

**Shelter Island Historical Society**  
**Religion: Union Chapel Collection (Cooperider) 2021.3.ac**  
**Subject Collection, 1873 – 2020**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Carrie Cooperider

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

Donated by the Union Chapel in the Grove in 2021.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

Processed when donated by Carrie Cooperider.

**EXTENT**

Number of containers: 14 Boxes

Linear feet of shelf space: 5 linear feet

**ABSTRACT**

Collected records relating to the Union Chapel in the Grove

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

The Union Chapel in the Grove was founded in 1872. Methodists organized camp meetings, holding summer worship services in our open grove. Worship moved indoors when the chapel was built. The present building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was erected in 1875-76. Despite periodic renovations, the frame structure remains virtually unaltered. Four memorial windows were installed at the turn of the century. They include the altar windows, stained glass depictions of myrtle, a symbol of “peace and joy,” which were gifts from Ben and Betty Jones in honor of their parents, Benjamin F. Jones and Mabel S. Jones and Harold S. Thompson and Lenora Thompson. The two “marine mosaics” flanking the chancel reward particular scrutiny. These unusual seashell compositions – not leaded glass! – are the work of a local artist, Walter Cole Brigham, who derived his inspiration and materials from the Island’s beaches. More recent repairs and improvements are recorded in a Book of Remembrance at the front of the Chapel. Recently, when the shingles on the east wall were replaced, the date 1901 was found scrawled on the original clapboard siding. Probably the portico over the main door was added at the same time. The Chapel owes its existence to the establishment of a summer resort community and camp meeting which was sponsored by Brooklyn Methodists. Summering clergymen of various denominations took turns conducting services until 1906, when the appointment of resident ministers commenced. In 1975, the earlier pattern was resumed and continues today with many well-known and interesting clergy conducting the 13 summer Sunday services. In the 1970’s, ownership of the property and responsibility for its maintenance was transferred to the Chapel’s Board of Trustees. A wider circle of Friends of the Chapel and a modest endowment fund provide the requisite financial support. Tax deductible contributions to help maintain the Union Chapel are appreciated, and may be sent to P.O. Box 326, Shelter Island Heights, New York 11965.

## **COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

Board records, Marriage/death/baptismal records, bulletins, bibles/hymnals, Steward Herman notes, signage, posters, stained glass window info., sermons, historical research notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, Herman Family records, programs,

## **ARRANGEMENT**

Folder Level.

## **SEPARATED MATERIAL**

None.

## **SUBJECTS**

Shelter Island Heights Association, Religion, Places of Worship

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

## **PREFERRED CITATION**

The suggested citation for the collection is:

*“Obtained from the collection of the Shelter Island Historical Society, all rights reserved”*

## **RELATED MATERIAL**

Shelter Island Grove and Camp Meeting Association Legal Size Folder (original name of the organization)

Pictorial Material → Religion → Union Chapel

Postcards → Union Chapel

Maps → Heights Historical Maps

## **LOCATION NOTE**

Rolling Bin 2A

## **LANGUAGES**

English

## **CONTAINER LIST:**

### **BOX 1: Union Chapel Board Business (1944—1982)**

Includes meeting agendas, minutes, committee reports, and correspondence

Box 1/Folder 1: **1944**

Box 1/Folder 2: **1945—1950**

Box 1/Folder 3: **1951—1962**

Box 1/Folder 4: **1963—1966**

Box 1/Folder 5: **1967—1969**

Box 1/Folder 6: **1970—1971**

Box 1/Folder 7: **1972**

Box 1/Folder 8: **1973**

Box 1/Folder 9: **1974**  
Box 1/Folder 10: **1975**  
Box 1/Folder 11: **1976**  
Box 1/Folder 12: **1977**  
Box 1/Folder 13: **1978**  
Box 1/Folder 14: **1979**  
Box 1/Folder 15: **1980**  
Box 1/Folder 16: **1981**

**BOX 2: Union Chapel Board Business (1982—1990)**

Includes meeting agendas, minutes, committee reports, and correspondence

Box 2/Folder 1: **1982**  
Box 2/Folder 2: **1983**  
Box 2/Folder 3: **1984**  
Box 2/Folder 4: **1985**  
Box 2/Folder 5: **1986**  
Box 2/Folder 6: **1987**  
Box 2/Folder 7: **1988**  
Box 2/Folder 8: **1989**  
Box 2/Folder 9: **1990**

**BOX 3: Union Chapel Board Business (1994-2020)**

Includes meeting agendas, minutes, committee reports, and correspondence. Very few records from 2000—2020

Box 3/Folder 1: **1991**  
Box 3/Folder 2: **1992**  
Box 3/Folder 3: **1993**  
Box 3/Folder 4: **1994**  
Box 3/Folder 5: **1995**  
Box 3/Folder 6: **1996**  
Box 3/Folder 7: **1997**  
Box 3/Folder 8: **1998**  
Box 3/Folder 9: **1999—2005**  
Box 3/Folder 10: **2006—2020**  
Box 3/Folder 11: **Union Chapel Fundraising correspondence (1940—2012)**  
Box 3/Folder 12: **Union Chapel Constitution and Bylaws**  
Drafts and copies of constitution dated 1971, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1987, and 1988.

**BOX 4: Register of Pastoral Acts by Stewart Herman 1980-2002, Wedding Registry 2001-2016,**

**Tributes and Memorials, Marriages 1979-1999, Baptisms.**

Box 4/Item 1 **Wedding registry**, spiral bound, grey cover with inset decoration of two leaves in a green border. Back cover is separated from the rest of the registry. Chapel weddings recorded from 2001—2016.

Box 4/Item 2 **Register of Pastoral Acts by Stewart Herman for Union Chapel 1980—2002**. Small black 6-ring binder with lined paper. 4 ½” x 7” x ¾”. Record of baptisms, marriages, and funerals.

Box 4/Folder 1: **Tributes and Memorials A—H**

Janet Badger (in tribute), Janet Badger (in memorium), George T. Bayley (in memorium), A. Clarke Bedford (in memorium), Beatrice Bedford (in memorium), Sherman Bedford (honorary life trustee), Christopher Beeson (in memorium), Charlotte Bobilin (in memorium), Dr. Theodore C. Bobilin (in memorium), Robert W. Boggs (in memorium), William (Bill) Buice (in tribute), Janet Bull (in memorium), Frederick Conklin (in memorium), Katharine B. Doman (in memorium), Edward Fosdick (in tribute), Edward Fosdick (in memorium), Philip Haab (in memorium), Dorothy Helme (in memorium), Ethelyn C. Herman (in memorium), Dr. Stewart W. Herman (in memorium)

Box 4/Folder 2: **Tributes and Memorials I—P**

Paul V. Keyser (in memorium), Alice Koelsch (in memorium), Henry C. Khyll (in memorium), David Larsen (in tribute), Nancy Kuester Larsen (in memorium), Megan Lawrence (in memorium), Denise Limouze (in memorium), John A. McCandless (in memorium), Richard Moser (in memorium), Lester and Emma Ohrtman (1984 tribute), Lester Ohrtman (1988 in memorium), Clifton W. Phalen (in memorium), Gregory Price (in memorium); two black and white photos of exterior chapel plaque honoring Erna Kraemer

Box 4/Folder 3: **Tributes and Memorials Q—Z**

Rev. Frederick Rapp (in tribute), Daniel Oehler Reich (in memorium), Stanley S. Reich (in memorium), John Donald Robb and Harriett Robb (in memorium), Alice A. Schneider (in memorium), Doris B. Schoefer (in memorium), Ernest A. Schoefer (in memorium), Walter V. Scott (in memorium), Carroll Frances McKay Seward (in memorium), Juliet K. Soule (in memorium), Arnold Southwood (in tribute), Arnold Southwood (in memorium), Alice Umpleby (in tribute), Alice Umpleby (in memorium), Elizabeth Don Umpleby (in Memorium), Jessie N. Umpleby (in memorium), John Louden Umpleby (in memorium), Natalie Ward (in memorium), Rodney Ward (in memorium), Benn Weeks (honorary trustee), Tomas R Wilcox (in memorium), Katherine Woodcock (in memorium)

Box 4/Folder 4: **Marriages: 1979—1983**

Box 4/Folder 5: **Marriages: 1984—1987**

Box 4/Folder 6: **Marriages: 1988—1993**

Box 4/Folder 7: **Marriages: 1994—1999**

Box 4/Folder 8: **Marriages: 2000—2011**

Box 4/Folder 9: **Marriages: lists of Chapel weddings 1990s; professional promo photo from 2004 (cardstock)**

Box 4/Folder 10: **Baptisms**

**BOX 5: Bound Volumes**

Shelter Island Heights Chapel Hymnal “**Laudes Domini**” (1890) order of worship pasted inside front cover

2 copies “**God’s Summer Cottage**” by Stewart Herman (1980)

The **Epworth Hymnal** (1885) (stamped: This Book belongs to Prospect Chapel)

**Bible from The American Bible Society (1898)** (stamped: Property of Shelter Island Heights Chapel)

**BOX 6: Bulletins**

1946—2019 (incomplete collection; majority are from 1960—late 1990s)

Folder: **Duplicate Bulletins NEED BOX**

**BOX 7: Stewart Herman Service notes**

Dr. Herman's drafts and notes for services from 1976—2001. Includes handwritten retrospective reflections on services at the Union Chapel.

Box 7/Folder 1 **1976**

Box 7/Folder 2 **1977**

Box 7/Folder 3 **1978**

Box 7/Folder 4 **1979**

Box 7/Folder 5 **1980**

Box 7/Folder 6 **1981**

Box 7/Folder 7 **1982**

Box 7/Folder 8 **1983**

Box 7/Folder 9 **1984**

Box 7/Folder 10 (1985 empty)

Box 7/Folder 11 **1986**

Box 7/Folder 12 **1987**

Box 7/Folder 13 **1988**

Box 7/Folder 14: (1989 empty)

Box 7/Folder 15: **1990-2001**

**BOX 8: Donation Registers**

**Lined notebook** with green paper cover and sewn binding, 7" x 9 5/8". Record of board minutes and donations from 6.19.1964—9.3.1967

**Guest book, red cover**, 8 1/2" x 6 1/2". Dated July 1, 1962. Ends September 1970.

**Guest book, brown cover**, 8 3/4" x 6 3/4". June 1971—September 1983.

**Registry of Gifts, red ring binder**, 9" x 8" x 3". 1990—1995. Organized alphabetically by name of donor. Further donation records are in glassine envelope in pocket of notebook.

**Metal file box, green**, 6 1/4" x 3 3/4" x 4 1/2" with index cards arranged alphabetically with names of donors. A paper inside identifies the index as "Donations to Union Chapel by Check. Until 1990."

Box 8/Folder 1: **Gifts**

**BOX 9: Chapel Maintenance, Clubs, Music, Signage, Insurance, fire alarm, printing, events,**

**posters for 1951 = 1953 services**

Box 9/Folder 1: **Union Chapel Maintenance 1944—1980s**

Box 9/Folder 2: **Union Chapel Maintenance 1991—1993**

Box 9/Folder 3: **Union Chapel Maintenance Foundation Repair 1993**

Box 9/Folder 4: **Union Chapel Maintenance 1994**

Box 9/Folder 5: **Union Chapel Maintenance 1999—2009**

Box 9/Folder 6: **Fire Sensor/Alarm 2003**

Box 9/Folder 7: **Insurance**

Box 9/Folder 8: **Union Chapel Maintenance Grounds + Signs**

Box 9/Folder 9: **Yacht Club**

Box 9/Folder 10: **Garden Club**

Box 9/Folder 11: **Events**

8.21.1974 Dinner for Dr. and Mrs. Bobilin 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary/60 years of ministry

6.30.1986 Shelter Island Historical Society meeting visit to Union Chapel

7.18.1992 First Annual Shelter Island Heights Victorian Cottage Tour pamphlet, correspondence, news clipping

Box 9/Folder 12: **Music (1950—2010)**

Correspondence, programming, lists of hymns for the season, information about organs. Most of the material dates from 1970s and 80s with details from 2001 regarding the purchase of the Ahlborn-Galanti pipe organ.

Box 9/Folder 13: **Posters for 1951 and 1953 services at Union Chapel**

Box 9/Folder 14: **Printing/Copy orders**

## **BOX 10: Stained Glass Windows**

Box 10/Folder 1: **Window Repairs 1950s**

Box 10/Folder 2: **Stained Glass Windows other than Brigham**

Box 10/Folder 3: **Brigham Windows Repairs/Restorations**

Box 10/Folder 4: **Brigham Windows: Correspondence and Articles.** Includes pamphlet of Walter Cole Brigham Retrospective by the Shelter Island Historical Society, 1987

Box 10/Folder 5: **Herman Stewart article on Walter Cole Brigham** for “Stained Glass” magazine, Spring 1977, vol. 72, no. 1. Includes research, photos and 2 copies of the magazine.

## **Box 11: History**

Box 11/Folder 1: **History and Fact Sheets** (note: Fact sheets contain inaccuracies)

Box 11/Folder 2: **Union Chapel National Trust for Historic Preservation**

Box 11/Folder 3: **Sacred Sites and Properties Fund Applications 1993**

Box 11/Folder 4: **Shelter Island Heights Historic District Registration Form**

Box 11/Folder 5: **US Bicentennial**

Box 11/Folder 6: **Stewart Herman Research Notes for “God’s Summer Cottage”**

Box 11/Folder 7: **proofs for “God’s Summer Cottage” + original cover art by O. Reich**

Box 11/Folder 8: **Sermons.** Sanford McDonnell, 1 Sep 1985 “E Pluribus Unum;”

Richard G. Moser, 16 Aug 1987, in honor of US Constitution, on Garden Club Sunday;

Peter Pettibone, 28 Aug 1992 “Communism: A Faith that Failed,” William J. Buice, 19

Jun 1994, Dedication message to celebrate major renovations of Union Chapel; Katharine Henderson, 1 Aug 1995 “Them and Us”

Box 11/Folder 9: **Book proposal for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Box 11/ Folder 10: **Stewart Herman Historical Research**

**2 copies of Stewart Herman’s paperback book “Prayers for Praying Out Loud**

**Box 12: Correspondence and Clippings** (note: newsclippings related to obituaries, weddings, clubs, are in Box 4; many clippings related to preachers are in Box 7; others are scattered throughout depending on their subject.

Box12/Folder 1: **Correspondence 1944—1994**

Box12/Folder 2: **Stewart Herman Correspondence 1974—1979**

Box12/Folder 3: **Stewart Herman Correspondence 1980—1984**

Box12/Folder 4: **Stewart Herman Correspondence**

Box12/Folder 5: **Correspondence undated**

Box12/Folder 6: **News clippings/Press releases 1945—1946**

Box12/Folder 7: **News clippings 1972—1980**

Box12/Folder 8: **News clippings 1978 Union Chapel Changes Hands**

Box12/Folder 9: **News clippings 1981—1987**

Box12/Folder 10: **News clippings 1988—1991**

Box12/Folder 11: **News clippings 1992—1993**

Box12/Folder 12: **News clippings 1994—2017**

Box12/Folder 13: **News clippings undated**

**BOX 13: Herman Family Archives** (donated by Christopher Herman on behalf of his siblings, Nicholas Herman, Stewart Herman III, and Lynda Herman Thomas)

Folder: **Stewart Herman notes & drafts for Shelter Island Historic District**

#### **Application**

Cassette tape labeled “Union Chapel 6-26-88, 2 sides” that CH identifies as a recording of one of his father Stewart W. Herman’s sermons.

Folder labeled “Heights Properties” with information about historically significant houses on SI to be considered for inclusion in a book by the Historical Society, tentatively entitled “Shelter Island’s Old Houses and Their Owners.” It includes:

Memo to Selection Committee dated 1/18/1992 with list and descriptions of proposed houses

Copy of letter dated 7/6/1991 to Kathleen LaFrank, Historic Preservation Field office in Albany, from Patricia Reilly, inviting her to visit SI with enclosures: 1) revised draft of description, 2) 1990 update on building survey, 3) List of maps (1872-1910) of the Heights, filed in Riverhead.

Description of the Heights dated 1980

Significance of the Heights, plus a copy with SWH comments/edits

Typewritten excerpt from Suffolk Times August 19, 1876 “ Shelter Island Notes from a Favorite Watering Place. Current Amusements and Gossip -Mayor Schroeder’s Salt Water Sorts – Muscular vs Unmuscular Christians”

Handwritten 2 page timeline of the history of Shelter Island in SWH’s hand

Folder with research notes (1974) for SWH history of the Village of Dering Harbor drawn from Suffolk Weekly Times

Research notes for history of SI churches

Draft of history of Union Chapel “God’s Summer Cottage” with letter to Nick and Sandy dated 12/21/1979 that accompanies typescript, and prototype for cover

Miscellaneous newspaper research from: the SI Reporter (1959-1973); Sag Harbor Express (1950-1954); Republican Watchman (1873-1875); Long Island Traveler (1873-1894); Riverhead News (1900-1907)  
Research notes for history of Yacht Club  
Original score by Jack Beeson dated July 1972 "Old Hundredth Prelude and Doxology"  
Poster for 1975 summer Worship with Theodore Bobilin  
Acrylic nameplate "REV. STEWART HERMAN"

#### **Box 14: duplicate copies of Chapel Programs**

**Book of Remembrance** red binding with gold lettering; 10 ¾" x 12 ¾" x 1 ½" presented to The Union Chapel by Trafton and Janet Badger in memory of Genevieve Westlake Collett Summer 1981. Ten pages. Lists gifts to Chapel from 1960—1994.

**Framed copy of article about Rev. and Mrs. Bobilin.** The Suffolk Times, June 20, 1974.

**Framed 1959 poster advertising the Chapel Season.**

**Old photo, matted, removed from frame, of the Chapel. Date unknown (early 20<sup>th</sup> century?).**

**Blue 3-ring binder, 9 ½" x 11 ½" x 1 ¼".** Material pertaining to Chapel restoration 1992—1994.

**Green 3-ring binder, 10" x 11 ½" x 1 ½".** Labeled on spine "Union Chapel on Shelter Island and some of its people." Photos.