



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: Trinity Church (Southport, Conn.). Records

Collection #: Ms B43

Dates: 1790-1954

Size of Collection: 1.66 linear ft. (4 boxes)

Accession Number: unknown; L2000.12

Donor: Ralph G. Schwarz; Trinity Church archivist Lisa Newton

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Barbara Austen and DGI

Date: June 1991; August 1999; July 2010

Biographical/ historical note:

Trinity Episcopal Church was founded in 1725. Its first building was erected on Mill Plain Road. In 1738 a new church was built at the corner of present-day Old Post Road and Oldfield Road. When that structure was burned by British and Hessian soldiers in 1779, the parish built a new church on Mill Plain Green. Portions of that building were used to construct a new edifice in Southport. The first church was located on Rose Hill Road; the second, built in 1854, is the current building on Pequot Avenue. For a complete history of the church see Annals of An Old Parish by Edmund Guilbert.

Scope and content note:

The first group of materials in this collection were originally wrapped in bundles organized in 10-year increments, from 1790-1890, and 1891-1895, each titled "Fairfield Parish Papers". The date ranges have been retained and within each 10-year period the

records have been arranged by type. A later addition contributed mostly bound volumes of meetings, finances and records as well as documents from 1900-1930s including The Spire newsletter, material related to the 200th anniversary in 1925 and a few service programs.

The collection primarily consists of financial, legal and baptismal records of the first Episcopal parish formed in Fairfield. Financial records include bound volumes of accounts, bills and receipts for construction or renovation of the various buildings that the church owned. Other financial records include lottery accounts and subscriptions for raising money to build the churches, and a series of accounts for “letting” or renting pews. Vestry committee minutes date 1846-1849, 1853-1854, 1868-1936. Baptismal records are scattered and incomplete, dating 1827-1829 and 1830-1836. Included is a copy of rev. Philo Shelton’s record book recording baptisms, marriages and burials for 1785-1824. Membership records consist of certificates stating a person did or did not intend to pay for the upkeep of the minister. Also included in this collection are meeting minutes of The Bible and Prayer Society of Trinity Church Southport, 1818-1917.

Twentieth-century renovations and additions to the building on Pequot Avenue, are documented by specifications, bills, correspondence and memoranda with contractors, and architectural drawings. Architects included Roswell Barratt, Edmund Julian, and N. R. Pearson. Additional drawings for the Pequot Avenue church can be found in the collection of Roswell Barratt.

Box 1

1790-1799

- Folder 1. Volume with copies/extracts of records from 1664-1780; promissory notes, receipts, orders of payment, bill, 1793-1799

1800-1810

- Folder 2. Receipts, bill, order of payment, 1800-1809; account of letting pews, 1802-1804
- Folder 3. Collectors book, abatement lists, 1802-1805
- Folder 4. Member certificates, 1802-1809

1810-1819

- Folder 5. Lottery accounts, bonds, Assembly resolution, 1819-1835
- Folder 6. Receipts, 1810-1816

1820-1829

- Folder 7. Promissory notes, receipts, order of payment, bills, 1820-1829
- Folder 8. Accounts of letting pews, 1830-1830
- Folder 9. Petition, 1825; baptismal records, 1827-1829

1830-1839

- Folder 10. Subscription book, 1832-1834
- Folder 11. Bills and receipts, orders of payment, 1830-1836
- Folder 12. Deeds and legal documents, 1830-1836
- Folder 13. Baptismal and church meeting records, 1830-1836
- Folder 14. Correspondence, 1834-1838
- Folder 15. Accounts of letting pews, 1832-1836

1840-1849

- Folder 16. Bills and receipts, 1840-1849
- Folder 17. Notices of meetings, 1842-1849
- Folder 18. Minutes of the vestry committee, 1846-1849
- Folder 19. Legal records, 1844-1847; membership records, 1843-1849; and accounts of letting pews, 1845-1859
- Folder 20. Correspondence, 1846-1849

1850-1859

- Folder 21. Accounts for building church, 1850; treasurer's records, 1850; subscription records, 1853-1854
- Folder 22. Certificates, 1854-1856; list of subscribers, 1853; correspondence, 1851-1854; deeds, 1853-1853; accounts of letting pews, 1850,
1854
- Folder 23. Committee meeting minutes, reports, notices, 1850-1854

Folder 24. Copy of Historical Discourse delivered at Trinity Church, 1851, by
Rector
N.E. Cornwall

1860-1869

Folder 25. Bills for building and furnishing church

Folder 26. Subscriptions; accounts for letting pews, 1863, 1864; resolution,
1868

Box 2

Folder 27-29. Bills, 1862

1870-1879

Folder 30. Subscriptions, accounts and bills, 1871-1879; letter, 1879

1880-1889

Folder 31. Subscription lists, 1881-1884; copy of probate record, 1880

1891-1895

Folder 31. Bills, accounts and subscription lists, 1891-1895

Folder 33. Correspondence, 1892-1895; meeting notice, 1893; committee
appointments, 1895; copy of Phil Shelton's records made
1893;
Society, 1893
handbook of the Bible & Common Prayer Book

Undated

Folder 34. Sermons and notes, n.d. (Possibly the original of the sermon
Historical Discourse by N.E. Cornwall)

Folder 35. Floor frame plan for organ wind chest, n.d.

Folder 36. Extracts of diocesan records, 1837-1898, by Edmund Guilbert

Box 3

1900-1919

Folder 43. Service programs, 1902

1920-1930s

Folder 44. The Spire, monthly newsletter, 1925-1929

Folder 45. The Spire, monthly newsletter, 1930-1934

Folder 46. The Spire, monthly newsletter, 1935-1938

Folder 47. 200th anniversary, 1925
Includes correspondence, invitation, program

Folder 48. Service programs, 1930s

Folder 49. Historical sketches, 1935
Published pamphlets and draft of anniversary address

Bound volume, meetings of the The Bible and Prayer Society of Trinity Church Southport, 1818-1917. Includes financial accounts, 1868-1891 on back pages.

Box 2

1940-1959

Folder 37. Specifications for renovation and additions, 1948, Raymond H. Julian and Leslie H. Nobbs

Folder 38. Contract, correspondence, memoranda and blueprints of proposed renovations, Raymond Julian, 1948

Folder 39. Correspondence, bills, work orders and memoranda to and from contractors, 1930, 1946 and 1948 renovation

Folder 40. Correspondence, bills, memoranda and final accounting, to and from contractors on renovation and later repairs and adjustments, 1948-1950

Folder 41. Plans and correspondence re: changing boundaries of Pequot Ave., 1936; specifications and contractor agreement on Sunday School addition, 1954; scope of work for chapel, 1954; specifications for Parish House addition, n.d.

Folder 42. Bluelines and blueprints of church, chapel and Sunday school buildings, 1948-1954 (July 1999, stored with R. Barratt drawings)

Box 3

Folder 50. Parish lists, 1950s

Folder 51. Financial documents, 1952-1964

1960-1990s

Folder 52. Miscellaneous, 1960s

Folder 53. Lists of baptisms, confirmations, 1990s ***RESTRICTED***

Box 4

Bound volume: Cash and ledger book , 1926-1937

Bound volume: Register of church services, 1932-1939

Bound volume: Treasurer's Book, 1853-1893

Box 5

Bound volume: Meetings, 1855- Jan. 1936

Bound volume: Vestry meetings, 1917-1936

Vestrymen of Bound volume: Record of the Doings of the Wardens and Trinity Parish Southport, Fairfield, CT, 1868-1917

Oversize Item A Bound volume: Record Book
1893 copy of original book kept by Rev. Philo Shelton containing listings of baptisms, marriages, burials, communicants from 1785-1824. Includes financial accounts, 1785-1798

Subject headings:

Architecture--Conn.--Southport--designs and plans

Baptismal records--Conn.--Southport

Barratt, Roswell, d. 1994

Church architecture--Conn.--Southport--designs and plans

Julian, Raymond H.

Pearson, N. R.

Pews and pew rights--Conn.--Southport