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Boston Massacre sermon, circa 1770. MS0818

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on April 25, 2019.

English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Title:	Boston Massacre sermon, circa 1770.
ID:	MS0818
Date:	1770
Physical Description:	1 Folder
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The author of the manuscript sermon in this collection is unknown and there is no provenance information associated with the collection. The instigating incident behind the writing of the sermon was the Boston Massacre, also known as the Incident on King Street, which occurred on March 5, 1770. The event was widely reported on and further increased tensions between the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain. This collection consists of a single manuscript sermon written and includes a historical account of the Massachusetts Bay Colony as well as a discussion on the cause of colonial strife.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Boston Massacre sermon, circa 1770, MS0818. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The author of the manuscript sermon in this collection is unknown and there is no provenance information associated with the collection. The instigating incident behind the writing of the sermon was the Boston Massacre, also known as the Incident on King Street, which occurred on March 5, 1770. Prior to the event, tensions between civilians and British soldiers in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, had grown significantly. On the evening of March 5, 1770, a mob formed around a lone British sentry and verbally accosted him. Eventually the sentry was backed up by eight additional soldiers. Accounts of what exactly occurred differ greatly, but it is almost certain that the mob tossed snowballs, stones, and possibly clubs, at the soldiers who, in retaliation and/or self-defense, fired upon the crowd. Three civilians were announced dead at the scene and an additional two died later from wounds sustained at

the scene. Eight soldiers and an officer were later arrested on charges of murder; they were represented by John Adams and most were acquitted of all charges while two were convicted of manslaughter with a reduced sentence. The "Boston Massacre," as it had been dubbed, was widely reported on, much of it in the form of propaganda, and further increased tensions between the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a single manuscript sermon written by an unknown author. A note found on the back of the booklet, in a separate hand, notes that the sermon was "prepared soon after the Boston Massacre, March, 5, 1770." The sermon cites Psalms 85:6. The sermon contains the author's account of the history of Massachusetts Bay Colony leading up to the massacre. The sermon further includes discussions about the causes of colonial strife, namely the younger generation, and advice for how to better the situation, namely a restoration of the ways of the past.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Boston, MA 02108

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URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

Accruals

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

Processing Information

Originally processed by Sari Mauro, September 2014, using DACS Second Edition. Reprocessed and redescribed by Zachary Bodnar, April 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Boston Massacre, 1770.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Sermons, American -- Early works to 1800.
- Great Britain. Stamp Act (1765)

Technical Requirements

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Sermon, circa 1770 <u>Digital Copies:</u> Digital Copies This sermon was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online .	box NEHH- folder 4 Small 1