

Meshech Weare Papers

NH.01

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Undetermined.....20

Summary Information

Repository	College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College
Title	Meshech Weare Papers
Date	1637?-1781
Extent	4.0 Linear feet
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

Meshech Weare is considered to be the first governor of the State of New Hampshire and was known as the "father of the his state". He was born on June 16, 1713, Meshech Weare was the son of Nathaniel Weare and his second wife, Mary Waite. He graduated from Harvard College in 1735. He began his political career in 1739 as town moderator for Hampton Falls. He was a representative of Hampton Falls in the General Assembly. He was also part of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, serving as both speaker and clerk. He was also one of the New Hampshire's delegates that attended the Albany Congress in 1754. In September 1772, Weare served as one of the four judges in the trial of those involved in the Pine Tree Riot, though the participants were found guilty the low fines they received inspired some other rebellious acts against the British government including the Boston Tea Party. Weare was also a leader in drafting the formal constitution that set of New Hampshire to become the first American State on January 5, 1776. Under this constitution, New Hampshire had no individual leader or executive but was run by the legislature. Executive power was appointed to the Committee of Safety, which had the power to act as an executive power when the legislature was not in session. Weare was appointed chairman of this Committee from 1776 to 1784 when it was disbanded. He also served in dual roles as the chief justice for the state's highest court the "Superior Court of Judicature" from 1776 to 1782 and as presiding officer of the Governor's Council from 1776-1784, then part of the upper house of the legislature. Upon the adoption of the second New Hampshire Constitution in 1784, Weare was elected as the first governor or at the time "president" of New Hampshire. He ran unopposed and was only able to serve one year before resigning due to poor health. He died only months later on January 14, 1786. He was 73 years old.

Scope and Contents note

The collection does span the 18th century to the early 19th century. The collection makes up approximately 3.5 to 4 linear feet. The materials in the collection are comprised of but not limited to correspondence, military records and reports, judicial papers such as bonds, warrants, testimonies, etc. There are also deeds, bills of sale, surveys, maps, charts , illustrations, and journals. There are also government documents that belong to New Hampshire before and after it became a state of America that are from various committees, boards, and councils. Additionally, there are government documents that came from the national level such as documents from England from King George and documents from the Continental Congress after America declared independence.

Arrangement note

The arrangement of the collection has been rearranged several times since its initial creation and it is unknown what the original order was at this point in time. The current arrangement is that the series are listed in alphabetical order and within the the series the materials are arranged chronologically. It is the hope that this arrangement will allow patrons to find documents more easily than past arrangements.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College

Appraisal

The collection's contents are over two hundred years old therefore it is advised that all possible perservation techniques be used to ensure the longevity of the collection in the future. Some documents are currently being held together by scotch tape and need to be preserved in better ways.

Existence and Location of Originals note

The physical location of this collection is at the New Hampshire State Archives located in Concord, New Hampshire. There are digital copies available at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. Digital copies are also available online at commons.keene.edu

Collection Inventory

Accounts & Accounting Information 1765?-1776

Box 1

Folder 1: 1716-1808

Folder 2: No Dates

Charts & Illustrations 1738, 1761

Box 1

Folder 1: 1738-1761, no date

Church & Parish Records 1714-1780

Box 1

Folder 1: 1714-1763

Folder 2: 1764-1780

Folder 3: No Date

Committee of Safety

Committee of Safety 1776-1782, No Dates

Box 3 July 1776- June 1779

Folder 1: July 1776- January 1778

Folder 2: Febraury 1778- May 1778

Folder 3: June 1778-July 1778

Folder 4: August 1778- October 1778

Folder 5: November 1778- March 1779

Folder 6: April 1779- June 1779

Box 4 July 1779-1782, no dates

Folder 7: July 1779

Folder 8: Augist 1779- September 1779

Folder 9: 1781

Folder 10: 1782

Folder 11: Instructions to towns and responses (Part 1)

Continental Congress/United States Congress

Folder 12: Instructions to towns and responses (Part 2)

Folder 13: No Date

Continental Congress/United States Congress 1776-1781

Box 5 November 1776- June 1780

Folder 1: November 1776- March 1778

Folder 2: April 1778- October 1778

Folder 3: November 1778- July 1779

Folder 4: August 1779- March 1780

Folder 5: April 1780- June 1780

Box 6 July 1780-1784

Folder 6: July 1780- December 1780

Folder 7: January 1781- May 1781

Folder 8: June 1781- December 1781

Folder 9: 1782-1784

Correspondence

Correspondence

Correspondence- Family

Box 7

Folder 1: 1739-1783

Correspondence- Professional 1737-1781

Box 7

Folder 1: 1743-1756

Folder 2: 1757-1770

Folder 3: 1776-June 1778

Folder 4: July 1778- October 1778

Box 8 November 1778- June 1780

Folder 5: November 1778- June 1779

Folder 6: July 1779- September 1779

Correspondence- Professional

Folder 7: October 1779- March 1780

Folder 8: April 1780- June 1780

Box 9 July 1780- July 1781

Folder 9: July 1780- August 1780

Folder 10: September 1780- November 1780

Folder 11: December 1780- January 6, 1781

Folder 12: January 9, 1781- March 1781

Folder 13: April 1781- May 1781

Folder 14: June 1781- July 1781

Box 10 August 1781-1785, No Date

Folder 15: August 1781- September 1781

Folder 16: October 1781- January 1782

Folder 17: February 1782- August 1782

Folder 18: September 1782- December 1782

Correspondence- Other

Folder 19: 1783-1785, No Date

Correspondence- Other 1656-1804, No Date

Box 11 1656-April 1780

Folder 1: 1656-1769

Folder 2: July 1776- August 1778

Folder 3: September 1778- April 1779

Folder 4: May 1779- December 1779

Folder 5: January 1780- April 1780

Box 12 May 1780-1804, No Date

Folder 6: May 1780- June 1780

Folder 7: July 1780- December 1780

Folder 8: 1781

Folder 9: January 1782- May 1782

Folder 10: July 1782- December 1782

Court Records and Legal Documents

Folder 11: 1785-1804, no date

Court Records and Legal Documents

Box 13 1672-1752

Folder 1: 1672-1685

Folder 2: 1703-1722

Folder 3: 1723-1740

Folder 4: 1741-1749

Folder 5: 1750-1751

Folder 6: 1752

Box 14 1753-1823, No Date

Folder 7: 1753-1757

Folder 8: 1758-1759

Folder 9: 1761-1769

Folder 10: 1770-1778

Governor Edward Cranfield

Folder 11: 1779-1823

Folder 12: No Date

Governor Edward Cranfield 1682-1685

Box 2

Folder 1: 1682-1685

Journals 1746?-1776

Box 2

Folder 1: 1748-1821, No Date

King George No Date

Box 2

Folder 1: 1769

Folder 2: No Date

Folder 3: No Date

Military Records

Military Records 1768-1780

Box 15 1755-1814, No Date

Folder 1: 1755-1776

Folder 2: 1777

Folder 3: 1778

Folder 4: 1779-1814

Folder 5: No Date

Nathaniel Weare 1730-1755

Box 16 1684-1755, No Date

Folder 1: 1684-1716

Folder 2: 1721-1732

Folder 3: 1733-1755

Folder 4: No Date

New Hampshire Province and State Government Records

New Hampshire Province and State Government Records 1715-1805, No Date

Box 17 1715-1805, No Date

Folder 1: 1715-1766

Folder 2: 1767-1777

Folder 3: 1778-1779

Folder 4: 1780-1781

Folder 5: 1782-1805, No Date

Old Indexes of Collection

Box 20

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Other Committees & Councils

Other State Records

Box 2

Folder 1: 1737-1779

Other State Records 1668-1784

Box 18 1668-1784

Connecticut

Folder 1: 1778

Massachusetts 1668-1782, No Date

Folder 1: 1668-1728

Folder 2: 1729-1778

Folder 3: 1779-1782, No Date

New York

Folder 1: 1778-1780

Rhode Island 1778

Virginia

Folder 1: 1778

Virginia 1784

Folder 1: 1784

Tax Records 1753-1780, No Dates

Box 2

Folder 1: 1753-1780, No Dates

Town Records (New Hampshire) 1653-1787, No Date

Box 19 1653-1787, No Date

Atkinson

Folder 1: 1786

Dover

Folder 1: No Dates

Goffstown

Hales

Folder 1: 1782

Hales

Folder 1: 1753

Hampton/Hampton Falls

Folder 1: 1653-1750

Folder 2: 1751-1765

Folder 3: 1771-1775, No Date

Lebanon

Folder 1: 1777

New Britain

Folder 1: 1774, No Date

Rockingham

Folder 1: 1787

Undetermined

Undetermined

Box 20

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3