

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Grier, Isaac (1763-1814)** **MC 2000.2**

Material: Papers (1796-1813)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Transfer from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1980

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Isaac Grier was a Presbyterian minister and classical school headmaster. He was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1763 to Thomas and Martha Grier. For his preparatory education, Grier attended the classical school in Chambersburg and was taught by James Ross. From there, Grier went to Dickinson College to study theology under Charles Nisbet. He was among the founders of the Belles Lettres Literary Society, and graduated with Dickinson College's second class in 1788.

On December 21, 1791, Grier was licensed by the Presbytery in Carlisle. His appointment was to preach at the churches of Harrisburg, Paxton, Upper and Middle Tuscarora, Bedford, Great Cove, and as far west as Pittsburgh during the winter and spring seasons. His next missionary appointment was to the West and North branches of the Susquehanna, and up into New York state. In 1793, Grier was called to fill one of two pastoral positions; either the united congregations of Lycoming, Pine Creek, and Great Island, or the congregations of Pitt Township and Ebenezer. He accepted the former. Grier was ordained in Carlisle and installed as a pastor in April 1794.

In 1802 Grier took charge of a classical school to supplement his income while continuing to preach. He moved to the united churches of Sunbury and Northumberland Pennsylvania in 1806, and again headed a classical school. He would serve here until his death from dyspepsia on August 23, 1814.

Isaac Grier married Elizabeth Cooper, the daughter of Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper in June 1793. They had 12 children together. The most famous of their children was the eldest, Robert Cooper Grier. Like his father, he attended Dickinson College, graduating in 1812. He taught for a few years at the Dickinson Grammar School, and then took charge of the academy in Northumberland following his father's death. He then pursued

law, being admitted to the bar in 1817. He would rise through the legal ranks and ultimately serve as a United States Supreme Court Justice from 1833-1870.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Isaac Grier collection is housed in one document box and is composed primarily of sermons written by Grier. A lengthy letter to his wife Elizabeth is the only piece of correspondence. The nearly 40 sermons span from 1796 to 1813. A few of the sermons are incomplete. The sermons that are dated are arranged chronologically. The remainder of the sermons are arranged alphabetically according to the Bible passage which serves as the basis for the sermon, while miscellaneous sermon fragments have been filed at the end of the collection.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2000.2

CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 01) Letter from Isaac Grier to wife Elizabeth - Undated

SERMONS

Folder 02) Dec. 20, 1796 - Psalm 110
June 1798

Folder 03) Jan. 1802 - Lamentations 3:25
Feb. 1805 - Revelations 1:10

Folder 04) June 1806 - Luke 23: 42-43
Sep. 1806 - Titus 2:11-12

Folder 05) Mar. 1807 - Psalm 7:11
July 1807 - Proverbs 12:28

Folder 06) Oct. 1807 - Hebrews 9:24
Feb. 1808 - Matthew 11:6

Folder 07) Aug. 1808 - Matthew 11:30
Sep. 1808 - Amos 3:6

Folder 08) Feb. 1809 - Hebrews 11:27
Dec. 1809 - Philippians 3:20

Folder 09) Dec. 1809 - Matthew 11:28
Mar. 1810 - Matthew 7:13-14

Folder 10) May 1810 - Psalm 1
May 1810 - Psalm 119:60

Folder 11) June 1810 - Philippians 2:15
Aug. 1810 - Matthew 5:21

Folder 12) Aug. 1810 - Proverbs 6:6-8
Nov. 1810 - James 4:7

Folder 13) June 1811 - Zechariah 13:1
July 1811 - Isaiah 57:20-21

BOX 1 - MC 2000.2 (cont.)

SERMONS (cont.)

- Folder 14) Sep. 1811 - Isaiah 57:15
Dec. 1811 - Matthew 21:28
- Folder 15) Sep. 1812 - Isaiah 25:6-8
Feb. 1813 - Luke 8:18
- Folder 16) 1 Corinthians 3:11
1 Corinthians 4:2
- Folder 17) 2 Corinthians 5:14
Galatians 6:7-8
- Folder 18) John 17: 24
John 21:17
- Folder 19) Matthew 11:25
1 Peter 2:9
- Folder 20) Philippians 3:30
Psalm 25
- Folder 21) Romans 13:14
- Folder 22) Miscellaneous fragments

This collection register was prepared by Katie A. Heller, March 2000.