

Guide to the Asa Burton Papers

MS 1421



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and John Espy

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1421

CREATOR: Burton, Asa, 1752-1836

TITLE: Asa Burton papers

DATES: 1781-1973

BULK DATES: 1781-1829

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers of Asa Burton, Congregational minister and theologian, consist of religious, autobiographical, and historical writings. Several of the essays record the religious, social, and political history of Thetford, Vermont, particularly the rise of political parties. The papers also include a published version of Burton's memoirs (1973).

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1421>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1421>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ruth Adams in 1954. The papers were originally part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection, MS 352.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Asa Burton Papers (MS 1421). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Associated Materials

Additional Asa Burton manuscripts are at Vassar College.

Biographical / Historical

Asa Burton was born in Stonington, Connecticut, and, at age 16, moved to Norwich, Vermont. In 1777 he graduated from Dartmouth and was ordained in 1779 at Thetford, Vermont, where he became pastor for life. Burton was best known as a teacher of theology.

Scope and Contents

The Asa Burton Papers consist of sermons and writings, which document Burton's service to the Congregational church in Thetford, Vermont, and contain observations on his life and church and town history. The papers contain an autobiographical memoir as well as essays on Thetford's society and politics. Burton records the developing political tensions between Federalists and Republicans and the manner in which the church and its minister were drawn into political strife. It contains Burton's exposition of a church trial involving political partisans Beriah Loomis and Asher Chamberlain. Burton's sermons on the anniversaries of his twenty-fifth and fiftieth year in the ministry and other special occasions are also included in the papers. Material from some folders is transcribed in published edition of Burton's memoirs and writings, edited by Charles Latham Jr.

The Burton manuscripts were donated to the Yale University Library by Ruth Adams in 1954. They were transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection (MS 352) in 1985. Additional Burton papers were given to Vassar College.

Collection Contents

Burton, Asa

b. 1, f. 1	"An answer to a paper signed by 88 names containing charges against the Revd. Asa Burton" English	[ca. 1818]
b. 1, f. 2	"A brief history of the beginnings, progress, and increase of political parties in Thetford down to the year 1815" English	[1815?]
b. 1, f. 3	"A concise history of the church & society in Thetford..." English	[1823?]
b. 1, f. 4	"The confession of faith," with names of church members "The confession of faith of the church in Thetford amended..." English	1821
b. 1, f. 5	"The defence of the church..." English	[ca. 1815]
	"The doings of the convention at churches held at Thetford" English	1781
b. 1, f. 6	"The life of Asa Burton written by himself" English	1817
b. 1, f. 7	"...my further additions to the history of my life..." English	
b. 1, f. 8	Sermons	1795, 1804, 1813, 1817, 1829
<h3>Latham, Charles Jr.</h3>		
b. 1, f. 9	"The life of Asa Burton written by himself" English	1973
b. 1, f. 10	"A short history of Thetford, Vermont, 1761-1870" English	1972

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
Congregational churches -- Clergy
Religion and politics -- Vermont

Geographic Names

Thetford (Vt.: Town) -- History

Genres / Formats

Memoirs
Sermons

Names

Burton, Asa, 1752-1836