



**OLD COLONY
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

**William T. and Mary L.
Hurley Library
Finding Aid**

**MSS-09-004
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Taunton**

Historical & Biographical Note: The foundation of St. Thomas Church is often credited to Captain Thomas Coram, an English ship-master who settled in Taunton in 1698 and attempted to establish a Church of England there for five years until his relocation to Boston. In 1703, he deeded fifty-one acres of land in Taunton (in an area that is now Berkeley) held in trust by the King's Chapel in Boston, "until the inhabitants of the town of Taunton should become more civilized than they are now, and should incline to have a Church of England built among them", according to Taunton's centennial celebration sermon preached by Reverend Thomas L. Crum in 1964.

Although Thomas Coram's deed was abused by the King's Vestry in Boston and the lands were sold in 1754, a tract known as the Glebe was purchased in 1728 by the Three Mile River and Tremont Street for the erection of a church, and the first St. Thomas' Church was built in 1740 through the organization of a group of local men and churchmen ("History of St. Thomas' Church"). A building on this property for the use of clergymen became as Coram Hall, after Thomas Coram for his dedication to the promotion of Anglican faith (St. Thomas and the Anglican church in pre-Revolutionary War America"). Coram also gifted his library to St. Thomas Parish, which has since been distributed among Taunton's museums and libraries following its storage in the church.

In 1815, the first church building was blown down in a storm, and only the stone foundations remained. A new church was constructed in the center of Taunton in 1828, with one of the remaining stones from the old church being inscribed and inlaid in the floor of the new one. After the parish expanded beyond the limits of the second church, construction began on the third and present church building, designed by Richard Upjohn and modeled after English architecture. The Third Church was consecrated on March 3, 1859 by Bishop Eastburn. Since then, a number of outbuildings have been constructed for and donated to St. Thomas' Parish, including The Chapel, the rectory, and the Parish House.

In 1978, St. Thomas celebrated its 250th anniversary, and the church continues to thrive this day.

Scope & Content Note: The collection contains programs, copies of newspaper articles, correspondences, and transcriptions or copies of older records pertaining to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton, ranging from the years 1740-1999.

Includes: VEP 46P, VL479C, and VSA25CT #1-4

Series Description: There is one box in this series with eleven folders, the first folder being a diary containing the typed transcription and photocopy of Early Records of St. Thomas Church.

Inventory:

Box:	Folder:	Contents:
1	1	Copy of typed transcription of records for St. Thomas Church of baptism, book lending, burials, church members, and tax agreements, 1755-1787
		Photocopy of original written "Early Records of St. Thomas Church/ Rev. John Lyon/c. 1740-1760"
	2	Typed transcription of a diary found in St. Thomas Episcopal Church with dates 1837-1841
	3	Two copies of "... A Walk Through St. Thomas With Mr. Frank (Adapted from his 'Sermons You Can See') Summer 1995"
	4 (VEP46P)	Petition opposing the taxation of Taunton residents for the salary of Rev. Mr. Crocker, August 26, 1755
	5 (VL479C)	Two copies of a booklet, "Parochial History./ A Sermon Preached The Sunday After Christmas,/ December 28, 1879,/ by Rev. Charles H. Learoyd,/ Rector of St. Thomas Church,/ Taunton, MASS."
	6 (VR251C)	Written account in ink, "The Revolutionary Period-/1770-1786/Rev. William Millard Wheller/1786-1799", signed C.A.R.; written in pencil at top "Reminiscence of Episcopacy in Taunton" `
	7 (VSA25CT # 1)	Two copies of "History of St. Thomas Church, Taunton, MASS." by N.T. Bent, Rector, 1844
		St. Thomas Parish program and register, "The Vineyard" Vol. II. No. 2. December 1897
		Article, "A Thanksgiving Story" by Norm Dunphe/ Church Historian
		Article, "The Rectory, the McKinstry's and Other Mysteries" by Norm Dunphe, Church Historian
		Article, "St. Thomas and the Anglican Church in Pre-Revolutionary War America" by Norm Dunphe, Church Historian
		St. Thomas Parish program and register, "The Vineyard" Vol. II. No. 3. January 1898
		Letter from Fremont W. Prescott of St. Thomas to the Parish Historian Society regarding the founding of St. Thomas Church
		Four copies of "A Memento", letter by Joseph E. Warner for the 100 th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Foundation Stone at St. Thomas, June 16, 1957

		Typed transcript of meeting notes for the Episcopal Society of the Church of St. Thomas, July 2, 1798-April 20, 1820
		Letter to Rev. H. M. Medary of St. Thomas from A. MacLeod Monroe, Oversea Secretary of The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, September 17, 1928
		Program for the Service of Remembrance, November 12, 1995
		Printout of catalog entry at the Boston Athenaeum for "Historical discourse of St. Thomas Church, Taunton, delivered afternoon of Easter-day, 1844"
		Letters from Fremont W. Prescott, Parish Clerk, to the Lambeth Palace Library and London House regarding St. Thomas Church and the Bishop of London
		Photocopy of article by Rev. Thomas E. Crum on "St. Thomas/Taunton" from <i>The Church Militant</i> , May 1975
		Typed transcription of parish records for entries "Abia Linkon" to "Melvin Damon Luscombe", with a note at the bottom concerning Tabitha Lincoln
		Two Deeds of Pew in St. Thomas Church for pew numbers 15, 27 and 134, February 28 and March 8, 1959
		Written transcription of Rev. N.J. Beut. of St. Thomas Church, 1844
		Letter to Mr. Fremont Prescott from The Bishop of London concerning documents in the Lambeth Palace Library. February 26, 1997
		Typed document, "Second Deed for Property on Which First St. Thomas Church was Built.", Signed by William Thayer 2 nd , June 20, 1738
		Typed document, written on top "Deed of Glebe", signed William Hauskins, November 30, 1728
		Letter to Mr. Chris Whittaker from the Old Colony Historical Society regarding the library of Captain Thomas Coram, June 10, 1994
		Letter from Rev. J. Holland Beal, Rector of St. Thomas, to Mr. Austin at the Old Colony History Museum concerning the Coram Library, February 26, 1953
		Print or sketch of St. Thomas Church in plastics, written on reverse "With many thanks/for your many handiwork/New Year 1940 JBeal"
		Deed of Pew for pew number one in St. Thomas Church in plastic, October 14, 1836
		Print of Episcopal Church, Taunton, 1856 in plastic
		Photocopy of written St. Thomas parish meeting notes, April 13, 1854 to June 9, 1856
		Transcript of a sermon preached by Rev. Thomas L. Crum on May 31, 1964 on the centennial of Taunton as a city
		Typed excerpts from notes of the Meeting of the Society mentioning Rev. John Lyon from 1763-1770, September 17, 1928
	8 (VSA25CT #2)	Two photocopies of newspaper article, "Captain Thomas Coram Instrumental in Formation of St. Thomas Episcopal Church", written on top of one, "article dates c. 1953"
		Photocopy of newspaper article concerning the 175 th anniversary celebration of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
		Photocopy of newspaper article concerning the 250 th anniversary of St.

		Thomas Church, "Historic St. Thomas Church Looks Ahead", October 21, 1978
		Photocopy of newspaper article regarding the appointment of Caroline A. Couch of St. Thomas' to a foreign missionary position, "Going to China to take part in mission work"
		Photocopy of typed letter, "Vignettes/Oakland" about the establishment of the Taunton Church of England
		Photocopy of a print of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Institution at St. Thomas' Church," written on reverse, "Independent Gazette (Taunton)/ May 10, 1833 p. 75"
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Laying of the Foundation Stone.", written on top, "American Republican 18 June 1857"
		Photocopy of newspaper article regarding the re-dedication of St. Thomas' on its 250 th anniversary, "A Great Day for St. Thomas," Taunton Daily Gazette October 23, 1978
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "St. Thomas' Church Scorched" about a fire heavily damaging the church
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "St. Thomas Set for Gala Sunday" concerning the church's 250 th anniversary gala, October 21, 1978
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Gives History of Episcopal Church Here", a paper on the history of St. Thomas' by M. Emma Burt
	9 (VSA25CT #3)	St. Thomas Parish program and register, "The Vineyard: Commemoration Number/ 175 th Anniversary", Vol. VII No. 10, October 1903
		Program for "Rededictory Organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Thomas Murray, October 26, 1980
		Program for "Organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Dr. John R. King, November 8, 1964
		Typed biography for John King, Professor of Music, University of Massachusetts, U.S.A., for the organ recital at St. Thomas' Church
		Program for "Organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Douglas L. Rafter, A.A.G.O., October 16, 1966
		Program for "Organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Fred Cronhimer, September 29, 1963
		Program for "Organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Edna D. Parks, Ph. D., October 7, 1962
		Typed biography for Howard Alan Jewell, organist and choirmaster at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
		Typed copy of "The Vineyard", program for mass at the First Sunday after Pentecost, Vol. 88 No. 44, June 2, 1985
		Copy of typed notice for the organ recital by Douglas L. Rafter, AAGo of Boston, at St. Thomas' Church with a list of invitation recipients on the reverse, October 10, 1966
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Famed organist Offers Public Concert Sunday" regarding the recital of Douglas L. Rafter, written at top, "10/14/1966"
		Written correspondence from Fred Cronhimer to Mr. Garniss, July 20, 1963

		Written correspondence from Fred Cronhimer to Mr. Garniss, June 21, 1963
		Written correspondence from Fred Cronhimer to Mr. Garniss, October 4, 1963
		Single sheet program for "Organ Recital" by Howard A. Jewell at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, June 4, 1978
		Invitation to "The Rededicatory organ Recital" at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church by Thomas Murray, October 26, 1980
		Program for, "A Concert of Music from the 17 th to the 20 th Centuries", April 18, 1982
		Typed and written correspondence from Reverend Thomas Lee Crum, Rector fo St. Thomas' Church, to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Garniss, April 21, 1971 and October 9, 1962
		Typed 1970 Annual Report from the Music Committee of St. Thomas' Church by Stanley C. Garniss, Chairman
		Three sheets of typed correspondence from Stanley C. Garniss, Chariman St. Thomas Music Committee, to George R. Austin, July 16, 1969, May 11, 1970, and June 26, 1971
		Two copied of a typed pamphlet, "Buying an Organ: Guidelines for Churches," by the Music Commission, Diocese of Massachusetts, Fall 1973
		Typed correspondence from Allen Kinzey, Kinzey-Angerstein Organ Company, to Richard K. Stephenson, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, about the repair and rebuilding of the Jardine Organ, February 8, 1977
		Typed correspondence from Arnold C. Rathbun, Potter-Rathbun Organ Company, to Richard K. Stephenson, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, offering a quote for the rebuilding of the Jardine Organ, November 28, 1976
		Typed correspondence from Wilson Barry, President of Wilson & Barry Company, to Reverend Thomas Lee Crum, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, about the rebuilding of the Jardine Organ, February 25, 1977
		Typed correspondence from Robert J. Reich, President of Andover Organ Comapny, to Richard K. Stephenson, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, concerning the rebuilding of the Jardine Organ, March 4, 1977
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Local Matters: New Organ" about the arrival of the new organ by Messrs. E. & G. G. Hook of Roxbury for St. Thomas' Church, written on side, "4-28-1866"
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Organ Concert" regarding a performance by J. T. Wilcox on the new organ at St. Thomas', written on side, "5-5-1866"
		Typed copy of "The Vineyard" for the Pentecost XX mass, Vol. 87 No. 4, October 9, 1983
		Photocopy of title page of "The Requiem" by Gabriel Fauré, Conductor Jonathan Christian Davis, The Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas
		Typed list of newspaper article dates and titles about St. Thomas from the Taunton Daily Gazette, 1978-1986
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Organ Recital Fills St. Thomas Church," October 27, 1980
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Local Organ Pipe Maker Prefers

		Centuries-Old Methods,” regarding Pascal Boissonnet’s rebuilding of the pipe organ at St. Thomas’ Church
		Two typed drafts of a newspaper article, “Organ Recital, March 13, 1983” for publication, March 5, 2983
		Typed draft of newspaper article, “St. Thomas to Present Bach Cantana,” for publication on April 5, 1986
		Two copies of a program for, “An Organ Recital” by Brian Jones, concert organist, March 13, 1983 at St. Thomas’ Church
		Flier for “Organ Recital” by Brian Jones at St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, March 13, 1983
		Invitation to a benefit organ recital for Grace Episcopal Church at St. Thomas’ Church, August 24, 1988
		Correspondence from Matthew M. Bellocchio, St. Thomas’ Church, to Dr. W. Raymond Ackerman, Pilgrim Congregational Church, April 5, 1988
		Correspondence from Dr. W. Raymond Ackerman, Pilgrim Congregational Church, to Matthew M. Bellocchio, St. Thomas’ Church, March 15, 1988
		Photocopy of flier for “A Concert of Christmas Music”, performed by the St. Mary’s Boychoir of Maryland, December 11, 1982
		Two programs for an, “Organ Concert to commemorate the 100 th year of the gift of the Jardine Organ by Walter Clemenson,” May 16, 1999
	10 (VSA25CT #4)	Booklet, “St. Thomas’ Church,/Sunday School Report,/ Taunton, MASS.”, 1844
		St. Thomas Parish program and register, “The Vineyard” Vol. III. No. 10., October 1899
		St. Thomas Parish program and register, “The Vineyard” Vol. III. No. 4., February 1899
		Two copies of a booklet, “Saint Thomas Church/Through Two Centuries”, October 1928
		Four copies of a booklet, “From Seed to Harvest”/A Play/In Three Periods/ Written for Saint Thomas Parish” by Percival C. Lincoln, February 8, 1916
		Red ticket for “Tales of a Hundred Years”, the story of a Taunton house, hosted at St. Thomas Parish House, April 18, 1939
		Program for “From Seed to Harvest”/An Historical Pageant”, October 6, 1928
		Program for the 100 th Anniversary of Laying Cornerstone of Third Church, June 16, 1957
		Program for a Commemorative Service in the Old Churchyard of Saint Thomas, October 21, 1978
		Program for a performance of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin by St. Thomas Church School”, April 21 and 22, 1937
		Program for “Christ and His Soldiers/A Sacred Oratorio”, composed by John Farmer, performed by the Choir of St. Thomas Church
		Booklet for the Building and Improvement Fund Appeal for St. Thomas Church, 1960
		Sign “St. Thomas’ Church/Rules for Choristers”, May 8, 1892

		St. Thomas Church Parish directory, 1991
		Booklet, "Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas: A Brief History", 1994
		Two copies of St. Thomas Church Parish directory, 1981
	11 (VSA25CT #5)	Two copies of "The Vineyard" for the first Sunday after Trinity, Vol. 67 No. 42, May 31, 1964
		Two copies of leaflets for "The Little Pilgrims and the Book Beloved" at St. Thomas Parish Hall, April 22, 1910
		"Programme of Music" performed on the organ by Edwin H. Lemare at St. Thomas' Church, April 22, 1902
		Program for "Evening Concert" by the Choir of St. Thomas Church at Cedar St. chapel, May 26, 1886
		"Programme of Music" performed on the organ by Edwin H. Lemare at St. Thomas' Church, May 19, 1903
		Program for St. Thomas Church School Commencement, June 18, 1922
		Program for "Two Harvests: A Cantata" by Dr. Ferris Tozer, performed by The Choir of the Church at St. Thomas' Church
		Three programs for the One Hundredth Anniversary Laying Cornerstone of Third Church at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, June 16, 1957
		Program for the Ordination of Reverent kent David Rahm at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, May 28, 1983
		Two programs for the 250 th Anniversary Banquet at St. Thomas' Episcopal church, October 21, 1978
		Program for "A Service of Thanksgiving for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of The Reverend Thomas L. Crum," November 4, 1984
		Program, "The Vineyard" for Easter III mass, Vol. 87 No. 35, May 6, 1984
		Program, "The Vineyard" for Pentecost XXII mass, Vol. 84 No. 7, October 26, 1980
		Program, "The Vineyard" for Epiphany IV mass, Vol. 91 No. 21, January 29, 1989
		Three programs for "A Service of Thanksgiving Commemorating the 250 th Anniversary of the founding of The Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas," October 22, 1978
		Program on the history of Saint Thomas Church for the 250 th Anniversary, 1728-1978

Cross Reference:

Box 130		#16.7 Land plot, land on Glebe St. belonging to St. Thomas, 1743
VBA Dr. #7	25.10 a,b	Print of St. Thomas Church, second church building, Taunton