

Religious Society of Free Quakers records, 1781-1975
1781-1975
Mss.289.6.So22p

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Title	Religious Society of Free Quakers records, 1781-1975
Date [inclusive]	1781-1975
Call number	Mss.289.6.So22p
Extent	3.0 Linear feet
Extent	Circa 3 linear feet. (12 boxes & 2 unboxed vols.)
Location	LH-MV-B-4
Language	English
Container	1-12
Abstract	<p>This collection contains minutes of the Society, 1781-1975; minutes of the directors of the Corporation, 1929-1947; membership book (with signatures of early members), 1785; and names of later members. There are also deeds to the meeting house and burying ground; treasurers' accounts; reports of officers and committees; bills and receipts for constructing, maintaining, and repairing the meeting house; cancelled checks; and letters to the Society and its officers, especially Samuel Wetherill, 1883-1884.</p>

Background note

Founded in Philadelphia in 1781, the Society of Free Quakers counted Moses Bartram, Clement Biddle, Elizabeth Claypoole (Betsy Ross), Lydia Darragh, Christopher Marshall, Timothy Matlack, Benjamin Say, and Samuel Wethergill, Jr. among its first members.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Presented by the Religious Society of Free Quakers, 1957-1981.

Indexing Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- Apprentices' Library of Philadelphia.

Genre(s)

- Business Records and Accounts
- Deeds.
- Journals (notebooks).
- Minutes.
- Miscellaneous
- Photoprints.

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Religious life and customs.

Personal Name(s)

- Bartram, Moses, d. 1791
- Biddle, Clement, 1740-1814
- Darragh, Lydia Barrington, 1728-1789
- Marshall, Christopher, 1709-1797
- Matlack, Timothy, 1736-1829
- Ross, Betsy, 1752-1836
- Say, Benjamin, 1755-1813
- Wetherill, Samuel, 1736-1816

Subject(s)

- American Revolution
- Cemeteries -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Philadelphia History
- Quaker church buildings -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Religion
- Religious institutions -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Sepulchral monuments -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Society of Friends -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.
- Women's History

Other Descriptive Information

See Film #1551 (4 reels) for microfilm copy. 1. Schroeder family. 2. Wetherill family. I. Assoc.: Society of Free Quakers. II. Assoc.: Kennedy, (Mrs.) Alexander.

Other Descriptive Information

This large collection contains a wealth of information on the Free Quakers, founded in 1781 in Philadelphia. The collection contains records up to the 1970s. The early American materials include minutes, legal documents, receipts, information on burial plots, and membership rolls. There are many documents that date to the Society's founding, including minutes, but there are many more for the early nineteenth century. Many of the most prominent members of the Society are mentioned, such as Owen Biddle, Bartram Moses, Samuel Wetherhill, Benjamin Say, and John and Elizabeth Calypool (Betsy Ross). The earliest minutes contain information on the Free Quakers expulsion from the main Quaker meeting (they record being asked to "walk out") and their formation, which began at the house of Samuel Wetherhill. A letter authored by the women of the Free Society of Friends that contains Elizabeth Calypool's name is included in the earliest minutes and what appears to be her signature is part of the Membership Book for 1785. John Calypool is listed as a regular recipient of Society funds. The financial records contain various donations made by members and the expenditures of the meeting, particularly on

the upkeep of their meetinghouse. In addition to the records directly relating to the Society, the collection also has a large collection of currency from the revolutionary era.