



## University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives

### Colonial New England Personal Legal Papers

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#### Collection Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Colonial New England Personal Legal Papers
<b>Call Number:</b>	MS 87-14
<b>Size:</b>	0.5 linear feet
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Purchased from Leslie Hindman Auction, Chicago
<b>Processed By:</b>	LTM, 1-23-1987; JEF, 1-20-1998; MN, 10-2008
<b>Note:</b>	None
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None

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#### Literary Rights

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#### Restrictions

None

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#### Content Note

The Colonial New England Personal Legal Papers contain legal documents dating from 1724 to 1797. These papers document the legal troubles and opportunities of the early settlers of the New England area, particularly that of Boston and Charlestown, Massachusetts. Such prominent people as James Bowdoin, Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Hutchinson are mentioned in these manuscripts. These documents contain security bonds, promissory notes, bills of sale and debt, land surveys, lawsuits, subpoenas, summons, petitions for liquor license, and other such legal activity.

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#### Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Box 1	FF 1	Contains one document that is a catalog of books delivered to William Bennet Loue dated July, 1724; one document that is a promissory note from
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John Stovol, Thomas Prontice, and Samuel Stovol who owe money to Edward Hutchinson of Boston dated April 21, 1726; one document that is a note of public credit issued by the town of Boston to Thomas Clark, Zechariah Fitch, and Richard Hubbard dated April 15, 1728, and one document is a bill of lading dated September 8, 1729 from Boston.

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| Box 1 | FF 2 | Contains one document that is a bill of sale from the estate of James Skinner to the estate of Captain John Skinner dated 1730 to 1747; one document dated 1730-31 which seems to be a bill of sale or a receipt from William Thomas Russell of Boston to James Bowdoin; five documents that are promissory notes dated in 1731; and one document that seems to be Josiah Nottage's doctor bill payment to Zabdiel Boylston, a prominent physician in Boston who was a controversial figure during the smallpox epidemic of 1721.  |
| Box 1 | FF 3 | Contains one document containing a lease of land from Zabdiel Boylston to John Fisher both from Boston dated December 1, 1732; one document that petitions the court at Boston to decide if the town of Dedham had to pay for the funeral services of the Reverend Joseph Belchor dated April 1732; one document that is a promissory note dated April 4, 1732 from Frederick Hamilton to Josiah Franklin, who could be Benjamin Franklin's father; and one document that is a report to a committee about a road dated March 29, 1732.  |
| Box 1 | FF 4 | Contains one bill of sale or receipt from John Maverick to James Bowdoin dated from February 4, 1733 to December 19, 1735; three promissory notes one dated April 18, 1734 stating that Governor Jonathan Belcher of New England Colony and Robert Auchmuty of Boston owe William Foye some money and two others dated February 18, 1734 and August 12, 1735.  |
| Box 1 | FF 5 | Contains seven promissory notes two of which mention prominent men in early Boston. One note dated July 14, 1737 states that John Road owes money to the Selectmen of Boston of whom Thomas Hutchinson was a member beginning in 1737 and is named in this document. Hutchinson became the last royal governor of New England from 1769 to 1771. Another note says that John and Zabdiel Boylston owe money to Timothy Naughton of London, England dated August 21, 1739. Zabdiel Boylston was a prominent physician in Boston during the smallpox epidemic of 1721. The other notes are dated from May 31, 1737 to July 25, 1739. |
| Box 1 | FF 6 | Contains four promissory notes dated January 30, 1740 to December 14, 1741 and two receipts dated 1741.  |
| Box 1 | FF 7 | Contains various documents such as promissory notes, bills of sale, a report on the value of province money, and a deposition issued by the mayor of London dating from March 17, 1742 to October 5, 1743. One promissory note states that David Stanwood and Thomas Hutchinson owe money to Leahly Gee dated October 5, 1743. Hutchinson was the last colonial governor from 1769 to 1771.  |
| Box 1 | FF 8 | Contains various documents such as promissory notes, petitions for a liquor license, receipts and bills of credit dated May 23, 1744 to December 24, 1744.   |
| Box 1 | FF 9 | Contains various documents such as promissory notes, reports on the value of money on bills of public credit and affidavits to certain cases dated from  |

June 24, 1745 to November 4, 1746.

Box 1	FF 10	Contains three promissory notes, one declaration of emancipation, and one lawsuit that indicates it was settled out of court dated April 7, 1747 to October 7, 1749.
Box 1	FF 11	Contains one document that is a promissory note stating that Captain Josiah Howard and Thomas Monroe owe money to Edward Hutchinson March 12, 1750 and one petition for license to sell tea and coffee by several Boston businessmen dated July 1, 1750.
Box 1	FF 12	Contains promissory notes, a receipt, a promissory note with a deed to land, an affidavit stating that John Tasher owes Thomas Banks money, and a bill of exchange or sale dated from April 30, 1751 to February 9, 1752.
Box 1	FF 13	Contains several documents such as promissory notes, petitions to the Selectmen for a liquor license, and other such documents dated from January to December 20, 1752. In these documents the names of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston and James Bowdoin appear.
Box 1	FF 14	Contains bail bonds and promissory notes. One promissory note dated December 12, 1753 states that James Filestone owes money to Thomas Hubbard, Treasurer of Harvard College. These documents are dated from March 31, 1753 to December 12, 1753.
Box 1	FF 15	Contains documents such as a land survey, a document stating the amount of tax on distilled liquors and citrus fruit, a document stating the verdict of a lawsuit, and a promissory note between Persis and John and William Tufts dated from May 29 to September 25, 1754.
Box 1	FF 16	Contains promissory notes, a bill of debt, a bond on a bill of public credit dated from December 1754 to February 12, 1759.
Box 1	FF 17	Contains promissory notes, a bill of debt, and an affidavit by the Mayor of New York City, John Cruger against the ship Mohawk for not selling liquor and food stuffs to sailors on board dated from March 1, 1760 to September 28, 1761.
Box 1	FF 18	Contains promissory notes, a summons for the Selectmen of Freetown to meet, an affidavit stating that Thomas Gunter owes money to Thomas Dawson and Charles Harris of London, and a document that gives a court verdict by Thomas Hutchinson while he was a judge in Boston. These documents are dated from March 30 to December 16, 1762.
Box 1	FF 19	Contains one document that is a plea to review John Bryant of Boston case against Edward Baxter dated June 16 through December 29, 1763, one document that is an affidavit stating that John Hurd of London owes money to William Wright and Thomas Gramham taken by William Bockford, Lord Mayor of London dated October 11, 1763 and four promissory notes, one stating that Ebenezer Stedman, James Prentice, James Reed Tanner of Cambridge, Massachusetts owe money to Thomas Hubbard who was treasurer of Harvard College dated October 22, 1763.
Box 1	FF 20	Contains various documents such as promissory notes, a land survey taken to help settle a land dispute, an affidavit stating that Thomas Gunter of Boston owes money to Dawson L. Harris, an order written by the

Selectmen of Boston stating that Mary Hood a free Negro and her family have to leave town. One promissory note states that Samuel Hall, Printer and Edward Thurston, merchant from Newport, Rhode Island owe money to Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania dated February 15, 1764. The rest of these documents are dated from January 13 to December 26, 1764.

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| Box 1 | FF 21 | Contains several promissory notes, an order by the Selectmen of Boston for William Livingston and Robert Boies to leave Boston, a lawsuit between Martha > Fadrass and Hannah Greer due to the fact Greer called Fadrass a "whore" in public. She demands 40 pounds in damages. These documents are dated from May 13, 1765 to December 8, 1766. |
| Box 1 | FF 22 | Contains mostly promissory notes or bills of debt, and a bail bond. There are two documents that have the name of William Story on them, who was Deputy Register of the Vice-Admiralty Court, a Town Auditor and Justice of the Peace, and a leader of the Caucus. These documents cover 1766 to 1768.   |
| Box 1 | FF 23 | Contains mostly promissory notes and a subpoena to appear before the Inferior Court of Common Pleas in Bristol. These documents cover the year 1769.   |
| Box 1 | FF 24 | Contains promissory notes, a bail bond, and a subpoena dated 1770-1771.  |
| Box 1 | FF 25 | Contains promissory notes, bills of debt, a Massachusetts state lottery ticket dated from 1773-1785.   |
| Box 1 | FF 26 | Contains promissory notes, bills of debt, a permit allowing a ship to dock in Boston harbor and a verdict of a lawsuit. These documents are dated from 1787 to 1793.   |
| Box 1 | FF 27 | Contains a document from Richard Dobbs Spaight, Governor of North Carolina, dated May 29, 1794, a document stating the naturalization of Jean Baptist Julian at the Suffolk County Court dated July 17, 1794, and a bill of debt from the Haymarket Theater to Amasa Davis dated August 1, 1797.   |
| Box 1 | FF 28 | Contains several undated documents such as an inventory list of goods, a promissory note, and other such legal activity.   |

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