

**Charles Wesley Manuscript Verse in  
The Methodist Archive and Research Centre  
The John Rylands Library  
The University of Manchester  
Manchester, England**

The vast majority of Charles Wesley's manuscript letters, verse, and records remained in the care of his family after his death—overseen first by his wife Sarah, and increasingly by his daughter Sarah Wesley Jr. When Sarah Jr. died in 1828, the materials passed to her brother Charles Jr. He soon entered into negotiations with Thomas Jackson, culminating in 1831 in the purchase by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of these manuscript materials and a number of books which had belonged to Charles Wesley Sr. and other family members.<sup>1</sup> Jackson initially held the materials, in trust for the Conference. They were later placed in the Methodist Archives, which eventually were housed in the basement of the Epworth Press building in London. In 1976 it was decided to move the Methodist Archives to The John Rylands Library, where they now reside.

The following pages provide a complete list of manuscript verse by Charles Wesley currently in the collection of The Methodist Archives and Research Centre. The first five pages cover items that are either transcribed or noted in this online collection. Items are identified by their accession number or shelf reference in MARC, to aid in locating the original.<sup>2</sup> This is followed by the short title or reference where the item can be found on this website. A final two pages list verse items found within the manuscript collection of MARC that are *not* included in this online collection—typically because they are not by Charles Wesley or they are derivative copies of items where we have access to the original elsewhere.

The Librarian and Director of The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester, has granted permission for publishing in this online collection all of Charles Wesley's manuscript verse found in the holdings of The Methodist Archive and Research Centre. The Library staff provided extensive support in consulting the manuscript items to prepare the transcriptions offered here. Special thanks are offered for the assistance of Gareth Lloyd, Peter Nockles, Dorothy Clayton, Carol Burrows, Suzanne Fagan, and their associates! Important assistance was also received at the beginning of the project from Patrick Eby, who was pursuing research in these manuscript materials.

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<sup>1</sup>The deed of conveyance, dated 4 August 1831, is in MARC: ref. MAW Ra (Box 6).

<sup>2</sup>These numbers update older identifications given in *Representative Verse* and *Unpublished Poetry*. But we have generally retained the same titles for manuscripts, so that location references cited there can be found easily in our list.

## Manuscript Verse Items Included in this Online Collection

MA 1977/157 JW III.8 (copies of six CW manuscript drafts in JW's hand)—noted in *Funeral Hymns* (1759), 18–19, 25–28; *Intercession Hymns* (1758), 30–33; MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 37–40; and MS Richmond, 91–93

### Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 1

MA 1977/423 MS Richmond Tracts  
MA 1977/424 MS Thirty  
MA 1977/551 MS Richmond  
MA 1977/552 MS Deliberative Hymns  
MA 1977/553 MS Psalms  
MA 1977/554 MS Shent  
MA 1977/555 MS Acts

### Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 2

MA 1977/556 MS Miscellaneous Hymns  
MA 1977/557 MS Epistles  
MA 1977/558 MS Friendship I  
MA 1977/559 notebook including MS American Loyalists 1783, MS Miscellaneous Poems, and MS Patriotism  
MA 1977/560 MS Judges — noted in *Scripture Hymns* (1762), vol. 1  
MA 1977/561 MS Clarke  
MA 1977/562 MS Friendship II  
MA 1977/563 MS Occasional Hymns  
MA 1977/564 MS Family  
MA 1977/565 MS Shorthand Verse  
MA 1977/566 MS Fish  
MA 1977/567 MS Shorthand Letters (include only MS Address to a Friend)  
MA 1977/569 MS Six  
MA 1977/570 MS Howe (photocopy of draft 2)

### Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 3

MA 1977/573 MS John  
MA 1977/574 MS Mark  
MA 1977/575 MS Luke  
MA 1977/576 MS Scriptural Hymns (OT & NT)  
MA 1977/577 MS Matthew  
MA 1977/578 MS Death: includes MS Funeral Hymns, MS Hymns for Love, MS Preparation for Death, and MS Death of Mary Horton (draft 3)

### Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 4

- MA 1977/583/1 MS Howe (draft 1)  
MA 1977/583/2 noted in MS American Loyalists 1783  
MA 1977/583/3 MS Patriotism (drafts), 47–49  
MA 1977/583/4 MS Courtship  
MA 1977/583/5 MS Travail  
MA 1977/583/6 MS Miscellaneous Poems, pp. 5–8, 13–18 (pullouts; restored)  
MA 1977/583/7 MS Malefactors  
MA 1977/583/8 MS Preachers Extraordinary  
MA 1977/583/9 MS Revd. —  
MA 1977/583/10 MS Preachers 1786  
MA 1977/583/11 MS Preachers 1786 (drafts), 7–15  
MA 1977/583/12 MS Samuel Wesley, R.C.  
MA 1977/583/13 MS Patriotism (drafts), 62–65  
MA 1977/583/14 pp. 6–17: MS Patriotism (drafts), 50–61  
pp. 18–24: MS Death of Hannah Butts  
MA 1977/583/15 MS Death of Ebenezer Blackwell  
MA 1977/583/16 MS Death of Prudence Box  
MA 1977/583/17 MS Death of Hannah Dewal (draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/18 MS Death of Bartholomew Gallatin (draft 1 & draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/19 MS Death of Mary Horton (draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/20 MS Death of John Matthews (draft 1 & draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/21 MS Ludlow  
MA 1977/583/22 MS Death of Dr John Middleton (draft 1 & draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/23 #1: MS Small Pox  
#2: MS Death of Thomas Waller (draft 2)  
MA 1977/583/24 #1: MS Sarah Bulgin  
#2: in secondary hand; noted in MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, 9–11  
MA 1977/583/25 MS Prayer for Truth, pp. 1–8; and MS Prayer for Truth (draft)  
MA 1977/583/26 MS Hester Durbin  
MA 1977/583/27 MS Patriotism (drafts), 45–46  
MA 1977/583/28 MS Funeral Hymns for Hannah Butts  
MA 1977/583/29 #1: noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 259.  
#2: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Jesus, who omnipresent art”  
MA 1977/583/30 MS Death of Elizabeth Blackwell  
MA 1977/583/30a noted in MS Hymn for the King 1784  
MA 1977/583/31 #1: MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 10–12  
#2: noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 242–43  
MA 1977/583/32 #1: MS Death of William Hitchens  
#2: noted in MS Hymns for Love, 51–52  
#3a: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Humble, penitent zeal”  
#3b: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Stupendous mystery”  
#4: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Father thou knowst I need”  
#5a: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “While blackest clouds”  
#5b: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Tremendous God, severely just”  
#5c: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Judgment is at thy house begun”  
#6: noted in *Intercession Hymns* (1759), 1–2

- #7: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “O God who does the motives know”  
 #8: MS Preachers  
 #9: MS Preachers 1786 (drafts)  
 #10: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Lord, thou dost forever live”  
 #11: MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 5  
 #12: noted in MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, 9–10.  
 #13: MS Patriotism (drafts), 43–44  
 #14: noted in MS Patriotism (drafts), 5–8  
 #15: MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 15  
 #16: MS Patriotism (drafts), 70–72  
 #17: MS Patriotism (drafts), 66–69  
 #18: noted in MS Hymns for Love, 71–72  
 #19: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “How long, how often shall I pray”  
 #20: noted in MS Scriptural Hymns, 102–3  
 #21: MS Prayer for Truth, 9–10  
 #22a: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Christ the Lord, the woman’s seed”  
 MA 1977/583/33 MS Patriotism (drafts), 13 items

### Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 5

- MA 1977/594/1 MS Henderson  
 MA 1977/594/2 hymn included in Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., November 15, 1748  
 MA 1977/594/3 in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Father, my wretched heart I find”  
 MA 1977/594/4 #1: noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 246–47  
 #2: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Call’d forth to earn my daily bread”  
 MA 1977/594/5 MS Protestant Association  
 MA 1977/594/6 MS version of *Hymn for John Wesley* (1779) (variants noted there)  
 MA 1977/594/7 #1: MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 13–14  
 #2: MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 6  
 MA 1977/594/8 #1: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Saviour thou hast to Hoary Hairs”  
 #2: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Thine wholly, thine alone I’ll be”  
 #3: noted in *Preparation for Death* (1772), 25–26  
 MA 1977/594/9 three hymns, noted in MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, 36–39.  
 MA 1977/594/10 MS version of *Hymn for John Wesley* (1779) (variants noted there)  
 MA 1977/594/11 MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 7–9  
 MA 1977/594/12 MS Death of Thomas Waller (draft 1)  
 MA 1977/594/13 noted in Assorted Verse on 1784 Ordinations, 3–4  
 MA 1977/594/14 #1: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Jesus, mighty Intercessor,”  
 #2: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “What is the grace I fain would prove”  
 MA 1977/594/15 #1: MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, p. 15 (pull out; restored)  
 #2: MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, p. 16 (pull out; restored)  
 #3: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Come Saviour from above”  
 MA 1977/594/16 MS Nursery  
 MA 1977/594/17 MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786

### Other Charles Wesley Manuscript Verse Items in Collection

DDCW 1/1	Letter to John Wesley, January 20, 1728 (contains hymn)
DDCW 1/14a	Letter to Elizabeth Witham January 16, 1746 (contains hymn)
DDCW 1/16	Letter to Mr. Witham and Sally Witham, December 18, 1747 (contains hymn)
DDCW 1/17	Letter to William Lunell, August 21, 1748 (contains epitaph)
DDCW 1/19	Letter to Ebenezer Blackwell, April 8, 1749 (contains hymn)
DDCW 1/23	Letter to Ebenezer Blackwell, September 4, 1749 (contains hymn)
DDCW 3/2	in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Adverse to Brothers ...” in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Thou wouldst not have cut off ...” incorporated into MS Hester Durbin
DDCW 3/3	MS Death of Charles Worgan (draft 2)
DDCW 3/3a	noted in Assorted Verse on 1784 Ordinations, 1–2
DDCW 3/4	MS Miscellaneous Hymns (draft), 4
DDCW 3/6	in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Help of them that succour need”
DDCW 3/8	MS Death of Mary Horton (draft 1)
DDCW 3/9	Assorted Verse on 1784 Ordinations, 3–4
DDCW 3/10	noted in MS Matthew, 163
DDCW 3/11	in Charles Wesley on His Own Death, 1
DDCW 3/13	MS Patriotism (drafts), 73–74
DDCW 3/14	noted in <i>HSP</i> (1749), 2:240
DDCW 3/15	Journal Letter, February 23–25, 1747 (contains hymn)
DDCW 4/3a	noted in MS Funeral Hymns
DDCW 4/8	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., December 30–31, 1748 (contains partial hymn)
DDCW 5/11	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., January 5, 1749 (contains two hymns)
DDCW 5/15	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., January 15, 1749 (contains two hymns)
DDCW 5/20	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., February 5, 1749 (contains hymn)
DDCW 5/25	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., March 1, 1749 (contains hymn)
DDCW 5/30	Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., March 10–11, 1749 (contains two hymns)
DDCW 5/33	MS Funeral Hymns, 107–108 (pull out; restored)
DDCW 5/65	Letter to Sally, August 9, 1748 (contains hymn)
DDCW 5/66	Letter to Sarah Wesley, August 17, 1749 (contains hymn)
DDCW 5/74	Letter to Sarah Wesley, January 7, 1755 (contains hymn)
DDCW 5/83	Letter to Sarah Wesley, July 3, [1764] (contains short verse)
DDCW 5/95	noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns 1786, 37–38
DDCW 5/109	a leaf torn from a larger collection, numbered pages 23–24, noted in <i>HSP</i> (1740), 131–32 and <i>HSP</i> (1742), 244–45
DDCW 6	Journal Letter, July 1–26, 1746 (contains hymn)
DDCW 6/15	Journal Letter, July 27–Aug 10, 1746 (contains hymn)
DDCW 6/16	Journal Letter, Sept. 26–Oct. 27, 1748 (contains hymn)
DDCW 6/23	Journal Letter, August 13–October 3, 1751 (contains hymn)
DDCW 6/26	Letter to Sarah Wesley, May 1, 1753 (contains hymn)
DDCW 6/38	MS Miscellaneous Hymns (drafts), 1–3
DDCW 6/66	MS Intercession
DDCW 6/68–70	MS Festivals
DDCW 6/71	MS Preachers 1779
DDCW 6/72	noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 274–75
DDCW 6/74	

- DDCW 6/75 in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Ah, woe is me, whom thorns surround”  
in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “To whom in peril and distress”
- DDCW 6/76 noted in MS Hymns for Love, 41–42.
- DDCW 6/77 in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “How shall I wash my heart”
- DDCW 6/78 MS Death of Charles Worgan (draft 1)
- DDCW 6/79a noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 86–87
- DDCW 6/80 part of MS Preachers
- DDCW 6/81a in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Genevensis a Friend’s inconsistency ...”
- DDCW 6/81a in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Martin woud have pluck’d out”
- DDCW 6/81b in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Matthew, and Mark, and Luke, and John”
- DDCW 6/86a noted in MS Nursery, 3–5
- DDCW 6/92d noted in MS Miscellaneous Poems, 13–15
- DDCW 6/92e MS Charles James Fox 1784
- DDCW 6/92f Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., March 1748 (secondary copy; contains hymn)
- DDCW 7/2 Letter to Sarah Wesley, April 5, 1760 (contains hymn)
- DDCW 7/42 Letter to Sarah Wesley Jr., June 12, 1780 (contains hymn)
- DDCW 7/49 Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., September 17, 1748 (contains hymn)
- DDCW 7/83 Letter to Sarah Wesley, September 13, 1755 (contains hymn)
- DDCW 7/121b MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, 33–34 (pull out; restored)
- DDCW 9/3 MS Brothers
- DDWes 1/39 three hymns sent with Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., December 20, 1748
- DDWes 1/40 Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., January 26, 1749 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 1/42 Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., April 3, 1750 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 1/44 in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “O My Unsettled Soul”
- DDWes 1/45 MS Hymns for Wedding Anniversaries
- DDWes 1/46 MS Preachers 1786 (drafts), 22–25
- DDWes 1/47 noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 187–88
- DDWes 1/56 MS Nursery, 3
- DDWes 1/83 noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 150–52
- DDWes 1/94 noted in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 294
- DDWes 4/54 #1: in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse: “Great Guardian of thy Church ...”  
#2: noted in *Thanksgiving Hymns* (1759), 18–19
- DDWes 4/56 Letter to Sarah Gwynne Jr., December 27, 1748 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 4/62 Letter to Sarah Wesley Jr., September 17, 1782 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 4/89 Letter to Sarah Wesley, December 22, 1755 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 4/94 Letter to Sarah Wesley, September 21, 1753 (contains hymn)
- DDWes 7/83 Letter to Edward Walpole, November [4], 1778 (contains hymn)
- DDWF 14/31 MS Tribute to John Wesley
- DDWF 15/53 noted in MS Ordinations, 1
- DDWF 27/5 Item 3: Assorted Verse on 1784 Ordinations, 5
- MA1977/157 MS Ordinations (in a set of John Wesley papers; JW V.III)
- MA 1977/706/3/4 MS Howe (draft two, original)
- MA 1977/712/1/3 (“Farrar Vickers collection”) MS Hymns for King and Queen 1780
- MA 1983/027/21 noted in MS Matthew, 223–24
- MA 1983/027/22 noted in MS Matthew, 101–102
- MAM JW 6/39 Hymn in John Wesley letter, Nov. 21, 1782; see MS Funeral Hymns, 112

MAW CW78 Hymns in Charles Wesley's personal copy of *Letters of Mrs. Lefevre* (1757).  
first hymn noted in *Funeral Hymns* (1759), 46–49  
second hymn noted in MS Funeral Hymns, 105–106

[Items transferred to MARC from Wesley College, Bristol, England]

WCB, D6/1/154a “Ye ministers of wrath divine” — MS Patriotism (drafts), 14–15  
WCB, D6/1/154b “While Heaven with angry frown” — MS Patriotism (drafts), 12–13  
WCB D6/1/166a “Recall not, Lord, our sins to mind” — MS Patriotism (drafts), 5–8  
WCB, D6/1/166b MS Hymn for the King 1784  
WCB, D6/1/168a MS Hymn for King George 1769  
WCB, D6/1/168b “Huzza for liberty and laws” (shorthand) — noted in MS Miscellaneous Poems, 28

## **Items of Verse in Charles Wesley Manuscript Collection Not Included in this Online Collection**

### **Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 3**

- MA 1977/579 MS Matthew, derivative copy in later secondary hand  
MA 1977/580 Derivative copies in secondary hand of several CW hymns (mainly from MS Matthew)

### **Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 4**

- MA 1977/583/32 #22b: some shorthand on a page numbered “116” starting a poem “On the Death of Dr ...”; too brief and cryptic to decipher
- MA 1977/593/1 Derivative copy in secondary hand of “Hymns on the expected invasion 1759”  
MA 1977/593/2 Loose sheets containing textual notes on Charles Wesley’s hymns, in the context of considering a nineteenth-century edition of the hymns
- MA 1977/593/3 Loose sheets containing derivative copies of hymns by Charles Wesley entitled “The Psalms by Charles Wesley, M. A. late student of Christ Church Oxford”; clearly nineteenth-century in origin

### **Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 5**

- MA 1977/595 Manuscript collection of hymns in the hand of Sally Wesley Jr.; by authors other than Charles Wesley
- MA 1977/596 Manuscript collection of hymns in the hand of Sally Wesley Jr.; by authors other than Charles Wesley

### **Other Manuscript Items**

- DDCW 6/65 MS copy of William Congreve’s *Semele*, adapted as oratorio by Handel  
appears to be in hand of Charles Wesley’s son Samuel
- DDCW 6/67 “Birthday of John Wesley” (cf. *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:451–52.)  
almost certainly not by Charles Wesley; not in his hand and style not typical  
likely author is Martin Madan (who had composed a “Bath tune” as referred to in the title)
- DDCW 6/67 “Birthday of Charles Wesley” (cf. *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:453–54.)  
same hand and clearly (by style) same author as the parallel “Birthday of John Wesley”
- DDCW 6/73 Derivative secondary copy of DDCW 6/72



- DDCW 6/92g Incomplete manuscript notebook (numbered pp. 5–8)  
 not in Charles Wesley’s hand; 2 of 3 hymns clearly not his  
 hymn ending on pp. 5–6 is Thomas Olivers’ “Come Immortal King of Glory”  
 (cf. *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:435–36)  
 source of paraphrase of Psalm 23 (pp. 6–7) is uncertain but no clear connection  
 to Wesley (cf. *Unpublished Poetry*, 2:441–42)  
 “Paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer” (beginning on p. 8) found in various published  
 collections from at least 1764ff (cf. *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:441)
- DDCW 6/92h “Epitaph to Mrs Lunel” (MS Richmond, 89) in secondary hand
- DDWF 21/37 Hymn titled “Britain attend the warning voice”  
 not in Charles Wesley’s hand and no reference to him  
 published by Peter Brett in *Miscellany* (Dublin: S. Powell, 1757), 4:107.
- DDWF 23/7 Notebook of manuscript copies of six verse items by Sarah Gwynne Jr. (16 pages)  
 while some of the hymns are by Charles Wesley, they are all derivative copies of  
 published material
- DDWF 23/8 Notebook of manuscript copies of eighteen hymns by Sarah Gwynne Jr. (25 pages)  
 while some of the hymns are by Charles Wesley, they are all derivative copies of  
 material published by 1747, when notebook compiled

### **Examples of Charles Wesley’s “Scripture Playing Cards”**

These are small rectangular cards (about 1 in. x 2 in) on which a scripture verse is written on one side and a short excerpt from one of Wesley’s corresponding hymns in *Scripture Hymns* (1762) is written on the other side. They are in manuscript, but all post-date and are derivative of the published version (with no variants). For more details on how these cards may have been used, see Frank Baker, “Charles Wesley’s Scripture Playing Cards,” *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society* 29 (1954): 136–38. A picture of a scripture card can be found in volume 7 (p. 61) of Nehemiah Curnock’s edition of John Wesley’s *Journal*.

- DDCW 3/1  
 DDCW 3/7  
 DDCW 3/8a  
 DDCW 3/11a  
 DDCW 3/12  
 DDCW 6/86b  
 DDCW 6/86c  
 DDCW 6/86d  
 DDCW 6/86e  
 DDCW 9/9  
 DDCW 9/10  
 DDCW 9/11  
 DDCW 9/12  
 DDWF 20/42