

Early Dates for the Colebrook Congregational Church

January 1769 [While this entry does not directly relate to the church, it is of interest]: a committee was formed to lay out a suitable piece of land in Colebrook for a burying place. Town Records, Vol. 1, page 311 red.

April 10 1780 (The second Town Meeting)

A three-man committee was formed to hire preaching the ensuing year. Voted the committee hire not exceeding 20 Sabbaths preaching in Colebrook the present year, and all just cost for preaching, boarding, etc. to be charged by them to the town.

December 10, 1781 Town Meeting

For the first time, a tything man was elected.

August 20, 1782 Town Meeting

Voted a committee to procure a singing master some time next fall or winter in order to instruct the inhabitants of this town in the art of singing. Voted one penny per pound (£) tax to be assessed for the purpose and to manage the prudentials of the singing school.

April 11 1785 Town Meeting

This was the first meeting held in the new meetinghouse; all previous meetings had been held at Capt. Samuel Rockwell's house.

December 6 1790 Town Meeting

The town voted two tything men (Nathan Bass and Jacob Chamberlain) and two sextons (Daniel Hall and David Viets Jr.)

September 21 1795 Town Meeting

The town voted that the 10 rod (165 feet) highway and such part of the parade [ground] as may not be wanted for a marching ground be sold excepting what may be exchanged for roads which are already laid out. They also voted that the principal of the avails of the ten-rod highway and parade be kept forever entire and the interest be apportioned yearly according to the list of the several denominations of Christians in the town of Colebrook for the support of the gospel and for no other use whatsoever.

These are the entries from the Colebrook Town Records concerning religion prior to the seating of the first Congregational minister in 1796.

There is a volume entitled "Records of the Congregational Church in Colebrook", published in 1822 that states on page 9 "The date of the town incorporation is 1779. Sixteen years elapsed before a congregational church was formed, and their first minister settled. The people, however, manifested a respect for the institutions of religion, and a desire to enjoy the privileges of social worship and gospel instruction. They constantly assembled on the Sabbath; and as far as they had opportunity, and means, hired preaching. In the summer of 1783, it pleased God to visit them, with the special

influences of his Holy Spirit, and a number were made the hopeful subjects of divine grace.

In 1796 the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D.D. was installed over them as their pastor. He previously gathered a church, consisting of 9 males and 13 females. By the prudent and faithful labors of this great and good man, they were happily united and built up.”