

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Pamphlet Collection
March 23, 2006

Journals of the Honorable House of Representatives
Bulk dates: 1770 - 1806
Pamphlet Collection, PC-37

4 box (20 linear inches)

Historical sketch: These journals were printed by the State beginning in 1715 and often sent to or obtained by the Town Clerk or Town Selectmen in order to stay current with State issues.

Scope and content: This Collection was found in the attic of the old Town House on Green Street. The journals were read in order to discover information directly relevant to Kingston. Items of general interest in State and National history were also noted. These notes are included in the finding aid under each journal listing. They are to be used as examples of what each issue contains and are by no means meant to be a complete reflection of the content within each journal.

Box and folder list:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	<i>A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1770</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution to hold meetings in Boston at Town House instead of Cambridge• Voted for four councilors for New Plymouth: James Otis, William Sever, Jerathmeel Bowers, and Walter Spooner• His Honor T. Hutchinson (Lt. Gov.) refuses to the election of John Hancock and Jonathan Bowers to his Majesty's Council• Lt. Gov. Hutchinson's speech included mention of taxes Britain had a need of money for times of war• Debates continued about changing meetings to Boston from Harvard College• (Page 115) Petition of Ebenezer Mason to join Peleg Chandler and his wife in executing a deed of whole land to Edmond Chandler and his son Enos Chandler• (Pages 113 and 124) Benjamin Franklin was voted by House to be agent to Court of Great Britain for one year• (Page 149) Petition to build lighthouse in Plymouth Harbor: Comm. Col. Warren and Captain Thomas approved. Petition of Jonathan Parker of Plympton to obtain a license to keep a tavern.• (Page 149 and 172) Evacuation of Province Soldiers at Castle William. British soldiers to be moved in - it is opposed by members.• (Page 219) William Sever, a member of the Board said the Board agreed to a proposal of a truck-master for Fort Pownal. A bill to prevent the importation of slaves from Africa (re-committed).• (Page 225) An allowance be given to John Greateon of Roxbury for detecting and conviction William Marshall with counterfeiting an 1/8 part of a Spanish milled dollar and seizing his tools.• Proceedings of his Majesty's Council included the removal of the King's troops from Boston after their killing of several inhabitants. Pamphlets going around are asking for the troops to leave.

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Box and folder list continued...

- 2 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1772*
- (Page 7) Men selected from area of New Plymouth to be councilors: James Otis, William Sever, and Walter Spooner. Jerathmeel Bowers was not accepted.
 - (Page 11) A fine was laid on several towns (15). Kingston was fined 12 pounds for not sending a Representative to the House of Representatives. We were the only town in this area to do so.
 - (Page 19) Guardians, James Otis, Stephan Nye and Isaac Lothrop, were chosen for Indians of New Plymouth area – the Black Ground Indians.
 - (Page 88) Gov. Hutchinson's message: the King is upset because inhabitants are cutting the King's timber and new sawmills are rising up. This timber is needed for his Navy, which will save us from subjection and servitude to a foreign power. Severe penalties will ensue.
 - (Page 115) Kingston's portion of a tax on town's through the Providence.
 - (Page 127) Message from Gov. explaining the way the government of Great Britain works. He's upset with the House of Representatives – long explanation about Great Britain's part in running the Colonies.
 - (Page 176) Petition of William Whitwell for a grant of \$100.00 for the effectual cure for cancer.
- 3 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1773 – 1774*
- (Page 35) William Sever brought plans of Hudson River taken by Order of Comm. to settle the boundaries between this Providence and the Providence of New York.
 - (Page 75) A petition is being drawn up to send to the King to have Gov. Hutchinson and Lt. Gov. Oliver removed from office because of inflammatory letters written by them.
 - (Page 80) A petition of Captain John Gray asking that a fine upon Kingston for not sending a member to the General Court be remitted.
 - (Page 125) Resolve for petition is passed: money, twelve pounds, is to be used for Town.
 - (Page 167) Petition to remove Peter Oliver, Chief Justice of Supreme Court, for accepting reward and salary from the King.
 - (Page 200) Peter Oliver is impeached.
 - (Page 221) A bill is passed to prevent the importation of Negroes and others as slaves in this Providence.
- 4 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1778*
- This book has many petitions for more militia and permits for persons to leave and enter the area (some to go to Great Britain)
 - (Page 11) A letter to the Maricheet tribe thanking them for a sting of Wampum received by their two young men. The Wampum to be sent on to General La Marquis DeLa Fayette.

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- (Page 52) Resolve to suppress riots and disorders in the streets of Boston. General Hancock is in charge.
- (Page 61) Resolve a proclamation to appoint November 26, 1778 a Day of Thanksgiving.
- (Page 62) Andrew Gray of Italy is given parole and put on vessel to Cadix to seek exchange of an American prisoner of equal rank as required as a condition of his parole.

5 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1779*

- (Page 73) Business about problems of war prisoners, clothing for troops, counterfeit bills, blankets given to the Indian widows whose husbands were slain by enemy near White Plains, NY (Stockbridge Indians). Resolve not to pay widow money from her husband's estate because she went over to the enemy.
- (Page 78) Letters about embargo to John Jay, President of Congress.
- (Page 84) Letter to NY and CT about the shortage of bread in Boston and asking to be permitted to buy flour and grain.
- (Page 89) Enlistment papers – requirements and items needed to supply them. Resolve about the sale of tickets for state lottery.
- (Page 94) Resolve for defense of seacoast at the Gurnet in Plymouth.
- (Page 107) Resolve to sheriff Barnstable – Persons have possessed themselves of parcels of stores and effects the ship Somerset, stranded on the banks of Turo or Provincetown. They refuse to turn them over to Officials.
- (Page 126) Petition of Hannal Everson of Kingston, widow of Robert, asking to sell twenty acres.
- (Page 127) Maritime Court to be held in Plymouth
- (Page 138) A proclamation for a day of public fasting and prayer through the State.
- (Page 224) Act to enable towns to raise money for carrying on present War.
- (Page 231) Act to confiscate estates of conspirators against our Country.
- (Page 248) Act regarding deserters.
- (Page 263) Act to prevent damage done to Plymouth County woods and beaches. Act to fix out armed vessels to defend our seacoast.
- (Page 287) Scituate marriage dissolved between Nancy and Philip Turner.
- *Note written on page to William Drew to George Washburn "Please pay Joseph."

2 1 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1780*

- Petition of Hannah Thomas of Kingston to go to court to receive judgment against Joseph Kent for animals belonging to her.
- (Page 521) Act to secure fire engines from being injured.
- (Page 539) Act to incorporate certain persons as trustees of a fund to support a Congregational Minister in Kingston.

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March 23, 2006

Journals of the Honorable House of Representatives
Bulk dates: 1770 - 1806
Pamphlet Collection, PC-37

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- (Page 542) Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation
 - (Page 544) Third religious society started in Plymouth (names are listed).
 - (Page 548) Fishery at Kingston: an act to prevent destruction of alewives, regulations and disposing of fish.
- 2 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1782*
- (Page 175) Act to prevent profane cursing and swearing.
 - (Page 193) Seizure of British goods illegally imported
 - (Page 197) Taxation of articles: list of articles and amount of taxes
- 3 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1783*
- (Page 75) Congress called upon State for eight million to defray expenses for 1782.
- 4 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1784*
- (Page 66) Order to publish the arrest of the King of France.
 - (Page 55) Bank incorporated in Massachusetts, February 7, 1784.
 - (Page 59) Act regarding market to be built in lower floor (of Faneuil Hall) and around the outside.
 - (Page 80) Order of disbarment of British subjects who left Massachusetts after 1774 and took protection under the King.
 - (Page 213) Act for asserting the right to expel such aliens as may be dangerous to the peace.
 - (Page 219) Act regulating and governing the militia.
 - (Page 238) Act passed pertaining to punishment for crimes (murder)>
 - (Page 242) Act against burglary and punishment.
 - (Page 247) Act against robbery.
 - (Page 248) Act to build bridge from Boston to Charlestown.
 - (Page 275) Duties placed on vellum, parchment, and paper.
- 5 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1785*
- (Page 6) Representative from Kingston – Captain Ebenezer Washburn.
 - (Page 13) Five hundred pounds given to Plymouth on petition of Ephraim Spooner and Joshua Thomas for repair of beaches. Captain Washburn has been selected to oversee work and see that money is spent wisely.
 - (Page 38) Letter to Congress regarding a meeting of delegates of each State about the powers and purpose of Articles of Confederation.
 - (Page 93) Message to the Governor: Algerians have declared War against the United States.
 - (Page 289) Act of Navigation and Commerce.
 - (Page 300) Act of laying duties on import and excise.
- 6 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1786*
- Delegate from Kingston captain Eben Washburn

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Pamphlet Collection
March 23, 2006

Journals of the Honorable House of Representatives
Bulk dates: 1770 - 1806
Pamphlet Collection, PC-37

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- (Page 47) Gov. James Bowdin requesting a celebration of Country and Independence by prayer and cannon fire, July 4, 1786.
- (Page 68) Every town to pay off State loan of \$1000,00. Kingston's share 1 pound, 19 shillings, and 7 pence.
- (Page 81) Order requesting Gov. to write to delegates regarding a mint, to obtain an amount of copper and silver coin and what expense coining would be.
- (Page 124) Indians would unite to war with United States. Over 1,000 Indians collecting from all over the United States towns. Mingo and Cherokee desperados included. Additional troops needed.
- (Page 489) Act for establishing a mint of gold, silver, and copper in Massachusetts.
- (Page 503) Riot Act passed – gives rules and punishments.
- (Page 513) Land lottery – cost \$50.00 per ticket: first prize is one whole town.

7 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1787*

- Governor is John Hancock, Lt. Gov. is Thomas Cushing
- (Page 7) Hancock's speech thanks Legislature for being elected. Didn't know he was running as he retired from political life. Delegate from Kingston was Captain Ebenezer Washburn.
- (Page 25) resolve granting a tax of two hundred pounds levied on Plymouth County.
- (Page 29) Money paid out of State funds. Brig. Maj. William Sever for service in military paid two pounds, 9 shillings, 4 pence.
- (Page 47) Hancock gives speech on "Constitution for the United States of America."
- (Page 51) Assembling a convention of delegates to assent and ratify the Constitution that was written in Pennsylvania.
- (Page 109) Hancock's speech concerning the treatment of the Indian tribes, also regarding the murder of an Indian and the three men accused of the crime.
- (Page 110) Sale of land of Plymouth Indians: all their land, except 20 acres in Pembroke is to be sold to pay debts.
- (Page 245) Brig. Maj. William Sever for carrying orders paid 5 pounds, 18 pence.
- (Page 647) Society for propagating the Gospel among Indians and others.
- (Page 650) Act for Relief of Poor Prisoners Committed for Debt.
- (Page 661) Act to prevent destruction of oysters and other shellfish in Plymouth County.
- (Page 662) Act for preservation of alewives in Plymouth County.
- (Page 663) Act for building and maintaining lighthouse.

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Pamphlet Collection
March 23, 2006

Journals of the Honorable House of Representatives
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Pamphlet Collection, PC-37

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- (Page 672) Act tot prevent slave trade and relief to such unhappy persons as may be kidnapped or decoyed away from this Commonwealth. A fine of \$50.00 is to be paid per person found on ships.
 - (Page 680) Act for punishing rogues, vagabonds, common beggars, and idle, disorderly and lewd persons.
- 3 1 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1789*
- John Hancock is Gov., Samuel Adams is Lt. Gov., and Kingston Representative is Captain Ebenezer Washburn.
 - (Page 6) Hancock is sworn in and thanks two Houses for his appointment as Gov.
 - (Page 10) Petition of Joshua Loring to estate of John Standish of Halifax regarding sale of property.
 - (Page 12) Petition of Herring Pond tribe of Indians of Plymouth and Sandwich – resolve to be overseers and better regulate the Indian, Mutato and Negro properties and inhabitants. Overseer has power to improve and lease out their lands, regulate their streams, ponds and fisheries, care of their poor, bound out their children, and provide religious instruction.
 - (Page 19) Act to provide instruction of youth in Public Schools.
- 2 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1790*
- Act to regulate alewives in Pembroke
 - (Page 53) Act to raise public revenue by excise – gives list of products and fees.
- 3 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1791*
- John Hancock is Gov., Samuel Adams is Lt. Gov., and Kingston Representative is Captain Ebenezer Washburn.
 - (Page 9) Gov. appointed a committee to look into desirability of cutting a canal between Barnstable and Buzzard’s Bay.
 - (Page15) Petition of Jedidiah Holmes and Ephraim Holmes for ten pounds each conditioned for the appearance of Levi Holmes at Plymouth Supreme Court to answer charges against him. Levi did not appear, so money was forfeited and paid to the sheriff.
 - Tax Act: Kingston pays 71 pounds, 3 shillings, 3 pence.
 - (Page 77) Brig. Maj. William Sever paid 9 pounds, 4 shillings.
- 4 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1792*
- Kingston Representative is Captain Ebenezer Washburn, Esq.
 - (Page23) Resolve for purpose of choosing Federal Representative – two Representatives to be chosen through a Town Meeting.
 - (Page 149) Quincy incorporated from North Braintree.

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March 23, 2006

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Pamphlet Collection, PC-37

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- 5 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1793*
- (Page 253) Act for providing hospitals for inoculating and preventing infection from small pox.
 - (Page 257) Act establishing an Academy in Plymouth named Plymouth Academy.
- 6 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1794*
- John Hancock is Gov., Samuel Adams is Lt. Gov., and Kingston Representative is Captain Ebenezer Washburn.
 - (Page 29) Resolve preventing the infections coming from Philadelphia – a very dangerous and infectious disease. Appointment of health officers in towns to stop, detain and examine all baggage, persons, personal effects and merchandise from Philadelphia.
 - (Page 33) Speech of Lt. Gov. Samuel Adams content of Constitution and it's meaning: Gov. Hancock has died and this is his tribute to him.
 - (Page 60) Brig. Maj. William Sever paid 16 pounds.
 - (Page 347) Law pertaining to maintenance of the poor, widows, legitimate children and illegitimate children and minors serving apprenticeship.
 - (Page 350) Act to incorporate a society by the name of the Massachusetts Historical Society.
 - (Page 366) Act to divide the Commonwealth into districts for choice of Councilors and Senators. Plymouth, Dukes County and Nantucket shall form one district and choose three Senators.
 - (Page 375) Act providing for relief and support employment and removal of the poor.
 - (Page 386) Act regulating the appointment and services of Grand Jurors.
- 7 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1795*
- Brig. Maj. William Sever paid 12 pounds, 1 shilling, 6 pence.
- 8 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1796*
- (Page 2) President George Washington's speech stating that he would not be a candidate in the approaching election.
 - (Page 3) Act to bring fresh water into Boston by subterranean pipes.
 - (Page 569) Act for recording deaths and births by Clerks of towns.
 - (Page 577) Act to prevent destruction of oysters and other shellfish.
- 9 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1797*
- Governor is Increase Sumner, Lt. Gov. Moses Gill, Kingston Representative is Seth Drew.
 - Answer given to President Washington regarding his retirement.
 - (Page 78) \$28.38 to be paid to Kingston for supporting Thomas Kittridge.
 - (Page 88) President Washington answers to Massachusetts Senators.

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- 4 1 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1800*
- Kingston Representative is Jedediah Holmes.
 - Speech of new Gov. talks about election of new President and about free press, and setting down laws, fees, and penalties for wrong doing and crimes.
 - (Page 548) Fishery at Kingston: Act to prevent destruction of alewives – regulating and disposing of fish.
- 2 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1802*
- Kingston Representative is Jedediah Holmes.
 - (Page 20) Petition of Major General Nathaniel Goodwin to be permitted to raise a Company of light Infantry within the Town of Kingston, June 21, 1802
 - (Page 43) Announcement of death of Lt. Gov.
 - (Page 75) Resolved that agents of Commonwealth (Charles Bulfinch) to secure dome of State House from damage and fire – to be sheathed in copper and to cover where the lantern stands, with lead.
 - (Page 79) Resolve to pay Kingston \$67.92 for boarding and clothing Thomas Kittridge.
- 3 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1803*
- 4 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1804*
- (Page 83) Extinguished the right of Seneca Nation to part of their land.
 - (Page 503) Act to incorporate Josiah Barker, George Myrick, and others into a company: The Nantucket Union Marine Insurance Co.
 - (Page 508) Act to have bridge built over the Blue Fish River in Duxbury.
 - (Page 552) Act for lying out and making a turnpike from Newburyport to Chelsea Bridge.
 - (Page 553) Act to layout turnpike form Quincy Meetinghouse to “a place called Queen Anne’s Corner.”
 - (Page 619) Women (of Newburyport) have appealed to Senate and House to be incorporated into Female Charitable Society to rescue female orphan children from poverty and vice (enacted).
- 5 *A Journal of the Honorable House of Representatives 1805*
- Senators for Plymouth County: Nathaniel Goodwin, William Davis, and Zacheus Bartlett. Kingston Representative was John Faunce.
 - (Page 28) Petition of Rossetter Cotton and Eliz. Holmes, will of Eleazer Holmes. Names mentioned include Jane Davie, Betsy Doty, Ichabod Holmes, Elijah Chandler, Stephan Doty, and Lemuel Morton.

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Acquisition: Retrieved from the attic of the Town House located on Green Street in the fall of 2003 by David Holmes, Karen Arnold, and Archivist Carrie Elliott.

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Processing note: Volunteer Dorothy Garfield processed and prepared the finding aid for this collection.