

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:  Dunbar, Asa, Diary, 1771-1778	Location:  Octavo volumes "D"
Size of collection:  1 octavo volume, 75 leaves	N.U.C.M.C. number:  N.A.
Finding aids:  See E. Harlow Russell, "Asa Dunbar: Fragments from his Diary and Common Place Book," AAS <u>Proceedings</u> , 1909, vol. 19, pp. 66-76.  <div style="text-align: center;">8</div>	
Source of collection:  Gift of E. Harlow Russell, 1908	Copies available:  Electrostatic <u>  X  </u> Microfilm <u>     X     </u>  No copies <u>      —     </u>
Collection description: <p>Asa Dunbar (1745-1787) was a teacher, minister and lawyer. A 1767 graduate of Harvard College, he was ordained in 1772 and settled in Salem where he was minister of the First Church of Salem until 1779. He chose to resign his post due to poor health and moved to Keene, N.H. where he practiced law.</p> <p>Though this volume is considered a diary, it contains notes reflecting Dunbar's life for the period 1771-1778. The first part of the book is made up of sketchy, one line entries for 1773-1776, recording daily activities, illness, important events, and aphorisms. These entries are followed by a few humorous accounts of past experiences. There are also copies of letters sent by Dunbar, 1771-1773, to a variety of people concerning a variety of subjects. Among these entries are letters to his father and to the First Church of Salem. The back half of the volume contains drafts of public prayers suitable for marriages, baptisms, and funerals. The book concludes with a list of Dunbar's children and a humorous poem (1778).</p> <p>Separate from the diary but included in the slip case is a sermon written in Salem by Dunbar.</p>	