. In former days, the custom was for pastors to meet the youth of their flocks-occasionally or at stated times,-to teach them, by catechism or appropriate discourse, the relative and sacred duties of life, and such occasions were often made delightful to the children by memorial presents from the gentle and kind hearted minister. I have it on record, and were it not for the record, I have it in distinct remembrance, that I had a separate service, periodically, for the special benefit of those of my charge who were in the forming period of life."

"In regard to the institution of the Sunday School, I recollect the meeting that was held at my request, to adopt preliminary measures thereto, and now that the organization, in age, has reached to a half century of time, I have special reason to be grateful for the ready and earnest interest that was manifest at its inauguration. ---- The means of instruction fifty years ago, considered in connection with those of the passing period, were meagre indeed. The modes, too, of instruction have undergone a great change. The means of education, which

formerly were very limited are now almost without number. The activity of mind with mind is kept up almost continually, and it would seem as if there would be no interruption of this activity because of the untiring and emphatic operation of the electric wire. Fifty years ago, the giving and receiving news, in all departments of society, was almost wholly confined to stated times and set occasions. Now newspapers, periodicals and books almost interminable, give ready and immediate utterance to public, and, -- and I had almost said, -- private thought. ----- The advance of mind in its true course, -- or its course after the truth, will never interfere with the advance of religion in its upward aspiration. --- --- I have no fears for the future because of the energy and elasticity of the powers of the mind. Sunday Schools, and the worship of 'one Father of all', on the Lord's day, will, I trust, in the providence of God, receive continual accessions of strength and influence by the activities of science, etc."

The same Sunday, July 6, 1873, Isaac Damon, the Superintendent of the Sunday School for the last four years, gave his report, parts of which are included to show the growth and some of the lessons that were taught.

"Since my connection with the School we have met here regularly every Sabbath with the exception of Communion Sundays when we have had no session and a short vacation during the summer months of 1871 when our church was being refurnished -- The number belonging to the School has steadily increased from 50 scholars, four years ago, to 108, our present number. We have instituted a penny contribution. Each class having a little box in which they deposit their penny each Sunday, and when we commenced this plan, the Superintendent thinking it might inspire the scholars to bring their penny each Sunday, borrowed an idea which he saw at a neighboring Sabbath School, which was to put 50¢ into each box as often as that amount was contributed by the scholars in their respective boxes, and I assure you

the plan met my most sanguine expectations, and we were enabled to make frequent donations to charitable institutions. Out of this contribution by the children we have given nearly \$200.00 to charitable institutions and speaks well for these scholars, and I think will instill into their young minds that giving is living as our friend Rev. Hosmer told us last Sabbath. We have had Sunday School concerts regularly every two or three months and I think these concerts do as much to cement us together as any other part of our exercises for at the concerts we have the parents with us and without their co-operation our labors are almost in vain-. We have made additions to our Library every year which now contains about 700 volumes and we have been more than fortunate in securing good Librarians so that our Library which is an important means of carrying on a Sunday School successfully is as it should be well sustained and although our Society has contributed liberally every year to enable us to replenish it, I must not overlook the very generous donation of \$50.00 made by the Ladies of this Society which was as cheerfully given as it was gratefully received. We have taken from 25 to 40 copies of the Sunday School paper each year and we cannot afford to be without this aid as they contain many beautiful thoughts and help the children to live pure lives. We formerly used textbooks for the several classes, no two classes using the same Text Book. This arrangement did not seem to meet the wants of the school as it was an impossibility to find books which were adapted to all the scholars and often times they would lose their interest and stay away many Sundays which crippled the work we were engaged in and after long and earnest thought we adopted the one lesson system which I have previously explained to you at our concert and it is now working admirably. The younger classes still retain their Text Books as we think they are better adapted to their young minds. We have been addressed during the past four years by about 50 different ministers and besides this our Pastor who has always been an earnest faithful worker in the Sunday

School has always when here spoken to the children giving them thoughts to take away with them which has been as good seed sown on good ground and for which he will reap a rich reward-and I must not forget our friend, Mr. Kingman, one of our most earnest workers always ready to say a good word to us and encourage us as well by example as by deeds to persevere for the attainment of the highest good of these children. We have had Christmas Festivals and summer excursions for the children and have endeavored to use all the means in our power to keep up the interest of the School, knowing that on its success depends the vitality of the Church and we must not forget these our teachers many of them having met their classes regularly each Sunday for the past 4 years and even longer I am informed, ever faithful to the trusts committed to their charge and aiding me in numberless ways. They have my heartfelt thanks and must feel an inward satisfaction which will brighten their pathway through life. I think we have lost but 3 scholars by death and God has specially blessed us in this particular allowing us to meet here for 4 years and removing but 3 of our scholars. Still there is a lesson for us all in these dispensations of Providence. We should improve every opportunity here presented to us to fit us for the great change which will inevitably overtake us.

Sources:

Report of Isaac Damon, Superintendent of S.S.
read at the Fiftieth Anniversary of its
organization - Sunday July 6, 1873

Letter of R. M. Hodges
read on Fiftieth Anniversary
of the organization of S.S.
July 6, 1873

1831 - bill for books
1846 - 35 ft. boards for making bookcase
1847 - books for Sabbath School
1847 - list of books purchased
1853 - books
1854 - S.S. library books

1856 - S.S. library books
1869 - Contribution receipt - The Sunday School Society
1870 - Contribution receipt - The Sunday School Society
1871 - Contribution receipt - The Sunday School Society
1878 - Nov. 17, Copy of the Sunday School Resolutions
1885 - bill for Quarterly lessons
1886 - bill for Quarterly lessons
1893 - 1 doz. kint. chairs (and shipping receipt)
1894 thru 1899 - S.S. expenses

RESIGNATIONS

(and reduction and discontinuance of subscriptions)

Reasons for the many resignations from the Society were not always given and perhaps the real reason was not stated either.

From 1816 to 1832, 57 notices were received from the individuals. The wording varies - "This is to certify I have become a member of the Episcopal Society of Trinity Church in Bridgewater by which I am exempted from taxation for the support of Public worship in your Society" - - "I hereby inform you that I consider myself a member of the Society of Trinity Church in said town." - - "I hereby inform you that I have united myself with the Society of Trinity Church in said town, therefore consider myself as withdrawn from yours." - - "I hereby certify to you that I have united myself with the Protestant Episcopal Society in this town, therefore my membership with your Society is dissolved." Six notices contain several signatures on each paper.

In 1825 one notice of membership in the Third Congregational Society in Middleborough is signed by the Precinct clerk-pro tem.

Between 1825 and 1831 there were ten notices of membership in the Halifax Universalist Society, all signed by the clerk of that Society.

In 1826 a notice of membership in the Congregational Society in Hanson is signed by the Clerk of the said Society.

From 1824 to 1833 there were 34 notices of membership in the New Jerusalem Society in Bridgewater. Several of these are on printed slips. The clerks who signed these notices were Nathaniel Washburn, Calvin Washburn, Horace Ames and Simeon Leonard.

Two of the four notices from the first Baptist Society in Middleborough are signed by two members of the Committee of the Society and the other two by the Clerk.

In 1830 a notice of membership in the First Congregational Society in West Bridgewater is signed by Jarvis D. Burrell, II^d, clerk.

From 1834 to 1856 there were 11 notices of discontinuance of support of either the Society or the minister. Some gave the reason, and two gave notice of reduction in their subscription.

*I hereby certify that William Luzzell of Bridgewater
is a member of the first Baptist Society in Middleborough
Dated at Bridgewater this 28. day of March 1831.*

Solomon Allen Jun. Clerk of the Society

GLEANINGS



Mr. Wm. Latham Treasurer of Parish Society

SIR—Your Town, County, and State Tax in Bridgewater, for the year 1854 is \$ 32.90
per cent. discount, 1.91

You are also Taxed in School District No. 1 for 1854

21.41
5.11
TOTAL \$ 60.32

RECEIVED THE ABOVE.

Wm. Latham

Collector of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater, Sept. 27. 1854



1503
827
\$9330

TAX RECEIPT.

RECEIVED of William Latham Treasurer of Parish Society in Bridgewater

Eight

Dollars, and three Cents, County and Town Tax, assessed

upon the said Latham as Treasurer of Parish Society for the year 1857

also a tax in school district no one of eight dollars and twenty seven cents

Alonzo Johnson Collector of Bridgewater.

BRIDGEWATER, Me

1857



Reporter Press, North Bridgewater, Mass.

Fire District.

Mr. William Latham Treasurer

You are Taxed in the Fire District,

\$ 3.15

Received the above,

Tom R. Yurft

Collector of Bridgewater.

BRIDGEWATER, Aug 15th 1857



Bridgewater April 12, 1845. I hereby certify
 that I have this day posted up
 on the outside ^{top} of the Meeting House
 of the First Congl Society a notice of
 which the within is a true copy
 Melvin Swift

Bridgewater Apr 1 1855

First Congregational Society
 to Geo S Rollins Dr

To three months services
 as Sexton

18.75

To Building fees for Sunday
 School in Chapel

5.00 23.75

Or
 by Subscription

5.00
 \$18.75

Recd Payment

Geo S. Rollins

Bridgewater, Mass. Apr 1 1885.

First Cong. Co. -

To Bridgewater Iron Co. Dr.

Terms, Net Cash. Interest added from date of Bills at 7 per cent. if not paid by the end of succeeding Month in which purchased.

1884		TO MDSE. AS PER BILL,		
May	31	215 off Gas	65	1398
Nov	4	16960 Broken Coal	76	4543
				5941

Rec'd Pay

Bridgewater Iron Co.

Apr 2/85 By J. M. Sutton

approved } Howard Kingman } Standing Order

OFFICE OF J. B. ROGERS, DEALER IN
Stoves and Ranges; Britannia and Wooden Ware,
 WOOD, COPPER AND IRON PUMPS.
 Sheet Lead, Sheet Zinc, Lead Pipe, Nails, Lamp Goods,
 BROOMS, BRUSHES, ETC. JOB WORK SOLICITED.

Bridgewater, Mass., Dec 1. 1884.

Unitarian Society
 to J. B. Rogers D^r.

Nov 14, 2 1/2 lbs gall ^d pipe	
for furnaces @ 13¢	27.63
1 damper 75 collar 2¢	50
Cleaning furnaces & fitting pipes	100
	\$29.13

Wm. B. Rogers
 Dec 25 1884

Paid Dec 31/84
 J. B. Rogers

Journal of Prudigman

1811

to Paul Newman & Son Dr

May 28

To a Chance Bill 932 lbs 242 Cents 3912 44
To lost hair brush 75

3920 19

1811 Canton

to

Aug 1 By Alce Price 597 lbs 835 Cents 2085 95

1812

July 1 Purchase

812 29

2900 24

901 95

3

Balance 104 95

Boston / July 1812

Balance to Prudigman's debt

Paul Newman & Son

M. Linnell & Co 61 94

43 91

61 94

104 95

57 77

2 18

31 29

39 38

41 91

39 95 P. by M. Linnell

Wm. B. Eddy
Wm. B. Eddy
Wm. B. Eddy
Wm. B. Eddy

Wm. B. Eddy
April 29th 1825
May 1st 1825

The family and ourselves will place our honor to the
honoring agreement: and that I shall take effect
the strictly adhere to on and after the first Monday
of the month of May next 1825.
The following is the substance of the agreement
made at the meeting of the merchants of
the city of New York on the 29th day of
April 1825. The said agreement is as
follows: That the undersigned do hereby
pledge themselves and their families to
abstain from the use of all intoxicating
liquors, and to refrain from the sale
of the same. And that they will not
procure or sell any such liquors, or
allow any one to sell or use the same
in their shops, or in any other place
under their control. And that they will
not harbor or conceal any such liquors,
or any person who is guilty of the
violation of the said agreement. And
that they will not be guilty of the
violation of the said agreement, or
of any other act which is prohibited
by the said agreement. And that they
will not be guilty of the violation of
the said agreement, or of any other
act which is prohibited by the said
agreement. And that they will not be
guilty of the violation of the said
agreement, or of any other act which
is prohibited by the said agreement.

To Holmes Sprague Clerk of the Congregational
Society in the South Parish in Bridgewater.

I hereby certify that I have joined the
Episcopal Society of Trinity Church in Bridgewater
and consider my connection with your dissolved
Bridgewater 1st Sept^r 1817 Hannah Packard

Bridgewater April 12, 1845. I have this day posted
up in the stores of Hale & Hobart, Perkins & Bennett,
& George W. Pratt, & in the Barroom of Edward
Mitchell Hotel, ~~printed notices~~ ^{public} notices
placard in Bridgewater, in each place, for
a true copy of the within notice, each
notice being signed by the three subscribers
for in the presence of Artemas Hale Jr.
attest
William Latham
Moses Stone Jr.

GLEANINGS

- 1656 - Bridgewater incorp'd
- 1716 - The General Court approved the separation of the North and South precincts
- 1717 - First Meeting House built in the South Precinct
- 1741 - First Meeting House enlarged
- 1755 - John Bolton gave a tankard to the South Parish church
- 1760 - Second Meeting House built
- 1766 - Pounds, shillings, and pence were no longer used
- 1764 - Jonathan Butterfield gave a tankard to the South Parish Church
- 1780 - The Colonies adopted the Constitution
- 1788 - Feb. 6th - Mass. became the 6th state
- 1810 - The Second Meeting House was enlarged
- 1821 - The North Parish was incorp'd as a town
- 1822 - West Bridgewater became a town
- 1823 - East Bridgewater became a town
- 1823 - The deacons disposed of certain vessels belonging to the church
- 1825 - The merchants of Bridgewater made a Temperance Pledge
- 1825 - The First Parish of Bridgewater was one of the first churches in America to affiliate with the newly organized American Unitarian Assoc.
- 1828 - First mention found of the "First Congregational Society"
- 1836 - The 11th amendment of the Constitution adopted calling for the sep. of church and state
- 1845 - The Third Meeting House was built. The Old Meeting House was sold at auction for \$240. We can find no record of the purchaser.

1853 - March 18 - The Mass. Legislature approved the name change from "South Precinct in Bridgewater" to "The First Congregational Society in Bridgewater"

1868 - March 4 - The Committee to raise funds proposed a tax on polls, property, and pews to produce \$1500

1886 - John H. Ball, Contractor and Builder, was paid \$11.19 for removing the rear pews and "smoothing up place" (Two full rows were removed)

1892 - From the minutes of a Parish Meeting - June 2nd - "Voted: that an intermission be taken to discuss the cake and strawberries which have been prepared for the occasion. Voted: that we adjourn"

1880 - The Unitarian Ladies Sewing Circle donated \$1000 for the new chapel (Parish House) This group combined with the BBA in 1911

1898 - The Bridgewater Branch Alliance was organized, developing from the Women's Auxilliary

The Society redecorated the church in 1928. At that time, the chandelier given by Mary Allen was removed. No mention has been found as to what became of it.

BOOKS IN THE ARCHIVES

RECORDS UNDER REV. R. M. HODGES, REV. T. DOGGETT, C. BRADFORD, T. BROWN
(including notes from earlier records)

TREASURER'S BOOK

TRUSTEES OF PARISH FUNDS 1803 no. 15

MEMO BOOK NO. 1 PARISH TAX

MEMO BOOK NO. 2 PARISH TAXES

EXPENSES OF ALTERATION OF MEETING HOUSE 1810 no. 8

ACCOUNT OF PARISH FUNDS

FIRST CONG. SOCIETY 1816 to 1850 no. 14

VALUATION OF REAL AND PERSONAL ESTATE 1821 no. 12
(listings included)

VALUATION AND A COPY OF THE TAX 1823 no. 4

SIGNING FUND

FIRST CONG. SOCIETY 1823 no. 11

VALUATION OF THE REV. R. M. HODGES SOCIETY AND A COPY OF THE TAX FOR 1824 no. 13

VALUATION AND COPY OF THE TAX OF THE REV. R. M. HODGES SOCIETY FOR 1825 no. 5

VALUATION AND COPY OF THE TAX OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN BRIDGEWATER
FOR 1826 no. 6

VALUATION AND COPY OF TAX OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN BRIDGEWATER
1827 no. 7

VALUATION AND COPY OF TAX OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN BRIDGEWATER
1828 no. 8

PARISH TAX 1829 no. 14

TAX BILL FOR THE PARISH FOR 1822 no. 3

PARISH TAX 1830 no. 10

TAX BILL 1832 no. 11

VALUATION & TAX 1833 no. 12

PARISH TAX 1834 no. 9

SUBSCRIPTION 1838 to 1843 no. 14

- NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN BRIDGEWATER 1843 no. 17
- SUBSCRIPTION 1844 1845 no. 15
- SUBSCRIPTION TO MR. BRADFORD'S SALARY 1848 no. 16
- ACT OF INCORPORATION
HISTORY
BY LAWS, OLD ONES 1837, NEW ONES 1958
LIST OF MEMBERS 1853
- REPORTS OF PLYMOUTH & BAY ASSOCIATION 1846 1867
- REV. R. M. HODGES SEMI CENTENNIAL DISCOURSE DELIVERED SEPT. 17, 1871 no. 7
- PARISH SUBSCRIPTION 1ST CONGL. SOCIETY 1876
- PARISH ANNUAL REPORTS CLERK AND COMMITTEES 1877 - 1970
- NOTEBOOK (M. HOOPER - ?) 1883 - 1885
- SUBSCRIPTION BOOK CHURCH TREASURER'S ACCOUNT BOOK 1883 - 1893
- SUBSCRIPTION BOOK FIRST CONG. SOCIETY, BRIDGEWATER, MASS. 1894
- SUBSCRIPTION LIST 1884
- UNITARIAN SOCIETY, BRIDGEWATER, MASS. 1892
- RECORDS 1895 - 1896
- HYMN AND TUNE BOOK FOR THE CHURCH AND HOME AND SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP
1877 (used by Hosea Kingman)
- A BOOK OF SONG AND SERVICE 1895
- DESCENDANTS OF REV. JAMES KEITH THROUGH HIS SON TIMOTHY 1662
Published in 1889

DOCUMENT INVENTORY
Papers 1715 - 1791

- 1715 - Copy deed: James Keith to his son Samuel Keith - July 5, 1715
- 1716 - Deed of land to the inhabitants of the South Parish
- 1758 - Precinct warrant
- 1758 - Treasurer report
- 1759 - Warrant for Parish Meeting
- 1759 - Pew sales
- 1759 - Order on Treasurer
- 1763 - Bill of Valuation
- 1763 - Parish rate bills
- 1764 - Assessor's Warrant to the Constable
- 1764 - Parish order on treasurer
- 1764 - Valuation bill
- 1764 - Parish rate bills
- 1765 - Valuation bill
- 1765 - Parish Rate Bills
- 1765 (?) - Bill of assessment (burned)
- 1766 - Parish rate bill
- 1766 - Treasurer's report
- 1780 - Pew deed: #42, lower floor meeting house
- 1784 - Highway laid out f/E. Carver house to Aldrich Rd.
- 1791 - Warrant

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The information in this booklet was compiled by Dorothy L. Mann and Anne H. Bates, and was printed by the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School through the cooperation of Edwin Denton, Ruth Alexander and Glen Morrison.

The cover design is by Richard Bartlett.

The sources used were the Bridgewater Book, 1899, the writings of Joshua Crane, and the records of the First Parish, Unitarian Church of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Crane Booklet

