



Inventory of the Arundel/Wells Collection (Collection #43)

The Brick Store Museum
Kennebunk, Maine

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Physical Description:

This very important, small collection is composed of documents generated in the towns of Arundel and Wells (Kennebunkport and Kennebunk) largely during the 18th century and early 19th century with a few documents from the later 19th century. The actual dates of the collection are 1721 - 1885. The collection was evidently gathered by someone who was involved in town affairs. Many of the receipts, deeds, letters, etc. are pasted in an unused Custom House licensing ledger (which in and of itself is interesting). A few, plus some broadsides and newspaper articles are loose. The ledger and the loose documents in folders are stored in one half box.

The documents bear the names of many of the early important settlers in Arundel (in particular) – Walkers, Perkinses, Burbanks, Lords, etc. A significant number of documents concerning Capt. James Perkins, Thomas Perkins, and Solomon Coit are included (among the latter, probate papers for Thomas Perkins, 1755, and an inventory of the estate of Solomon Coit, 1816). Other documents of interest are: a pew deed for the South Church, 1824, the year it was built; various Proprietors' Records, Arundel; return for a road in Wells, 1803, and in Kennebunkport, 1845.

The collection has not been indexed or a list of subject headings made (it would be a long list), but any research working in this early period of Kennebunkport's history would do well to go through these papers carefully. It is hoped that at some point the documents pasted in the ledger can be removed for conservation and ease of handling.

The collection's accession number is 2937.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:

The half box in which this collection is stored holds the ledger and three folders. The contents of the folders are as follows:

- Folder 1: Assorted loose documents removed from the ledger. The inventory of the estate of Solomon Coit is in this folder.
- Folder 2: Various broadsides, dating from 1850s to the 1880s, and one of two replicas of newspapers.
- Folder 3: Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, some of local interest, including a 1900 article about the Custom House in Kennebunkport.

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