

**Sturgis Library Archives
Genealogy and Personal Manuscripts**

Historic Documents Collection

MS. 75

Extent: 1 Large Box 21" x 24"

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of 17 signed documents dating from 1770 to 1827, including appointments, ship's passports, letters, and deeds. Many relate to the Davis family (John, Ruth, Daniel, Hitty). Also Matthew Cobb, Ebenezer Lothrop, John Jenkins, John Lothrop, and Isaac Sparrow. Several bear the signatures of important early American patriots and political figures, including John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Moses Gill, James Otis, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and others.

Most of the documents were previously framed and were on display around the library. Most of the frames and accompanying material were damaging to the items, and therefore removed. Two of the earliest documents relating to Daniel Davis have been left in their frames, and have glass front and back to show both sides of the documents.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication.

Acquisition: Source(s) unknown. Accession #7-13.

Processed: Lucy Loomis, July 2007. Revised, and documents added December 2008. Additional documents added November 2017.

Box Contents:

1. *Appointment Document* by His Excellency Samuel Adams, Esq., Governor & Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Ebenezer Lothrop, appointing him to Lieut, Colonel, Commandant of the First Regiment, July 12, 1796. Signed by Samuel Adams and John Avery, Secretary.
2. *Appointment Document* designating John Davis of Barnstable County to be a Justice of the Peace, Sept. 3, 1811, by Elbridge Gerry, Governor and Commander in Chief. Signed by Gerry, Benjamin Homans, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and authorized and signed on Sept. 10, 1811 by Nath. Freeman and Eben. Bacon.
3. *Appointment Document* to nominate, constitute, and appoint John Davis of Barnstable to Judge of the Court of Probate for Barnstable County. January 30th, 1800. Signed by Moses Gill [Lieutenant Governor 1794-1800 and Acting Governor from June 1799-May 1800]. Also signed by John Avery, Secretary, and authorized February 18, 1800 by Nathl Freeman and David Thacher.

4. *Deed* that Ruth Davis of Boston, for \$150, grants Matthew Cobb rights and interest in the real estate of the late John Davis, Esq. July 19, 1827. Signed by Ruth Davis. Witnessed and signed by Robert Rea and William Stevenson, Justice of the Peace.
5. *Deed* the J. Daniel Davis, for \$1,365, grants John Davis & Heirs all interest in real estate in Barnstable that was given to him by his father Daniel Davis. February 3, 1806. Signed by Daniel Davis, Lois Davis, and witnessed and signed by John Phillips and Edw. Jackson, Justice of the Peace.
6. *Document* noting the sale of goods by John Davis to Hitty Davis, Single Woman, for \$300, including household furniture, silverware, and other article. February 19, 1814. Signed by John Davis, witnessed by John ____? And N. Freeman.
7. *Appointment Document* for Isaac Sparrow of Eastham to be one of the Justices of the Peace in the County of Barnstable for the term of 7 years, June 25, 1789. Signed by His Excellency Governor John Hancock and Secretary John Avery.
8. *Assignment Document* issued by George the Third of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King. Appointing Daniel Davis, Esq. to be on of the Justices of the Peace in the County of Barnstable, Province of Massachusetts Bay. Signed by Thomas Hutchinson, Lieutenant Governor, Mary 9, 1770 and unreadable signature of Secretary. Appointment witnessed by Tho. Winslow, Edw. Bacon, and D. Gorham(?).
9. *Ship's Passport*. Captain Prince Crowell, Commander of the Brig Enterprise of New York, 126 tons, bound for Martinique laden with boards, shingles, and spars, fish and onions. NB. Fish and onions taken in at the port of Barnstable, State of Massachusetts. Written/printed in French, Spanish, English, and Dutch. Signed by Thomas Jefferson, President; James Madison, Sec'y of State; and Josiah Hook, Collector.
10. *Letter*. Requesting an accurate account of all the monies received in the four quarters of the year 1790, by every officer of the Customs, who conceives himself to be insufficiently compensated. Signed by Alexander Hamilton.
11. *Deed*. John Jenkins of Barnstable to John Lothrop, Mariner. A share in the one hundred and eleventh planting lot in the Town of Barnstable. February 11th, 1711/12. Sign by Sam'l Allyn, John Phinney, Jn [sic] Gorham, and John Jenkins.
12. *Appointment Document*. Matthew Cobb appointed to be a County Commissioner, County of Barnstable. 14th of April, 1828. Signed by Edward Bangs, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
13. *Letter*. From the Selectmen of Boston to the Selectmen of Wellfleet, Massachusetts regarding taxation by the British. Printed in broadside format. "Taxes equally

detrimental to the Commercial Interest of the Parent Country and her Colonies, are imposed upon the People, without consent.” Dated Boston September 14, 1768. Signed by Joseph Jackson, John Ruddock, John Hancock, John Rowe, and Sam^l Pemberton.

14. *Ship's passport*. District of Penobscot [Maine]. Captain Prince Crowell, Commander of the Brig Enterprise, 126 tons, bound for Martinico [Martinique], having on board boards, shingles and spars, fish and onions. Signed by Josiah Hook, Collector, August 4, 1802. (Note: This is a passport for the same ship and voyage as the passport in item #9.)
15. *Account document*. James Otis. “To what I have expended in the Whale Case with Jos. Doane and others. April 1768 to June 1769.
16. Deed. James Otis and Joseph Otis, Esq. buying ½ of a wharf from Thomas Stetson. Not dated. [Circa mid-1700s]. Witnessed by Prince Bearse and Richard Sears. Signed by all. Includes typewritten transcription.
17. *Assignment Document* for Daniel Davis, Esq. to be one of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Barnstable, Province of Massachusetts Bay. September 1775. Signed by _____?, Secretary. Also signed by James Otis, B. Greenleaf, W. Spooner, Caleb Cushing, Winthrop, Joseph Gerrish(?), John Whitcomb, Geo Foster, Eldad Taylor, James R____?, Michel Farley, Jabez Fisher, Moses Gill, S. Holten, M. Lincoln. Later amended and signed by John Avery, Dept. Secretary, July 8, 1776. Witnessed and signed on reverse by James and Joseph Otis, September 20th, 1775.