

## 1952.087 Lincoln / Learned Collection

Collection Number: 1952.087  
Extent: .20 linear feet (1 Box/28 Folders)  
Inclusive Dates: 1742-1904  
Bulk Dates: 1804-1808

### **Scope and Content:**

This is a collection of legal documents, letters, and other papers by the Sergeant, Lincoln, Pease and Root families. The date range for this collection ranges from 1742 to 1904, although the bulk of the collection spans 1804-1808.

As families moved into the area, married and moved out of the area, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep track of who is related to whom and how they are connected. This collection serves as a guide to some of those questions through deeds, letters and other ephemera that had been collected by the members across several generations.

Many of the letters that are contained in this collection were transcribed by Mrs. Dorothea L. Smith while conducting genealogical research. These transcriptions have been included with the originals and a list of all transcribed letters are in the curatorial file. A list of deeds and documents that were presented by Mrs. Learned is also available in the curatorial file. It is believed that other deeds were a gift of Robert Lincoln.

It is known that Dr. Oliver Partridge was trained in Hatfield, MA before moving to Stockbridge. At the same time, Dr. Erastus Sergeant was practicing in Stockbridge. Dr. Sergeant was married to Elizabeth Partridge of Hatfield, MA. One of Dr. Sergeant's students was Dr. James B. Root who married Dr. Sergeant's daughter Martha (Patty) Sergeant. We have been able to trace the family history of Robert Lincoln back to John Sergeant, who was Robert's great, great, great grandfather.

Notable instances in this collect are the fact that Agrippa Hull, a free black man, acted as witness for the transfer of a deed. This is not at all a common practice in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Another progressive idea that needs to be noted is that women not only acted as witness to the signing of a deed (such as Hannah Crosby, 1742), but also bought and sold property. Examples of this are Martha A. Pease (1838) and Maria Brown (1850).

Many other notable figures are also found in this collection. This distinguished list includes Prentice Williams, Lawson D. Bidwell, Oliver Partridge, George Sargent, Elisha Bradley, John B. Hull, Phineas Pease, Flavius Pease, Henry Lincoln, and Sidney P. Lincoln.

### **Historical Note:**

This collection is composed of materials from several accessions that were donated by Robert Lincoln (45.001), Helen Learned (47.133), and Helen Learned and the Lincoln Estate (52.087). The last accession number was used to explain why this collection encompasses so much. We know that several accessions had been pulled together for the purpose of doing genealogical research, and therefore the original order has been lost. This collection has been organized by date and name.

### **Arrangement**

Ranging in date from 1742 to 1904, this collection is broken down into four series.

**I. Deeds:**

This series demonstrates that people in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries did not remain rooted to a specific location. The earliest deeds come from Hatfield, MA and Warrington, CT. By the 1820's we have evidence that Stockbridge families had moved and settled at least as far as Ohio. Also in this series, we find evidence of women owning and selling.

**II. Letters and Correspondence**

The bulk of this series contains letters between the family members who have stayed in Stockbridge and those who have moved to the Hudson/Athens, NY area. Another interesting aspect of this collection is that it both sides of correspondence. In part, these letter chronical the daily lives and duties of the authors. Contained within these letters are examples of traveling, care for family members, and the grief that comes with the loss of family members, particularly children. Furthermore, there are also examples about how much family members relied on each other and their community.

**III. Legal Documents**

This series contains documents such as estate lists, taxes, and a military summons as well as other legal papers.

**IV. Sermon and Manuscript Excerpt**

This series is the memorial sermon for Deacon Sidney P. Lincoln. It was written and delivered by Reverend E.S. Parker on December 23, 1904 at the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge. The excerpt titled "Review of Life" is thought to be in the handwriting of Dr. Oliver Partridge (1751-1848). It was found in the Lincoln Collection.

**See Also:**

1966.016: Millikan / Brown Collection

Curatorial file: Sergeant, Lincoln, Pease, Root Collection

**Administrative Information:**

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