

Collection #  
M 0771,  
OMB 0088,  
F 1694

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (INDIANAPOLIS, IND.) TIME CAPSULES COLLECTION, 1839–1902

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Processed by

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 9 folders of photographs, 1 reel microfilm
COLLECTION DATES:	1839–1902
PROVENANCE:	Jeremy Efroymsen, 1505 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis,

Indiana 46202, 21 November 2002

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Centennial Memorial, First Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana (BX9211.I55 F5 1925)*

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0019

NOTES: Original copies of three Indianapolis newspapers announcing death of Benjamin Harrison, 18 March 1901, and the *Indianapolis News*, 15 May 1902, were given to the President Benjamin Harrison Home after being microfilmed. The microfilmed newspapers are in film number F 1694, part of this collection.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis was organized on 5 July 1823 by Reverends Isaac Reed and David C. Proctor and was handled by the Presbytery of Louisville. The first structure was built on Pennsylvania Street near Market Street. In 1837 the Presbyterian Church in America experienced a rift between what was known as the more conservative Old School and the liberal New School. This division affected the church in Indianapolis a year later when a group of fifteen members led by Reverend Henry Ward Beecher formed the New School General Assembly, which soon became the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. The original church property was then divided and the original assembly became the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. The Reverend Phineas D. Gurley became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in 1840 and a new building was erected on the corner of Market and Circle streets in October 1842.

A second church structure on the southwest corner of Pennsylvania and New York streets was begun in 1864 with the west end/chapel being completed in 1866. The main building and audience hall did not open for use until 29 December 1867. The Reverend J. Howard Nixon was the church's pastor at the time. Nixon served as pastor from 1861 until poor health forced his resignation in 1869. After several changes in leadership, the Reverend M. L. Haines of Astoria, New York, was named pastor in February 1885. Dr. Haines remained pastor until poor health forced his retirement in 1901.

In 1900 the church's location was designated as the site for a new federal building. The church-appointed committee decided to move to a location on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Delaware streets. The cornerstone was laid on 16 June 1902 and the church was occupied and dedicated on 4 October 1903. President Benjamin Harrison became an elder in 1861 at the age of 28 and remained one of the church's leaders until his death in 1901. In 2001 the building became the home for the Harrison Center for the Arts with Redeemer Presbyterian Church sharing adjacent space. The cornerstone was removed at this time and its contents, which also included the items from the cornerstones of the 1841 and 1866 structures, were donated to the Indiana Historical Society.

Sources:  
 Information in collection.  
*Centennial Memorial, First Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana*. Greenfield, Indiana: Mitchell Printing Company, 1925. BX9211.I55 F5 1925  
 Rudolph, L. C. "Presbyterians." In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, edited by David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows, 1131-34. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. [F534.I55 E4 1994](#)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains a variety of religious and historical materials and is divided into three series based upon the contents of three time capsule/cornerstones, dating from 1841, 1866, and 1902.

Materials housed in the 1841 time capsule (Series 1) include Sabbath School lists from various Protestant Churches in Indianapolis, Presbyterian missionary journals and historical information regarding the First Presbyterian Church. Non-religious material consists of *The Indiana Almanac* for 1841 and 1842, *The American Almanac*, 1840, and *A Catalogue and Circular Indianapolis Female Institute*, 1839. Newspapers contained in the earliest cornerstone are the *Presbyterian* (published in Philadelphia, September 1841); the two prominent Indianapolis newspapers of the time, *Indiana Journal* and the *Indiana State Sentinel* (August and September 1841); and the *New York Observer* (September 1841).

The items from the church's 1866 time capsule (Series 2) contain the cornerstone laying exercises (1866), lists for the Sabbath School, the general membership, church officers and subscriptions. There is also a published *Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church* (1860) and nationally circulated journals of the Presbyterian Church and its missionary work (May–July 1866). Also included are photographs of elders, a composite of pastor and elders and church buildings (1865). Secular material includes information on Crown Hill Cemetery, lists of state and city officials, an Indianapolis City Directory for 1865, *Redfield's Indiana Business Register*, 1865, and local and national newspapers for July 1866.

Among the materials placed in the 1902 time capsule (Series 3) are copies of the cornerstone laying exercises, 29 June 1902, a list of subscribers to the building fund, a list of contents for the previous cornerstones, and a proposal for a new church (n.d.). There also are items related to the First Presbyterian Church's operation including quarterly reports, 1899–1902, annual reports, 1893–99, church calendars, 1894–95, 1898, church manuals, 1870–98 and prayer meeting topics, 1902. Printed and historical publications include *History, Indianapolis Presbytery*, 1887; a published sermon from 9 December 1877 entitled *The Unspeakable Gift*; and several missionary and religious journals pertaining to the Presbyterian Church, 1875–1902. Other items include *Soldiers and Sailors Monument Souvenir*, 1902; *Hyman's Hand Book of Indianapolis*, 1897; and several Indianapolis newspapers containing stories regarding the church's construction and dedication, December 1901, the death of Benjamin Harrison, 18 March 1901, and the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, 15 May 1902. The capsule also contained portraits and photographs of the church's leaders, 1900–02.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: 1841 Time Capsule

#### CONTENTS

Original Lists of Articles from 1841 and 1866 Capsules

Writing Book—"Historical Notice of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis," n.d.

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Church and Sabbath School Lists (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 3
Church and Sabbath School Lists (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 4
Historical Information	Box 1, Folder 5
<i>Foreign Missionary Chronicle</i> , January 1841	Box 1, Folder 6
<i>Missionary Herald</i> , October 1841	Box 1, Folder 7
<i>Catalogue and Circular, Indianapolis Female Institute</i> , 1839	Box 1, Folder 8
<i>Indiana Almanac</i> , 1841, 1842	Box 1, Folder 9
<i>American Almanac</i> , 1840	Box 1, Folder 10
Newspapers, August–September 1841	OMB 0088, Folder 2

## **Series 2: 1866 Time Capsule**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Corner Stone Laying Exercise, 1866	Box 1, Folder 11
Sabbath School List	Box 1, Folder 12
Catalogue of Church Officers and Members	Box 1, Folder 13
Membership List and Subscriptions	Box 1, Folder 14
<i>Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church</i> , 1860	Box 1, Folder 15
List of State and City Officers	Box 1, Folder 16
<i>American Freedman</i> , June 1866	Box 1, Folder 17
Crown Hill Cemetery, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 18
<i>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, American Bible Society</i>	Box 1, Folder 19
<i>Christian World Magazine</i> , May 1866	Box 1, Folder 20
<i>Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian Church</i> , July 1866	Box 1, Folder 21
<i>Missionary Herald</i> , July 1866	Box 1, Folder 22
<i>The Foreign Missionary</i> , July 1866	Box 1, Folder 23
<i>Indianapolis City Directory</i> , 1865	Box 2, Folder 1
<i>Redfield's Indiana Business Register</i> , 1865	OMB 0088, Folder 1

Newspapers, July 1866 (1 of 3)	OMB 0088, Folder 3
Newspapers, July 1866 (2 of 3)	OMB 0088, Folder 4
Newspapers, July 1866 (3 of 3)	OMB 0088, Folder 5
1866 Time Capsule Photographs	Visual Collections: Photographs, folder 1
Pastor and Elders, 1865	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, folder 1

### **Series 3: 1902 Time Capsule**

#### CONTENTS

List of Contents from Previous Cornerstones, 10 December 1901

Cornerstone Laying Exercise, 29 June 1902 (5 copies)

Building Fund Subscriptions, n.d.

First Presbyterian Church Quarterly Reports, 1899–1900

First Presbyterian Church Quarterly Reports, 1901–02

Proposal for New Church, n.d. (2 copies)

First Presbyterian Church, Annual Reports, 1893–99

Woman's Home and Missionary Society Yearbook, 1902–03

Prayer Meeting Topics, 1902

"Continuation of Historical Sketch" (from 1860)

*The Unspeakable Gift*, 9 December 1877 (published sermon)

First Presbyterian Church Calendars, 1894–95, 1898

First Presbyterian Church Manual, 1870, 1893

First Presbyterian Church Manual, 1878

First Presbyterian Church Manual, 1882

First Presbyterian Church Manual, 1896, 1898

Special Church Services, 1873–1902

#### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7

Box 2, Folder 8

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10

Box 2, Folder 11

Box 2, Folder 12

Box 2, Folder 13

Box 2, Folder 14

Box 2, Folder 15

Box 2, Folder 16

Box 2, Folder 17

Box 2, Folder 18

<i>History, Indianapolis Presbytery, 1887</i>	Box 2, Folder 19
Sunday School, 1 May 1902	Box 3, Folder 1
Reports and Directory, 1878–1902	Box 3, Folder 2
<i>Statement of Reasons, Doctrine and Discourses of Emanuel Swedenborg, 1875</i>	Box 3, Folder 3
Church Information, 1895, 1902	Box 3, Folder 4
<i>The Assembly Herald, June 1902</i>	Box 3, Folder 5
<i>Soldiers and Sailors Monument Souvenir, 1902</i>	Box 3, Folder 6
<i>The Interior, May 1902</i>	Box 3, Folder 7
<i>Hyman's Handbook of Indianapolis, 1897</i>	Box 3, Folder 8
<i>Indianapolis Sentinel, 18 March 1901</i>	F 1694
<i>Indianapolis Journal, 18 March 1901</i>	F 1694
<i>Indianapolis Press, 18 March 1901</i>	F 1694
<i>Indianapolis Journal, 11 December 1901</i>	OMB 0088, Folder 6
<i>Indianapolis News, 11 December 1901</i>	OMB 0088, Folder 7
<i>Indianapolis News, 11 December 1901</i>	OMB 0088, Folder 8
<i>Indianapolis News, 28 December 1901</i>	OMB 0088, Folder 9
<i>Indianapolis News, 15 May 1902</i>	F 1694
Photographs/Portraits	Visual Collections: Photographs, folder 2
Photographs/Portraits	Visual Collections: Photographs, folder 3
Photographs/Portraits	Visual Collections: Photographs, folder 4
Dr. Isaac Coe Portrait	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, folder 2
Church Views, 1901	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, folder 3
William A. Holliday Graphic	Visual Collections: OVA Graphics, folder 1
Thomas MacIntire Graphic	Visual Collections: OVA Graphics, folder 2

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0771).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.