

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection

2003.15

Processed by Alex Mawson
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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains contents of a box removed from the cornerstone of the Old South Church (First Congregational) on the corner of Main and Wellington Streets in Worcester. The box, which was placed in the cornerstone on July 4th, 1888, contains documentation about the church, religious newspapers and publications from the late 1880s, secular newspapers from the 1880s, publications about the Worcester Music Festival, photographs of the Church, and a Bible.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance Placed on permanent loan to the Worcester Historical Museum on June 5, 1968 from the First Congregational Church in Worcester.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Historical/Biographical Notes

The “New” Old South Church was built on the corner of Main and Wellington streets in the late 1880s. It was built to replace the original Old South Church, which was purchased and demolished by the City of Worcester in 1887 to make way for the new City Hall, which opened in 1898. Dedicated on September 17, 1889, the “New” Old South remained vibrant until the 1930s, when parishioners began moving away from downtown Worcester. Between 1939 and 1963, the congregation lost 392 members, while Tatnuck Congregational Church on Pleasant Street gained 212. In 1963 the two churches joined to form First Congregational Church, and that congregation continues to meet at the Church’s Tatnuck location. The New Old South was modified and is now elderly housing. When the cornerstone of the New Old South was laid on July 4th, 1888, a copper box with the items in this collection was placed inside. When the congregation moved to Tatnuck, the box went with them, and on the 250th anniversary of the founding of Old South Church, April 11, 1967, the box was opened. The box and its were put on permanent loan to the Worcester Historical Society on June 5, 1968.

Scope and Content

Collection contains information relating to the Old South Church, the “New” Old South Church, and the First Congregational Church of Worcester. The collection contains newspapers and other printed materials from the late 1880s and publications about the Worcester Music Festival. It also contains religious publications from the 1880s.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: History

Series 2: Religious Publications

Series 3: Secular Publications

Series 4: Worcester Music Festival

Series 5: Photographs

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 1, History

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.15.1.1	List of Choir members of the Old South Church.
1	1	2003.15.1.2	List of the Committee in charge of building the "New" Old South.
1	1	2003.15.1.3	Copy of the results of a vote taken at the Annual Parish Meeting, January 13 th , 1888.
1	1	2003.15.1.4	List of officers of the Old South parish.
1	1	2003.15.1.5	List of members of the Old South Sunday School, 1888.
1	1	2003.15.1.6	Pamphlet for the Service at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the New Old South Meeting House.
1	1	2003.15.1.7	Book: "Manual and Catalogue of the (First Church) Old South, Worcester, Mass. July 1, 1877."
1	1	2003.15.1.8	Book: "The Old South Church, Worcester, Mass. 1715-1886."

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 2, Religious Publications

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2003.15.2.1	Copy of a sermon delivered in memory of Asaph R. Marshall, February 3, 1884.
1	2	2003.15.2.2	Copy of speeches given at Watertown, Massachusetts' celebration of America's centennial, July 4 th , 1876.
1	2	2003.15.2.3	Copy of the election sermon delivered on January 4, 1882 at King's Chapel in Boston, Massachusetts by Old South Pastor Joseph F. Lovering.
1	2	2003.15.2.4	Copy of the July 1888 edition of "Church-Building Quarterly."
1	2	2003.15.2.5	Copy of the June 1888 edition of "The Home Missionary."
1	2	2003.15.2.6	Program from the dedication of Pilgrim Church in Worcester, Sunday, July 1, 1888.
1	2	2003.15.2.7	Flyer for "Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Old South Church, Worcester, Mass. 1888."
1	3	2003.15.2.8	Constitution and Bylaws of the Young People's Society of Christian Eneavor.
1	3	2003.15.2.9	Catalogue of the Sunday School Library of the Old South Church. January, 1888.
1	3	2003.15.2.10	"The Sunday School Quarterly," 1888.
1	3	2003.15.2.11	"The Missionary Herald," June, 1888.
1	3	2003.15.2.12	"The American Missionary," May, 1888.
1	4	2003.15.2.13	"The Sunday School Times," June 16, 1888.

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 2, Religious Publications (Continued)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2003.15.2.14	"The Golden Rule," June 14, 1888.
1	4	2003.15.2.15	"The Congregationalist," June 21, 1888.

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 3, Secular Publications

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2003.15.3.1	Program from the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors monument in Beverly, Mass, October 13, 1882.
1	5	2003.15.3.2	"The American McCall Record," April, 1888.
1	5	2003.15.3.3	"The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1888."
1	5	2003.15.3.4	"Catalogue of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1888"
1	5	2003.15.3.5	"The Attempt on the Life of our President: Its Political Effects." A paper by J.F. Lovering, Minister of Old South.
1	6	2003.15.3.6	"New England Home Journal," June 20, 1888.
1	6	2003.15.3.7	"The Hospital-Cottage Friend," June 1888.
1	6	2003.15.3.8	"The Massachusetts Spy," June 29, 1888.
1	6	2003.15.3.9	"Worcester Daily Telegram," July 4, 1888.
1	6	2003.15.3.10	"The Worcester Daily Times," July 3, 1888.
1	7	2003.15.3.11	"The Worcester Daily Spy," July 4, 1888.
1	7	2003.15.3.12	"The Worcester Evening Gazette," July 4, 1888.
1	7	2003.15.3.13	"The Worcester Daily Spy," July 2, 1888.

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 4, Worcester Music Festival

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2003.15.4.1	Circular for the "30 th Annual Festival of the Worcester County Musical Association. September, 1887."
1	8	2003.15.4.2	Program from the "30 th Annual Festival of the Worcester County Musical Association. September, 1887."
1	8	2003.15.4.3	"The Worcester Music Festival," September 15, 1886.
1	8	2003.15.4.4	"The Worcester Music Festival," August 24, 1887.
1	8	2003.15.4.5	"The Worcester Music Festival," September 8, 1887.
1	8	2003.15.4.6	Envelope that held items 2003.15.4.1-.6

Old South Church Cornerstone Collection
2003.15
Series 5, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2003.15.5.1	Photo of the Old South Church.
1	9	2003.15.5.2	Photo of Old South Pastor J. Lovering.
1	9	2003.15.5.3	Photo of Old South and Old City Hall.
1	9	2003.15.5.4	Interior of Old South, facing the altar.
1	9	2003.15.5.5	Exterior of Old South.
1	9	2003.15.5.6	Interior of Old South, facing organ and choir loft.