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Massachusetts Bay Warrants Collection

1743-1767

0.5 box (0.1 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 089



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On the eve of the Seven Years War in the Province of Massachusetts, town constables shouldered an array of public responsibilities, including announcing town meetings, serving writs for the town clerk, and collecting local taxes. Although they received a commission for the taxes collected, constables were also held personally responsible for any taxes unpaid, authorized by writ of the Provincial Treasurer and enforced by County Sheriffs.

The warrants in this collection, nearly all printed forms completed in manuscript, were issued by the Treasurer and Receiver General of Massachusetts Bay Province, William Foye or his successor Harrison Gray, authorizing the Hampshire County Sheriff,

Oliver Partridge, or Deputy Sheriffs Moses Miller or Ephraim Williams, to attach the goods of local constables in arrears: Brimfield, Greenwich, Sheffield, and Westfield, Mass., along with Somers and Suffield, now part of Connecticut. In instances where the taxes were not delivered, the Sheriff was empowered to "levy by Distress and Sale of the Estate real and personal" of the constable to make up the unpaid difference.

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Background

On the eve of the Seven Years War in the Province of Massachusetts, town constables shouldered an array of public responsibilities, including announcing town meetings, serving writs for the town clerk, and collecting local taxes. Although they received a commission for the taxes collected, constables were also held personally responsible for any taxes unpaid, authorized by writ of the Provincial Treasurer and enforced by County Sheriffs.

Scope of collection

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The towns of Somers and Suffield were incorporated in Massachusetts (in 1734 and 1682, respectively), but separated from that colony and were annexed to Connecticut in 1749.

Inventory

Brimfield

1743-1752

7 items

Box 1: 1

Greenwich

1757-1767

2 items

Box 1: 2

Sheffield

1743-1752

8 items

Box 1: 3

Somers

1743-1749

4 items

Box 1: 4

Suffield

1746-1749

4 items

Box 1: 5

Westfield

1743

1 item

Box 1: 6

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Provenance not recorded.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2015.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Brimfield (Mass.)--History
Greenwich (Mass.)--History
Sheffield (Mass.)--History
Somers (Conn.)--History
Suffield (Conn.)--History
Taxation--Massachusetts
Westfield (Mass.)--History

Contributors

Foye, William
Gray, Harrison
Partridge, Oliver
Miller, Moses
Williams, Ephraim
Massachusetts. Treasurer and Receiver General

Genres and formats

Warrants

Link to similar SCUA collections

Connecticut
Massachusetts (West)
Quabbin



Special Collections & University Archives
University Libraries : UMass Amherst
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)

