

First Parish Church York, Maine

By: James Kences

Prelude I The Anglican Era.

c. 1636 the chapel or oratory that is conjectured to have been in proximity to the "burying place" later occupied by the Emerson Hotel in York Harbor, (Banks 2:99)

1640 The ministry of George Burdett and John Ward.

1641 At the division of the Agamenticus Grant in 1641, Edward Godfrey apportioned part of his grant as land for use by the church, (Banks 2:157)

1646 Joseph Hull ministry

1648 Nathaniel Norcross ministry

1652 Submission of Maine government at Gorgeana to Massachusetts, and the change of the community's name to York

c. 1660s Joseph Emerson and Shubael Dummer

Prelude II The Second Meeting House of 1667

March 2 1666 Contract with Henry Sayward for the construction of meeting house, 40ft by 28ft. of 15ft. stud with a turret on the top. This building was located on what is now Lindsay Road, close to Meeting House Creek, (Banks 2: 101-103).

1673 Ordination of Reverend Shubael Dummer—the date of inception for the church. Reverend Dummer was the son of Richard Dummer of the town of Newbury in Massachusetts. Samuel Sewall the Diarist, was the son of Jane Dummer, Richard's niece. The kindred relationships will later prove of importance with the migration of Sewalls to York in the early 18th century.

c. 1679 The building described as deteriorated, "open to the weather" and a nesting place for birds, (Banks 2: 104).

December 10, 1680 John Sayward contracted to construct galleries and provide adequate seating, (Banks 2: 104)

January 25, 1692 Reverend Shubael Dummer was killed in the raid upon the town during King William's War. The death of a minister under such circumstances was unprecedented, and the symbolic significance was thought an indication of God's punishment and the consequent need for moral reformation. This is what was meant by Cotton Mather's allusion to "the fall of one golden candlestick in our borders."

May 1698 The Reverend Samuel Moody had arrived in town as candidate for the ministry, (Banks 2: 131). Moody was married to Hannah Sewall the same year.

December 1700 Ordination of Samuel Moody.

June 9, 1702 Petition drafted to government in Boston for support of Moody ministry, (Banks 2: 133).

July 6, 1705 Death of newborn infant Lucy Moody—she was memorialized with the oldest dated gravestone in the burial ground.

THE THIRD MEETING HOUSE.

May 15, 1710 A building of 50ft. square was contracted to be constructed by the end of November 1712. This building represented the first phase of existence for the buildings that now occupy this site. The town's decision had occurred during the Anglo-French war that is popularly known as Queen Anne's War (1703-1713). York was to experience a sporadic group of enemy raids in two recognizable clusters in 1711 and 1712. The background events may have delayed the completion of the structure.

1715 Reference to the construction of parsonage building.

May 1719 Samuel Sewall's Diary entry: "Got comfortably to Mr. Woodbridge's about sun-set. Lodg'd at Cousin Moody's in a very good chamber and bed. Breakfast with Cousin Samuel Sewall. . . Hold the court in the meeting house. Mr. Moody prays excellently. . ." In the autumn of 1718, Sewall of Boston was appointed Chief-Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. This entry referred to his arrival at York for the court session of the annual circuit. The mention here of Cousin Moody and Cousin Sewall, reveals the kinship relationships of these families, that is also reflected in the organization of gravestones in the burial ground. Reverend Moody had married the daughter of John Sewall, the Diarist's brother in 1698. Her two brother's Nicholas, the tanner, and Samuel Sewall, migrated to the town at this time. Newbury, the town of origin for both Sewalls, Moodys, and earlier of Reverend Dummer, the three inter-related families which embody the founding group of the church, would provide a number of migrants to this town, including the taverner Woodbridge.

August 31st 1720 "Voted that the house built for the ministry in sd. York where Mr. Samuel Moody now liveth by our meeting house in sd. York shall be garrisoned. . . with square timber of oake, pine or hemlock of ten inches thick as soon as possible, fifty-six one way and fifty-two the other, square with two suitable balkins or flankers, to be ten feet high in the lowest part. . ." In the aftermath of the recent war that ended in 1713, rapid, aggressive, resettlement of the northern region pressed against the tribal territories of the natives. By 1720 and 1721, acts of violence directed against the migrants, became sufficiently serious to result in a declaration of war, that will be known either as Dummer's War after the sitting Lieutenant Governor Dummer, or Father Rasle's War. The war was a local Indian war confined to the northern frontier region from 1722 until 1725. In August of 1724, a military expedition launched from York, under the command of Johnson Harmon and Jeremiah Moulton, raided the mission village at Norridgewock above the Kennebec River. Father Sebastian Rasle was killed; he had begun to assume a notorious reputation for having provoked the violence. The colonial officers emerged from the event with new heroic stature that would continue for decades.

1730-1731 First and Second Parish formally enacted by Massachusetts legislature. The Reverends Samuel and his son, Joseph Moody occupied the pulpits of the two meetinghouses; alteration of meeting house building approved, 9ft. added at each end.

1733 Purchase of a Negro slave for the use of Reverend Moody.

1735 Construction of County Court House.

June 9, 1733 Voted, that there be a slave purchased by the parish to be employed for the use of the parish in laboring for the Reverend Samuel Moody (PR1:3) A Negro slave who was named Andrew was eventually purchased, but by December of 1735, the decision was made to end the situation. Reverend Moody's matrimonial alliance with Samuel Sewall's family, might have created for him a conflict of conscience in this episode, as Sewall had composed an early anti-slavery tract, *The Selling of Joseph*.

March 15, 1737 Repairs of roof to meeting house authorized.

March 27, 1739 An individual sought to keep school in parish for 3 months and to assist Reverend Moody.

1739 War declared by Britain against Spain, popularly known as War of Jenkin's Ear; deteriorating relations with France as a consequence of the Family Compact between the two kingdoms under the Bourbons. An increased expectancy of an Anglo-French war.

THE GREAT AWAKENING AND LOCAL REVIVALS

October 2, 1740 Reverend George Whitefield arrived in York during his New England tour. He observed the reaction of the congregation to his sermon, "the hearers looked plain and simple, and the tears trickled down their cheeks." Whitefield, the young English minister who was to become famous for his "field preaching" by which he delivered the message of the new birth to gatherings measured in thousands, had been in Boston since the middle of September. He then travelled north through Essex County to New Hampshire and to Maine. The 1740 visit was to be the first of three to this town.

1740-1741 As the Great Awakening, the general religious revival of the 1740s gained momentum, a number of itinerant ministers conducted tours of the New England towns. Gilbert Tennent, a Presbyterian minister from New Jersey came here the winter after Whitefield, and was followed by others from churches closer to this region.

October 1741 The visit of Biddeford minister Samuel Willard helped to precipitate a revival centered in York, which received full encouragement from Reverend Moody.

October 14, 1741 Mr. Moody about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, 3 or 4 hundred being assembled at the Meeting House without any notification they desire him to preach to them. These spontaneous gatherings of hundreds of people, and sessions lasting for many hours were not unusual.

November 17, 1741 Emerson and Moody—a woman in the gallery cried out and I think fainted. Another aspect of the revival displays of extreme emotion and even strange behavior. Emerson, referred to Daniel Emerson, Butler of Harvard College, who had been invited to town to assist Reverend Moody.

1742-1743 Parish approved plan for a bridge across York River at site later occupied by 1760 bridge.

THE PARSONAGE FIRE

April 16, 1742 Voted that the parish will build a parsonage house 36ft. long and 32ft. wide, two stories high. The parsonage had burned at the very end of March 1742.

November 9, 1742 Proposed assistant for Reverend Moody rejected.

August 4, 1743 Voted that Mr. Buel be hired at the charge of the parish to assist Reverend Moody three months next.

A NEW MEETING HOUSE

March-April 1744 Concern over condition of meeting house expressed at meetings. Conflict over issue of repairs or new building.

April 19, 1744 voted, that there be a meeting house built in this parish of 70ft. long and 50ft. wide, and 25ft. stud, and to be set in the same place where the old meeting house stood. (PR1:19)

Spring 1744 Britain declared war against France, popularly known as King George's War. The war continued until a treaty of 1748.

May 31, 1744 Voted, that there be a board garrison built round the parsonage with two flankers at opposite corners. The war explains the motives for this action, but the threat of an enemy raid had diminished.

September 20, 1744 Decision to mend or repair old meeting house for use in the winter. Wartime taxation, the absence of available labor, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, undoubtedly interfered with the scheduled construction. For a period from 1744 until 1747, satisfactory subscriptions for the project were not forthcoming.

October 1744 Reverend Whitefield seriously ill, disembarked from the ship Wilmington to York. Over the course of the winter he will be receiving treatment from physician Alexander Bullman.

THE LOUISBOURG CAMPAIGN OF 1745

February-March 1745 The campaign against the French Canadian fortress at Louisbourg was organized. The event was to impact the church, as many of the members of the parish as well as the presiding minister, Reverend Moody, were to depart as participants of an expedition under the shared commands of William Pepperell and Admiral Peter Warren of the British Royal Navy.

March 24, 1745 Col. Jeremiah Moulton chosen as treasurer to receive subscriptions for new meeting house—Col. Nathaniel Donnell was on the committee to find materials for use in construction of the building. As both men were commanders in the Louisbourg enterprise, the selections suggest a symbolic connection had been formed.

June 17, 1745 Fortress Louisbourg surrendered to the Colonial soldiers.

March-April 1747 Subscriptions for the meeting house had not been forthcoming. Two actions taken which indicate that the project was finally underway—old building was to be dismantled, and a steeple planned for the new building.

THE DEATH OF REVEREND MOODY

The death of Reverend Samuel Moody in November of 1747, was to be followed by a period of two years during which a successor was sought. Two candidates for the ministry were approved; first Peter Thatcher, and after him Moses Hale. Both men had to decline. The third candidate, Isaac Lyman, did accept the position as minister in 1749.

August 21, 1749 voted unanimously a concurrence with the church in the choice of Mr. Isaac Lyman as their pastor.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND ISAAC LYMAN 1749-1810

From the years just before the last of the French and Indian wars that was to result in the end of New France, until the eve of the War of 1812, a span of six decades, Isaac Lyman served as minister. Born in Northampton in 1724, son of Moses Lyman, a deacon in Jonathan Edward's church, Lyman had graduated from Yale in 1747. He was old enough to have witnessed the Connecticut River Valley revivals of the 1730s, and his associations may have been an influence in his appearance at York. Reverend Lyman kept a diary that has survived as fragments for the decades of the 1770s and 1790s currently housed at the historical society. He also possessed a copybook which contains excerpts from his readings and studies as well as historical information. John Adams implied in a letter to his wife in late June of 1774, that the minister expressed Loyalist sympathies, and that members of his family had been friends with Massachusetts Royal governor Thomas Hutchinson from the 1760s. Later, the family was allied to the Federalist Party; Lyman's nephew Caleb Strong was the Federalist governor of Massachusetts during the 1812 era.

November 13, 1749 Reverend Lyman's contract provided for 50 pound sterling annual salary with the use of parsonage.

December 14, 1749 Methods and Rules for church approved. The signatures of eight men, headed by Reverend Lyman affixed to document. (PR 36)

December 20, 1749 Reverend Isaac Lyman ordained.

March 5, 1751 Money to be raised on pews for the finishing of the meeting house.

August 30, 1753 approval of church policy regarding children born outside of marriage.

November 29, 1753 Samuel Sewall, Joseph Holt, John Bradbury chosen as Ruling Elders. A special responsibility of these officers was "to examine into the Foundation of Scandals" that might prove damaging to the conduct of the church.

February 1754 Jonathan Sayward was chosen as one of the church deacons. Sayward first appeared in the record in 1747, when he was placed on committees, including those involved in the search for a successor to Reverend Moody

March 25, 1755 Repairs to meeting house and other buildings a current concern.

1755 expense for weight and pulleys to the meeting house door.

November 1755 Local revival followed the occurrence of the Great Earthquake.

1755-1756 The first phase of the Seven Year's War (1756-1763), the last of the French and Indian wars. Soldiers from this town assumed an active role in a succession of military expeditions. As with every one of the colonial wars, provincial taxes increased, and this would have impacted local affairs.

1756 Building wall on parsonage land.

March 27, 1759 Concern over the wanderings of livestock in the burial ground.

1760-1761 A pile bridge constructed across the York River, engineered by Samuel Sewall and Capt. John Stone.

1760 Jonathan Sayward began diary which he continued until weeks prior to his death in May 1797.

March 18, 1760 Samuel Moody given approval for construction of school on parsonage land.

March 20, 1760 The Great Boston fire, visible on the horizon from Portsmouth and also very likely from York. April 3, contribution raised by First Parish for relief of sufferers of fire.

1762 Darby Quin compensated for ringing the bell. He had succeeded Job Young, and in 1761, Young's widow Patience; Benjamin Stone a record of expense for "oyl and paint for meeting house."

May 1764 Jonathan Sayward elected to the Massachusetts House as York's representative. He would be elected each year until 1769, when he was defeated, a consequence of his involvement in rescinding the Circular Letter in June of 1768.

August 30, 1764 Deacon Samuel Milberry chosen as church elder. (CR 16)

1764 The Census revealed 292 families inhabited the First Parish and 105 families in the Second Parish. Town's total population 2,220 persons.

July 20, 1765 Death of Colonel Jeremiah Moulton the first Parish Clerk.

April 14, 1768 Wigglesworth Toppan chosen as a deacon. (CR 20)

September 27, 1770 The final visit of Reverend Whitefield to York. From Reverend Lyman's Diary: preached for me at York—I am the Way—September 28 at Doctor Langdons to a great Auditory. . ." Whitefield died three days after his appearance at the First Parish at Newburyport, and was buried at the church in that town.

May 2, 1771 Money from Alexander Maxwell's estate to provide for communion Table.

March 24 1772 Parsonage house be shingled and painted, repairs to meeting house.

April 7, 1776 Church approved reverend Lyman's request to perform private baptisms of children who lived at a distance from meeting house and could not be easily brought to the town center. (CR 23)

June 2, 1776 Parents not in covenant could bring children for baptism if children expressed intention based upon one of parents in covenant.

January 1, 1777 129 of the town's 607 men were currently in the American army, (Banks 1:14).

1778 Town Meeting, 2024 pounds to be raised. The figure reflected rising inflation of the currency.

August 1779 Town Meeting. David Sewall chosen as delegate to Massachusetts constitutional convention, TR 191.

January 25, 1780 Sayward Diary "...I hear that cord wood is 100 dollars pr cord at Cape Neddick Landing. . ."

1780 Tax Book reveals the full impact of the inflated currency, with amounts in hundreds of pounds for several individuals; Jonathan Sayward 381 pounds, Edward Emerson 265 pounds. The previous year the taxes were half this amount—for Sayward 153, or Emerson, 74. In 1778 even less, for Sayward 36 pounds, Tax Book 125,123,89, 41

June 16, 1780 The new Massachusetts state constitution was ratified; October 25, 1780 new state government implamented, Leamon, 171.

August 29, 1780 First Parish Assessors: "...We have made the rate. . .and set down each one's proportion if paid in silver or produce in one column, and what it shall be in [Continental]paper currency in another column. . ."

May 1781 Sayward Diary: Smallpox outbreak "14 persons all confined to [pest house]"

August 2, 1781 Jonathan Sayward with Joseph Simpson were chosen church elders.

October 27, 1781 Sayward Diary: Celebration over Yorktown, "300 Discharges of cannon in this town. . ."

January 24, 1783 Selectmen petition to legislature regarding fine for failing to meet quota of soldiers: "they are much reduced in their circumstances. . .probably one half the inhabitants without bread, Banks 1: 420.

March 18, 1783 Shingle meeting house next year.

April 29, 1783 Sayward Diary: "Publick rejoicing on account of peace carried to excess. . ." The cessation of hostilities after eight years of war.

March 16, 1784 Repairs to meeting house.

1785 2 front seats on right hand of front aisle—singing seats.

1787 Constitutional convention in Philadelphia; Winter 1788 Massachusetts ratifying convention held in Boston, Nathaniel Barrell and Esais Preble as delegates.

March 25, 1787 Obtain a bell.

November 3, 1789 Barn to be built.

January 8, 1791 Vote taken at meeting rejected proposed assistant to Reverend Lyman.

March 10, 1792 Steeple of meeting house.

1794-1796 David Sewall constructed Coventry Hall; November 17, 1796 Susanna Emerson Diary “. . .the young gentlemen and ladies of the most respected families in the town, met to congratulate Judge Sewall and lady, at their new dwelling house. . .”

March 15, 1797 No encouragement to singers.

March 21, David Sewall chosen parish clerk.

May 8, 1797 Death of Jonathan Sayward.

MINISTERIAL FUND INTRODUCED

December 1797 Ministerial Fund; March 20, 1798 David Sewall, Col. Esais Preble, Edward Emerson Jr. trustees of fund.

March 20, 1798 Reverend Timothy Alden.

REVEREND ROSEWELL MESSENGER 1798-1813

August 13, 1798 Reverend Rosewell Messenger approved as assistant to Lyman.

March 19, 1799 The issue of Messenger's salary.

January 2, 1800 Reverend Messenger delivered funeral oration for George Washington who had died on December 14 at Mount Vernon from complications of “an inflammatory sore throat.” The men in town wore black arm bands on their left arms and the women were dressed in white and brandished veils of black crepe.

1800 The issue of people tarrying—singing seats in the gallery.

1802 Repairs to meeting house—clapboard—windows; June vote on Ministerial Fund 27-22.

1804 Repairs to meeting house—expenses in Parish tax book.

March 18, 1806 Joseph Bragdon chosen parish clerk.

April 10, 1809 Repairs to meeting house clapboard.

THE DEATH OF REVEREND LYMAN

March 12, 1810 Reverend Lyman died.

June 28, 1810 Repairs—bell.

John Pell will—Pell Fund.

May 9-29, 1811 Review of Reverend Messenger's conduct following accusations directed against him; he was cleared of charges.

November 25, 1811 The land upon which the court house stands.

March 24, 1812 David Sewall chosen as clerk.

June 1812 Outbreak of War of 1812 against Great Britain—was will continue until 1815.

REVEREND MESSENGER REMOVED AS MINISTER

1813 Messenger controversy.

1814 Massachusetts legislature incorporated Ministerial Fund.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND MOSES DOW 1815-1829

November 18, 1815 Ordination of Reverend Moses Dow. Dow as born February of 1771, and was a graduate of Dartmouth College.

July 1817 Visit of President James Monroe to York during his Northern Tour; David Sewall formally welcomed the president and provided breakfast for him at Coventry Hall.

March 1820 Maine statehood. Movement toward statehood had begun soon after the Revolution, but only gained real momentum in the aftermath of the War of 1812, in reaction to Massachusetts neglect of Maine's defense.

THE DECADE OF WITHDRAWALS FROM THE PARISH

August 6, 1821 Purchase a new bell.

April 21, 1823 Annual parish meeting changed to November.

April 5, 1824 Repairs to meeting house and painting of building.

1825 Death of David Sewall.

1825 Reverend Dow conferred with church leaders regarding reduction to his salary.

November 18, 1826 Shingling of meeting house.

October 12, 1829 Shingling of meeting house; damage to weather cock.

November 18, 1829 The end of Dow's ministry; he had submitted his resignation at the beginning of the month.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND EBER CARPENTER 1830-1835

February 17, 1830 Reverend Carpenter ordained as minister. Born in Vernon, Connecticut, June of 1800—graduated from Yale and next attended Andover Theological Seminary. Banks 2: 149.

1830 Change annual parish meeting to April.

October 8, 1831 "Fund Additional"

1833 Alfred became the county seat of York County; May 25, 1833 the issue of the court house on parish land.

1834 The gift of Capt. Grover's bass viol.

September 1835 Council convened, end to Reverend Carpenter's ministry.

June 18, 1836 Reverend Vaill chosen for ministry.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND JOHN HAVEN 1836-1840

October 1836 Reverend John Haven accepted position as minister.

ALTERATIONS TO THE MEETING HOUSE

April 7, 1838 Discussion at meeting over proposals to alter existing building or construct a new structure.

In 1838 and 1839 the building was remodeled within and without. The galleries, elders seats, high pulpit and higher sounding board were removed, and more modern furniture substituted. The entrance, which had been on the street side, was changed to the end facing the court house, Banks 2:108.

July 3, 1839 The formal reopening of the meeting house, Banks 2:109.

November 23, 1840 Reverend Haven submitted his resignation—he cited the prevailing weather and climate as a cause of his decision.

February 1841 Reverend Carpenter was invited to return as minister but declined.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND JOHN L. ASHBY 1841-1849

Amended in place 1837 April 1841
June 25, 1841 Reverend Ashby was to receive his salary semi-annually in November and May (PR 3).

April 8, 1844 Burial Ground committee instructed to erect fence from gun house to school house, (PR 9).

April 13, 1846 Proposal to paint the meeting house if funds were sufficient, (PR:)

August 31, 1846 Repairs to belfry recommended,

April 12, 1847 Two individuals to be added to the number of church wardens, (PR 18).

April 3, 1848 York Town Meeting; Jeremiah Brooks, David Wilcox, seven others, signed temperance declaration—"idleness, poverty, vice and crime shall stalk our streets. . .and make desolate. . .our quiet homes and all our cherished institutions. . .TR 109-111.

March 10, 1849 The resignation of Reverend Ashby (PR: 21)

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND WILLIAM J. NEWMAN 1849-1850

April 30, 1849 Reverend Newman a candidate for ministry, (PR 25).

June 1, 1849 Newman's letter of acceptance, (PR 26).

March 5, 1850 The death of Reverend Newman. *at Andover*

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND JOHN SMITH 1850-1855

August 3, 1850 Reverend John Smith a candidate for ministry; in a letter from Reverend Smith, he indicated that he had recommended Newman to the church, (PR 31-34).

April 16, 1851 Joseph Moody Diary "...the highest tide today that ever was known by the oldest inhabitants now living—done much damage to bridges, wharves. . ."

February 25, 1852 Joseph Moody Diary: "...it is, and has been quite sickly about our town with the mumps, and many have colds which brings on lung fever. . ."

November 2, 1852 Joseph Moody Diary: "Presidential election. . .[Franklin]Pierce & King [Democrats] had 297 votes in this town, [Winfield]Scott [Whig candidate] 132, and John P. Hale [Free-Soil]4 votes. . ."

May 3, 1854 Tax on pews to finance repairs to meeting house.

March 8, 1855 Reverend Smith indicated intention to resign. Smith letter (45-47) offered explanation for how he became involved with the church after Newman's death.

April 9, 1855 A reference to Reverend French suggests he served as interim minister,(PR 47)

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND WILLIAM A. PATTEN 1855-1858

June 9, 1855 Reverend Patten a candidate for ministry.

April 14, 1856 Repairs to building, reference to belfry deck; other expenses include 20,000 shingles and 8000 lathes, (PR 52)

June 21, 1856 Reverend Patten accepted position as minister.

July 3, 1857 Admission, Confession of Faith and the Covenant.

July 1858 Resignation of Reverend Patten.

August 7, 1858 Reverend Abram Baldwin a candidate for ministry, (PR 63)

September 11, 1858 Baldwin declined, cited as reason that no vacation was provided; "This is (I believe) now almost universally regarded as necessary." He also thought the salary offered was inadequate, (PR 64)

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND WILLIAM W. PARKER 1858-1860

October 30, 1858 Reverend Parker a candidate for ministry; his ministry commenced on December 28, 1858, Banks 2: 153.

THE VESTRY

April 11, 1859 Land to be provided for a vestry; Ladies Vestry Association organized to provide funding for project, (PR 67)

September 17, 1859 Steeple in need of urgent repairs was described as being in a dangerous condition, (PR 69).

April 16, 1860 Two proposals approved—the sexton [Hiram Perkins] to ring bell at three different times on July 4; burial ground to be extended, PR 71 This was just prior to the tumultuous events of the 1860 Presidential election, and the ringing of the bell should possibly be viewed in that context.

September 10, 1860 Charles Clark Journal "State Election. . .about 600 voters out. . .state gone Republican—all through—complete sweep. . ."

November 6, 1860 Clark Journal: "Presidential Election. . .515 votes thrown, Republican majority over Douglas, Breckinridge & Bell tickets—the first time for 28 years that the Democrat ticket has not had the majority—God grant it may never rise again. . ."

November 21, 1860 Clark Journal “. . .making preparations for torch light procession, came off in the evening, had a grand time. . .” This parade to celebrate Lincoln’s election was enacted over Sewall’s Bridge.

December 8, 1860 Reverend Parker submitted his resignation, PR 73-74

THE PARSONAGE

December 29, 1860 Construction of parsonage subject of meeting, PR 75

March 4, 1861 Reverend Condit a candidate for ministry; the meeting was held on the day of President Lincoln’s inauguration, PR 76

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND RUFUS M. SAWYER 1861-1866

April 14, 1861 Fort Sumter garrison surrendered to Confederate forces at Charleston, South Carolina; President Lincoln summoned the state governments to supply a military response to the Rebellion.

October 26, 1861 Reverend Sawyer to the Parish leadership during the negotiations, “I shall expect a yearly vacation of four weeks. . .” PR 81

April 7, 1862 Two hour Sunday intermission imposed between morning and afternoon services.

April 13, 1863 Parish meetings held at the vestry and not the court house[town hall] for first time.

April 11, 1864 Repairs to belfry advised, PR 91.

September 12, 1864 Harriet Emerson Diary: “. . .It is town meeting, the Republicans have gain’d the day handsomely. . .” The meeting is recorded in TR 1864-1877 p. 4; Clark Journal “. . .a good turnout for the election of state officers. The Union voters were triumphant. . .out of a vote cast of 581, Union 293 and Copperhead 288. . .” 145

November 8, 1864 Harriet Emerson Diary “. . .Presidential Election day. . .Mild but a little foggy & damp—the Republicans have five more votes than the Democrats. . .”; Clark Journal: “Presidential election. . .619 votes thrown –312 for the Union and 307 for the Copperhead faction. . .”

March 10, 1865 “. . .All the officers having charge of the business of the town during the past year, have performed a task very arduous, as may be seen by the vastness of the receipts and expenditures. . .the total of their accounts now being over \$50,000. . .It must be obvious to everyone that something must be done to place the debt of the town on a basis different from the present, TR 28-29.

April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House; April 12, 1865 Confederate soldiers formally lay down their arms and battle flags in an event presided over by Joshua Chamberlain who would later be guest of honor at church dedication ceremony in October 1882.

April 10, 1865 Committee to wait on Reverend Sawyer to request a copy of his historical sermon; the sermon likely memorialized the end of the war, PR 94.

April 14, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC.

April 9, 1866 Reverend Sawyer submitted resignation, subject of meeting, PR 96

July 7, 1866 Reverend Colby a candidate for ministry, but he declined, letter 100-102, PR 99

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND JOHN PARSONS 1866-1869

September 24, 1866 Reverend John Parsons accepted for the ministry, PR 103.

December 26, 1866 Commencement of Parsons ministry.

March 13, 1869 Parsons submitted resignation; June 10, formal end of ministry.

April 12, 1869 Enlargement of burial ground subject of meeting, PR 113.

September 27, 1869 Reverend R.K. Harlow candidate for ministry.

December 30, 1869 Reverend William C. Reed a candidate, PR 117

January 29, 1870 Reverend Reed declined PR: 119.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND BENJAMIN W. POND 1870-1873

March 7, 1870 Reverend Benjamin W. Pond accepted as candidate; letter referred to sickness in family, PR 121

April 11, 1870 Recommendation for enlarged burial ground, PR 125

April 10, 1871 Sexton to paint the bell deck of belfry, PR 133. Minister's salary to be paid quarterly beginning in January.

April 29, 1871 Repairs to meeting house advised, PR 136.

August 2, 1873 Resignation of Reverend Pond PR 146.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND DAVID B. SEWALL 1873-1888

December 3, 1873 Reverend David Sewall installed as minister.

December 20, 1873 Sewall letter 149-150.

April 12, 1875 trustees to be responsible for both the old and new burial grounds, PR 157

THE INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST ORGAN

November 20, 1875 Voted that the parish accept the organ presented by the Ladies Society and permitted the same to be placed in the church, PR 160-161.

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WOMEN ADMITTED TO PARISH MEETINGS

April 10, 1876 That the women of the First Parish in York of the age of twenty-one years and upwards be permitted to come into the parish meetings and exercise all the rights and privileges of the male members, PR ;15 women entered as members of church following this decision.

April 8, 1878 Shingling of meeting house.

April 27, 1879 Bragdon Diary Sunday Little Sewall at the organ—a reference to the minister's son

June 15, 1879 Bragdon Diary Rainy Sunday only about two dozen people at church today.

July 6, 1879 Bragdon Diary Sunday Mr. Jotham Sewall brother to our pastor preached in the afternoon.

August 10, 1879 Bragdon Diary Sunday Morning sermon by Henry T. Cheever—at 4PM service at the Marshall House, sermon by Rev. De Normande.

August 24, 1879 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Mr. Phillips preached in the morn, very good sermon, Mr. Sewall PM.

October 2, 1880 Thoroughly repair the foundation of the meeting house making it perfectly secure—remedy the chimnies so that they will draw, PR

June 6, 1881 Reference to 6 ushers

June 6, 1881 Committee on Repairs

August 14, 1881 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Dr. Fiske of Newburyport preached for Mr. Sewall.

THE BUILDING MOVED AND REMODELED

September 17, 1881 Bragdon Diary Over to parish meeting this PM the parish decided to remodel & new locate the meeting house. The September 19, meeting to organize the effort for the movement of the building so that it would face the street was held on the day of President Garfield's death, as he succumbed to complications following the shooting that had occurred in July.

September 18, 1881 Bragdon Diary Mr. Sewall has gone to Chicago to see his aged father, will be absent three Sundays.

October 2, 1881 Bragdon Diary Sunday No meeting at the Congregational meeting house.

October 9, 1881 Bragdon Diary Sunday Meeting held in the town hall—meeting house undergoing repairs.

October 16, 1881 Bragdon Diary Sunday At church all day at the Vestry, Mr. Sewall in the Desk.

November 13 1881 Bragdon Diary Sunday Mr. Freeman in the Desk.

January 8, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday Mr. Sewall in the Desk preached particularly to the young men in the PM.

January 11, 1882 Windows for building under discussion—ground glass centers and stained glass borders—three windows on either side of the church and two at the south end.

February 17, 1882 Bragdon Diary Hon. N.G. Marshall died this PM aged 69 years 4 months.

March 19, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Mr. Phillips in the AM—Rev. Sewall PM

April 9, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Mr. Sewall being sick there was no meeting at the Vestry.

May 28, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday At church in the forenoon, Rev. Mr. Hibbard the Eliot minister preached.

June 24, 1882 Approval of new bell; hold one service on Sunday in July and August.

July 9, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday At church in the morning, Rev. Dr. Thurston of Dover preached.

August 13, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday At church in the morning, Rev. Dr. Dwight of Hadley, Mass. In the Desk—Professor Sewall of Bangor preached at the Vestry in the evening.

September 7, 1882 Bragdon Diary Ladies of the parish have been sewing the new carpet for the meeting house.

OCTOBER 1882 THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

October 26, 1882 Bragdon Diary Thursday. . .very pleasant day wind W. . .Dedication of the Congregational meeting house this afternoon. . .sermon by Pres. Chamberlain of Bowdoin. . .very large attendance, six hundred people there. . .

November 14, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sold the pews—very good sale. The choice for pews as high as \$50 , all sold but fifteen.

November 19, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Mr. Arnold of Wells in the Desk.

November 26, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sunday Rev. Jotham Sewall AM D. B. Sewall PM

December 13, 1882 Legalize the doings of the parish

December 17, 1882 Bragdon Diary Sabbath school concert this evening, new meeting house lighted up the first time tonight.

April 14, 1883 Horse sheds, stables, ice house to be removed between burial ground and main road.

April 13, 1885 One service to be held in June, July, August.

July 18, 1885 Lightning damage to meeting house; lightning rods would be installed.

April 26, 1886 Placement of horse sheds.

April 11, 1887 Iron fence between church and cemetery, PR 7.

1887 the railroad introduced.

April 9, 1888 Painting of meeting house; preaching evening service, PR: 14.

May 12, 1888 Resignation of Reverend Sewall

June 25, 1888 Contribution to be taken on Sundays to defray expenses, PR:25

April 8, 1889 Building furnace room beneath church; painting buildings, shingling vestry, PR:28.

Reverend C.C. Bruce invited as minister, PR:34.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND GEORGE M. WOODWELL 1890-1894

February 19, 1890 Reverend Woodwell approved as minister, PR:37

April 14, 1890 500 dollars of cemetery fund to be used to liquidate parish debt, PR:41

From church records, during the past year weekly prayer meetings have been held, preparatory lectures on the Friday previous to the sacrament, and sacramental seasons regularly observed; also a young people's meeting previous to the regular Sunday evening sermon, CR:319

April 13, 1891 , persons who have not paid parish taxes for 2 years were to be removed from books; property of parish to be inventoried, PR:50.

April 11, 1892 voluntary subscriptions to be solicited, assessors to visit individuals in person, PR:54

1892 two Japanese students are mentioned in list of expenses, Nohita Kishimoto and Mer T. Murai, 325,338

April 10, 1893 20 ft. extension of town house at rear of building; repairs to furnace, Jeremiah McIntire recognized for fund raising effort, 34 names of contributors listed, who raised total of 2,275 dollars, PR:68

May 27, 1893 Memorial window to honor Jonathan Sayward and Samuel Sewall, PR:69

From church records, Fast Day observed by a union service in the church; the different churches in town participated in a rotating program of union services, CR:335.

April 9, 1894 Resignation of Reverend Woodwell. His letter of resignation is in church records 340 . . . conditions have arisen which makes it very evident to me that I may best serve you by resigning. . .

October 17, 1894 Reverend Frederick Kelly a candidate for ministry, CR 343

November 19, 1894 Reverend Joseph P. Dickerman a candidate, but he declined PR:82,CR:344

March 18, 1895 Candidacy of Reverend Warren P. Landers was rejected, . . .under existing circumstance in this parish is inexpedient. . .CR:349

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND MELVIN J. ALLEN 1895-1899

April 16, 1895 Reverend Allen accepted as a candidate for ministry,CR:351.

From church records, Wednesday evening prayer meeting held regularly;the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor has been reorganized, CR:353

April 13, 1895 Parish records were to be placed in safety deposit box at bank,PR:99

January 2, 1897 Adoption of Form for the Reception of Members. This replaced what had been in use since January of 1863, CR:360

June 15, 1897 Soliciting Committee PR:111

August 1897 The Portsmouth, Kittery and York Electric Railroad began operation. The rail passed through the Village to York Harbor and terminated at York Beach.

April 25, 1898 United States declared war against Spain—Spanish-American War. The war was brief.

April 10, 1899 Resignation of Reverend Allen, PR 119. CR:373

Spring 1899 From church records, Easter, the church beautifully decorated with potted plants, Easter lilies and other flowers; June 11, observed "Children's Day".

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND SIDNEY K. PERKINS 1899-1910

October 11, 1899 Reverend Perkins approved as minister, a unanimous vote by members of the church CR:371.

November 19, 1899 Reverend Perkins preached his first sermon as minister, CR:372

April 9, 1900 Parish approved request of York town government for landscaping area near town hall; the parish shall loose no rights in grading of land; organist Miss Varrell, 4 special collections during the year for funding of church music, PR:129.

September 19, 1901 Church conducted funeral ceremony for President McKinley who had died September 14, following a shooting at Buffalo, New York. CR

April 7, 1902 York Village Improvement Society landscaping of grounds near church and town hall, PR: 141.

THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF AUGUST 1902

August 5, 1902 At the program conducted for the 250th Anniversary of the Town of York, Reverend Perkins read an address, "The Churches and Ministers of the Town of York."

April 6, 1903 important meeting PR:146.

April 4, 1904 That the town of York be granted the privilege of expending money on parish land near the town hall, PR:151.

April 18, 1904 King's Daughters and repair or move of vestry; repair of town clock, PR:155.

July 2, 1905 First use of individual Communion cups; this had been a matter of discussion in prior months, CR:

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC LIGHTS

August 21, 1905 Repairs to meeting house and installation of electric lights subject of meeting; there is an indication in the records of a fire at the building on July 9, with appreciation extended to the York Fire Company, PR:177

September 7, 1905 Cost of repairs estimated at 2109 dollars, PR:171

October 29, 1905 due to repairs service was held in town hall,

April 30, 1906 Parsonage repairs, PR: 183

June 6, 1906 the ell on the Parish House; parsonage repairs at 1800 dollars; 1906 the vestry enlarged and greatly improved by the King's Daughters. CR

April 6, 1908 King's Daughters gift of marble clock to meeting house, PR: 197.

September 16, 1908 estate of Julia A. Grant PR:206.

February 19, 1910 resignation of Reverend Perkins. He indicated he had been called to church in Manchester, Vermont, PR:213.

1910 without a regular pastor for eight months.

June 27, 1910 Reverend Elbridge C. Terrey as candidate for ministry, PR:224.

November 7, 1910 Reverend Garfield; electric lights for the vestry, PR:225

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND FRANK GARFIELD 1910-1915

January 15, 1911 John E. Norwood letter regarding the gift he made to church of the refashioned old pulpit, PR:239.

April 15, 1911 acknowledgement of Norwood gift of pulpit and motor to blow church organ, PR:246.

August 9, 1913 Shingle and paint parsonage; porch at front entrance, PR:262.

1913 Church covenant adopted.

April 17, 1915 Three member committee to investigate cause in decline of attendance and dissatisfaction, PR: 270.

1915 Standing Rules; Kansas City Platform and Creed; Preparation of Church Manual—completion of project that had been a concern for the past five years.

December 25, 1915 Resignation of Reverend Garfield. He was to assume ministry at Chester, Connecticut. PR: 279.

February 27, 1916 reverend Arthur W. Gregg as candidate.

April 22, 1916 DAR Memorial to April 1775 PR:283; Reverend Mccready approved as minister.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND H. S. McCREADY 1916-1918

April 14, 1917 Survey of Parish property to be conducted, stone posts installed as boundary markers, PR: 293.

April 1917 A large number of admissions to church for membership may reflect entry of United States into World War I on April 6,

August 1, 1918 Reverend Mccready resignation, PR; 306

November 30, 1918 Reverend W. H. Palmer and Reverend Ross candidates for ministry, PR: 309

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND HAROLD G. BOOTH 1919-1922

February 17, 1919 Reverend Booth approved as minister, PR:311

April 19, 1919 52 women became members of parish PR: 313-317

June 11, 1919 The Bequests of Jeremiah McIntire, and contributions to the parish, PR: 323.

April 17, 1920 Three man commission created to manage the McIntire Fund; vote to take down parish barn, replace with small garage, and hen house,PR:330

April 16, 1921 Report of Music Committee, created after McIntire funding.

April 8, 1922 Resignation of Reverend Booth. He intended to assume ministry of church in Portland, PR:353.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND ALBERT S. HAWKES 1922-1928

September 9, 1922 Reverend Hawkes approved by unanimous vote, PR:360.

April 18, 1925 Church to be closed during the months of May and October,PR:377

Easter Sunday 1925 Vestments for choir purchased from bequest of Anna Eastman Marshall were introduced during the service,PR:391.

April 17, 1926 Regarding repairs to organ, PR:390.

April 16, 1927 Parking of cars in the driveway at front of church and town hall was prohibited, PR:400

Katherine Marshall regarding the absence of men in church choir; the problem of supplying male voices in the First Parish choir is seemingly too big to cope with. . .PR:405

October 4, 1928 Reverend Hawkes resignation. He intended to move to California, PR:428.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND WALTER H. MILLINGER 1929-1952

December 15, 1928 Reverend Millinger approved as candidate for ministry, PR:431.

October 29, 1929 Stock market crash preceding Great Depression.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE SECOND ORGAN

July 16, 1930 Purchase of organ approved; obtained from church in Camden at cost of 2000 dollars. The old organ was to be donated to Union Church at York Beach,PR:27-30.

THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

January 17, 1935 Discussion of remodeling the vestry to be subject at annual meeting, Millinger Diary; Mr. Grover comes over to confer over plan of attaching vestry to manse to make one large Community House.

April 20, 1935 Approved decision to 'increase recreational and educational facilities and permit any change to parish buildings which will attain this end. . .PR:91.

January 1936 Start work on vestry, Millinger Diary

April 18, 1936 Elizabeth Perkins letter regarding the old school house,PR:104-5.

THE FIRST HISTORICAL SERVICE

August 23, 1936 Reverend Millinger conducted the first of a series of Historical Services in which he assumed the identity of Reverend Samuel Moody, and delivered a period sermon to the congregation.

August 23, 1936 Reverend Millinger conducted the first of a series of Historical Services in which he assumed the identity of Reverend Samuel Moody, and delivered a period sermon to the congregation.

April 25, 1937 Dedication Service, Millinger Diary.

August 21, 1938 Historical Service.

August 20, 1939 Historical Service.

August 18, 1940 Historical Service.

April 21, 1941 Church restoration subject of meeting; plans for restoration of church were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. It would not be until the end of the war that the project resumed.

December 7, 1941 Japan attacked at Pearl Harbor; December 8-11, 1941 United States declared war against Japan—war declared against Germany and Italy.

April 25, 1943 Easter Sunday—dedication of service flag.

April 9, 1944 Dedication of Honor Roll.

June 6, 1944 D-Day service held at church.

February 1945 All churches in York closed as consequence of severe snow storm

April 28, 1945 Baker Trust Fund of 5000 dollars, PR:237

May 8, 1945 6PM VE Day service at church

August 15, 1945 Resumption of discussion related to church restoration

April 27, 1946 Church clock to be repaired so that it will strike; the clock should be lighted at night, PR:248

On the Community House, the largest rental comes from the Girl Scouts—other tenants for the year have been the American Legion, American Legion Auxilliary, DAR, Garden Club, PTA. . .PR:249

1947 The 200th Anniversary of the church.

RESTORATION PROJECT

April 29, 1950 Creation of House Committee of the Meeting House to be responsible for maintainance of the building, PR:3

June 14-24, 1950 Contract signed for construction, work to begin immediately. Millinger Diary

October 21-25, 1950 Church bells to ring at 12:03 to commemorate 5th anniversary of United Nations charter. Millinger Diary

October 1950 Approved design of pews.

December 1-5, 1950 Men finish painting outside of church.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE THIRD ORGAN

January 1951 The new organ installed.

March 12-15, 1951 The new pews were placed in church.

April 1-5, 1951 Workmen start putting clock in church steeple.

May 1951 Clock starts to strike.

REDEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

May 20, 1951 The service of rededication of the church.

July 20, 1952 Historical Service; at the end of week Reverend Millinger announced his resignation.

November 13, 1952 Reverend Millinger letter; he referred to his mother's family, the Godfreys. He connected to York and to Edward Godfrey of the seventeenth century. The decision to leave town in 1952, influenced by the anniversary of Massachusetts entry into region three centuries earlier, and the cause of Godfrey's personal misfortune.

March 8, 1953 Reverend Kenneth Friou accepted as candidate for the ministry, PR

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND KENNETH FRIOU 1953-1956

1955 Proposal for Church-Parish organization, to incorporate the church, PR:64.

Background to the vote of confidence action and of his resignation in 1956; February 19, meeting held over dissatisfaction with pastorate; February 26, Reverend Friou requested vote of confidence to be taken on March 4; the minister experienced a breakdown in the pulpit and the vote was never taken; June 19, vote of confidence taken with negative result; June 24, minister resigned, PR: 94-95

June 19, 1956 Annual vote to be taken for minister, September 1953 action rescinded, PR:94.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND CLARENCE H. CLARK 1957-1967

February 17, 1957 Reverend Clarence H. Clark approved as minister, PR:100-101.

April 24, 1958 Hard top driveway from parsonage to street was approved, PR: 125.

June 30, 1958 Historic Landmarks request for site for Jefferd's Tavern, PR:135.

April 30, 1959 Fire alarm system installed in cooperation with Historic Landmarks, PR:140.

1960 Sunday school expansion—256 students and teachers currently involved in Sunday school, PR:172.

July 22, 1960 Discussion on topic of 290th anniversary of founding of church in 1963, PR:173.

INSTALLATION OF THE FOURTH ORGAN

April 27, 1961 15,000 dollars to be allocated for purchase of new organ, PR

July 9, 1962 Proposed addition to Community House, PR:199.

COMMUNITY HOUSE RENAMED PARISH HOUSE

February 20, 1964 Community House renamed Parish House; new auditorium the Moody Room, PR:221.

July 23, 1967 Reverend Wilbur approved as candidate, PR:279

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND RAYMOND B. WILBUR 1967-1983

July 21, 1968 Church basement rooms downstairs with bathrooms, 20,000 dollar cost estimate, PR:276.

October 18, 1971 Curbstone installed in front of church and parish house at cost of 4870 dollars, PR

January 20, 1972 First Parish Endowment Fund, PR:8.

January 17, 1974 By-Law on attendance at meetings, PR:44.

June 24, 1976 Installation of smoke alarm into buildings at cost of 3900 dollars, PR:87.

January 20, 1977 Lease strip of land to York Library, PR:88.

January 15, 1981 By-Laws, Pastoral Relations Committee, communication between the church and minister, PR:137.

1981 Replacement of wire on steeple to eliminate rust streaks; new curbing, and trees planted, 154.

April 18, 1982 Head Start Program permitted to use parish facilities, 167.

Minister's report for 1983; publication of a newsletter for the past fifteen years; construction of church office, 171.

1982 report, lower portion of steeple and front of church painted.

October 20, 1983 Resignation of Reverend Wilbur, to become effective April 22, 1984, 185.

1984 Nathaniel M. Guptill as interim minister, 203

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND WILLIAM INDESTRODT 1985-1993

October 24, 1985 Creation of House Committee of the Parsonage to monitor maintenance of the building, 220

1987-1988 Student assistant in the ministry, 235.

December 18, 1988 Parish Fiscal year October 1 through September 30, 238.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE 90's

Campaign for the 90's three year project, 121,000 dollars for church, parish house, parsonage improvements; renovate basement and provide rooms, 243.

April 7, 1991 Expansion of town library subject of meeting, 247.

Installation of handicap ramp and granite front steps to church, as an action of the Campaign for the 90's, 250.

November 4, 1992 Land allocated for retirement community from parish woods, 252.

Resignation of Reverend Indestrodtd.

November 2, 1994 Historical Records Committee, 258.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND RICHARD KNIGHT 1995-2010

January 3, 1995 Reverend Knight began ministry; November 12, 1995 Installation of Reverend Knight.

November 6, 1996 Proposal for Long Range Planning Committee

October 20, 1996 Colonial Worship, 266; a second service was conducted on October 18, 1998.

June 14, 1998 Proposed Mission Statement approved.

April 26, 1998 Parish opposed to construction of new middle school on 45-55 acre tract.

REVEREND LINDA B. HIRST ASSOCIATE MINISTER

September 27, 1998 Reverend Linda B. Hirst approved as Associate Minister.

1999 Constitution and Standing Rules revised.

November 9, 1999 Fund raising campaign to renovate church organ.

INSTALLATION OF THE FIFTH ORGAN

June 2001 Installation of new organ.

ADDITION OF THE OLD LIBRARY BUILDING

November 13, 2002 The old library to be named Parish House and the Parish House to become Fellowship Hall.

February 8, 2005 Change of scheduled annual meeting to February.

2005 Move of the Table of Plenty to First Parish.

2006 Painting of church steeple—painting of clock face.

February 11, 2009 Capital Campaign 500,000 dollars.

2010 Reverend Knight announced his resignation.

THE MINISTRY OF REVEREND MARLAYNA SCHMIDT

February 24, 2013 Reverend Verlee Copeland approved as senior pastor and Reverend Rachel Bahr as Associate.

THE MINISTRY OF ANNA VERLEE COPELAND 2013-2018

March 2013 First Parish Leadership Retreat.

2013 Behavioral Covenant approved.

July 15, 2014 Microburst damaged trees on church grounds.

December 11, 2014 Women of church held meeting to discuss future direction of Womens Fellowship.

August 2015 Hail storm damaged church roof; the roof was resingled the following year.

2015 First Parish is My Church.

March 22, 2016 Church Council met for first time, 14.

THE CHURCH AND PARISH LEGALLY JOINED

From the Senior Minister's report: We engaged in groundbreaking work when we incorporated as a 501c3 non profit following the adoption of our new governance and by-laws at the annual meeting. For the first time in our more than 350 year history, the Parish and Church united under a Church Council model of leadership.

REVEREND DANIEL HOLLIS ASSOCIATE MINISTER

February 5, 2017 Reverend Daniel Hollis approved as Associate Minister.

February 12, 2017 Vision and Mission Statements subject of meeting

May 20, 2017 Memorial monument to all veterans buried in the cemetery.

Thanksgiving 2017 Served 125 people meals at Fellowship Hall.

December 16, 2017 Wreaths Across America ceremony conducted at cemetery.

2017 Thursday evening worship service introduced; summer Concerts on the Green; Peace Pole in the Rose Garden; digitally controlled Carillon installed.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

January 10, 2018 Proposed Covenant draft prepared.

April 29, 2018 Task Force presented Covenant.

May 2018 Straw poll taken on proposed covenant; 194 responded, 83 percent yes, 18 percent no.

May 22, 2018 Church Council voted to call congregational meeting for mid-June.

June 17, 2018 Congregational vote taken on proposed covenant and approved.

July 22, 2018 "State of the Parish" meeting held at Fellowship Hall.

September 16, 2018 Godspeed Gathering to be held to mark departure of minister.

Parish Record Book I 1731-1841

1730-1740 Parish Meetings

March 27, 1732

July 3, 1732

January 4, 1733

March 27, 1733

March 27, 1734

December 5, 1734

March 28, 1735

May 15, 1735

December 26, 1735

March 11, 1736

May 14, 1736

May 28, 1736

March 15, 1737

April 29, 1737

March 27, 1738

March 27, 1739

1740-1750

March 18, 1740

March 18, 1741

March 30, 1741

March 30, 1742

April 16, 1742

October 21, 1742

November 9, 1742

January 20, 1743

March 22, 1743
August 4, 1743
March 23, 1744
March 29, 1744
April 19, 1744
May 31, 1744
June 14, 1744
September 20, 1744
October 11, 1744
March 26, 1745
March 24, 1746
May 15, 1746
December 4, 1746
March 27, 1747
April 1, 1747
May 7, 1747
September 25, 1747
September 29, 1747
October 1, 1747
October 9, 1747
November 13, 1747
November 30, 1747
March 1, 1748
April 18, 1748
May 2, 1748
July 25, 1748
August 15, 1748
October 17, 1748
March 31, 1749

August 21, 1749

November 13, 1749

November 20, 1749

1750-1760

March 6, 1750

March 5, 1751

March 24, 1752

March 27, 1753

March 14, 1754

March 25, 1755

March 30, 1756

March 23, 1757

March 28, 1758

March 27, 1759

1760-1770

March 18, 1760

March 31, 1761

March 16, 1762

March 29, 1763

March 20, 1764

March 19, 1765

March 18, 1766

March 17, 1767

March 15, 1768

March 21, 1769

1770-1780

March 20, 1770

March 19, 1771

May 20, 1771

March 24, 1772

March 23, 1773

March 22, 1774

March 21, 1775

March 19, 1776

March 25, 1777

March 24, 1778

March 16, 1779

1780-1790

March 21, 1780

March 20, 1781

March 19, 1782

March 18, 1783

March 16, 1784

March 15, 1785

March 21, 1786

March 27, 1787

March 25, 1788

March 17, 1789

November 3, 1789

1790-1800

March 16, 1790

January 18, 1791

March 10, 1792

March 19, 1793 March 18, 1794

March 17, 1795

June 2, 1795

March 15, 1796

March 21, 1797

December 1, 1797

March 20, 1798

August 13, 1798

March 19, 1799

1800-1810

March 18, 1800

March 17, 1801

March 16, 1802

June 1802

March 15, 1803

March 20, 1804

March 19, 1805

March 18, 1806

March 17, 1807

March 15, 1808

March 21, 1809

April 10, 1809

1810-1820

March 20, 1810

June 28, 1810

March 26, 1811

May 9, 1811

May 29, 1811

September 3, 1811

November 25, 1811

March 24, 1812

June 1, 1812

1813 147-148

March 24, 1814

March 21, 1815

September 25, 1815

March 26, 1816

March 25, 1817

March 17, 1818

March 16, 1819

1820-1830

March 21, 1820

March 20, 1821

August 6, 1821

March 19, 1822

April 21, 1823 Annual meetings changed to November

November 3, 1823

April 5, 1824

November 1, 1824

November 7, 1825

November 6, 1826

November 18, 1826

April 23 1827

November 5, 1827

November 4, 1828

October 12, 1829

1830-1840

January 4, 1830 Annual meeting changed to April

April 1831

October 8, 1831

April 8, 1833

May 25, 1833

December 21, 1833

April 14, 1834

September 14, 1835

February 21, 1836

April 11, 1836

June 18, 1836

October 18, 1836

April 10, 1837

April 7, 1838

April 8, 1839

November 20, 1839

1840-1850

April 13, 1840

December 1, 1840

March 1841

Parish Record Book II 1841-1886

Parish Record Book II 1841-1886

Parish Meetings 1840-1850

June 16, 1841

September 25, 1841

April 11, 1842

April 10, 1843

November 13, 1844

April 14, 1845

April 13, 1846

August 31, 1846

April 12, 1847

April 10, 1848

April 9, 1849

April 30, 1849

1850-1860

April 8, 1850

August 17, 1850

April 14, 1851

April 12, 1852

April 11, 1853

April 10, 1854

May 3, 1854

March 8, 1855

April 9, 1855

June 16, 1855

April 14, 1856

April 4, 1857

April 5, 1858

August 7, 1858

April 11, 1859

1860-1870

March 4, 1861

April 13, 1861

October 26, 1861

April 14, 1862

April 13, 1863

August 1, 1863

April 11, 1864

April 10, 1865

April 9, 1866

July 7, 1866

September 24, 1866

April 8, 1867

April 13, 1868

March 13, 1869

April 12, 1869

September 7, 1869

December 30, 1869

1870-1880

March 7, 1870

April 11, 1870

April 10, 1871

April 29, 1871

April 8, 1872

June 12, 1872

April 14, 1873

September 8, 1873

November 4, 1873

December 20, 1873

April 13, 1874

November 21, 1874

April 12, 1875

November 20, 1875

April 10, 1876

April 9, 1877

April 8, 1878

April 14, 1879

1880-1890

April 12, 1880

October 2, 1880

April 11, 1881

June 6, 1881

August 15, 1881

August 27, 1881

September 17, 1881

September 20, 1881

January 11, 1882

April 10, 1882

June 24, 1882

October 28, 1882

December 2, 1882

December 13, 1882

April 9, 1883

April 23, 1883

April 14, 1884

February 24, 1885

April 13, 1885

June 6, 1885

July 18, 1885

August 29, 1885

April 12, 1886

Parish Records Book III 1886-1928

FIRST PARISH OFFICERS UNTIL 1800

PARISH CLERKS

Jeremiah Moulton 1732-1744

Daniel Moulton 1745-1782

Joseph Simpson 1783-1784

Daniel Sewall 1785-1788

John Sewall Jr. 1789-1796

David Sewall 1797

Daniel Sewall 1798-1799

ASSESSORS

1732 Jeremiah Moulton, John Harmon, Samuel Sewall, Samuel Came Esq. Joseph Preble

1733 Samuel Milberry, Samuel Sewall, John Sayward

1735 Jeremiah Moulton, Joseph Swett, Henry Simpson

1736-1738 Jeremiah Moulton, Henry Simpson, Joseph Holt

1739-1741 Jeremiah Moulton, Benjamin Stone, John Bradbury

1742-1755 John Bradbury, Benjamin Stone, Ralph Farnam

1756-1764 Joseph Holt, Simpson, Benjamin Stone

1765 Joseph Holt, Simpson, Richard Trevett

1766-1768 Joseph Holt, Richard Trevett, Joseph Parsons

1769 Joseph Parsons, Robert Raynes, Edward Grow

1770-1771 Robert Raynes, Edward Grow, Daniel Moulton

1772-1773 Daniel Moulton, Edward Grow, Joseph Sewall

1774 Daniel Moulton, Joseph Sewall, Joseph Toppan

1775 Daniel Moulton, Joseph Simpson, Joseph Sewall

1776 Edward Grow, Samuel Harris, Dr. John Swett

1777-1782 Daniel Moulton, Samuel Harris, Moses Sewall

1783-1787 Joseph Simpson, Moses Sewall, Samuel Harris

1788 Moses Sewall, Samuel Harris, Daniel Sewall

1789-1790 John Swett, Samuel Harris, Col. Esais Preble

1791 David Sewall, Esais Preble, Elijah Blaisdell

1792 Esais Preble, Elijah Blaisdell, John Sewall Jr.

1793-1795 Esais Preble, Joseph Bragdon, John Sewall Jr.

1796 Joseph Bragdon, John Sewall Jr. Jeremiah Clark

1797 Joseph Weare, Joseph Bragdon, David Sewall

1798-1799 Joseph Bragdon, Daniel Sewall, Jeremiah Clark

1800 Joseph Bragdon, Jeremiah Clark, Moses Lyman

COLLECTORS

1732 William Dunning SW side of the river; Philip Adams NE side of the river

1733 Caleb Boyington, Samuel Banks

1734 John Bane, Joseph Main

1735 Daniel Simpson Jr. Joseph Cole

1736 Jeremiah Bragdon

1737 Chrisp Bradbury

1738 James Hill

1741 Stephen Preble

1742 Philip Pike

1743 Joseph Coburn

1744 John Raynes

1745 Joseph Parsons

1747 Naphtila Harmon

1748-1750 Samuel Milberry Jr.

1751 Cotton Bradbury

1753 James Berry

1754 Caleb Preble
1755 Amos Whitney
1756 Richard Trevett
1758-1763 Edward Emerson
1764 William Moore Jr.
1765 George Moore
1766 William Moore Tert.
1767 Nicholas Sewall
1768 Henry Sewall
1769 Robert Rose
1770 John Bradbury
1771 William Moore Jr.
1772 Joseph Bragdon Jr.
1773-1774 Nathaniel Simpson
1775-1778 Mathew Richie
1779 Joshua Lunt
1781 John Sewall Jr.
1782-1783 David Grant
1785-1786 Thomas Simpson
1787 Nathaniel Simpson
1788 Pelatiah Simpson
1789-1791 Nathaniel Simpson
1792 Thomas Abbott
1794-1797 Nathaniel Simpson
1798 David Raynes Jr.
1799-1800 William Simpson

FIRST PARISH OFFICERS 1800 UNTIL 1900

PARISH CLERKS

Moses Lyman 1800-1805
Joseph Bragdon 1806-1807
Reuben Derby 1808
David Baker 1809-1811
Joseph Weare Jr. 1812
Daniel Sewall 1813
Alexander McIntire 1814-1815
Esais Preble 1816-1817
Moses Lyman 1818-1819
Esais Preble 1820-1825
Charles O. Emerson 1826
Jeremiah Putnam 1827-1843
Joseph Bragdon Jr. 1844-1854
Josiah D. Bragdon 1855-1863
John E. Staples 1864-1870
Charles W. Walker 1871-1875
Samuel W. Junkins 1876-1881
Charles H. Junkins 1882-1884
Josiah D. Bragdon 1885-1894
Daniel A. Stevens 1895-

PARISH TREASURERS

Moses Lyman 1800-1803
Edward Simpson 1808-1811
Daniel Sewall 1812-1813

Edward Simpson 1814-1816
Alexander McIntire 1817
Samuel Lunt 1818-1820
Joseph Bradbury 1821
Edward Simpson 1822
Charles O. Emerson 1823-1824
Edward A. Emerson 1825
Josiah Bragdon 1826
Samuel Lunt 1827-1839
Caleb Eastman 1839-1872
Samuel Sedgley 1873-1884
Edward A. Bragdon 1885-1887
John E. Staples 1887
Jeremiah P. Simpson 1888-1897
Lowell S. Grant 1898-

ASSESSORS

1801-1805 Joseph Bragdon, Theodore Webber, Moses Lyman
1806-1807 Joseph Bragdon, Theodore Webber, Capt. Charles Bane
1808 Capt. Charles Bane, Reuben Derby, Joseph Weare Jr.
1809-1811 David Baker, Jonathan Allen, Joseph Weare Jr.
1812-1813 Joseph Bragdon, Daniel Sewall, Joseph Weare Jr.
1814 Joseph Weare Jr. Edward Simpson, Masterson Young
1815 Edward Simpson, Samuel Moody, Masterson Young
1816 Edward Simpson, Masterson Young, Daniel Bridges Jr.
1817 Alexander McIntire, Col. Moses Lyman, William Simpson
1818 Alexander McIntire, Moses Lyman, William Simpson
1819 Moses Lyman, Edward Simpson, William Simpson

1820 William Simpson, Daniel Bridges, Esais Preble

1821-1822 William Simpson, Daniel Bridges Jr. Joseph S. Simpson

1823-1824 Esais Preble, Jonathan Allen, William Simpson

1825 William Simpson, Jonathan Allen, David Wilcox

1826 William Simpson, Josiah Bragdon, Jonathan Allen

1827 Jonathan Allen, George Moody, Jeremiah S. Putnam

1828-1830 Jeremiah S. Putnam, Esais Preble, Jonathan Allen

1831 Jeremiah S. Putnam, Jonathan Allen, Samuel Bradbury
1832 Joseph P. Junkins, Jonathan Allen, George Moody
1833 George Moody, Jeremiah S. Putnam, Joseph P. Junkins
1834 Josiah Bragdon, Joseph P. Junkins, Charles Moody
1835 Samuel Preble, Caleb Eastman, Abraham Shaw Jr.
1836-1837 Josiah Bragdon, Charles Moody, Abraham Shaw Jr.
1838-1839 Caleb Eastman, Ebenezer Chapman, Joseph Bragdon
1840 Isaih P. Moody, John B. Fernald, Caleb Eastman
1842-1843 Caleb Eastman, Luther Junkins, Joseph Bragdon
1844 Jeremiah McIntire, David Wilcox, Caleb Eastman
1845 Caleb Eastman, John B. Fernald, Washington Junkins
1846-1848 Joseph P. Junkins, Jonathan S. Barrell, Josiah D. Bragdon
1849 Joseph P. Junkins, Josiah D. Bragdon, Henry D. Norwood
1850-1853 Washington Junkins, Henry D. Norwood, Josiah D. Bragdon
1854 Washington Junkins, Josiah D. Bragdon, John S. Thompson
1855 Jeremiah S. Putnam, Joseph Sewall Jr. Henry D. Norwood
1856-1858 Joseph Sewall Jr. Henry D. Norwood, John B. Fernald
1859 Joseph Sewall jr, Charles C. Barrell, Stephen Grant
1860 Joseph Sewall Jr. W.E. Putnam, Charles C. Barrell
1861-1862 Joseph Sewall jr. Isaih P. Moody, John B. Fernald
1863-1866 Joseph Sewall Jr, G.W.S. Putnam, Samuel S. Young
1867-1870 Joseph Sewall Jr, E. A. Bragdon, Samuel S. Young
1871-1873 Joseph Sewall Jr. Wilsom M. Walker, Edward C. Moody
1874-1875 Joseph Sewall Jr, Wilsom M. Walker, John B. fernald
1876 Joseph Sewall Jr, Wilson M. Walker, Edward A. Bragdon
1877-1884 Joseph Sewall Jr, Edward A. Bragdon, Joseph S. Grant.
1885 Joseph Sewall Jr, Joseph S. Grant, Samuel W. Junkins
1886-1887 Joseph Sewall jr. Frank P. Emerson, J. Howard Junkins
1888-1889 Joseph Sewall Jr, J. Howard Junkins, George E. Blaisdell

1890 Joseph Sewall Jr, George E. Blaisdell, Albert M. Bragdon

1891 Joseph Sewall Jr, J. Howard Junkins, Albert M. Bragdon

1892 J. Howard Junkins, Albert M. Bragdon, Frank E. Sewall

1893-1898 J. Howard Junkins, Albert M. Bragdon, John E. Norwood

1899 John E. Barrell, George E. Marshall, William J. Simpson

1900 George E. Marshall, William G. Varrell, John E. Barrell

Documentary Sources for First Parish History

Parish Record Books

Book I 1731-1840

Book II 1841-1886

Book III 1886-1928

Book IV 1929-1949

Book V 1950-1971

Minutes 1971-2000

Annual Reports 2000-2018

Church Records

Book I 1749-1829

Parish Tax Books

1754-1787

1788-1830

1870-1896

Account Books

Deacons Accounts 1781-1814

Miscellaneous Accounts 1820-1869

Parish Accounts Treasurers Book 1855-1893

Church Accounts 1873-1892

Church accounts 1896-1927

Ladies Circle Accounts 1859-1902

Deacons Fund Correspondence 1825-1829

Church Restoration Correspondence 1881-1882

THREE CENTURIES OF FIRST PARISH HISTORY

Samuel Moody (1700-1747) 1710 Third Meeting House; 1730-1732 Creation of the Parish; 1740s Reverend Whitefield—revivals---Louisbourg

Isaac Lyman (1749-1810) 1760-61 Sewall's Bridge; American Revolution to Constitution; 1797 Ministerial Fund

Rosewell Messenger (1798-1813) 1800 Oration at death of Washington; 1813 Removed as minister

Moses Dow (1815-1829) Decade of withdrawals from the church; membership in rival churches

Eber Carpenter (1830-1835) 1833 Temperance Pledge; Alfred became shire town of county; conflict with town over court house

John Haven (1836-1840) 1838-1839 Alterations to the meeting house; creation of new Parish burying ground

John L. Ashby (1841-1849) 1848 Temperance Declaration

William J. Newman (1849-1850) Reverend Newman died only months after his arrival

John Smith (1850-1855) He had recommended Newman for the ministry at the church

William A. Patten (1855-1858) 1857 Admission, Confession of Faith and the Covenant

William W. Parker (1858-1860) 1859 Land to be provided for vestry—Ladies Vestry Association organized

Rufus M. Sawyer (1861-1866) 1861-1865 American Civil War; 1863 Approval of Piscataqua Association doctrine

John Parsons (1866-1869) Reconstruction—beginning of the hotel era and seasonal tourism

Benjamin W. Pond (1870-1873)

David B. Sewall (1873-1888) 1875 Installation of the first organ; women admitted to meetings; 1881-1882 the church building moved and remodeled—the dedication ceremony; 1885 lightning damage; 1887 the railroad

George M. Woodwell (1890-1894) 1893 Memorial window

Melvin J. Allen (1895-1899) 1897 Adoption of Form for the Reception of Members; the introduction of the electric rail; 1898 Spanish-American War

Sidney K. Perkins (1899-1910) 1902 250th Anniversary observance; 1905 electric lights introduced

Frank Garfield (1910-1915) 1911 Norwood gift of the pulpit; 1913 Church Covenant; 1915 Standing Rules—Kansas City Platform and Creed—Preparation of Manual

H.S. McCready (1916-1918) 1917-1918 World War I; survey of parish property

Harold G. Booth (1919-1922) 1919 the bequests of Jeremiah McIntire and the creation of the McIntire Fund; three man commission to manage McIntire Fund

Albert S. Hawkes (1922-1928)

Walter H. Millinger (1929-1952) 1930 the second organ; 1935 creation of the Community House; 1936 Historical Service; 1941-1945 World War II; 1949 Plan for church reconstruction revived at war's end; 1950-1951 restoration and the third organ installed

Kenneth Friou (1953-1956) 1956 Minister resigned following a negative result in vote of confidence

Clarence H. Clark (1957-1967) 1961 the fourth organ installed; 1964 Community House renamed Parish House

Raymond B. Wilbur (1967-1983) 1968 Church basements rooms to be developed

William Indestrodt (1985-1993) Campaign for the 90's three year project—121,000 dollars for renovations and construction projects

Richard Knight (1995-2010) 1998 Mission Statement approved; 2001 the fifth organ installed; 2002 Addition of the old library—Parish House became Fellowship Hall

Marlayna Schmidt

Anna Verlee Copeland (2013-2018) 2013 Behavioral Covenant; 2016 Church and parish legally joined; 2017 Reverend Daniel Hollis as Associate Minister; 2018 Open and Affirming Covenant approved