

**THE HISTORY OF WELLESLEY  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH;  
INCLUDING "THE INFLUENCE OF  
THE CHURCH IN THE MAKING OF  
NEW ENGLAND"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649007660

The history of Wellesley Congregational church; including "The influence of the church in the making of New England" by Edward Herrick Chandler

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**EDWARD HERRICK CHANDLER**

**THE HISTORY OF WELLESLEY  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH;  
INCLUDING "THE INFLUENCE OF  
THE CHURCH IN THE MAKING OF  
NEW ENGLAND"**



THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
Wellesley Congregational Church

BY  
EDWARD HERRICK CHANDLER  
*PASTOR*

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF AN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

INCLUDING  
"The Influence of the Church in the Making of New England"

*CENTENNIAL ORATION BY*  
WILLIAM HAYES WARD, D.D., LL.D.

---

BENJ. H. SANBORN & CO.  
BOSTON, U. S. A.

1851

## PREFATORY NOTE.

---

THE sources of this history have been found chiefly in the records of the West Precinct of Needham from its beginning, and in the three volumes of church records which cover the century. Although in some periods the record is too meager to satisfy the historian, yet it is a cause for gratitude that all the old books have been preserved to the present day.

In addition to these books, a considerable number of valuable documents and important letters have been found and examined. The biographical material relating to the pastors has been learned almost entirely from descendants, or, in the case of the three pastors now living, from their own writing. The memory of the older members has been drawn upon for reminiscences, and many calls for information have been made upon people not now in the community.

The pastor has been assisted by an editorial committee consisting of Miss Julia A. Eastman, Mr. Franklin B. Ingraham, Mr. Robert E. Anderson, and Mr. Benjamin H. Sanborn, each of whom has contributed a chapter.

The miscellaneous matter in the Appendix has been compiled with great care, every effort having been made to make it complete and accurate. There are undoubtedly some mistakes and omissions in the records which it is beyond the power of any one now to correct. But it is believed that nothing which can be ascertained from the records has been overlooked.

The writers hope that the book will serve to inspire a renewed sense of enthusiasm and loyalty in all present members of the church, and an increased friendliness and interest on the part of others.

E. H. C.

WELLESLEY, November 15, 1898.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW . . . . .	7
CHAPTER I.	
BUILDING THE MEETING-HOUSE . . . . .	13
CHAPTER II.	
THE FIRST PASTORATE . . . . .	28
CHAPTER III.	
EARLY DEVELOPMENTS . . . . .	49
CHAPTER IV.	
THE WEST PRECINCT DISSOLVED . . . . .	68
CHAPTER V.	
A NEW CHURCH . . . . .	86
CHAPTER VI.	
THE END OF THE CENTURY . . . . .	110
CHAPTER VII.	
WOMAN'S WORK . . . . .	121
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL . . . . .	127
CHAPTER IX.	
THE SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR . . . . .	138
CHAPTER X.	
CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL . . . . .	148

---

THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH IN THE MAKING OF NEW  
ENGLAND.

CENTENNIAL ADDRESS BY REV. WILLIAM HAYES WARD, D.D. . . .	153
---	-----

## APPENDIX.

	PAGE
I. THE ORIGINAL DEED OF SITE . . . . .	181
II. THE FIRST COVENANT . . . . .	182
III. REV. THOMAS NOYES' ACCEPTANCE OF CALL . . . . .	183
IV. FIRST FORM OF ADMISSION . . . . .	185
V. THE "HALF-WAY COVENANT" . . . . .	186
VI. SECOND FORM OF ADMISSION . . . . .	187
VII. MAXIMS OF REV. THOMAS NOYES . . . . .	189
VIII. A LETTER OF ADMONITION . . . . .	190
IX. THIRD FORM OF ADMISSION . . . . .	191
X. FORM FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN . . . . .	193
XI. PASTORS OF THE CHURCH . . . . .	194
XII. LISTS OF OFFICERS . . . . .	195
XIII. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF MEMBERS . . . . .	201
XIV. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS . . . . .	228
XV. TABLE OF ANNUAL STATISTICS . . . . .	239

## PORTRAITS.

	FACING PAGE
REV. THOMAS NOYES . . . . .	31
REV. JOSEPH WASHBURN SESSIONS . . . . .	50
REV. HARVEY NEWCOMB . . . . .	57
REV. ANDREW BIGELOW, D.D. . . . .	71
REV. ABIJAH RICHARDSON BAKER, D.D. . . . .	74
REV. GEORGE GARDNER PIPPS . . . . .	87
REV. PEREZ DICKINSON COWAN . . . . .	100
REV. LEWIS WILDER HICKS . . . . .	117
REV. EDWARD HERRICK CHANDLER . . . . .	148

## VIEWS.

	FACING PAGE
THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE, 1774-1835 . . . . .	25
(Drawn by Mr. W. L. Taylor, from descriptions.)	
THE SECOND MEETING-HOUSE, 1835-1871 . . . . .	79
(From a photograph.)	
THE PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING . . . . .	FRONTISPIECE
From a photograph by Mr. I. H. Farnham.)	
THE CHAPEL AND EXTENSION OF 1897 . . . . .	124
(From a photograph by Mr. I. H. Farnham.)	



## CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD.

1711. November 15. Needham set off from Dedham and incorporated as a town. About forty-five families.
1720. March 20. First church in Needham organized. Twenty male members. Rev. Jonathan Townsend, pastor.
1773. October 17. Needham meeting-house burned.
1774. August 3. New meeting-house raised on the old site.
- June 23. Original agreement of the inhabitants of the west part of Needham to build a meeting-house for themselves. Signed by eighty-three persons.
1775. March 27. Mr. Adams invited to become the settled minister. [Mr. Adams declined.]
1778. July 6. "West Precinct" of Needham organized in accordance with an Act of the Legislature.
1794. May 22. Agreement of twenty men to furnish the money to build pews and finish the meeting-house.
1797. October 9. Eighteen Natick families annex themselves to the West Parish of Needham, by exchange of land between Needham and Natick.
1798. January 4. Final report of "those who undertook to finish the meeting-house" (see May 22, 1794), stating that the work was done.
- September 6. Thursday. Organization of the Congregational Church of West Needham. Ten members—seven men and three women. Sermons by Rev. Jonathan Homer, of Newton, and Rev. Benjamin Caryl, of Dover. First covenant adopted.
- December 25. A call extended to Mr. Jonathan Whitaker; \$600 for settlement; £100 and twelve cords of wood, salary. [Mr. Whitaker declined.]
1799. July 10. First pastor, Mr. THOMAS NOYES, ordained and installed. Sermon by Rev. Moses Adams, of Acton.
- August 16. Joseph Danell and William Biglow chosen deacons.
- August 24. First form of admission of members adopted.

1799. September 27. "Half-way covenant" adopted.
1801. January 19. First petition to the Legislature from West Needham for incorporation as a town.
1804. November 26. Final sale of pews. Total proceeds to date, \$2,490.40.
1805. May 17. Asa Kingsbury chosen deacon.  
 July 13. Pulpit Bible presented to the church by Mrs. Sarah Badger, of Natick.  
 November 25. A hearse purchased.
1806. May 20. Meetings for the study of the Bible established.
1807. March 30. A singing school established.
1809. Tomb built in rear of the church by Mrs. Sarah Badger. Bequeathed afterward to the Rev. Thomas Noyes.
1812. May 22. Voted to introduce the "fourth book of hymns," compiled by the Rev. Stephen Palmer, of Needham.  
 September 25. Hezekiah Fuller chosen deacon.
1816. Meeting-house shingled and repaired extensively.
1819. Unusual religious awakening, especially among the young people.
1822. November 27. Trial of Badger will case before the Supreme Court.
1824. November 22. Voted to buy a stove.
1828. January 30. First temperance meeting.  
 February 21. Second form of admission adopted with creed and covenant.  
 March 26. Voted "to take the Sabbath-school under the patronage of the church."  
 First manual printed.
1831. November. Four days of continued religious exercises in the church.
1833. July 9. Rev. Thomas Noyes dismissed by council. Accessions during his pastorate of thirty-four years, 148; of these 18 came by letter and 130 by profession.  
 July 31. The "Church Psalmody" introduced.  
 Received legacy from Widow Persis Ware of \$190.79 for the purchase of communion plate.
- October 2. Second pastor, Mr. JOSEPH SESSIONS, ordained and installed. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Badger, of Andover.
1834. March 24. Voted to build a new meeting-house.
1835. January 1. Dedication of second meeting-house. Sermon by Rev. G. W. Blagden.

1835. January 15. Sale of pews in the new meeting-house. Proceeds, \$1,320.50.
1838. December 26. Voted to procure a bass viol.
1840. February 11. First recorded benevolent contribution, \$5 to the American Sunday-School Union.
1842. May 31. Rev. Joseph W. Sessions dismissed by council. Accessions during his pastorate of nearly nine years, seventy-two: of these five came by letter and sixty-seven by profession.
- October 6. Third pastor, Mr. HARVEY NEWCOMB, ordained and installed. Sermon by Rev. Sewall Harding, of Medway.
- December 7. First plan of benevolences adopted.
1845. April 23. Third service on the Sabbath dropped.
1846. July 1. Rev. Harvey Newcomb dismissed by council. Accessions during his pastorate of nearly four years, sixteen: of these ten came by letter and six by profession.
1847. February 24. Twenty-eight members dismissed to form the Congregational Church at Grantville (now Wellesley Hills).
- July 7. Fourth pastor, Rev. ANDREW BIGELOW, installed. Sermon by Rev. E. N. Kirk, of Mt. Vernon Church, Boston. "Ladies' Social Union" aids in raising funds.
1848. February 24. Thursday. Observed as a day of fasting and prayer for colleges. First time.
1851. Communion service purchased with the Ware legacy (see 1833).
1853. February 2. Rev. A. Bigelow dismissed by council. Accessions during his pastorate of over six years, nineteen: of these five came by letter and fourteen by profession.
- Pulpit supplied by Rev. Dorus Clark.
1856. January 1. Fifth pastor, Rev. ABIJAH R. BAKER, begins service without installation.
- Betsey Brown legacy received.
- First organ purchased for \$650.
1857. First use of coal.
1858. Cemetery enlarged by purchase of the west portion.
1859. Second manual printed with creed and covenant somewhat revised.
1861. February 27. By-laws drafted and adopted by the West Precinct for the first time.