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Brookfield (Mass.) Records

1736-1795

1 volume (0.25 linear ft.)

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[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

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Settled in 1660 and incorporated in 1718, the town of Brookfield (Worcester County) straddles the Boston Post Road, one of the major arteries during the colonial period connecting Boston with the towns of the Connecticut River Valley and New York.

This assemblage of documents from Brookfield, Massachusetts, consists primarily of warrants for town meetings, many with agendas, that were issued to the Freeholders and Inhabitants through the constables. Concentrated in the 1770s, these warrants provide relatively detailed information on matters of local importance, including town finances, assessments, and the construction and maintenance of roadways and bridges. During the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary years, however, issues

of interest to the town were often wrapped up in regional or national politics. Town freeholders, for example, were called to consider requests to "come into any Vote or Resolve Respecting the East India Company Tea," the encouragement of manufacture of firearms, smallpox inoculation, and pay for the town's Minute Men or support for the families of servicemen.

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Background on Brookfield (Mass.), Selectmen

Settled in 1660 and incorporated in 1718, the town of Brookfield (Worcester County), Massachusetts, straddles the Boston Post Road, one of the major arteries during the colonial period connecting Boston with the towns of the Connecticut River Valley and New York.

Scope of collection

The warrants issued by the selectmen of Brookfield, Massachusetts, to the constable in each precinct to warn the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town about upcoming town meeting. Each contains a brief agenda of topics for that meeting. Most of these warrants concern the mundane matters of local governance such as authorizing funds for building and repairing roads and bridges, laying out or approving the course of new roads and compensating land owners for alienated property, support for the poor, and the election of town officers. During the 1770s and 1780s, however, the warrants reflect the heightening of Revolution zeal, with references to the Tea Act controversy of 1773, the formation of Committees of Correspondence and a Committee of Safety, pay for the Minute Men of 1775, support for soldiers' families, and military preparedness in town. Two warrants request the Town to vote upon inoculation for smallpox.

Inventory

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1736 Mar. 8-May 7

2 items

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1745 Feb. 17

1 item

Regarding laying out route of public highway; keeping of a grammar school

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1747

3 items

Re supplying the town pulpit; amending bridge; preventing encroachment on highways and town land

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1750

1 item

Re: roads; women's schooling; repairing second parish church

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1752 Feb. 24

1 item

Re: ratifying roads; sale of ministry lands

Brookfield (Mass.). Assessors: Warrant to John Bellenger, appointing him Surveyor of Highway and tax collector

1753 June 11

1 item

Includes list of taxable residents and amounts owed

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrant to John Phipps to call vote for 2nd Precinct to choose a new constable

1755 Dec. 15

1 item

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1772

8 items

Re: roads; bridge repair; poor relief; recompense for the local fulling mill in rebuilding a bridge

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1773

4 items

"To see if the Town will hear the several Letters from the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Boston and make any order on them..."; "to see if the Town will Come into any Vote or Resolve; Respecting the East India Company's Tea, Lately sent to America, Subject to a Duty

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1774

3 items

"To choose a standing Committee of Correspondence"

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1775 Jan. 9

1 item

"to see if the Town will allow the account of Jedediah Forster Esqr for his attending the [Continental] Congresses..."; "to see if the Town will Grant money to pay the Minute Men"

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1776

2 items

"To see if the Town will accept and act upon the Report of their Committee Chosen to Draught some plan to Incourage the manufacturing of firearms"; repair of Nichols bridge; permit inoculation for smallpox at Joseph Cutter's house

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1777

9 items

"to see if the town will chuse a Committee to supply thee families of thee non commissioned officers and privit solders that are gone in to the Contanental servase"; building a roof on the powder house; storing town ammuniton; smallpox inoculation; choose a Committee of Safety

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1779

7 items

"to see if the town will hear and act upon a petition... Relative to Breeches made upon the Resolves of the Convention lately held at Concord"; relief for soldiers' families; roads; act on new Constitution

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen : Oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth administered to Town Assessors

ca.1779

1 item

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1780

8 items

Re: delegates to the Convention in Boston; bridges; roads; bounty for killing crows

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen and Western (Mass.). Selectmen: Agreement on town boundaries

1785 Nov. 15

1 item

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen: Warrants for town meeting

1791

3 items

Re: juror list; taxes; support of schools; roads and bridges

Massachusetts. General Court: Order to the Brookfield Selectmen to collect taxes

1792-1795

3 items

Inventory and valuation of personal goods

Undated

1 item

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Provenance unknown 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, February 2010.

Language:

English

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Cite as: Brookfield (Mass.) Records (MS 595). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Brookfield (Mass.)--History--18th century.

Forster, Jedediah.

Smallpox.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Contributors

Brookfield (Mass.). Selectmen [main entry]

Genres and formats

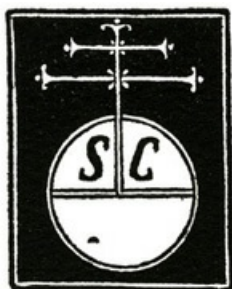
Warrants.

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