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David Avery papers, 1794. MS4869

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Avery, David
Title:	David Avery papers, 1794.
ID:	MS4869
Date:	1794
Physical Description:	1 Volume
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Rev. David Avery was born in Franklin, Connecticut, in 1746. He graduated from Yale in 1769, studied theology at Dartmouth College, and was ordained as a missionary to the Native Americans in 1771. In 1783 he became the minister of the First Church in Wrentham. Due to theological differences over church discipline, he was dismissed in 1794. He died in 1817. This collection contains a manuscript volume prepared by Rev. David Avery about the strife that had grown between Avery and his congregation.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the David Avery papers, 1794, MS4869. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical Note

Rev. David Avery (1746-1817) was born in Franklin, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale in 1769, studied theology at Dartmouth College, and was ordained as a missionary to the Native Americans in 1771. After serving as an army chaplain during the Revolutionary War, he was installed as the pastor in Bennington, Vermont in 1780. He moved to Wrentham, Massachusetts in 1783 to replace the minister of the First Church in Wrentham, who had died in office. While at Wrentham, Rev. Avery had an increasing number of difficulties with his parishioners, largely over his strict adherence to disciplinary rules, and he was eventually dismissed from his service in Wrentham in 1794. From there he moved back to

Connecticut and served the church in Union for a few years before resuming his missionary work. He died of typhus fever at age 71.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains a manuscript volume prepared by Rev. David Avery, and sent to David Howell, Esq. "for his judgment & advice," about the strife that had grown between Avery and his congregation. The base of the disagreement was how matters of church discipline should be addressed; While Avery adhered strictly to the procedure set out in the book of Matthew, a group of members wanted a more flexible system. In this manuscript, Avery details a series of conversations and interventions that led to his eventual break with the church.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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Acquisition Information

Deposited by Lyman E. Ware on November 30, 1917, to the Congregational Library & Archives; no accession number.

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

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church discipline.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Original Congregational Church (Wrentham, Mass.)
- Wrentham (Mass.) -- Church history.

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
The Case of the Pastor in Wrentham, 1794 <u>Digital Copies:</u> Digital Copies	box NEHH- folder 22 Small 1

These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).