

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:	Location:
Forbes, Eli, Sermons, 1752-1804	Mss. boxes "F"
Size of collection:	N.U.C.M.C. number:
1 mss. box	N.A.
Finding aids:	
For biographical information, see Clifford K. Shipton, <u>Sibley's Harvard Graduates</u> , vol. 13 (1965), pp. 47-60	
Source of collection:	
Thirteen sermons the gift of Rev. Dr. Parkman, 1840; remainder of collection the gift of the Westborough Historical Society, 1978	
Collection description:	
<p>Eli Forbes (1726-1804) was born Eli Forbush in Westborough, Mass. and changed his name during the French and Indian War when a Scottish officer convinced him he was spelling it wrong. He was a pupil of Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782) and later married Parkman's daughter, Mary (1725-1776). He graduated from Harvard in 1751. During 1758 to 1759, he served as a chaplain in the Lake George campaigns of the French and Indian War, and later participated in the capture of Ticonderoga.</p>	
<p>From 1752 to 1775 he served as minister of the Congregational Church of North Brookfield where he organized the Brookfield Association of Ministers. He was very interested in bringing Christianity to the Indians and left Brookfield for a short time in 1762 to organize the Christian Church on the Susquehanna. The Brookfield church dismissed him in 1775 at his own request because he was accused of being unpatriotic.</p>	
<p>Forbes then accepted a call to Gloucester, where he became a member of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.</p>	
<p>This collection of 186 sermons was preached in Brookfield from 1752 to 1774 and in Gloucester from 1777 to 1804. Each Brookfield sermon is numbered and dated, while each Gloucester sermon is dated. Most sermons begin with a biblical quotation which is then explicated. Many end with a section called "Improvement." There is a folder with sermon fragments, undated sermons (including one written in an unidentified Indian language), and a list of marriages performed by Forbes in 1789 and 1790. The Indian-language sermon may have been translated by John Neesnumin () and is dated 1710-1740.</p>	
<p>14 July 1975 add. 5 December 1978</p>	