

Lincoln Town Archives

At Town Offices • 16 Lincoln Road • 781-259-2607
& Lincoln Library • 3 Bedford Road • 781-259-8465
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
e-mail: archives@lincolntown.org

Title: Eleazer Brooks Papers
Date(s): 1700-1825 (inclusive)
Bulk: 1770s-1790s
Extent: 1 box (11 folders); two oversized folders
Collection No.: 2003.067

Scope and Content:

The Eleazer Brooks Papers are comprised of deeds, military commissions, legal documents, correspondence and other papers relating to the affairs of Eleazer Brooks from ca.1740s to ca.1790s, with the bulk of the papers from the Revolutionary War period. Deeds from the Brooks family and New Hampshire 40 shilling notes, redeemable after 1780, are also included.

A bound volume of these documents (photocopied) is available for browsing in the Lincoln Town Archives Historical Room (L.H.R. 921 Brooks, E., undated). Digitized copies (PDF [2003.067.103] and TIFF files [2003.067.104a-e] were also created when the documents were conserved in 2009 by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC).

Biographical/Historical Background:

Eleazer Brooks and other members of the Brooks family were among the earliest residents of Lincoln when the town was incorporated in 1754. Eleazer Brooks was a farmer, Revolutionary War Colonel and Brigadier General, prominent citizen and public official in Lincoln, Mass.

Born in Concord on September 10, 1727, prior to the separation of Lincoln from Concord (1754). Parents Job and Elizabeth Brooks; brother John Brooks. Held his first office in Lincoln in 1757 as Surveyor of Highways. Married Mary Taylor of Concord in 1763; widowed in July 1769. Married Elizabeth Greenough of Boston on May 26, 1777. Two children: Eleazer Jr. (b. 1778), and Elizabeth (b. 1780). Joined as full member of the Lincoln Church in 1764; eventually became Deacon. Elected for first of three consecutive terms as Town Treasurer in 1765. Elected Selectman in 1769 and 1775. On January 23, 1773 on committee to reply to letter from Boston's Committee of Correspondence regarding opposition to British Parliamentary control over Colony. Elected to serve on Lincoln's Committee of Correspondence on November 2, 1773, and drafted letter in response to the imposed tea tax. Joined militia as Lieutenant in 1773; promoted to Captain that November. Elected as Lincoln's representative to the General Court in May 1774, and re-elected in September 1774. Wrote "Thoughts on Civil Government" paper 1774-1775. Made Colonel, 3rd Middlesex Co. Regt. on February 8, 1776. Marched to reinforce Continental Army at Dorchester Heights on March 4, 1776. Marched to New York as reinforcement in November

1776. Promoted to Brigadier-General of Militia of Middlesex County on October 15, 1778. After the American Revolution represented Lincoln at Massachusetts' ratification of Articles of Confederation in 1778. Elected Lincoln's first Representative under new Massachusetts Constitution on October 9, 1780. Voted to be Senator of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, May 1792. Died in Lincoln on November 9, 1806 at 79 years of age.

Source: With permission of the Concord Free Public Library Special Collections, *Eleazer Brooks Papers, 1776-1793* Finding Aid.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The Eleazer Brooks Papers were given to Lincoln Public Library April 3, 1886 by Brooks' grandson, Horatio Wheeler, a native of Lincoln, then residing in Brooklyn, N.Y. The papers were referred to Dr. Tarbell for examination. William F. Wheeler also examined the documents and arranged the deeds as they were placed in the Archives of the State of Massachusetts. Also mentioned is a package of papers, gift of Horatio Wheeler and "other heirs" that had been obtained from the National Archives in Washington with the help of Senator Hoar. The donated documents were put into a scrapbook in 1887. Records of the Social library and the Lyceum were also donated at the same time.

Source: Letter from the Trustees' Records (2003.067.001).

Existence and Location of Copies:

An undated bound volume of photocopies of the documents from the original scrapbook is located in the Lincoln Town Archives Historical Room [L.H.R. 921 Brooks, E.]. The book of copies contains the following documents which were no longer in the collection in 2009: pp. 142-148 titled "Freemasonry" and listed in the copy index as "poems;" pp. 149-152 "Human Folly" from the *Yeoman's Gazette*, Oct. 18, 1843; pp.153-156 "Freemasonry Exposed" in the *Free Press*, Aug. 21, 1827; and p. 157 a "draft notice to Tm. Brown" by James Parks, Dec. 3, 1776.

Five documents found in the collection in 2008 are not included in the book of bound copies: 2003.067.039b, 2003.067.056, 2003.067.062, 2003.067.077 & 2003.067.086. Digitized copies (PDF [2003.067.103] and TIFF files [2003.067.104a-e]) were made when the documents were conserved in 2009 by the NEDCC. A copy of their treatment plan is with the original scrapbook.

Series Description

Series 1: Scrapbook, ca.1700-1825

Container List of Main Documents:

Commission as Colonel	1776 February 16	2003.067.002
Commission as Brigadier General	1781 August 22	2003.067.013

Militia Muster Concerning Ticonderoga	1776 July 18	2003.067.004
Order to Equip Militia	1777 July 16	2003.067.005
Order to Complete Guard Quota	1777 December 11	2003.067.006
Order to Delay March to Rhode Island	1777 July 23	2003.067.008
Order to Meet at Manchester	1777 August 11	2003.067.009
Order to Muster and March to Saratoga	1777 August 10	2003.067.010
Order to Muster Additional Troops	1777 September 24	2003.067.011
Note to Mr. Tim. Brown to Reinforce the Continental Army	1778 Dec 3	2003.067.039b
Resolve to Raise Five Hundred Men for Defense of Rhode Island, 1781 June 15		2003.067.016
Muster Order for Continental Army	1780 December 4	2003.067.017
Muster Order to March to West Point	1781 July 4	2003.067.018
Order to Be Ready to March to Boston	1781 September 8	2003.067.019
Directive on the Election of Company Officers, 1776 February 14		2003.067.003a-c
Duties of Continental Army and Militia Officers, 1777 December?		2003.067.012
Order to Col. Faulkner to Raise a Detachment	1781 July 6	2003.067.083
Appointment as Justice of the Peace	1791 June 8	2003.067.021
Election to Membership in the Agricultural Society, 1792 May		2003.067.023
Notice of Meeting of the Senate	1784 May 10	2003.067.020
Voted to Be Senator	1792 May 14	2003.067.022
Resignation from Senate	undated	2003.067.027a-b
Resignation of the Office of Brigadier General	undated	2003.067.028
Letter from the Lincoln Committee of Correspondence, 1773 December		2003.067.031
Thoughts on Civil Government	1773 December	2003.067.032
Economic Principles and Classes of Debtors	undated	2003.067.033a-b

Objections Against the Limitations of Government	undated	2003.067.034-035
Letter to Isaac Sterns about Corn Dispute	1774 February 25	2003.067.097
Speech in Favor of Moderate Approach toward Great Britain, undated		2003.067.036
“Distinctions between a Mild & Righteous Government and a Weak and Feeble Government,”	undated	2003.067.037
Rights and Duties of Judiciary and Other Branches of Government, undated (refers to the Alien and Sedition Acts)		2003.067.038
Against Certificate Law	undated	2003.067.039a
Report Against the Cincinnati Society	undated	2003.067.080
Appointment of Committee to County Road Study, 1791 September 13		2003.067.084
Road Committee Reports and Assignments	1791	2003.067.085-087
Appointment as Federal Tax Commissioner	1798 August 7	2003.067.030
Policies for the Assessment of Dwellings	1798 December 25	2003.067.025
Cover Letter for Massachusetts Tax List	1799 December 17	2003.067.026
Letter about Taxation Laws	1784 October 18	2003.067.029a-d
Letters to Rev. Mr. William Lawrence on Church "Modern Practices" and his Sermons 1771 & 1772		2003.067.040-041; 2003.067.100
Discussion of Confession of Faith & Communion Practices at the Lincoln Church	undated	2003.067.042-046
Will of Daniel Brooks	1728/9 January 6	2003.067.072
Map of Land and Stream	undated	2003.067.074
Currency from the Colony of New Hampshire	1775 November 3	2003.067.088-.095
Petition to License Innkeeper Eli Robbins	1822 September	2003.067.099
Deeds of Sale dating from 1700 to 1769		

Information about Access:

In-Library Use Only.

Finding Aid and Inventory in print form available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation:

Title of document, Creator, year(s), (Accession No.). Lincoln Town Archives, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Collection Processed By:

William F. Carroll, 2003

Patricia Hilpert, Summer 2012