

PORTSMOUTH TOWN PAPERS *AT NH Div of Records*  
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PORTSMOUTH TOWN PAPERS

GENERAL PAPERS

**Fld 1 1651-1697 (13 items)**

1651, July 7 Copy of meeting minutes from old town book, copied Mar. 21, 1753/58? Re: footpath over John Pickering's land & dam & along mill path to meeting house. [NHSP, XIII, pg. 264]

1654/5 & 1667 Notes on early land grants, Samuel Haines & others

1657/58, March 23 Copy of deed for land purchased by the selectmen, Bryant Pendleton and John Cutts, of Strawberry Banke from Capt. Richard Waldron & Thomas Lake (2 pieces)

1660's Notes on early land grants copied ca. 1701 & 1708 (4 sheets once sewn together.

1666 copy from town book re: land of Samuel Haines? & Fransis [sic] Drake

1697, Aug 11 Tax list of Capt. Coffin. Lists selectmen Wm Marver, Robert Smart, Tho. Dudley as well as James Sinkler and Theopholus Smith, bondsman & assessors.

1697, Oct. 5 Receipt for copies of laws

1697, Dec 23 Deposition Caleb Shaw before Henry Dow, J.P. includes names of Joseph Smith and Jonathan Sanborn, mentions Strawberry Banke.

**Fld 2 1698-1732 (11 items)**

1698, April 5 Receipt for copies of laws, signed by John Pickering

1698, May 5 Tax list including names and amounts, to Joshua Pearce, constable, authorization to collect, assessor John Pickering?, John D \_\_\_\_? \_\_, William Cotton, George Walker, selectmen, oversize

1698, Aug. 29 tax list, oversize

1698, no months two tax lists

1698, Dec.? 2/29? Town meeting, content unclear, names include Samuel Penhallow & signed by John Johnson

1701, July - Voted that an act be passed that no shopkeeper shall be permitted to "house or retail" strong drink Theodore Atkinson

1710, May 13 - Voted an act for a free school to be paid by a tax, Theodore Atkinson Chairman pro tem

1716, May 18 - Certification of town accounts for 1712 & 1713

1727/28, Mar 4 - Town meeting concerning taxation of land on the west of the road from Newington to Islington, names include Joshua Bruster, Cott. Westbrook, & Capt. Banfill. Copy from the book of records done Feb. 20th, 1732/3 Henry Sherburn, moderator, Joshua Peirce, Town Clerk

1732, March 25th - Town meeting exempting Thomas Pickering from taxes and paying him to maintain a bridge over the mill damn, Thomas Phipps, moderator

## PORTSMOUTH TOWN PAPERS

## GENERAL PAPERS

**Fld 3 1737-1773 (10 items)**

1737, Tax list, approved by selectmen William Parker, Joseph Langdon Thomas Peirce, John Pray, Nathaniel Rogers

1737, Nov. 22 Tax list approved by selectmen whose names are missing due to papers loss and church wardens George Walker, Rindge, James Clarkson [NHSP, XIII, pg. 258]

1737, Nov. 23 Tax list approved by selectmen Sam Hart, William Parker, Joseph Langdon and church wardens, Thomas Peirce, John Pray & Nathaniel Rogers [NHSP, XIII, PG. 257]

1745, Dec 2 Town meeting at North Meeting House, Richard Waldron voted moderator, James Clarkson, representative.....114 votes, Joshua A. Pearce 81 votes, dispute about vote, T. Atkinson, John Shackford, Thomas Parker, John Wentworth, Nathaniel Peirce, David Horney, William Shackford

1755, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Map, plan of the division of part of the real estate of the Hon. George Jaffrey late of Portsmouth, 4<sup>th</sup> range [NHSP, XIII, pg. 264]

1772, August 22 To Benjamin Mackey & John Fernald of the town of Portsmouth. The Ship *Recovery*, Master John Salter, being infected with small pox should be removed from port to Pest Island, Benjamin Akerman, Sam Cutts & George Gains

1773, June 27 Selectmen to Council advice regarding possible penalties for people going to Pest Island without inoculations for small pox, Sam Cutts, George Hart and George Gains [NHSP, XIII, pg.. 278]

**Fld 4 Portsmouth 1775 (17 items)**

Jan. 3, 1775 - G. Gains to Samuel Cutts re blankets to be sent to Exeter

May 23, 1775 – Committee of Safety in Ports. Re: prisoner of war, Jonathan Akerman, to be guarded until examination tomorrow, signed by Neal McIntyer, Secretary

May 24, 1775 – Meeting of Committee of Safety re: Jonathan Akerman spying for the British

Aug. 23, 1775 - Committee of Safety suggestions for fortifications and armaments for Seavy Island, Pierce's Island John Langdon Island and Church Hill, includes inventory of cannons & stores.

Aug. 25 1775 – Committee of Safety letter to Congress, HMS Ship's Scarborough and Canso sailed from Portsmouth to Boston with Governor Wentworth & family [NHSP XIII, pg. 279]

**Fld 4 Portsmouth 1775 (17 items) Continued**

Aug. 25, 1775 - H. Wentworth, chairman, Committee voted that application be made to the Provincial Congress for "Liberty to ship off fish" until 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Aug. 31, 1775 - Complaint regarding forcible entry and destruction of Moses Woodward's billiard table and his pregnant wife endangered.

Oct. 7, 1775 - Ship Prince George, Richard Emms, Master, loaded with 1,892 barrels of flour for General Gates forces was boarded & possession taken by Lt. Thomas Pickering. - it was then unloaded & suggested that the cargo be sold to supply the fort. The Committee of Safety wrote to George Washington and he requested all the flour be sent to him for the army. The final decision was that 600 barrels be kept for Portsmouth. Concerned about bombardment, so request made for 44 men for the Fort at Seavy's Island. John Penhallow, John Wendell & George King on behalf of the Committee

Oct 9, 1775 - Committee of Safety requested 200 men officered and equipped for the batteries in case the British fleet comes to Portsmouth

Oct. 11, 1775 - Letter from Joseph Reed, Sec. To General Washington. Wants flour, no answer from the Provincial Committee yet re: flour. Order of the Committee of Safety to give 1,292 barrels to Mr. Maylan, Muster Master for Washington. Supply Clap, Secretary. Gookin, Joshua Wentworth, Samuel Sherburne, Pearse Long, George Wentworth assigned as committee to assist Mr. Maylan.

Oct. 17, 1775 - Governor's pass to James McMasters

Nov. 4, 1775 - Pass for George Boyd to go to Great Britain

Nov. 9, 1775 - Committee of Safety petition to the Provincial Congress re: men & ammunition to defend Portsmouth [NHSP, XIII, pg. 279-280]

Nov. 13, 1775 - Committee of Safety to the Congress of the Colony requesting recompense for Hall Jackson's services as surgeon to the army [NHSP, II pg. 201 & NHPP VII, pg. 654]

Nov. 14, 1775 - Printed document, ordering selectmen to notify inhabitants to elect three persons to represent them at a general Congress at Exeter, Dec. 21. Matthew Thornton President. Manuscript note, that Sam Cutts, Samuel Sherburne & Capt. Pearse Long were chosen. Signed by George Gains and George Hart.

Nov. 22, 1775 -- Voted that Capt. Thomas Thompson's letter re: state of the fire rafts be referred to the Colony Committee of Safety.

## GENERAL PAPERS

**Fld 4 Portsmouth 1775 (17 items) Continued**

Nov. 22, 1775 - Committee of Safety voted to prevent George Meserve from reaching Boston [NHSP, VII, pg. 673]

Dec. 16, 1775 - Committee of Safety thinks it imprudent to let Capt. Emmes take passage to the West Indies. A sum should be allowed for board from when he was discharged from the ship *Prince* until he leaves the province.

Dec. 19, 1775 - Town meeting voted that Sam Cutts, Capt. P. Long & Samuel Sherburne appointed as delegates from Portsmouth to Exeter to the Colony Congress.

**Fld 5 Portsmouth 1776 (8 items)**

Jan. 10, 1776 - John Penhallow, Chairman to the Committee of Safety at Greenland. The Town had forwarded a petition to the Provincial Congress asking them to "defer taking up government" avoid making enemies of friends in Great Britain and endanger the common cause. [NHSP, VII, pg. 16-17]

Jan. 12, 1776 - Town meeting resolving to write Congress re anonymous letter from Portsmouth [NHSP, VIII, pg. 15]

Jan. 15, 1776 - Town meeting voted to send John Pickering, Col. Joshua Wentworth & John Wendell to Exeter in support of town's petition [NHSP, VIII, pg. 17]

July 12, 1776 - John J. Bartlett, chairman of the Committee of Correspondence for Kittery to the committee of Correspondence in Boston, orders that no boat or vessel be suffered to leave town without permission or be allowed to fish more than one league for shore, to prevent communications with the British [NHSP, VIII, pg. 363]

July 31, 1776 - Meeting, J. Penhallow, town clerk on holding office in government & instructions from the town to their representatives

Sept. 30, 1776 - M. Weare, President, printed & signed notice to selectmen of Portsmouth to elect three persons to represent them in the Assembly at Exeter

Dec. 18, 1776 - Town meeting: instructions from town to their representatives, re: an act of assembly, need of the soldiery are not neglected, needs of poor, widows, etc., currency representation, and other matters. [NHSP, XIII, pg. 281-283]

Dec. 20, 1776 - John Langdon speaker to Governor and Proprietors of the State to Selectmen of Portsmouth re: resignation of John Pickering as representative, a new person must be chosen. Note: Thomas Martyn chosen Jan. 7, 1777

**Fld 6 Portsmouth 1777-1813 (16 items)**

Jan. 6, 1777 - Town meeting, instructions to John Langdon, George Gains & Thomas Martin, Representatives of Portsmouth, to try to convince the General Assembly to start meeting again at the Portsmouth State House.

Feb. 3, 1777 - Committee of Safety, H. Wentworth, Chairman, send Thomas Hart & Supply Clap(p) to Exeter to meet with State Committee of Safety.

May 15, 1777 - Committee of Safety have no objection the *Schooner McClary*, Thomas Dalling, Commander, sailing on a cruise. Samuel Penhallow, Chairman, George King, George Gains, & John Fernald, Selectmen.

June 10, 1777 - Town meeting, instructions to John Langdon, George Gains & Thomas Martin, Representatives of Portsmouth, to urge the Assembly to pass an act to have all people swear allegiance to the State, those who would not the oath "should be secured as prisoners of war"

June 28, 1779 - Inhabitants alarmed by enemy at coast of Massachusetts Bay and want to supply assistance to Massachusetts. Propose to send *Ship Hampden* be commissioned, fitted and manned by volunteers. Signatures of 50 townsmen. [NHSP, XIII, pg. 285]

June 13, 1780 - Town to House of Representatives at Exeter. Complaint concerning heavy taxes; description of loss of shipping revenue from 12,000 tons in 1774 & other damages. John Penhallow, Town clerk

Nov. 27, 1780 - Instructions to William Whipple, John Langdon & George Gains to support fair and punctual payment for officers and sailors; failure of paper currency and suggestion to enact new laws to give credit and permanency to currency; not to consent to embargoes in trade between states.

Dec. 14, 1781 Printed signed M. Weare President and John Langdon Speaker to meet to elect three representatives to general Assembly

Nov. 18, 1782 Proceedings of town meeting, Jeremiah Libbey, Town Clerk. Requests repeal of oath as pertains to voters in town and parish officers

Oct. 23, 1783 - Representatives of Town of Portsmouth recommended to oppose making an alteration to the 8<sup>th</sup> article of confederation

June 1, 1786 - Council file, letters received at post offices & sent to Portsmouth Mar-July

## GENERAL PAPERS

**Fld 6 Portsmouth 1777-1813 (16 items) Continued**

Sept. 21, 1790 - William Plaisted has been asked to make 100,000 ten penny nails since Fe. 1789. Signed George Gains, James Sheafe, John Peirce, Jeremiah Libbey

Mar, 1791 - John Penhallow, moderator Samuel Penhallow, clerk incorporate as First or North Parish in Portsmouth

April 8, 1791 - Town meeting voted New Castle lottery injurious to the morals of the people ; requested managers of lottery to remove their office from Portsmouth & apply to the General Court to prevent the lottery from being managed in a manner hurtful to the interests of the people. John Evans

Dec. 12, 1798 - Bridge income statement , sworn by Thomas Martin, Treasurer

Aug. 2, 1813 - Town meeting voted to request the Governor to furnish out of public stores 250 of powder, 3000 flints & a quantity of balls for the defense of the town & harbor plus suitable watch & guard, cannons & artillery; erect battery ; build suitable platforms & mount the cannon. Joseph Seaward, Town clerk

**Fld 7 1847 and undated (4 items)**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1847 - Deed Alfred Dennett of Portsmouth to Thatcher Emery for land and building at Water Street 7 School Street.

1976 - **Map of Greenland & Portsmouth line** [filed in Map drawer 34, folder 4 in vault]

Undated - A list of the poor & their condition , dependent on the town of Portsmouth for their support including names and age and/or handicap, n.d.

Undated - Portsmouth selectmen regarding a bill to establish a market house and hire a clerk annually to supervise quality and sale of provisions.

**COMMITTEE FOR DIVIDING THE PUBLIC LANDS****Fld 8 Town & Committee Business 1699-1710 (10 items)**

Committee for dividing the common lands, members William Vaughan, Mark Hunking, John \_\_\_\_\_, William Cotton, Tobias Langdon, John Sherburne, John Pickering

1710, Mar. 29 List of names of those who have no right in the common

1699 town meeting copies of town votes dividing the common

1700, Jan. dividing the common

1701/02

1705/6 Jan. 7 John Pickering

1701/1702

1708, July 2

1708, July 5 meeting notice signed by committee members

1708, Aug 2

1709 adjusting land boundaries for commons, signed by selectmen:

Samuel Penhallow, Thomas Phipps, Edward Ayers & Samuel Weeks,

**Fld 9 Commissions 1711 (2 items)**

Oversize Original Commission to Divide the Commons with ca. \_\_\_\_ signatures

Also a single page undated charge to the Committee

**Fld 10 Committee Business 1711 (16 items )**

Business includes: committee minutes; April 2, 1711 list of names of persons who have a share in common lands (oversize); copies of sections of earlier town books concerning land; correspondence from inhabitants about how their lots were begin laid out.

**Fld 11 Committee Business 1712 (18 items )**

Business includes: amounts owed to Committee members; meeting minutes; accounts of charges for dividing of land; stock of the commons. Seven items are oversize.

**Fld 12 Committee Business 1713- 1718/19 & Undated (18 items)**

Business includes: meeting minutes, lists of names & amount of land laid out, accounts of days worked by committee members on common lands measuring and laying out.



**COMMITTEE FOR DIVIDING THE PUBLIC LANDS****Fld 13 1711, Apr. – Sept. Individual Certificates (45 items)**

**Jan.:** Nathaniel Ayers, Nathaniel Jackson, **Apr.:** Joshua Pearce, Samuel Kais?, John V\_\_\_\_, Jeremy Wise, Capt. Job? Alcock, Samuel Whidden, \_\_\_\_\_ Jones, Edward Toogood, Capt. Henry Sherburne, Richard Elliot, Edward Ayers, Obediah Morse, William White, Daniel Allion, Ichabod Plaisted, Elizabeth Eburn?, Alex Donneett, Samuel Hill, Richard Waldron, George Vaughan, Nathaniel Jackson, Richard Webber, Phillip Lambert, Richard Waterhouse, Nicholas Hollet?, Samuel Penhallow, **May:** John Knight, Jonathan Donnett, John Hatch, Thomas Packer, Richard Slooper, Mark Ayers, **Jun.:** Ann Clark, Richard Jose, William Walker, **Aug.:** Clemit Mulher\_\_?, Jonathan Giddings, Joshua Brown, Sarah Cutts, Richard Monson, John Hill, **Sept.:** B\_\_\_\_ Cotton, Jonathan Habone?, **Oct.:** James Libby, William Partridge, George Vaughan

**Fld 14 1712, Jan. - July Individual Certificates (16 items)**

**Jan.:** Jonathan Oliver, William Hunking, William Parker, Joseph Hull, Thomas Bock, John Savage?, Edward Weeks? **Feb.:** William Cotton, Jr. widow Elizabeth Hopeley, Jonathan Tucker **Mar.:** Capt. Jonathan Wentworth, George Jaffrey, **Apr.:** Capt. Robert Gerrish, **May:** Hugh Banfield, John Pickering, Jonathan Partridge, **July:** Jacob L\_\_?

**Fld 15 1712, Sept-Oct Individual Certificates (15 items)**

**Sept.:** Major Vaughan's daughters: Bridget Gerrish, Margaret Abigail, & Elizabeth Vaughan; , Jonathan Snell, William Vaughan, George Snell, **Oct.:** Mary Sherburn, Nathan Knight, Capt. Thomas Westbrook, Sam Heart, Elizabeth Pitman Widow of William, Thomas Edmunds, James Lovet, Thomas Perkins, Thomas Mann, Jonathan Holms, Nathan Melcher

**Fld 16 1712, November Individual Certificates (42 items)**

**Nov.:** M\_\_\_\_ Widden, Daniel Libby, John Cross, Anthony Row, Peter Abbot, Daniel Jackson, John Libby, Jonathan Jackson Jr., Henry Kirk?, Jonathan Low, Samuel Libby, John Shackford, Nathaniel Rogers, Henry Leonard, Samuel Rimes?, Capt. Jonathan Wentworth, Samuel Shackford, Samuel Shackford, Widow Richards, Charles Story, Henry Seward, Robert Allmerry?, Elizabeth Harvey, Mary Martyn, John Plaisted, Samuel Moore, Thomas Rowe, Joseph Berry, John Cotton, John Bruston, John Shipway, Samuel Haines Widow, Nathaniel Berry, Christopher Kingstone?, Capt. North?, Samuel King, William Filbrook?, Mary Haines widow, Robert Lange, Peter Ball, Thomas Laroby, Jonathan Lange

**Fld 17 1712, December Individual Certificates (8 items)**

**Dec.:** Mary Lowd widow, Alkins widow, Leonard Weeks, Richard Shorbridge?, Benjamin Shilling?, Thomas Jackson, John Hoss?, Nathaniel Huggins

PORTSMOUTH TOWN PAPERS  
**COMMITTEE FOR DIVIDING THE PUBLIC LANDS**

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**Fld 18 1713-1719 Individual Certificates (15 items)**

For the following names:

**Feb. 1712/13:** Richard Doan?, William Partridge Jr.

**Apr. 1713:** Jonathan Philbrook, Capt. Thomas Phipps

**June 1713:** Sylan\_\_? Lovell

**Mar. 1713/14:** Samuel Jackson' widow now widow of Mich. Man?

**Apr. 1715** Capt. Henry Sherburne

**July 1715:** Robert Hinksman?

**Mar. 1715/16:** Mary Plaisted, widow of Icabod , Thomas Davisson

**Nov. 1716:** James Johnson

**Mar. 1716/17:** Joseph Homing?

**Sept. 1718:** Richard Waterhouse

**June 1719:** Richard Par\_?\_\_

**July 1719:** Richard Goss

**Fld 19 Minister's Grant 1712-1713 (3 items)**

1712 - Unfinished indenture, present minister Nathaniel Rogers agrees to improving of Minister's field for house lots for peopling the town, Wm. Vaughan, George Jaffreys, John Plaisted, Wm. Cotton & Sam. Penhallow be on the committee with the selectmen to dispose of house lots. Names not yet filled in but signed and sealed by the Committee

1713 May 1 - Unfinished indenture

1713 May 1 - Indenture William Vaughan, Samuel Penhallow , William Cotton, George Jaffrey, Richard Wibird, Thomas Westbrook, Samuel Weeks & John Low to **Nathaniel Mondum**, joiner, to layout house lots & leases in the minister's field for peopling the town. Includes renting a house to NM.

**Fld 20 Newcastle & Greenland, 1712, 1715/16 & undated (3 items)**

1712 List of lands granted in Greenland

1715/16, January 2 Bounds of New Castle copied form original grant by selectmen James Loach & Theodore Atkinson attested to be R. Waldron.

undated Copy of the bounds of New Castle, copied by William Vaughan



Province of New Hampshire  
in New England in  
America.

711

Whereas at a Legal Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of Portsmouth in the year of  
Lord one thousand six hundred Ninety and Nine, a Committee was Chosen for the Division  
Distribution of all the Common Lands within the Townships, in Equal Proportion to the Several  
Inhabitants according to their Respective Rates &c &c, and such Committee are now ready to  
and Distribute to the said Inhabitants, their several proportions according to the Vote of the said Town Meeting. Notwithstanding  
the preventing of any Controversies or Differences that may hereafter arise either among our selves or from others Wee the Subscribers  
doe therefore by these presents, Desire Impower, Constitute, and appoint the said Committee viz Major William Vaughan, Cap  
Mark Hunkin, Captaine John Pickerin, Captaine Tobias Langdon, m<sup>r</sup> William Cotton, and m<sup>r</sup> John Shilburn  
to a Standing Committee for the Appeasing of all such Controversies and Differences, that may soe arise, concerning such Common Lands  
And Whereas there is but six persons surviving of the present Committee our desire is, that when ever it shall please  
to take away or Remove any one of the present Nominated Six, that on the first vacancy, they make their Election <sup>out of the proprietors of such Land</sup> to the Number of Six  
soe for ever to keep the full Number And Wee doe hereby bind and Oblidge our selves, our Heires Exors and Administrators  
Every of them for our and their part and behelphes, to stand to Obey, abide Observe, and in and by all things well and lawfully performed, the first  
determination final End and Judgment, of the said Committee or the Major part of them, from time to time relating to such Controversies and  
Differences as aforesaid, they giving in their Determination and Judgment to each party soe Differing or in Controversie within Town dayes a  
determination or Judgment shall be given; which shall be accounted a final Issue thereof to all intents and purposes as if the Common Land  
were divided the same. But in Case any Law Sutes doe arise upon the same either by Common Law or Equity, Then wee the said Subscribers  
doe hereby Give unto them the said Committee from time to time, or whom they shall appoint our full power and authority for us  
to appear, and the persons of us or either of us to Represent, before any Governour, Judges, Justices officers and Ministers of the Law whatsoever  
in or Courts of Judicature, and there on the behalfe of us or either of us, to prosecute, answer Defend or Reply, unto all actions Causes  
matters and things whatsoever, relating to our or either of our Rights in the aforesaid Common Lands, with full power to make or suffer  
or move attorney: under them, and the same againe at pleasure to Revoke. And for defraying the Charge, that shall arise either for  
the recovery of our Rights aforesaid, or making Good the Value to any such that may happen to loose his Division, by a due Course of Law or of  
the Subscribers doe further bind our selves our Heires Exors and Admin<sup>rs</sup> together with each of our proportions of Land aforesaid unto the  
Committee from time to time to pay our equal proportions of the Charge aforesaid according to the Quantity of Land wee hold as it shall be divided.



[illegible]