

Information Sheet

R **Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Missouri.**
114 **Records, 1832-1982.**
 Nine volumes and sixteen folders.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection consists of minute books, membership rosters, papers of clerks of Session, and miscellaneous business and historical materials of the Presbyterian Church at Farmington in St. Francois County, Missouri. Organized in 1832, the church is one of the oldest of its denomination west of the Mississippi River.

The Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Missouri, was organized in the spring of 1832 by the Rev. Joseph M. Sadd, a missionary then living at Farmington, and by the Rev. Thomas Donnell, pastor of the first Presbyterian church west of the Mississippi River, the Concord Church at Caledonia. Eight members signed the organizing petition. The church was at first part of the Presbytery of St. Louis, but it was assigned to the Presbytery of Potosi upon the organization of the latter in 1844. The congregation grew slowly but steadily until the Civil War, when the charge was left without a pastor and did not meet regularly. However, some members did meet occasionally, and the tenure of the church remained unbroken. The congregation celebrated the sesquicentennial of the church in 1982.

With the exception of the Civil War period, for which there are no records, the minutes of sessional meetings are complete from the inception of the church in 1832 through 1971. The Session is the governing body of the local church, and its records comprise the major portion of the material in this collection. The members are chosen from the congregation, and are charged with the spiritual well being of the church. The pastor moderates its meetings, and the Clerk of Session enters all proceedings in the minute books. The clerk is also responsible for maintaining records of church membership, and indexed membership registers are bound into the minute books from 1875 through 1951.

The Board of Deacons, whose members also are selected from the congregation, attends to the material and financial affairs of the local church. The distinctions between the concerns of the Board and the Session are often less than clear in practice, and the two bodies often met jointly. The collection includes one volume of records of the Board of Deacons, 1954-1961.

The remainder of the collection includes miscellaneous records from the papers of the clerks of Session. Included are certificates of membership and dismissal, records of testimony and proceedings against church members in 1875, financial statements, and committee reports. Several folders of historical sketches and reference material are also available.

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Shelf List

This collection consists of minute books, membership rosters, papers of clerks of Session, and miscellaneous business and historical materials of the Presbyterian Church at Farmington in St. Francois County, Missouri. Organized in 1832, the church is one of the oldest of its denomination west of the Mississippi River.

Volumes 1-9: Minute books, church registers, and scrapbook, 1832-1971.

Volume 1: Minutes of Session, 1832-1844.
Volume 2: Minutes of Session, 1840-1875.
Volume 3: Minutes of Session/church register, 1876-1901.
Volume 4: Minutes of Session/church register, 1901-1928.
Volume 5: Minutes of Session/church register, 1928-1951.
Volume 6: Minutes of meetings of the officers, 1951-1961.
Volume 7: Minutes of Session, 1962-1971.
Volume 8: Minutes of meetings of the Board of Deacons, 1954-1961.
Volume 9: Scrapbook, 1907-1963.

Folders 1-9: Church business, 1845-1968.

Folder 1: Certificates of membership, dismissal, and reception, 1845-1967.
Folder 2: Trials of members, charges and testimony, 1875.
Folder 3: Papers of the Clerks of Session, 1913-1967.
Folder 4: Budgets and financial reports, 1909-1965.
Folder 5: Treasurer's reports, 1952-1962.
Folder 6: Potosi Presbytery, printed materials and memoranda, 1938-1968.
Folder 7: Annual meetings of the congregation, reports, 1956-1958.
Folder 8: Evaluation Committee, reports, 1958, 1963.
Folder 9: Reports of the Women's Auxiliary, 1932-1967.

Folders 10-16: Church history, 1865-1982.

Folder 10: Pastors at Farmington, 1865-1966.
Folder 11: "Farmington Church Semi-Centennial, A Discourse by Rev. G. W. Harlan," 1882.
Folder 12: "In Commemoration of the Seventy-fourth Stated Meeting of the Synod of Missouri, October 19, 1907," a pamphlet published by the Farmington Presbyterian Church.
Folder 13: "Church Register of the Farmington Presbyterian Church Compiled to April First, Nineteen Eighteen ..."
Folder 14: Presbyterian Orphanage of Missouri (Elmwood Seminary), 1914-1961.
Folder 15: History of the Farmington Presbyterian Church, sketches and miscellaneous material, 1932-1981.
Folder 16: Sesquicentennial celebration, 1982.

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Donnell, Thomas.
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Harlan, George W.
Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.
Kerr, John E., 1871-1934.
Moore, Adella Breckenridge.
Orphanages—Missouri—Saint Francois County.
Presbyterian Church—Missouri—Farmington.
Presbyterian Orphanage of Missouri (Farmington, Mo.).
Registers of births, etc.—Missouri—Saint Francois County.
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Tolman, William Long, 1833-1886.

Williamson, Robert C., 1884-1963.

Women's Missionary Union (Farmington, Mo.)