

BENSON, JOSEPH, 1749-1821.
Joseph and Sarah (Thompson) Benson papers, 1771-1797

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Benson, Joseph, 1749-1821.
Title: Joseph and Sarah (Thompson) Benson papers, 1771-1797
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 452
Extent: 0.4 cubic feet (1 box)
Abstract: Consists of correspondence to and from Joseph Benson, between Joseph Benson and Sarah (Thompson) Benson, and a diary of Joseph Benson from 1797.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

University of Manchester Library, The Papers of Joseph Benson (GB 133 BSN).

Related Materials in This Repository

John Wesley papers (MSS 153), which contains a John Wesley letter written to Joseph Benson.

Source

Purchase, 1911.

Custodial History

The materials in this collection were part of the R. Thursfield Smith Collection, which Warren Akin Candler purchased from W. H. Smith in 1911. The correspondence in this collection was previously part of the MSS100 collection at Rose Library, which was transferred to Pitts Library in January 2018.

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Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Joseph Benson and Sarah (Thompson) Benson Papers, MSS 452, Archives and Manuscript Department, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Brandon Wason, December 2018.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

Joseph Benson was born to John and Isabella (Robinson) Benson on January 25, 1749 in Cumberland, England. He received a classical education while in the care of a Mr. Dean, a local Presbyterian minister. From 1766 to 1770 Benson was a classical tutor at the Kingswood School, appointed by John Wesley. Then, in 1770, he was briefly installed as the headmaster of the newly established Trevecca College, but he was relieved of his duties due to his Arminian beliefs. After being denied ordination in the Anglican Church, Benson became a Methodist itinerate preacher. Benson met Sarah Thompson in 1778, in Armley (Leeds), and began a courtship with her in 1779. The two were married on January 28, 1780 and had at least two children. After John Wesley's death, Benson was one of the leaders who carried Methodism into the nineteenth century. He was the president of the Wesley Conference in 1798 and 1810 and edited the Methodist Magazine from 1804 to 1821. Benson was a prolific writer and produced a popular, five-volume commentary on the Bible. Joseph Benson died in 1821.

Publication Note

The courtship correspondence is published in the following book: Margaret M. Jemison, *A Methodist Courtship: Love Letters of Joseph Benson and Sarah Thompson 1779-1780* (Atlanta: Emory University, 1945).

Scope and Content Note

Courtship letters of Joseph Benson and Sarah (Sally) Thompson (1779-1780) comprise the bulk of the collection. Other letters written to Joseph Benson are included as well. There's one letter written by Joseph Benson to an unidentified recipient in the collection. Joseph Benson's diary (Methodist pocket-book) from 1797 is also in the collection.

Arrangement Note

The correspondence is arranged by date followed by the single diary (Methodist pocket-book).

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Churchey, Walter (1747-1805), ALS, 3 pages; to Joseph Benson; no place, 1771 Apr 30.
1	2	Churchey, Walter (1747-1805), ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; no place, 1772 Feb 20.
1	3	Hopper, Christopher (1722-1802), ALS, 3 pages; to Joseph Benson; Alnwick, [1774 Apr 25].
1	4	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 2 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Rockdale, 1779 Jul 29.
1	5	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; Scarbro [Scarborough], 1779 Aug 9.
1	6	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 3 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Manchester, 1779 Aug 11.
1	7	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 2 pages; to [Joseph Benson]; Leeds, 1779 Aug 27.
1	8	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS 2 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Halifax, 1779 Oct 27.
1	9	[Benson, Sarah (Thompson)], ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1779 Oct 29.
1	10	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 3 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1779 Nov 9.
1	11	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 3 pages; to Sarah (Thompson) Benson; Manchester, 1779 Nov 16.
1	12	[Benson, Sarah (Thompson)], ALS, 3 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1779 Nov 24 [?].
1	13	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), AL, 3 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Rockdale, 1779 Dec 18.
1	14	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 3 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1779 Dec 21.
1	15	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 2 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Manchester, 1779 Dec 29.
1	16	[Benson, Sarah (Thompson)], ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, [1780] "1779" Jan 1.
1	17	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1780 Jan 8.
1	18	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 1 page; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Manchester, 1780 Jan 10.
1	19	Benson, Sarah (Thompson), ALS, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1780 Jan 17.
1	20	Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 2 pages; to [Sarah (Thompson) Benson]; Manchester, 1780 Jan 21.

- 1 21 Crosby, Sarah, ALS, 4 pages; to Joseph Benson; Leeds, 1795 Mar 24.
Signed by Sarah Crosby for herself and for eleven others.
- 1 22 Benson, Joseph (1749-1821), ALS, 3 pages; to "Rev'd and very dear
Sir" [unaddressed]; no place, undated.
- 1 23 Maxwell, Darcy Brisbane (Lady), AL, 2 pages; to Joseph Benson; [Coates?
London], undated.
Contains a one-page list in Joseph Benson's hand.
- 1 24 *A Methodist pocket-book, for the year 1797: Containing memoirs never before
publish'd, original poetry & anecdotes* (London, 1797).
Contains Joseph Benson's notes.
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