

Inventory of the

Malta Congregational Church
Malta, Illinois

Records

In the
Regional History Center

RC 218

INTRODUCTION

Marillyn Melton, chair of the Board of Trustees of Malta Congregational Church, donated the church's records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on May 4, 1994.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.5
Number of containers: 5
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 218

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Malta Congregational Church records date from its organization in 1858 to 1991. The collection is organized into five series: administrative; financial; membership; sunday school and church organizations; and publications. The administrative series contains a complete run of Church Record books from November 3, 1858 to January 31, 1965 and from October 27, 1983 to January 31, 1990. These records books include meeting minutes as well as baptismal records, confirmation class lists, deaths records, dismissal information from the church, membership and officer lists, and memorial listings.

The financial records series consists of treasurer's books, building fund, and fund reports. Series three, membership records includes baptismal records, cradle rolls, letters of dismissal and a membership book.

The sunday school and church organizations series consists of meeting attendance records and minutes for four women's organizations within the congregational church. They include Circle I, Ladies Aid Society, Tea Tephis, and Women's Christian Fellowship. The final series, publications, contains manuals and other publications used by church members in performing the duties of their church positions.

For additional information on Congregational Churches, as well as other denominations, the researcher should consult the Regional Collections Guide.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On November 3, 1858 the citizens of Malta organized a Congregational Church with the Rev. Paul Porter acting as pastor. The first services were held in the members homes and the Universalist Hall until a small chapel could be built. The church became a member of the United Church of Christ when the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged in 1957.

In 1868 a new church was built at the corner of Third and Sprague. A large remodeling job took place in 1908 while a new altar and furnishings were dedicated in 1949. Various remodeling jobs were performed during the following years.

The women's organizations continue to be a source of strength through the years of the church. During the years of the Great Depression the church treasurer would come to the Ladies

Aid for money to pay the pastor's salary. Besides their social and devotional activities the organizations set goals for helping with the church finances and the mission program.

The church was served by full time ministers, student ministers, and lay leaders. The students ministers arrived by train from Chicago on Saturday and left on Sunday afternoon. In 1979 the congregation voted to share a pastor with the Mayfield United Church of Christ.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Assembly Park
Congregationalists
DeKalb County
Dixon
Malta
Malta Congregational Church

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Administrative Records		
1	1	Historical information
	2	Manual of the First Congregational Church, (Constitution), 1891
	3	Annual Reports, 1961-1963, 1966, 1969-1971, 1981-1983, 1985
	4	Record Book, November 3, 1858-November 19 & 20, 1893
	5-6	Annual and Business Meeting Minutes, December 30, 1893-January 31, 1965
	7	Church Council and Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, October 27, 1983-September 25, 1990
	8	Congregational Year Book, Local Church Report, 1921-1926, 1930-1933
	2	1
2		Church Bell Tower Addition, 1965-1966
3		Estate Papers, 1960, 1964-1965, 1971, 1979, 1983
4		Newsletters, (1969-1971)
Series II. Financial Records		
	5-11	Treasurer's Books, (1868-1966)
3	1-4	Treasurer's Books, (1967-1982)
	5	Building Fund, 1953-1956
	6	Fund Reports, 1973-1974
Series III. Membership Records		
	7	Baptismal Records, 1955-1962
	8	Cradle Roll Cards, (1953-1970)
	9-10	Letters of Dismission, (1930-1960)
	11	Membership Book, 1956-1961
	12	Guest Book, 1958-1979
Series IV. Sunday School and Church Organizations		
	13	Sunday School, 1970
	14	Reunion Sunday Sign up Book, November 17, 1991
	15	Circle I Minutes, January 4, 1945-December 5, 1950
4	1	Circle I Minutes, January 2, 1951-January 4, 1955
	2-6	Ladies Aid Society, (July 4, 1868-December 16, 1949)
5	1-2	Ladies Aid Society, January 19, 1950-May 9, 1961

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
5	3-4 5-10	Tea Tephis Minutes and Attendance Lists, 1953-1964 Women's Christian Fellowship Minutes, (1955-December 3, 1985)	

Series V. Publications

11		<u>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</u> , February 1874
12		<u>A Manual for Deacons and Deaconesses of Congregational Christian Churches</u> , n.d.
13		<u>A Manual for Trustees, of Congregational Christian Churches</u> , 1947
14		<u>The Philistine</u> , January 1904
15		<u>The Rock River Assemblian</u> , July 30, 1902-August 14, 1902