

James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

**Records, c. 1739-2015, of Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, St Thomas, VI
The records of Frederick Church were donated by Frederick Church, September 2014.
Records stored at the Crumley Archives. Advanced notice for research required.**

Creator: Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1666-present day

Extent:

17 Boxes Total
3 Oversize Flat File Boxes
1 Flat File Box

Access Restrictions:

This collection is partially open for research, due to the fragility of its contents.

Use Restrictions:

Permission to publish material from the Frederick Church Collection must be obtained from the Director of the Crumley Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203.

Processing Information:

Arrangement and creation of this finding aid completed by Shannon L. Smith with assistance from Rachael Acheson and Heather Walker (2015).

N.B: The majority of this collection is written in Danish. Arrangement was completed with the aid of folder and item level descriptions in English that accompanied the original envelopes. The translator of these documents for item level description is unknown.

Biographical Sketch:

In 1666, Pastor Keld Jensen founded Christ Church, which would later be called Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Frederick Church represents the first Scandinavian emigration to the new world. Eventually, Dutch Reformed and Episcopal churches merged with the church.

Despite many natural disasters, including fires and hurricanes, the doors of the church have remained open, testifying to the congregation's determined purpose to the spread the Gospel. The church has been congratulated by former Governor Charles W. Turnbull as, "a beacon of light and hope to the Virgin Islands", and former ELCA Bishop Mark S. Hanson

recognized it as, “a cornerstone of the Gospel, not only in the Virgin Islands, but throughout the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies.”

In 2016, Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrates its 350th Anniversary, making it the oldest existing church in Region 9 ELCA, and the second oldest church in the Western Hemisphere. Frederick’s goal of “promoting our historical tradition in a true spirit of ecumenism, evangelism, and social change” remains a defining characteristic of the church’s identity as it progresses through the 21st century.

Series:

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Scope and Content:

Seventeen boxes, three oversized flat file boxes, and one flat file box of materials dating from c. 1739-2015, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1739-2015, divided into five series: Financial Records, Parish Records, Correspondence, Documentation, and Books and Ephemera.

Financial Records:

The financial records of the parish primarily contain ledgers, inventory lists, statements, donations, pew rentals, notes on all accounts, lists of expenses, and correspondences that complement the aforementioned categories.

Parish Records:

The parish records are a collection of wedding, baptism, and confirmation records, mostly documented in oversized books.

Correspondence and Documentation:

Correspondence and documentation ranges from letters from the Royal Council, material involving church staff, records regarding church land, and exchanges concerning the financial status of the church. More notable correspondences relate to the church’s position on the use and employment of slaves.

Books and Ephemera:

This series contains an alter book and commemorative plate, as well as material from the 2015 “Friends of the [Crumley] Archives” annual banquet.

Contents:

I. Financial Records

Box 1 1739-1822

File A

1739-1851
West India Co. records

File B

1806
“KASSE RENGSKAB”, translates “Clean closet box”

File C

1808-1812
Financial records, Frederick Church and Christiansted, St Croix

File D

1809
“KASSE RENGSKAB”, ledger

File E

1810
“KASSE RENGSKAB”, ledger

File F

1812
Ledger

File G

1813
Inventory list, cemetery superintendent election

File H

1814
Ledger

- File I
1815
Bookkeeping for poor box, ledger
- File J
1816
Ledger, inventory, poor box account
- File K
1817
Royal decree (3/31/1817), anticipated charges for parsonage repair, church accounts, inventory list
- File L
1818
Poor box ledger, inventory list, credit slips reply, F.W. Burg's Scholarship Endowment, Henry Rookcliff's Scholarship Endowment, church ledger, comments on church and poor box accounts, people owing monies, royal decree (1818), pastor notification on open graves, church bell ringing fee
- File M
1819
Inventory list, poor box account, church account, royal decree (8/7/1819), organ repair
- File N
1820
Poor box account, church account
- File O
1821
Alms account, inventory list, cash account, list of distributions of accounts, inquiry of Royal Council regarding church loan, correspondence regarding loan of alms account
- File P
1822
Alms account, cash account, Royal Council's request that accounts be paid and complementary correspondence, registered testament, list of distributions of accounts, notice of illegal collection

Box 2
1823-1868

File A

1823-1833

Church account

File B

1825

Incomes and expenses, pew rentals, financial statement, list of deceased of negroes (1824-1825), custodian appointment, alms account

File C

1826

Poor box account, invoices, accounts

File D

1826

Binder: list of incomes and expenses (1826-1868), general cash fund unidentified documents

Box 3
1862-1865

File A

1862-1865

Refugee account book

Box 4
1869-1885

File A

1869

Donations

File B

1870

Estimates: list of calls for demolition and rebuilding church

File C

1870

Expenses for statement

File D

1870

Donations

File E
1870-1871
Pew rentals

File G
1871
Donations

File H
1871-1872
Pew rentals

File I
1871-1885
Pew rentals

File J
1872
Supplement to financial statement (government)

File K
1872
Donations

File L
1873-1874
Pew rentals

File M
1873-1874
Pew rentals

File N
1873-1874
Pew rentals

File O
1874
Pew rentals

File P
1882-1899
Incomes and expenses

- File Q
1884-1885
Expenses for financial statement
- Box 5**
1890-1916
- File A
1890
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File B
1891
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File C
1892
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File D
1893
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File E
1894
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File F
1895
Correspondence regarding purchase of hymnals
- File G
1895
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File H
1887
Correspondence regarding financial statements
- File I
1898-1899, 1901-1904
Financial records by parish clerk
- File J
1907-1916
Various ledger sheets

II. Parish Records

Box 1 1822-1845

File A
1822-1845
Parish records of births, deaths, and confirmations

Box 2 1840-1852

File A
1840-1850
Register of members

File B
1851-1852
Register of members

Box 3 1845-1899

File A
1845-1899
Confirmation ledger

Box 4 1846-1866

File A
1846-1866
Parish record/ ministerial acts

Box 5 1867-1909

File A
1867-1909
Parish records and baptisms

**Box 6
1871-1872**

File A
1871-1872
Confirmations

**Box 7
1889-1917**

File A
1889-1917
Church records

File B
1900-1908
Wedding records

III. Correspondence and Documentation

**Box 1
1807; 1837-1845**

File A
1807
Correspondence and documentation regarding cemetery and the poor account

File B
1837
17 items; Pastor Brondsted correspondence concerning church infrastructure, and some financial documentation

File C
1838
16 items; Pastor Brondsted correspondence concerning church infrastructure, and some financial documentation

File D
1839
14 items; church complaints about pastor and pastor's rebuttal, and some financial documentation

File E
1840
18 items; Pastor Brondsted correspondence concerning church infrastructure, and some financial documentation

- File F
1841
14 items; Pastor Brondsted correspondence concerning church infrastructure, and some financial documentation
- File G
1842
17 items; regarding Pastor Brondsted's departure from the church, and some financial documentation
- File H
1843
20 items; regarding Pastor Tolderlund installation as pastor, regarding slave rentals and an anti-slavery statement, and some financial documentation
- File I
1844
12 items; regarding church employment, and some financial statements
- File J
1845
13 items; regarding Tolderlund's slave rentals and refusal to own slaves
- File K
1872-1873
4 items; government correspondence, and some financial statements
- File L
1901-1907
Correspondence with Dutch West Indies, and some financial statements
- Box 2**
1823-1839
- File A
1823
6 items; Royal Counsel
- File B
1824
9 items; financial correspondence regarding parsonage, pews, and alms fund account

- File C
1826
Pew layout; correspondence from Episcopal Church begrudging financial contribution toward rebuilding of Frederick Church
Note: items are extremely fragile, and should not be handled
- File D
1827
7 items; financial correspondence and documents regarding rebuilding of Frederick Church
- File E
1828
9 items; correspondence regarding financial statements
- File F
1829
20 items; financial correspondence regarding pew rentals, salaries, and Bibles, and some financial statements
- File G
1830
16 items; correspondence regarding temporary pastor, regulations regarding funeral expenses of the “King’s negro children”, and notes on financial statement
- File H
1830-1839
General correspondence, pew rentals, and financial statements (written in Old Danish)
- Box 3**
1831-1854
- File A
1831
9 items; Correspondence and records regarding church repairs, pensions, and accounts
- File B
1832
8 items; Correspondence and records regarding church repairs and accounts

- File C
1833
12 items; Correspondence and records regarding church repairs and accounts and responses to these
- File D
1834
10 items; Correspondence regarding church repairs, parsonage, and bookkeeping
- File E
1835
Financial statements
- File F
1835-1854
9 items; Correspondence regarding church repairs, burial regulations, and notes on financial statement
- File G
1836
Ledger (book)
- File H
1836
Document regarding cemetery and confirmation of regulation
- Box 4**
1846-1868
- File A
1846
16 items; Correspondence on Negro rentals, pension, church debt, and financial statement
- File B
1862-1863
Journal containing rules, regulations, and transactions in connection with the formation of Lutheran Refuge Society
- File C
1862-1863
10 items; Correspondence on church repairs and financial statement

File D

1863-1864

14 items; Government correspondence regarding cemetery maintenance and financial statement

File E

1864-1865

16 items; Government correspondence regarding cemetery maintenance and financial statement

File F

1865-1866

21 items; Government correspondence regarding church finance

File G

1866-1867

9 items; Government correspondence regarding church finance

File H

1867-1868

19 items; Government correspondence regarding church finance

Box 5

1847-1862

File A

1847

18 items; Correspondence from church council regarding finances and exhumation regarding one Francois Piccioni and subsequent shipment to Corsica

File B

1848

10 items; Correspondence regarding cemetery and church finances

File C

1849

Correspondence from Danish church regarding financial matters

File D

1850-1851

16 items; Exhumation of Pierre Huerne and shipment to Trinidad, government correspondence regarding finances, letters from pastors

- File E
1850-1852
Letters from Danish council regarding finances and financial statement
- File F
1852
Aerial mapping of church pews and pew renters
- File G
1852-1855
9 items; Correspondence from Royal Council regarding expenses and repairs, and financial statement
- File H
1853-1854
17 items; Correspondences regarding finances, cemetery, and pastor's expenses, and financial statements
- File I
1854-1855
5 items; Government gives permission for Creole hymnals and New Testament, new grave yard transferred, and notes on financial statements
- File J
1855-1856
9 items; Government correspondences regarding repairs, expenses, and salary, and financial statements
- File K
1856-1857
6 items; Government correspondence regarding debt, maintenance of cemetery, and installation by the king of Peter Anton Frederick Beaumann as pastor (October 30, 1856), and financial statements
- File L
1857-1858
5 items; Appointment of new trustee, government advises that Augustus Ussing perform as pastor (November 10, 1857), request for cemetery income, and financial statement
- File M
1858-1859
17 items; Government correspondence regarding income contributions, burials, cemetery, and financial statements

File N

1859-1860

Augustus F. C. Ussing and Daniel Christjern Vattr appointed as pastors of St. Thomas and St. John (June 29, 1859), government correspondence regarding poor box contributions by English congregation, police commissioner resigns, financial statement

File O

1860-1867

List of Danish Lutheran churches' bonds

File P

1860-1861

6 items; Government correspondence regarding finances and formation of a school

File Q

1861-1862

6 items; Government correspondence regarding a trustee, construction, and maintenance of cemetery

Box 6

1869-1885

File A

1869-1870

15 items; Government correspondence and general ledger

File B

1870-1871

19 items; Government correspondence and financial statements

File C

1871-1872

18 items; Government correspondence and financial statements

File D

1873-1874

8 items; Government correspondence and financial statements

File E

1874-1875

7 items; Government correspondence and financial statements

- File F
1875
9 items; Government correspondence and financial statements
- File G
1876-1877
8 items; Government correspondence and financial statements
- File H
1877-1878
10 items; Government correspondence and financial statements
- File I
1878-1879
5 items; Government correspondence and financial statements
- File J
1879-1880
4 items; Government correspondence and financial statements
- File K
1880-1881
6 items; Correspondence from government and Pastor Lose regarding church finances
- File L
1881-1882
5 items; Correspondence from government and Pastor Lose regarding church finances
- File M
1882-1883
Government correspondence regarding expenses and income
- File N
1883-1884
4 items; Government correspondence regarding expenses, audit, accounts, and temporary appointment of Pastor Lose
- File O
1884-1885
Government correspondence regarding expenses and temporary trustee, Mr. Aubuck

Box 7
1888-1910; 2014

- File A
1898
Correspondence from government regarding parish employment
- File B
1889
Misc. correspondence
- File C
1898
Correspondence
- File D
1899
Correspondence with Dutch West Indies
- File E
1900
Contract with church organist and correspondence with Dutch West Indies
- File F
1901
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly
- File G
1902
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly
- File H
1903
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly
- File I
1904
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly
- File J
1905
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly
- File K
1906
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly

File L
1907
Correspondence to church's custodial assembly

File M
1908
Document of first democratic organization at Frederick Lutheran Church, minutes of a special meeting of the English congregation, misc. financial records

File N
1906-1910
Pew rentals

File O
2014
Correspondence regarding Frederick Church collection transfer to Crumley Archives, Columbia, SC

IV. Books and Ephemera

Box 1 1960-2015

File A
1960
Alter Book

File B
2001
335th Anniversary ephemera

File C
2015
Friends of the Archives Banquet ephemera
(Note: cf. 2015 for additional pictures)

File D
n.d.
Church Prayer