

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection: Shepard Family Papers, c. 1636-1681	Location: Octavo volumes "S" Mss. boxes "S"
Size of collection: 1 mss. box; 7 octavo volumes	N.U.C.M.C. number: N.A.
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For biographical information on Thomas Shepard I, see <u>DAB</u>, vol. 17, pp. 75-6; for information on Thomas Shepard II and Thomas Shepard III, see John Langdon Sibley, <u>Sibley's Harvard Graduates</u>, vols. 1 and 2</p>	
<p>Source of collection: Several items / the gift of James Hunnewell, 1950; remainder of collection transferred from Mather Family Papers</p>	
<p>Collection description:</p> <p>The Shepard Family Papers span the period 1636 to 1681 and document the lives of Thomas Shepard I (1605-1649), Thomas Shepard II (1635-1677/78) and Thomas Shepard III (1658-1685). The papers consist mostly of sermons, but there are also letters, synod notes, sermon notes, and miscellaneous manuscripts.</p> <p>Thomas Shepard I was born in Towcester, England, and was raised by an older brother after the death of his parents. He graduated from Emmanuel College in 1623/24 and received his M.A. there in 1627. Shepard was ordained in 1627 but was silenced in 1630 for nonconformity. In 1635 he sailed for Boston, Massachusetts, and became minister of the church in Cambridge, where he remained until his death in 1649.</p> <p>Shepard was active in the early church controversies and was instrumental in defining the New England theory of Congregationalism. He was a leader of the Synod at Cambridge, 1647-1648, and supported public confession. His interests included education of the young and conversion of Indians.</p> <p>The papers of Thomas Shepard I include a letter, c. 1646, from John Haynes (-); a volume of sermons entitled "Explication of the Catechism"; a volume of sermons by Shepard and Thomas Allen (1608-1673), with shorthand notes possibly by Francis Willoughby (1638-1671); other sermons, sermon notes, and notes, probably from the Synod of 1646-1648.</p> <p>Thomas Shepard II was born in London, England, in 1635 and sailed to Boston, Massachusetts, with his parents. He graduated from Harvard College in 1653 and was chosen a fellow of the college in 1654. He was admitted to the church in Charlestown, Mass., in 1658, and after his ordination in 1659, he became a colleague of the Rev. Zechariah Symmes (1599-1670/71). In 1664 he was appointed a censor of the press and in 1672 he preached the Massachusetts Election sermon, in which</p>	

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Collection description (cont'd.) Shepard Family Papers

he advocated religious toleration. Shepard, like his father, was interested in education and he took an active part in the affairs of Harvard College. He died during a smallpox epidemic in 1677/78.

The papers of Thomas Shepard II contain eight volumes of sermons, including "Sermons on Matthew," "Sermons on Canticles," "Sermons on Luke," and four volumes of sermons entitled "Discourses."

Thomas Shepard III, son of Thomas Shepard II and grandson of Thomas Shepard I, was born in Charlestown, Mass., in 1658. He received his early education from his father and graduated from Harvard in 1676. After the death of his father in 1677, the church in Charlestown called Shepard and Joseph Browne (1646?-1678) to settle as colleagues. Browne refused and Shepard was eventually ordained as minister. His tenure there was cut short by his unexpected death in 1685.

The papers of Thomas Shepard III contain six volumes of sermons, including a volume of "Sermons on Matthew" and a copy of a proclamation of a fast by the General Court of Connecticut. There is also an undated and unidentified letter written "for Mr. Chauncy."

See Contents List.

1 February 1979

Shepard Family Papers

Contents List

Manuscript Box:

Thomas Shepard I

- Folder 1: c. 1636, Sermon Notes, 83 leaves
- Folder 2: a. Sermons by Thomas Shepard and Thomas Allen, 1644, including "A Continuation of my dayly Observations...", shorthand notes, 1650-1651, possibly by Francis Willoughby (1638-1671); and "Arguments why children of beleivers should be Baptized," 79 leaves
- b. undated, key to Francis Willoughby's shorthand method, and notes and photostats of the shorthand, 10 leaves
- Folder 3: c. 1646, letter from Jo[h]n Haynes to Shepard, with notes, possibly referring to the Synod of 1646, 2 leaves
- Folder 4: 1648, "Sacramental sermons on eating Christ," 1647-1648, 20 leaves
- Folder 5: [c. 1646-1648], [Synod notes and other theological commentary]
- a. "A Defence of the Answer unto the Question sent from N. England, against the Reply thereto by that Reverend Servant of Christ, Mr. John Ball..." by J[ohn] A[llin] and T[homas] S[hepard], 1645, 8 leaves
- b. "My General Confused Notions about Discipline at a Meeting of Elders," by [Thomas Shepard], c. 1646, 14 leaves
- c. Synod notes, c. 1646, 2 leaves
- d. Synod notes and commentary on theological writings, c. 1646, 12 leaves

Thomas Shepard II

- Folder 6: 1668, "Sermons on Matthew," 39 leaves
- Folder 7: 1669, "Sermons on Canticles," 51 leaves

Thomas Shepard III

- Folder 8: 1678-1680, six sermons, including a copy (1 p.) of a fast proclamation by the General Court of Connecticut, 68 leaves
- Folder 9: 1680-1681, "Sermons on Matthew," 36 leaves

Unidentified Manuscript

- Folder 10: undated, letter, "for Mr. Chauncy," 1 p.

Octavo Volumes:

Thomas Shepard I

- #1 c.1641, Sermons, entitled "Explication of the Catechism," 156 leaves
- #2 21 January 1643 - 4 May 1645, Sermons, "Explication of the Catechism," continued, and a series on the Ten Commandments, 192 leaves

Thomas Shepard II

- #3 1659, Sermons, entitled "Discourses," 138 leaves
- #4 1661, Sermons, entitled, "Discourses," 145 leaves
- #5 1662-1663, Sermons, entitled "Discourses," with shorthand notes, 162 leaves
- #6 1663-1664, Sermons, entitled, "Discourses," with shorthand notes, 152 leaves
- #7 1668, "Sermons on Luke," 156 leaves