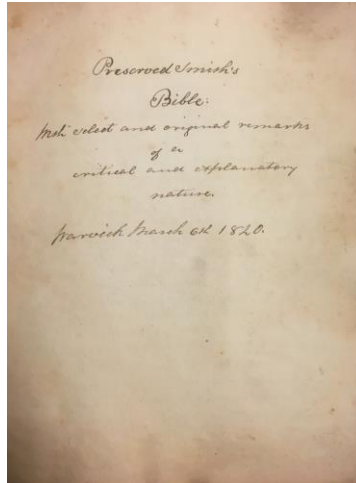


**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Preserved Smith Notebooks, 1820



Preserved Smith Bible. UTS1: Preserved Smith Notebooks, 1820, box 1, folder 1, the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Finding Aid prepared by: Rebecca Nieto, April 2017

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Preserved Smith, 1759-1834
Title: Preserved Smith Notebooks, 1820
Inclusive dates: 1820
Bulk dates: 1820
Abstract: Minister in Rowe and Mendon, Mass.; American Revolutionary War veteran; grandfather to UTS alumnus Henry Preserved Smith. Materials include two notebooks of Bible notes written in Warwick, Massachusetts in 1820.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

Provenance: The exact provenance of this collection is unknown, but it is likely that they were donated at the same time as the papers of his descendent, Henry Preserved Smith. The notebooks were among a large group of unprocessed materials that were organized in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, or by mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.

Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers.

Preferred Citation: UTS1: Preserved Smith Notebooks, 1820, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Preserved Smith (1759-1834) was a well-known preacher in the American colonial era and grandfather to Union Theological Seminary alumnus Henry Preserved Smith (1847-1927). Smith was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts on June 25, 1759. He was descended from a long line of Puritan ministers that included Reverend Henry Smith, the first minister of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and an earlier Reverend Henry Smith of England, who served as a “silver-tongued” religious leader in Queen Elizabeth I’s court.

Preserved Smith’s family was of modest means, and at the age of sixteen, he enlisted to fight in the Revolutionary War with the Hampshire County Regiment under Colonel David Wells of Shelburne. He fought in five different campaigns before leaving the army at the age of 19, at which point he began to cultivate his studies in Latin in preparation for schooling. Once he’d saved money to attend college, Preserved enrolled for one year of independent study at Dartmouth College in 1782 before going on to study divinity at Rhode Island College (today’s Brown University) under a Reverend Emerson in 1786. He married Eunice Wells in 1788.

Following his studies, Preserved began preaching in the then-burgeoning town of Rowe, Massachusetts. Smith’s ministerial career was marked by his so-called “transitional views” on traditions around the Trinity, and included a brief departure from his own ministry for the nearby town of Mendon, eventually returning to Rowe in 1812. In addition to his service to the Church, Smith showed a lifelong interest in local libraries and childhood education. In a biographical sketch on Smith’s life, his beliefs are articulated as follows:

“[Smith was] not controversial in his preaching but endeavoured to impress upon his hearers that light is greater than darkness, knowledge is preferable to ignorance, charity surpasses all other Christian attainments, and that it does not require exclusive measures to support truth, or to suppress error.”

Preserved Smith died on August 15, 1834 at the age of 75.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Preserved Smith Notebooks consist of two bound volumes of manuscript Biblical notes written while Smith was preaching in Warwick, Massachusetts in 1820. The volumes present are 1 and 3; volume 2 was not included in the initial acquisition and its current location is unknown.

Processing

Bound volumes were re-housed in an acid-free folder and box.

Further Sources

Biographical information included here was found in the [Unitarian Register](#) (vol. 86, pp. 1333) and in "[A Biographical Sketch of Rev. Preserved Smith, late of Rowe, Mass.](#)", dated 1852.

The Burke Library Archives also holds the papers of Smith's grandson, Henry Preserved Smith, which is processed and available for consultation.

Contents list**Series 1: Bible Notes, 1820**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Volumes 1, 3