

## *James R. Crumley Jr. Archives*

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**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 350<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Series:**

I. Financial Records	p. 3
II. Parish Records	p. 8
III. Correspondence and Documentation	p. 9
IV. Books and Ephemera	p. 18

**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 F  
1871  
Donations

File G  
1871-1872  
Pew rentals

File H  
1871-1885  
Pew rentals

File I  
1872  
Supplement to financial statement (government)

File J  
1872  
Donations

File K  
1873-1874  
Pew rentals

File L  
1873-1874  
Pew rentals

File M  
1873-1874  
Pew rentals

File N  
1874  
Pew rentals

File O  
1882-1899  
Incomes and expenses

- File P  
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)
- File I  
1830 Documents; Building cisterns
- 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  
1852-1853  
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  
1888  
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

335<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ephemera

File C

2015

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

File D

n.d.

Church Prayer