

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

**Second Social Library in Barnstable 1796
MS. 87**

Extent: 1 clamshell box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of 1 paper-bound notebook and 3 loose documents pertaining to the Second Social Library in Barnstable from the years 1796 through 1807, plus one original book circulated through the Social Library.

Historical Information: The Second Social Library was established in Barnstable on September 29th, 1796. It was a membership library made up of local men who paid a fee to join and borrow materials. The notebook and documents contain articles of membership, notes on lending and borrowing, rules regarding overdue materials, fines, damage of books, etc. There is a list of early members, including such well-known Cape Cod names as Crocker, Hawley, Sampson, Colman, Marston, Lovell, Basset, Chipman, and Goodspeed. Meetings were held at the homes of various members. Officers were regularly elected including meeting moderator, clerk, members of the “committee,” and librarians for Cotuit Village and Marston Village [sic.] Books in the collections included histories, sermons (including those of Blair and Lothrop), *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and *Ladies’ Advice*. There are notes on repairs to books and charges for damages. The last entry is in 1807.

Access: Unrestricted access. Credit Sturgis Library for reproduction.

Acquisition: Source and acquisition date unknown.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, February, 2009.

Contents:

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| Folder 1 | 1 notebook entitled Laws and Regulations for the Second Social Library in Barnstable, 1796 |
| Folder 2 | 3 loose documents in mylar sleeves with additional minutes and notes regarding the Social Library, dated 1798, 1801, and 1807 |
| Folder 3 | Book: <i>The Lounger – A Periodical Paper, Volume 2</i> , published Edinburg, 1789. Marked “Barnstable Social Library, 6 weeks, 25 cents.” |