

First Parish Church Collection, 1680-1963

Repository:	Hingham Public Library
Manuscript #:	
Quantity:	1 document box, one half-document box, 1 non-standard flat box
Processed By:	Emily Lapworth and Jennifer Williams. Finding aid completed in November of 2014.
Access:	Open for research. Some materials have been placed in protective enclosures and should not be removed from them.
Related Materials:	The Bicentennial Collection contains town records that relate to First Parish and other churches. The Hingham Public Library's subject files and library books contain a great deal of information on this subject. There is also information about Rev. Joseph Richardson in the Richardson Family Papers. Finally, there are family papers related to several of the members mentioned in the materials, including the Lincolns and the Hobarts.

Provenance

This is an artificial collection that was assembled by John Richardson in the mid-20th century. He donated it to the Hingham Public Library in 1976 and 1980 as part of the Bicentennial Collection. The materials were originally created by the ministers and members of the church, as well as local historians and news writers.

Historical Note

The First Parish Church was established in September of 1635 by Rev. Peter Hobart, who had arrived from Hingham, Norfolk, England only a few months beforehand. Hobart, who had received a bachelor's degree from Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1625, was a very popular figure when he arrived in Massachusetts. He was offered pastoral positions in several different settlements but turned them down in order to live Hingham (then called Bare Cove). Many of the people at the settlement had also come from Norfolk, England, and Hobart was therefore very familiar with them.

When he established the First Parish in Hingham, it was the twelfth church to have been created in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Over the next few years a substantial number of new settlers came to Hingham, and the Parish prospered. Robert Peck, another graduate of Magdalene College, was appointed to the position of Teacher of the Church. Both he and Rev. Hobart were non-conformist in their beliefs, desiring more autonomy from the established church and spurning what they believed to be a corrupt and harsh institution. They also desired more independence for local governments. These beliefs resulted in several clashes with the church establishment and the colonial government.

Still, Hobart was dedicated to his profession, holding services in his home before a church was built. A pious man, he was known for his well-crafted and researched sermons as well as his distaste for any type of indulgence, including alcoholism, gossiping, and vanity/pride. He often spoke of the perils of these sins in his sermons but was also known to speak to offenders in

private to encourage them to reform their ways. He remained the pastor of the First Parish until his declining health required him to step down in 1678.

Rev. John Norton was chosen as Hobart's successor. Born in Ipswich in approximately 1650, Norton graduated from Harvard College in 1671. He was considered to be a very quiet, peaceful, but friendly individual who was filled with religious zeal. It was during his tenure as minister that the Old Meeting House was erected. The first house of worship, built in 1635 on the site of Old Derby Academy, was a crude structure surrounded by a palisade to protect residents from attack. It had been designed for a very small group of parishioners, and in approximately 1679 Norton and his congregation decided the town needed a larger building to accommodate its growing number of residents.

There was a great deal of controversy over where the new meeting house would be built. Some parishioners wished to build it upon the same location of the current structure, while others spoke of their desire to build it elsewhere. After the intervention of the colonial government, a town meeting was held in May of 1681 and it was decided that the church would be built on land donated by Captain Joshua Hobart. Construction took place in July of 1681 and the new meeting house was officially open for public worship in the following year.

Rev. Norton died on October 3, 1716 at the age of sixty-six, and it was almost two years before a replacement was found. Two individuals, Rev. Samuel Fisk and Rev. Thomas Prince, were asked to take the position but both declined. In 1717 Rev. Ebenezer Gay preached in the church and was offered the opening. He accepted it and was officially installed on June 11, 1718. Rev. Gay was born in Dedham in 1696 and attended Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1714. In 1785 he would return there to earn his S.T.D.

Dr. Ebenezer Gay held very unorthodox views compared to the ministers who preceded him. In a time when the Great Awakening was sweeping the East Coast, Gay proposed a more rational religion. He believed that everyone could achieve salvation by completing good works and interpreting the Bible through reason. It was through rational thought, not emotions, that men and women could understand their religious responsibilities. Many of the wealthier families in Hingham embraced this individualistic theology and Gay was therefore able to peacefully convert many residents to a set of beliefs that would eventually evolve into Unitarianism.

Gay became a controversial figure during the United States Revolutionary War. A staunch Tory, he encouraged the town to remain loyal to the King. Revolutionary leaders in Boston became increasingly frustrated as Hingham refused to boycott British goods and sent a representative to the General Court who was also a Tory. However, after the Boston Massacre Gay no longer received support from the town and a militia was prepared to support the revolutionaries. Despite this fact, Gay remained a loyalist and lost several intimate friends and supporters who could not countenance his politics. Still, the respect and affection afforded him by the town meant that he was allowed to remain minister during and after the war. Gay died on May 8, 1787 while preparing for his Sunday service.

Those wealthy individuals who supported Rev. Gay's rational religion sought an appropriate successor after his death, and found one in Rev. Henry Ware. Born in 1764 and valedictorian of

his class at Harvard in 1785, Rev. Ware held beliefs similar to his predecessor. He was welcomed into the town during the year of 1787 with a magnificent ball held by Sarah Derby. Ware remained in his position as minister of the First Parish for eighteen years, during which time he completed the conversion of the Parish to Unitarianism. In 1805 he accepted an appointment as the Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard College and left the town for Cambridge. He would later return to Hingham in order to lead the New North Church.

After the departure of Rev. Ware there was a backlash against his supporters. A new group of individuals rising to power sought to have Rev. Joseph Richardson installed as the Parish minister. Richardson was born in 1778 and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1802. Ware and old guard supporters had been Federalists, while these newly influential families tended to be Jeffersonians. Thus a political and religious battle ensued over whether Richardson, a Jeffersonian, would become the new minister. Many different negative claims were made against Richardson's character were, but ultimately he was chosen to be the new minister. He was installed in July of 1806 and those families who opposed his appointment left the Parish in order to establish the New North Church.

This schism would continue for many years, with Richardson being isolated from other ministers in the area. Still, he was a very active minister who was passionate about his beliefs. In many cases he beliefs fell into the area of politics. He was a confirmed abolitionist and made his beliefs known to local, regional, and national politicians many times. He was a member of the Convention to revise the State Constitution in 1820 and also served two terms as State Representatives. He also widened his sphere of influence by twice winning a seat in the United States House of Representatives in the 1820s. Throughout the first half of the 19th century Richardson was successful in performing his duties as minister and politician. He gave rousing and heartfelt sermons at the pulpit and was held in high esteem by his parishioners. In 1855 he stopped active ministering due to his ailing health, but remained affiliated with the Parish until his death in 1871.

Rev. Calvin Lincoln replaced Richardson as minister of the First Parish Church. A Hingham native born in 1799, Lincoln graduated from Harvard College in 1820. After beginning his career in Fitchburg, Lincoln became associate pastor at First Parish in 1855, and was the sole pastor after the death of Rev. Richardson. Rev. Lincoln was known for his passionate sermons and reliable common-sense attitude. He did not involve himself in new theological debates due to his firm beliefs in formerly annunciated religious tenets, but still kept himself informed by researching all new popular ideas and beliefs. Rev. Lincoln was considered a kind man who was a friend to everyone, and was greatly respected by residents of all denominations. He died on September 11, 1881.

Rev. Edward A. Horton came to Hingham in 1877 as the associate pastor under Rev. Lincoln, but left this position in 1880 in order to be installed as full pastor at the Second Church in Boston, Mass. Thus when Rev. Lincoln died it was necessary to search for a successor, and Rev. H. Price Collier was chosen to fill the vacancy. Rev. Collier was born in Iowa during the year of 1860, and graduated from the Harvard Divinity School in 1882. He was installed as pastor of the First Parish later that year.

Rev. Collier was a very political minister, espousing his Republican views quite publicly. He often spoke against prohibition, believing that the issue was too complex to be solved with such a drastic measure. He was also very active in local society, coaching several different athletic teams and promoted all forms of athletics to his parishioners. Rev. Collier's religious beliefs focused on the idea of compassion and liturgical freedom. He preached to the First Corps of Cadets and actively worked with ministers from other denominations, including participating in joint sermons. He was even willing to marry a young couple using Episcopal rights. Rev. Collier's beliefs, compassion, and genial personality made him beloved by his congregation. He remained with the church until 1888, when accepted a position in Brooklyn, NY.

After failing to secure the services of Rev. Eugene R. Shippen, Rev. John W. Day was chosen to be the next minister. Born in 1861, he graduated from Harvard Divinity School around 1881 and worked in two other churches before being installed as minister of First Parish in 1890.

Rev. Louis Craig Cornish was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts during the year of 1870. He pursued several different careers before deciding to attend Harvard Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1899. He was installed as minister of First Parish in June of 1900. Rev. Cornish was a very active minister, spearheading a successful fundraiser to obtain enough money to build the Hingham Memorial Belltower and spending a great deal of time preparing for, and participating in, the town's 275th anniversary celebration. He was also the first president of the Hingham Arts and Crafts Society and one of the founders of the Hingham Historical Society. Rev. Cornish was greatly respected by the town's residents for his efforts in these endeavors. He left the Parish in 1915 but would continue his religious work elsewhere. He eventually became the President of the American Unitarian Association and participated in many overseas missions before his death in 1950.

Rev. Cornish was succeeded as minister by Rev. Houghton Page (born H. Houghton Schumacher), who was born in Quincy, Massachusetts during the year of 1883. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1911 and served as minister in Maine, Iowa, and Montana before being installed at the First Parish in 1916. During his tenure as minister, Page was devoted to working with young people in the church. He was the President of the Young People's Religious Union, a national organization for Unitarian Youth.

In this capacity Rev. Cornish developed the idea of "Young People's Day" in which the youth in all Unitarian churches would be allowed to participate more prominently in the church services. The idea soon spread and became a very popular annual event in Massachusetts. In Boston it became the first day of "Young People's Week." Aside from his devotion to working with youths, Page was also very involved in the Harvard Divinity School Alumni Association, serving as its secretary. He left the First Parish in 1926 to become the minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Greenfield, Mass. He remained in that position until his death in 1931.

The vacancy left after Rev. Cornish's departure was quickly filled by Rev. J. Harry Hooper, who was born in 1888 and raised in Quincy, Mass. He attended the University of Chicago before enrolling in the Meadville, PA Theological School, from which he graduated in 1922. He was quickly installed at the Florence Unitarian Church in Northampton, Mass. and remained there

until 1926. In that year he became the minister of First Parish, a position he would hold until 1941.

During his years at the church he oversaw the restoration of Old Ship Meeting House to reflect 18th century architecture. Over the centuries there had been many renovations and changes made to the building. Rev. Hooper felt that the building was of such historic importance that a complete restoration to a more traditional look was warrant. He was able to secure the funds for this ambitious project from Eben Howard Gay, a descendent of Rev. Ebenezer Gay. The restoration was complete by the end of 1930, with the dedication taking place in October of that year.

In 1940 Rev. Hooper joined the Unitarian Service Committee, and organization created under the auspices of the American Unitarian Association. The purpose of the committee was to find opportunities for humanitarian service, especially as regarded displaced persons in Europe during World War II. In 1941 Rev. Hooper resigned from his position as minister at First Parish in order to become the Associate Director of the Committee, which was based in New York. He became the minister of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, with which he remained affiliated until his death in 1972.

Ministers of First Parish:

1889-1899: John William Day

1942-1945: Anders Steen Lunde

1943-1951: Raymond B. Johnson

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes records created by First Parish and its ministers, and historical material about First Parish and Old Ship Church. The records of First Parish document administrative activities, services, ministers, the community (including the Sunday School), and events. The history of First Parish and Old Ship Church are also documented within this collection by handwritten notes, printed booklets, pictures of the church, ephemera, and newspaper and magazine clippings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. First Parish Records, 1768-1930, undated
 - Subseries I. Correspondence, 1768-1877
 - Subseries II. Administrative Records, 1808-1873, undated
 - Subseries III. Parish Reports, 1876-1930
- Series II. Church Services Records, 1680, 1830-1956
 - Subseries I. Sermons and Discourses, 1680, 1830-1949
 - Subseries II. Programs, 1869-1956
- Series III. Ministers' Papers, 1806-1882, undated
 - Subseries I. Rev. Joseph Richardson, 1806-1856

- Subseries II. Calvin Lincoln, 1869-1882
 - Subseries III. H. Price Collier, 1881-1882, undated
- Series IV. Congregation Activities, 1838-1927, undated
 - Subseries I. First Parish Sunday School, 1838-1892, undated
 - Subseries II. Ladies' Benevolent Society, 1890-1892, 1927
 - Subseries III. Social Events, 1871-1915
- Series V. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1881-1963
- Series VI. Ephemera, 1881-1963
- Series VII. History, 1807-1957, undated
 - Historical Notes, 1869-1899, undated
 - Historical Booklets, 1807, 1902-1957
 - Pictures, undated

Series I. First Parish Records, 1768-1930, undated

Subseries I. Correspondence, 1768-1877

Box 1, Folder 1 and Box 3, Folder 1

This subseries contains six letters and one small envelope. The correspondents in these letters include Solomon Lincoln, George Lincoln, Rev. Ebenezer Gay, Daniel Shute, Fearing Burr, Lucy Clark (Ware) Allen, Mary Cotton Ware, and Henry C. Harding. The letters discuss such topics as: Nova Scotia's need for a new minister in 1768; the history of the First Parish Church and its Sunday School in the 19th century; the publication of the proceedings at the rededication of the Meeting House in the second half of the 19th century; the installment of Rev. Edward August Horton as minister in 1877; the formation of Committees on Collation and Nomination in 1877; and the goings-on in Rev. Henry Ware's family in the 1820s.

Subseries II. Administrative Records, 1808-1873, undated

Box 1, Folders 2-3 and Box 3, Folder 2

This subseries is composed of approximately twenty documents. Several of the materials are meeting minutes and notifications for Parish members of upcoming meetings. They focus on: the procedures quarreling parties should follow in order to bring their disagreements to the Church; the need for qualified freeholders and other Hingham inhabitants to attend a meeting in order to vote on several issues and hear the latest committee reports, the meeting of committees appointed to improve the Church grounds; and the committee appointed to oversee publication of the proceedings of the rededication of the Meeting House. The majority of these materials were created in the 19th century, with one undated item that might have been created as far back as the early 18th century. The names mentioned within these documents include George Lincoln, Solomon Lincoln, Henry C. Harding, Joshua Hubbard, and Duncan Thaxter.

There are also multiple documents relating to the renting of pews by Hingham families as well as the Church's burial grounds. The majority of the materials are receipts and deeds, dating between the 1860s and 1880s, recognizing that George Lincoln and John K. Corthell have made payments for specific pews. There are also two plans of the church pews indicating where different families sat in 1869. Also included is an undated, hand

drawn map of land sold by Joshua Tucker to be used as burial plots next to the Meeting House. The shapes of the plots are shown, as well as their owners. On the back is a hand drawn image of one of the plots. The map is incomplete, with at least one panel missing.

Subseries III. Parish Reports, 1876-1930

Box 1, Folders 4-5

This subseries contains thirteen items, the majority of which are yearly report booklets. These reports contain such information as: the names and positions of Parish employees; short reports from, and lists of members involved in, Parish groups; and reports from the Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Minister, and Parish Committee. The format of the booklets, as well as the information they contain, changes throughout the years. These reports date between 1898 and 1930, with the majority having been created between 1902 and 1916. The series also includes two copies of the Committee of the First Parish's 1876 report on the subject of taxation. The report, which is in the form of a booklet, focuses on the different ways in which the Parish could increase taxes in order to raise more money. The booklet includes lists detailing the amount of taxes paid by Parish members using the current taxing methods, as well as what they would pay if the Parish decided to change the method of taxation.

Series II. Church Services Records, 1680, 1830-1956

Subseries I. Sermons and Discourses, 1680, 1795-1805, 1830-1949

Box 1, Folders 6-7 and Box 3, Folder 3

This subseries is composed of eleven sermons and discourses given by the Parish's ministers as well as visiting clergy members. The earliest sermon was given by Rev. John Norton in the late 17th century, and was written down by Matthew Hawke around 1680. The majority of the other booklets were created in the 19th century, only four having been created in either the 18th or 20th centuries. There are large gaps between the years in which the materials were published. There are several copies of some materials. The subjects of the sermons and discourses vary widely, but include: the evils of intemperance; the problems with using the idea of having stronger morals to promote one's Christian sect; the importance of places of worship; the 220th anniversary of the opening of the Old Meeting House; and the true meaning of the Holy Ghost. The names of the ministers who created these materials are: Rev. Raymond B. Johnson; Rev. William W. Fenn; Rev. Louis C. Cornish; Rev. Alonzo Hill; Rev. Charles W. Upham; Rev. Henry Ware; and Rev. Samuel Presbury.

Subseries II. Programs, 1869-1956

Box 1, Folder 8 and Box 3, Folder 4

This subseries contains thirty-three programs detailing the services and exercises included at various events held at the Parish. These events include: the reopening of the Meeting house in 1869; Christmas celebrations; the centennial anniversary of the founding of the United States; the installation of new ministers; funerals; the dedication of the memorial organ in 1892; and several different anniversary celebrations for the raising of the Old Meeting House. The programs include such information as the hymns and anthems that were sung; dedications that were made; the names of speakers; prayers

and benedictions; as well as historical information about the Parish. These activities are listed in the order in which they were performed, with many of the anthems and hymns are typed in full. The materials in this subseries date between 1869 and 1956, with large gaps in time between many of the documents.

Series III. Ministers' Papers, 1806-1882, undated

Subseries I. Rev. Joseph Richardson Papers, 1806-1856

Box 1, Folders 9-10

This subseries contains eighteen printed booklets written by, or about, Rev. Joseph Richardson. The sermons and discourses (1806-1856) were written by Rev. Richardson and focus on multiple subjects, including: the life and death of President William Henry Harrison; the need to follow the laws of God even if it means defying the laws of man; the history of the Parish and Richardson's years ministering there; the deaths of Hingham residents; the duties of women in the home and to their families; and the responsibilities of clergymen. There are also several copies of a letter written by Rev. Richardson in 1847 to the members of his Parish. In this letter Rev. Richardson focuses on his desire to invite ministers from other churches in Hingham to preach at the Parish and includes his correspondence with other Hingham ministers on the subject.

There are also copies of two other booklets. The first booklet, published in 1807, defends the controversial decision to hire Rev. Richardson as the Parish minister when some members of the church believed his character to be questionable. It includes letters and other documents discussing Richardson and his hiring at the church. The second booklet, published in 1818, was written by Rev. Richardson about complaint he wished to make regarding the actions of the clergy members in the Bay Association. He discusses the controversy surrounding his becoming the minister at the Parish and the fact that he believes many of the clergy members of the Association unfairly aided and supported those attempting to tarnish his character.

Subseries II. Rev. Calvin Lincoln Papers, 1869-1882

Box 1, Folder 11

This subseries includes four booklets and three sets of notes created by, or about, Rev. Calvin Lincoln between 1869 and 1882. The booklets include a discourse on the life and death of Rev. Ezra Stiles Gannet given by Lincoln in 1871 as well as another discourse he gave in 1869 regarding the re-opening of the meeting house after the building was renovated. The latter includes a history of the Parish and the church building, copies of historical documents relating to them, a plan of the pews, and the order of services for the re-opening celebration. There are also two copies of booklets representing the funeral services for Calvin Lincoln in 1881. They include a sermon by Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, addresses by several other clergy members, as well as a sketch of Rev. Lincoln's life by one of his parishioners. The three handwritten sets of notes are related to the various sections of the 1869 booklet celebrating the re-opening of the meeting house, including the prefatory note, cover, and the history of the church.

Subseries III. Rev. Hiram Price Collier Papers, 1881-1882, undated

Box 1, Folder 12

This subseries contains seven items created by, or about, Rev. Hiram Price Collier. These materials include a photograph of an older Rev. Collier taken at an unknown date as well as notes written by John Richardson regarding Rev. Collier's life. The notes include information on his birth, publications, and career as a minister. There are also two clippings written by Rev. Collier. The first clipping is his 1888 farewell sermon to the First Parish congregation which was published in the Sunday Morning Edition of the Gazette. The second clipping contains Rev. Collier's history of the Old Meeting House - complete with drawings of the building's interior and exterior as well as pictures of former ministers - which was published in the June, 1893 edition of *New England Magazine*.

The subseries also includes correspondence. There are letters written by Rev. Collier to Francis Lincoln in 1881 regarding research Collier was conducting on the history of Rev. Peter Hobart. Another letter in this subseries is a copy of one written in 1882 by Rev. Francis G. Peabody. It discusses not only the fact that Rev. Peabody ordained Rev. Collier, but also the history of those in the ordination chain leading to Peabody's ordination. Included with the letter is a program for the order of services at the ordination of Rev. Collier as the minister at the First Parish Church on September 27, 1882. Finally, there is an envelope with the names of Rev. Collier and George Lincoln on it. It appears to be associated with a bill from Lewis, Brown & Co.

Series IV. Congregation Activities Records, 1838-1935

Subseries I. First Parish Sunday School Records, 1838-1892

Box 1, Folder 13 and Box 3, Folder 5

This subseries focuses on the creation and maintenance of the First Parish Sunday School. It includes several different types of handwritten records, including the following: a booklet detailing the history of the creation of the Sunday School between April and October of 1838; two sets of minutes from teacher meetings in 1848; annual Sunday School reports for 1852 and two other undated years; notes regarding the 1848 Sunday School season; and a letter written by the school superintendent regarding his recent absence from the school. These materials focus on the names and numbers of students participating in the school, the names and duties of the teachers, the number of books in the school library, the election of school officials (e.g. the superintendent, the librarians, etc.), the purpose of the school, and its curriculum.

The subseries also includes four printed documents. The first is a copy of an address given before the Sunday School by James H. Wilder during the school's 1840 picnic in the forest sanctuary. It includes a description of the picnic and sanctuary, the full text of songs sung, as well as Mr. Wilder's full speech. There are also two copies of a hymn created to be sung by the children participating in the Sunday School on August 27, 1843. Finally, there is a pamphlet containing the Easter Service Exercises recommended by the Unitarian Sunday-School Society in 1892. It includes sheet music, responsive readings, and spaces for addresses, recitations, and benedictions.

Subseries II. Ladies' Benevolent Society Records, 1890, 1892, 1927

Box 2, Folder 1

This subseries contains five printed items detailing the activities of the Ladies' Benevolent Society in 1890, 1892, and 1927. The first item is a program for two plays performed at Loring Hall on February 13, 1890 under the auspices of the Society. It includes the names of the plays, the authors, and the names of the main actors. There is also a broadside advertising a lecture to be given on the subject of the Passion Play. The lecture, which was to take place on October 13, 1892, was going to be displayed using stereopticon illustrations. There are also three copies of the program from the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, which occurred on October 5, 1927. It includes the names of current and past officers, the order of events taking place during the celebration, the names of members who participated in the anniversary committees, as well as the full text of songs that were going to be sung.

Subseries III. Church Social Event Records, 1857-1935

Box 2, Folder 2 and Box 3, Folder 6

This subseries contains multiple types of materials, including programs, broadsides, calendars, invitations, tickets, handwritten speeches, and fliers for events held by the First Parish Church. There are also usher and committee member ribbons from the 200th anniversary in 1881. Activities include social gatherings, farewell celebrations, music and choral recitals, the annual Christmas Festival, church anniversary celebrations, fairs, plays, fundraisers, and the 1896 "Old Gentleman's Fancy Dress Ball."

The information within these materials varies widely, but includes the dates and orders of different activities, the names committee members involved in planning the events, Rev. Day's departure from Hingham, admission prices, requests for donations of food, the full text of songs to be sung, and the names of musicians/bands participating in each event. Some of the materials also have handwritten notes on them related to the event they advertise or the name of important individuals who may have possessed the documents. The items in this subseries date between 1857 and 1935, with the bulk dating between 1870 and 1896.

Series V. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1881-1963?

Box 2, Folder 3

This series contains four newspaper and magazine clippings dating between 1881 and approximately 1963. The first clipping is from an 1881 edition of the *Boston Daily Advertiser* which discusses the planned celebratory activities in honor of the 200th anniversary of the erection of the Old Meeting House. The second clipping is from a 1926 edition of the *Boston Evening Transcript* which focuses on the hiring of Rev. James Henry Hooper to the position of minister for the First Parish Church. It includes a photograph of Rev. Hooper as well as another of the church exterior as well information regarding his history. The third clipping, which derives from a 1963 edition of the *Boston Globe*, discusses the dedication of Old Ship Church as a national historic monument. It includes historical information as well as interior and exterior photographs of the building. Finally, there is an undated clipping that appears to have been taken from a magazine. It contains a short, general history of the church as well as a drawing of its exterior.

Series VI. Ephemera, 1892-1906

Box 2, Folder 4 and Box 3, Folder 7

This series is composed of seven items, including two stock letters, three newsletters, one order form, and one poem. One stock letter, dated to 1900, informs parishioners that Rev. Louis Craig Cornish has been appointed the new Parish minister and will be formally installed into his new position on May 29th. The second letter is dated to 1892 and promotes a new hymn book that parishioners can buy for \$1.50. An order form is included with the letter. The acrostic poem, written in 1906, is dedicated to Sexton John B. Lewis and discusses his dedication to serving the church.

The subseries also includes three newsletters entitled *The Parish House Advertiser*. One of the copies is from February 22, 1894, while the other two were published on February 22, 1897. These items contain: food recipes; poems; fictional stories; short memoirs; parish news articles; articles focusing on local, regional, and national events; and advertisements for businesses, products, and events. The materials in this subseries date between 1892 and 1906, with the majority of items dating between 1892 and 1900.

Series VII. Parish Histories, Notes, and Photographs, 1807-1957, undated

Subseries I. Historical Notes, 1869-1899, undated

Box 2, Folder 5 and Box 3, Folder 8

This subseries includes handwritten notes and three handwritten histories regarding the history of the First Parish and its Meeting House. Two of the handwritten histories provide a concise overview of the first and current meeting houses, while the third is quite extensive and includes drawings of the church interior (including the names of family-owned pews), and lists of parishioners. The subjects of these materials include: when, where, and why the Meeting House was built; the surrounding lands; repairs and improvements made to it; descriptions of the church interior and pews designated for special use by church officials; the biographies of former ministers; and the names and roles of important parishioners.. These two documents are undated, although one appears to have been written in the 1820s while the other was most likely created in the late 19th century.

The notes contain such information as: the names of treasurers and sextons who served the Parish in the 17th, 18th, and 19th; the names of ministers who preached in the Meeting House during 1885; the names of residents who contributed funds to build the Meeting House as well as the amount of money they gave; money paid to various people for their services to the Parish between 1732 and 1805; the decisions made by various committees during the 19th century; repairs and improvements made to the Meeting House, including painting its exterior; Rev. Joseph's Richardson's tenure as minister of the Parish; and biographical information for several other former ministers. The majority of these records are undated, but appear to have been created mostly in the second half of the 19th century.

Subseries II. Historical Booklets, 1807, 1902-1957

Box 2, Folders 6-7

This subseries is composed of ten printed booklets documenting the history of the Old Ship Meeting House and First Parish. The oldest of the booklets was written in 1807 and focuses on the difficulties the Parish faced between 1807 and 1807 when the parishioners were looking for a minister to replace Rev. Ware. It includes excerpts from original church and town documents. The other materials were written in the early and mid-20th century. Some of the booklets are social histories detailing the history of the church and its parishioners beginning in the 17th century while others focus on the architectural history of the meeting House. The details provided in these histories vary widely, as some are only a few pages long while others are up to thirty-three pages in length. Two of the booklets are bulletins entitled *Old-Time New England* which focuses on historic buildings in different parts of New England. There is also a booklet which focuses on one Hingham, Mass. Resident's visit to Hingham, Norfolk, England in 1915.

Subseries III. Images, undated

Box 2, Folder 8 and Box 3, Folder 9

This subseries contains eleven undated images, the majority of which are drawings or photographs of the exterior of Old Ship Church. There are also drawings of the church interior, photographs of the church bell, and one drawing of the tablet dedicated to former ministers. Many of the images appear to have been removed from books, pamphlets, or fliers. Several also include historical information about the church.