

# Congregational Library & Archives Boston, Massachusetts An Introduction

A Moravian, a Mennonite, and a Congregationalist Walk into  
a Library ... Atla Discussion

February 15, 2024

# Mission Statement

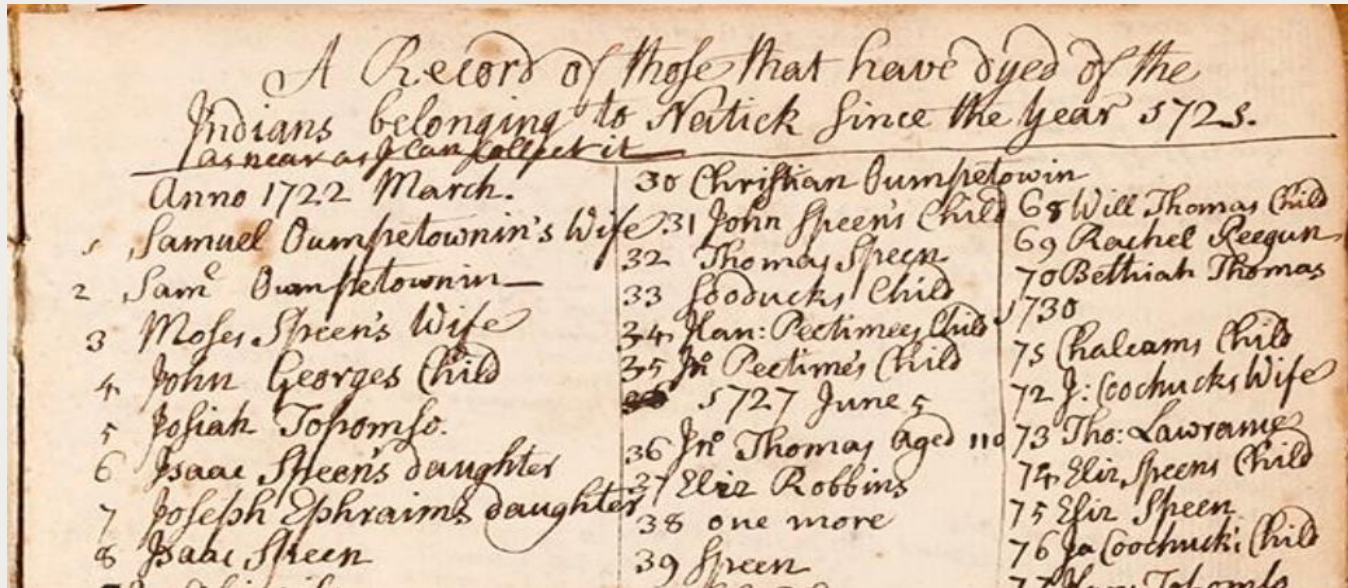
The Congregational Library & Archives fosters a deeper understanding of the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and civic dimensions of the Congregational story and its ongoing relevance to contemporary society by collecting, preserving, and sharing materials and by actively engaging with faith communities, students, scholars, and the general public.



## A (Very) Brief History

- Building a denominational identity
- Minister's library
- Historical research library

# Broad Overview

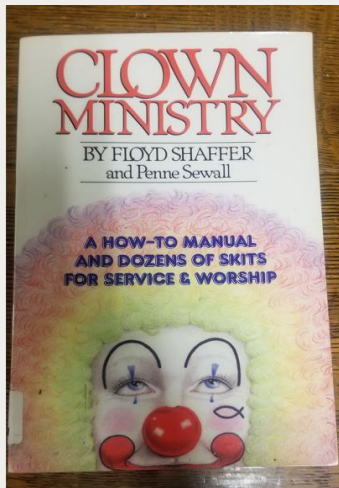


- 225k Items
  - 1308 archival collections (roughly 1450 linear feet)
  - Tens of thousands of printed works
- 16th century to 21st century
- National collection with global connections

# Print Collection Highlights

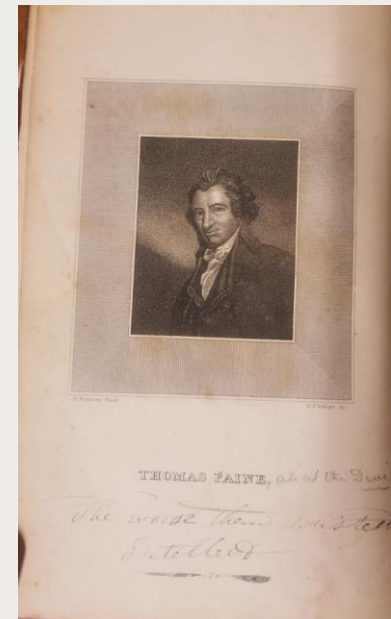
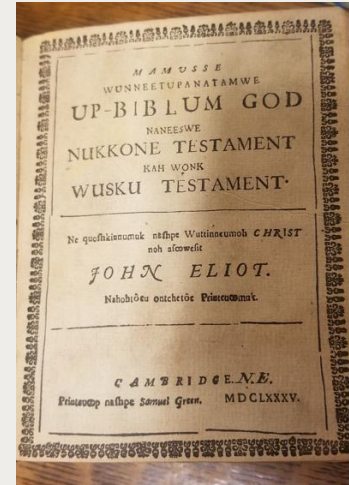


Marvel Team-Up Starring Cotton Mather



Clown Ministry, from the Practical Theology section

Thomas Paine, aka THE DEVIL



# The Archival Collections Status Project

## The Project

A systematic approach to documenting the status of archival collections by researching collection identifiers (RG/MS numbers). This will allow the CLA to have a full accounting of its archival collections.

## Statistics (2/14/2024)

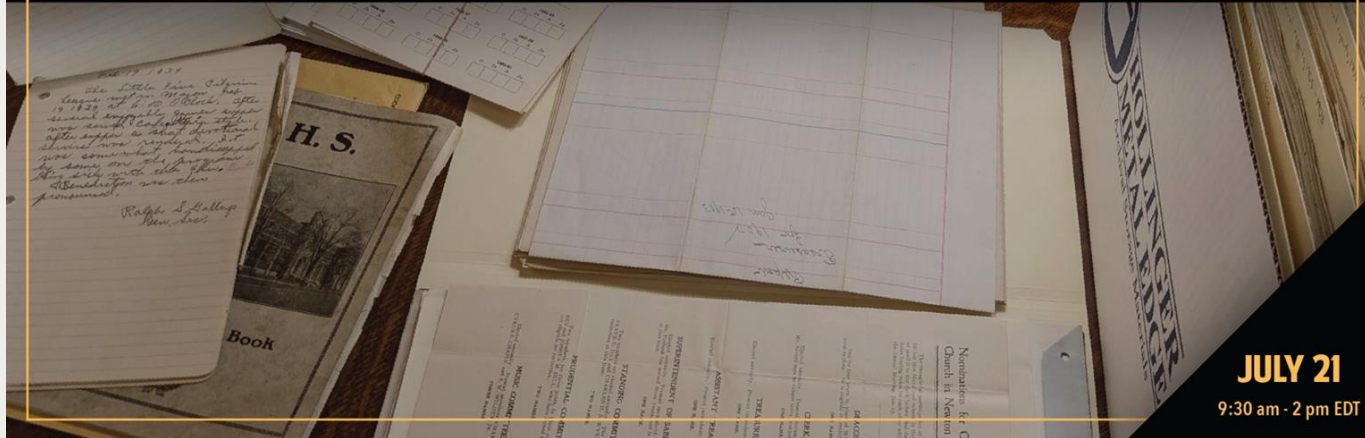
- Number of Identifiers Researched:
  - More than 3,657
- Status of Collections:
  - Processed: 222 (518.25ft<sup>3</sup>)
  - Underprocessed: 137 (596.06ft<sup>3</sup>)
  - Unprocessed: 689 (425.91ft<sup>3</sup>)
  - Microfilm: 78
- Approximate total extent:
  - 1,584.7 cubic feet

Number	In Use?	Coll Folder?	Paperwork	Processing Status	Extant (cu feet)	Collection Title
0134	No	NA	NA			
0135	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	Northern Associated Presbytery of New
0136	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	Northfield, Mass. Congregational
0137	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	John Humphrey Noyes papers, circa
0138	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unprocessed	7.52	Ohio Conference records, 1822-1981.
0139	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	William Weston Patton sermon, 1865.
0140	Yes	Yes	No	Underprocessed	1.09	Alan Bowe Peabody papers, 1947-1962.
0141	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unprocessed	0.75	Fenner H. Peckham slide collection of
0142	Yes	Yes	No	Underprocessed	2.37	Albert Penner papers, 1924-1973. Pennsylvania Conference of
0143	Yes	Yes	Yes	Underprocessed	0.22	Congregational and Christian Churches.
0144	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	North Andover, Mass. North Parish
0145	Yes	Yes	Yes	Underprocessed	0.25	Pilgrim Fellowship of Congregational
0146	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unprocessed	Small	Pittston, Me. Second Congregational
0147	Yes	Yes	No	Unprocessed	Small	Providence, R.I. Richmond Street
0148	No	Yes	Yes	Deaccessioned	NA	Otto G. Reuman Collection, 1963-1966.

# Church Stewardship Initiative (CSI)

## THE ARCHIVES EDIT:

A Workshop in Arranging Your Church's Archive  
with Zachary Bodnar and Billy McCarthy



**JULY 21**

9:30 am - 2 pm EDT

## WHAT IS RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND WHY SHOULD YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY CARE?

Records management is the organization and control over a church's records and is a vital component for preserving a community's mission and history. Starting records management is not easy. But by putting in a little effort over time, a church can protect its past, preserve the present, and prepare for the future.

# The Digital Archive

## Goals


- Accessibility through metadata, search functions, and transcription.
- Home for all of CLA's digital collections:
  - NEHH
  - Image Collection


## Statistics

- Number of Files
  - 109,867 Images
- Number of Digital Objects
  - 4,657
- Digital Footprint
  - 216.58 GB
- Digital Collections
  - 189
- Transcriptions
  - 760 Objects
  - 11,163 Pages

Church records, 1721-1794, First Congregational Church in Natick, Mass.  

Natick, Massachusetts. First Congregational Church records, 1721-1862.

Browse Images  19 of 75 Summary Transcript



Admissions into ye Church  
1729 John Draper junr John Draper junr Abigail Draper March 24 Oliver Sooduck & Esther own'd Covt 1755. Joseph Comecho Do -- Do June 18. Solomon Wompsquon Do -- Do Augt. 31. Elizath Johnson Full Communion Sepr. 7 -- Leah Comcho own'd Covt In John Alden & Mary - full Communion Octor 26 Ebenezr Battle & Hannah Dedham 1756. June Hannah Underwood Novr 28 Eunice Brook - Ind. 1757 Mar. 20. Eliza Lawrence Ind Sepr 7th. Mark Whitney & Wife certifd from Framingham 1760 Jason Whitney - Mercy & Hannah Peabody Octor 5. Silas Stone ---- April 28 Susannah Gardner ----- Augt 26. Thos Whitney Sepr 23 his Wife Novr 4. John Gays Wife 1765 Octor 6. Wid.o Hannah Taylor 13. Sarah Peabody & Old Wido Bacon 74 yr old 1768 Wido Mchitable Ellis



# New England's Hidden Histories

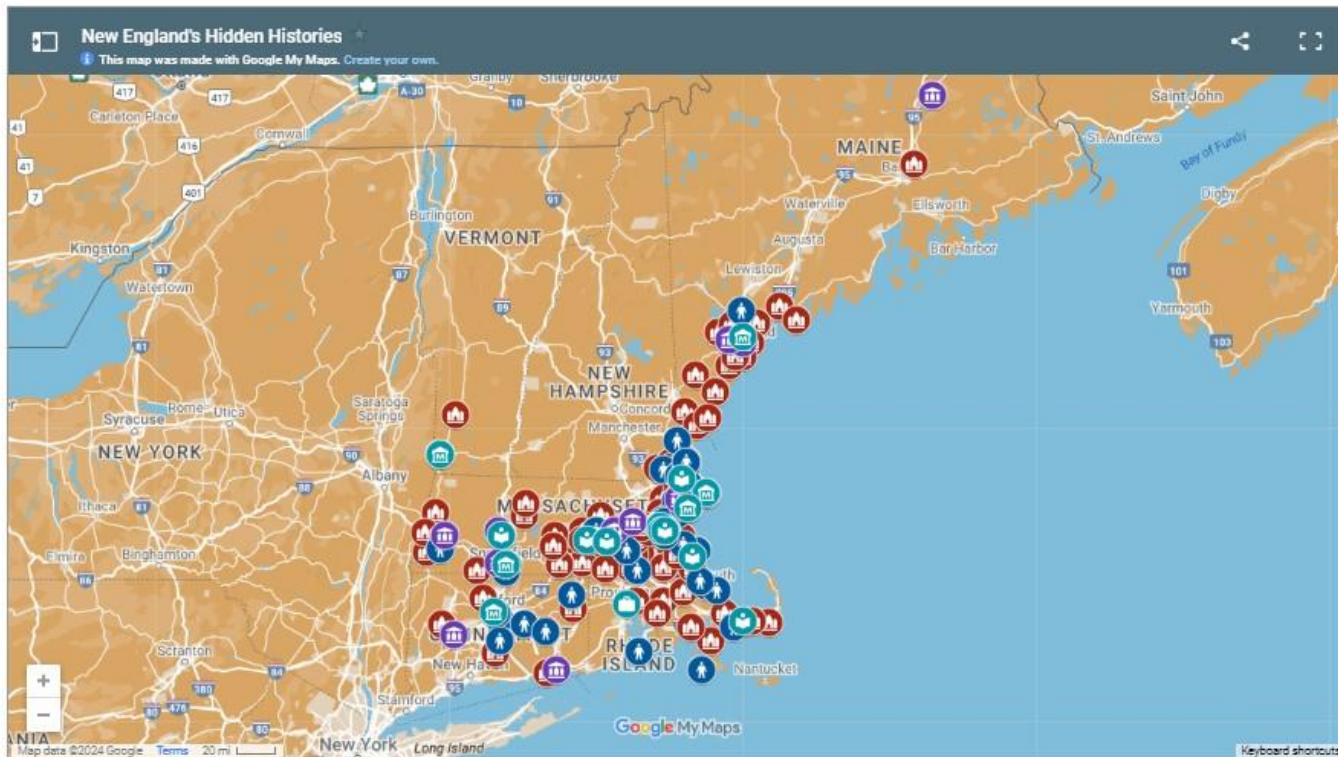
- ❖ 2005: NEHH begins as a small-scale project at CLA in partnership with the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale
- ❖ 2015: CLA receives NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant and Council on Library and Information Resources grant
- ❖ 2018: CLA received second three-year NEH grant
- ❖ 2021: CLA receives third three-year NEH grant
- ❖ 2022: Quartex launched

Since the project began, more than 110,000 pages of manuscript records and 20,000 pages of literal transcription have been published online and are freely accessible to the public. In the year since the launch of Quartex, 10,000 viewers explored 40,000 pages.

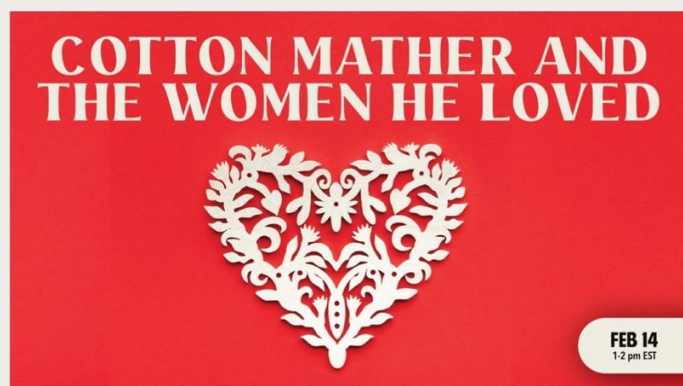
## New England's Hidden Histories

Congregational church records offer a rich and remarkable view of life in colonial and early-American New England. Well before the writing of the Constitution, each member in the early Puritan churches had an equal vote, with the power to govern themselves and to choose their own ministers. The records of these congregations document births, deaths, and marriages, but also open a window onto the lives of ordinary people deliberating on matters both sacred and secular. For much of the colonial period, church business was town business, and so beyond the usual information on births, deaths, and marriages, church records show ordinary people making decisions about property, taxation, and their representation in the larger affairs of the colony or state.

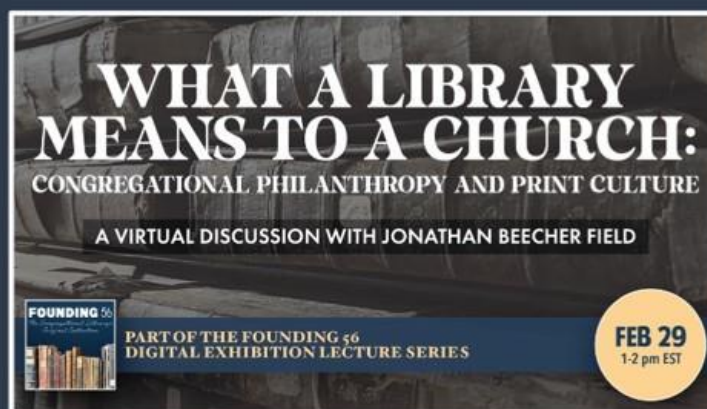
## Map of New England's Hidden Histories



# Virtual and In-Person Programming



## UPCOMING EVENTS



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