

# Guide to the Asa Burton Papers

MS 1421



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and John Espy

July 1986

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**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>

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## 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](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

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

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### Associated Materials

Additional Asa Burton manuscripts are at Vassar College.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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
Latham, Charles Jr.		
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