

**Judicial Department**  
**Litchfield County. County Court. Files, 1751-1855**  
State Archives Record Group No. 003

**History**

The first Connecticut judicial proceedings probably took place on April 26, 1636, at “A Corte holden in Newtown” [Hartford] under the commission granted to eight leaders of the infant colony by the General Court of Massachusetts.

In 1638, the General Court established the Particular Court (often called the “Quarter Court” because it was required to meet every three months). While the General Court, later called the General Assembly, controlled the administration of justice, the Particular Court was the colony’s principal judicial body until King Charles II granted Connecticut its Charter in 1662. Under the new Charter, the Particular Court was abolished and two new levels of courts established: the Court of Assistants in 1665 and county courts in 1666. Separate probate courts were established in 1698. The Court of Assistants was replaced by the Superior Court in 1711.

County courts, sometimes called courts of common pleas, existed from 1666 to 1855, when the General Assembly divided the jurisdiction of the county court between the superior court and local town courts. This new two-tiered court system proved to be impractical and new courts of common pleas for each county were established as early as 1870.

County courts considered appeals of from local justice courts and had original jurisdiction to try all civil and criminal cases except those concerning “life, limb, banishment, adultery, or divorce” and heard appeals from local justice courts. In the colonial era, all suits for debt for sums greater than forty shillings were heard by the county court. The county courts served as the “workhorses of the Connecticut judicial system” and usually met three times per year.<sup>1</sup>

Litchfield County was established in 1751. The Town of Litchfield was designated the first and only county seat and gave the county its name. The county numbered thirteen towns on its founding: Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Harwinton, Kent, New Hartford, New Milford, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington and Woodbury. The towns of Barkhamsted, Norfolk and Winchester were incorporated after the county’s founding.

The rest of the county’s towns were spun off from existing towns as their populations grew. Bethlehem, now know as Bethlehem (1787) and Roxbury (1796) were taken from Woodbury. Plymouth (1795) was formerly a part of Watertown, which was itself divided off from Waterbury in 1780. Warren was incorporated in 1786 from the town of Kent, while the Town of Washington, incorporated in 1779, is made up of land taken from the towns of Woodbury, Litchfield, Kent and New Milford. It was the first town in the United States to be named after George Washington.

Bridgewater (1856), incorporated from New Milford, North Canaan, which was created from Canaan in 1858, Morris (1859, formerly part of Litchfield), and Thomaston (1875, formerly a section of Plymouth), were incorporated after the dissolution of the County Court the papers of which are the subject of this finding aid.

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<sup>1</sup> Dwight Loomis and J. Gilbert Calhoun, *The Judicial and Civil History of Connecticut* (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1895), 128-36; Bruce H. Mann, *Neighbors and Strangers: Law and Community in Early Connecticut* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 7-8. The phrase “workhorses of the Connecticut judicial system” comes from Mann, p. 8.

Located in the state's northwestern corner, Litchfield was the last county jurisdiction created by the Connecticut Colony. It was the most rural of the eight counties, the least settled and least economically developed. However, during the Revolutionary and Early National periods, it became an important legal and political center and served as a Federalist political stronghold.

Owing in part to the operation of the court, the town of Litchfield became the center of the county's economy, as lawyers, judges, and businessmen gathered there for several days three times a year to conduct business. The town was also home to the Litchfield Law School, established by Judge Tapping Reeve in 1784. It is considered the first true American law school, as Reeve developed a formal curriculum for his students to follow rather than just providing an apprenticeship. Its graduates include Aaron Burr, Reeve's brother-in-law, and Vice President John C. Calhoun.

### **Scope and Content**

*Files* consist of 347 boxes containing the original materials filed with the Litchfield County Court. These are the documents that initiated civil lawsuits and criminal actions in the years between the county's founding in 1751 and 1855. While the records relating to each file vary by case, common documents include writs, summonses, motions filed by the parties, jury verdicts, and statements of court costs. Some cases include depositions made by witnesses or executions filed after a judgment was rendered. Many executions (authorizations from the court for the winning party to collect the amount owed to him) have been removed from *Files* and can now be found in *Litchfield County. County Court. Papers by Subject: Executions*. The same is true for some court costs.<sup>2</sup>

Included after the run of *Files* are two boxes of Discontinuances, e.g. court cases dropped by the plaintiff. These cases most likely were settled out of court.

Prominent individuals who may be found in *Files* include Oliver Wolcott Sr. (1726-1797) and his son Oliver Wolcott Jr. (1760-1833). Oliver Sr., a graduate of Yale College, served as the first county sheriff after having captained a company in the French and Indian war. He was appointed by Connecticut to represent it in Philadelphia at the 1776 Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence on the state's behalf. Wolcott served in a number of positions during and after the Revolutionary War, including Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of this state in 1786, followed by election as the state's third governor following Independence in 1796 after the death of Samuel Huntington.

Wolcott provides an example of how court records can lend perspective to the lives and character of important historical figures. Often described in biographies as a man of integrity and a scholar of dignified character, when viewed through the lens of the county court files, Wolcott was an incompetent sheriff who allowed the vagrant thief Joseph Negro to escape from jail in 1754.<sup>3</sup> Wolcott was also sued by a neighbor for his cruel and tyrannical treatment of Wolcott's servant Lidia Collis.<sup>4</sup> The girl had fled to the neighbors for protection only to be dragged home by her master.

His son, Oliver Wolcott Jr., served in President Washington's cabinet as the second Secretary of the Treasury succeeding Alexander Hamilton for whom he had worked. He remained in that office until 1800 at which time he returned to Connecticut. Oliver Jr. was elected governor in 1817 and he served until 1827

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<sup>2</sup> At some point prior to the time the records were donated to the Connecticut State Library, a clerk of the court arranged all cases from the three court sessions per year into a single alphabetical A-Z run for the entire year. Researchers, therefore, using either *Dockets* or *Trials* to find information on a particular case must look under the surname of the plaintiff for the year the case was decided.

<sup>3</sup> LCC Files, *Hills v. Negro*, Box 2, folder 6; *Hills v. Negro*, Box 3, folder, 9; *Hills v. Wolcott*, Box 3, folder 9.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, *Vaill v. Wolcott*, Box 6, folder 9.

when he retired to New York. During the 1818 state Constitutional Convention, he supported increased suffrage and the disestablishment of the Congregational Church. With his brother, Frederick Wolcott, (clerk of Litchfield's County and Superior courts), Oliver Jr. was involved in mercantile interests. An 1827 attachment filed by Phoenix Bank against Oliver Jr. and Frederick Wolcott contains an itemized six-page inventory of Oliver's library. Among the books Oliver owned was a copy of the "Alkoran." By the time Oliver's estate was inventoried for probate six years later, however, not one book remained in his possession.<sup>5</sup>

Federalist-Republican disputes played a prominent role in Litchfield County litigation during the period 1805-07. Parties involved included newspaper publishers and editors and the county sheriff, and centered on Selleck Osborn, publisher or editor of *The Witness*, a Litchfield newspaper. Osborn, who was an outspoken Republican, was arrested and tried by the State for libel for his writing about the conduct of Judge Julius Deming at the September 1805 election in Litchfield. Republicans demonstrated outside the prison while Osborn was jailed, and Stiles Nichols, publisher of the *Republican Farmer* newspaper of Danbury, accused Litchfield Sheriff John Landon of mistreating Osborn and violating his rights while in Landon's care.

In a climate of dueling editorials, Litchfield *Monitor* publisher Thomas Collier sued Osborn and his partner, Timothy Ashley. Collier disputed Osborn and Ashley's characterization of him as a liar, thief and dishonorable rascal. These suits played out at the county court level at the time of federal indictments of Hudson and Goodwin, publishers of the *Connecticut Courant*, a Federalist newspaper, by a Republican grand jury. This case went on to the US Supreme Court. Also indicted with Hudson and Goodwin were Litchfield Federalists Tapping Reeve, Thomas Collier, Thaddeus Osgood and the Reverend Azel Backus.<sup>6</sup>

### Commerce

Court records are an excellent source of primary documentation for matters relating to commerce and industry. Merchants frequently brought suit against customers who had not paid their accounts. These suits for "debt by book" may be accompanied by a transcription of the debtor's transaction from the plaintiff's account ledger, complete with dates, prices, and description of items purchased. The wide range of information that can be gleaned from debt cases is illustrated by two cases filed in 1784 by Aaron Gregory against Jack Botsford, a free black of New Milford. In the first, a suit to collect a debt by book, Gregory has included his account of Botsford's purchases made between September and November 1783. Reading this document, we learn of Botsford's taste for store-bought clothing—a cloak, overalls, jacket and britches and a loose coat—and, from the entry "1/2 pint [brandy] by your wife," that he was married. His signature on the promissory note in the second case shows that Botsford was at least semi-literate.<sup>7</sup>

Suits to collect debts from merchants can also provide valuable details of business practices, whether included in book accounts or in attachments of the shop's contents. For example, a suit brought in 1790 by James and Mason Cogswell of New York City against Roger Cogswell of Washington, the surviving partner of the firm of William and Roger Cogswell, contains a detailed accounting of herbal and medicinal ingredients and preparations.<sup>8</sup>

The verso of each summons usually has a statement by one of the town constables stating that the document was properly served on the defendant and sometimes includes a description of the defendant's property attached to secure the amount of the suit. When New Milford merchants Beebe Hine and Gerardus Booth sued Harry Northrop, alias Henry Negro, to collect a £17 note in 1798, the constable attached three hogs and one-quarter of 12 acres of corn lying on Friend Northrop's land. Although Harry

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, *Phoenix Bank v. Wolcott*, Box 286, folder 5.

<sup>6</sup> See the cases *Collier v. Bird*, Box 153, folder 1; *Collier v. Osborn and Ashley*, Box 163, folder 6; *Landon v. Nichols*, Box 164, folder 9; *State v. Osborn and Ashley*, Box 165, folder 20; and *Landon v. Nichols*, Box 169, folder 12.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, *Gregory v. Botsford*, Box 68, folder 10.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, Box 90, folder 8.

Northrop may never appear in a deed or probate register, this lawsuit provides researchers with clues about his residence and life.<sup>9</sup>

**Illustration 1**

Month	Description	Value
September	Jack Botsford Dr	112
1783	1/4 lb tobacco main lb	8
	Quart Rum	1 4
	to Gladys	1 0 0
	Gill Rum	2
	to 5/4 y Tail Jane at 1/2	15 4
	to two 1/2 dozen work Buttons	2 10
	to cutting overshoot and Buttons	8
	to 3/4 lb white Gair	1 9
October	To Mahan Gair St and Twiches and found thread for them	10 0
	To Gawshan horse at 1/6	2 6
	to Back Salt Dr Wednesday	2 15 4
	to 1/2 Pint Branding	1 4
	to 1/2 Pint of o by your wife	3
	Small pipe tobacco	3
November	to 3000 Coatt made up	13 0
	to small bottle Gill Branding	1 6
	to six bound snuff at 3/10	1 2 0
	Gill Branding	3
	to young Tobacco glass Branding	8
	to attending Twiches	1 6
	to 1/2 Pint Rum	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5 17 10</b>

**Book accounts of Jack Botsford with Aaron Gregory.<sup>10</sup>**

Turning over a court document, however, can sometimes reveal a surprise. With paper often in short supply, it was used and reused for multiple purposes. The verso of William R. Phelps's 1802 promissory note to Aron Bradley & Co. is decorated with a polychrome watercolor of bunches of cherries. The illustration seems to be a practice drawing, possibly made by a student, with the paper later made use of for a more mundane purpose.<sup>11</sup>

Dairying was an important commodity for county residents in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the town of Goshen, the cheese of which was renowned throughout the republic. For the year 1811, Goshen residents exported \$49,010.33 worth of cheese plus an additional \$5,330.55 of butter; together these

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, Box 120, folder 13.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 1784, Box 68, folder 10. See also *Litchfield County Minorities Collection, 1753-1854*, Box 1, folder 12.

<sup>11</sup> LCC Files, Box 205, folder 10. See also page 16 for a reproduction of this drawing.

comprise 84% of the town's total agricultural exports.<sup>12</sup> Merchants bought the cheese produced by multiple farming families and combined them for export. In 1821, Andrew Pratt, a Winchester farmer, sued Winchester merchant Bissell Hinsdale, with whom he had contracted to sell four years of his cheese at ten cents per pound. During that time, Pratt delivered 5,773 pounds of cheese to Hinsdale, but had received no payment.<sup>13</sup>

Dairy products were exported from Connecticut up and down the Atlantic seaboard, but the fragile cargos resulted in frequent litigation. Butter and cheese were shipped to ports as far away as Savannah (see *Marshall v. Butler*, 1810, Box 197 Folder 4); Baltimore (*Bissell Hinsdale v. Kellogg & Hutchinson* seeking in 1812 to be paid for a cargo of cheese shipped from Middletown, Box 202 Folder 4); or Charleston (*Battell v. Howe & Fitch* seeking an accounting for 53 casks of cheese consigned for sale, Box 259 Folder 17).

### **Manufacturing**

Connecticut had an important role in the story of American industry and manufacturing and Litchfield County was home to many of the state's first industries. The county was known for the early mass production of clocks, machine-made brass tools, and furniture using standardized parts and assembly. Many of Connecticut's industrial pioneers can be found in the county court records as they sued to collect debts, were sued themselves, or litigated contractual matters. Eli Terry, the Plymouth clock maker, sued Daniel Miller of Bristol in 1808 in a case concerning Terry's apprentice in making wooden-wheeled clocks. Benjamin Ely, the apprentice, had been assigned to Miller, who then did not pay Terry for Ely's services. Twenty-six wooden-wheeled clocks were assigned to secure the debt. Terry also sued Levi Lewis and Martin Byington during that same court session to collect on a note; the verso of the note contains Terry's signature.<sup>14</sup>

Terry's son and later partner, Henry Terry, brought an action against William Matthews of Winchester, George Bryan of Watertown and Jonathan R. Pullington of Plymouth in 1835 in what seems to be a case of labor unrest. The three defendants were sued for pulling down and destroying the factory work rules that were posted on the factory wall, the last time while the rules were framed under glass. The rules, which are included verbatim, include the hours of work and code of conduct to which the workers had to adhere.<sup>15</sup>

Seth Thomas began his career as a worker for Eli Terry before he went on to form his own firm. Thomas is famous for mass-producing clocks with precision cut brass gears, which were much more accurate than the wooden wheeled clocks. Apparently he began by making wooden works clocks of his own, as is demonstrated by a suit brought against him in 1820 by Sela Blakely of Medina, Ohio. Blakely claimed that 60 wooden-wheeled clocks known as "Terry's Patent Clocks" that he had purchased from Thomas were defective.<sup>16</sup>

Clocks were not the only consumer goods that were mass-produced by Litchfield County manufacturers. Lambert Hitchcock of Barkhamsted developed a system of making painted wooden chairs from standardized parts that were sold inexpensively around the country. Producing large quantities of goods brought down the unit cost of production. In times of economic depression, however, this was a liability as unsold inventories ballooned and had to be sold at auction to raise cash.

Hitchcock and other furniture makers who had adopted his techniques faced bankruptcy in the late 1820s and early 1830s. Denison and Nancy M. Crane of Hartland sued Hitchcock in 1829 for money he owed to Nancy, who worked for him weaving rush chair seats. Their complaint demonstrates that

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<sup>12</sup> Christopher P. Bickford, ed., *Voices of the New Republic: Connecticut Towns, 1800-1832. Volume 1: What They Said* (New Haven, Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2003), 116.

<sup>13</sup> LCC Files, Box 259, folder 17.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, Box 178, folder 14.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, Box 306, folder 19. See page 8 for a reproduction of page one of the work rules at the Terry Clock Co.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, Box 267, folder 2.

Hitchcock paid his workers in unsold furniture. In her account, Nancy Crane states that she had received from Hitchcock 1 bureau, 2 bedsteads, 1 table, 1 stand, 7 chairs and 1 rocking chair in addition to \$17.89 from the company store toward the amount owed her for chair seats, which she wove for 23 cents each.<sup>17</sup>

A worker also sued William Moore, a neighbor of Hitchcock's and fellow chair manufacturer. Liberty P. Ball, a painter and ornamenter of "fancy roll top chairs" was owed \$500. The suit discussed the work performed, comparing it to that on Hitchcock's chairs.<sup>18</sup> The competition between the two must have been friendly. Moore lent money to Hitchcock around this time, although he was forced to file two suits to collect the \$400 and \$800 owed to him.<sup>19</sup>

### Minorities

One of the goals of the Court Records Project was to identify as many cases as possible that involve African Americans or Native Americans. These could be plaintiffs or defendants or, as in the case of 14-year-old Violet, a slave who was the subject matter of a lawsuit. David King and Samuel Baldwin, Violet's owners, sued Stephen Welton of Litchfield for taking the slave girl first to Canaan and then to the town of Cornwall in Addison County, Vermont. Allegedly aiding the defendant were Chauncey Woodruff and "sundry other persons." Violet was missing from September 1790 to March 1791 and the plaintiffs hired people to find her and return her to them, they alleged.<sup>20</sup>

The case of Violet was not the only case that revealed anti-slavery activities. David Buckingham sued Jon Prindle for telling Buckingham's servant Jack Adolphus (also known as Jack or Adolphus) how to run away without detection.<sup>21</sup>

Persons of color could also appear as mere afterthoughts, as is the case in the suit Joseph Weller brought against Litchfield County.<sup>22</sup> In his itemized bill for a new well at the county jail, Weller notes that he did not charge for time spent on the job by "his Negro."

African Americans can also be found in defamation cases. In 1814, Henry S. Atwood sued Norman Atwood for defaming him by saying that Henry used to get his "black or Negro" women neighbors Betsy and Vi Mix drunk by offering them "cyder and pepper" and then have sex with them.<sup>23</sup> African-Americans also sued for damage to their character, as may be seen from the following case. Phillis, a free black woman from Winchester, spent four months in jail after Ozias Brownson, with no grounds, told the grand juror that Phillis had called Roswell Coe's wife a bitch. Charges were brought against Phillis as a result of Brownson's complaint. Unable to post bond, she was arrested and jailed. Phillis and her husband London sued Brownson for damage to her "Name, Fame and Reputation" and also the "great Distress both of Body & Mind . . . Trouble, Cost & Expence" the couple had endured. London and Phillis were awarded £9 damages.<sup>24</sup>

Native Americans appear in fewer cases than African Americans, although researchers must remember that minorities often intermarried and appellations of racial or ethnic heritage should be taken with a grain

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 1830, Box 291, folder 2. See pages 26 and 30 for reproductions of documents pertaining to this case.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 1830, Box 290, folder 14.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, 1830, Box 292, folder 4. For more information on Hitchcock and Moore, see John Tarrant Kenney, *The Hitchcock Chair: The Story of a Connecticut Yankee—L. Hitchcock of Hitchcocks-ville—and an Account of the Restoration of his 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Manufactory* (New York: C. N. Potter, distributed by Crown Publishers).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, Box 93, folder 17. See also *Litchfield County Court Minorities Collection, 1753-1854*, Box 1, folder 17.

<sup>21</sup> LCC Files, 1813, Box 205, folder 12. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 1, folder 9.

<sup>22</sup> LCC Files, 1762, Box 15, folder 11. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 1, folder 5.

<sup>23</sup> LCC Files, Box 209, folder 13. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 2, folder 2.

<sup>24</sup> LCC Files, 1787, Box 80, folder 3. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 1, folder 14.

of salt. For example, in David Lusk's petition regarding debtor Charles Quomenor, the defendant is described as a "Negro man of Barkhamsted." Quomenor, however, is a Native American surname and Charles was probably of mixed blood. Quomenor was in prison as a result of two executions brought against him by Lusk, who in this case asked that Charles be assigned to him in service to work off his debt.<sup>25</sup>

In fact, referring to someone as an Indian might simply have been a derogatory term rather than a statement in fact. The State brought charges against Jeremiah Barley of Sharon for assault of Andrew Abels of Sharon. Part of the behavior complained of was calling Abels that "damned old Indian."<sup>26</sup> Without further research, however, we cannot be sure that Abels was actually of Native American descent.

Some cases provide us with information about the lives of members of the Native American community at the time. In one case, Samuel Choggom or Shoggom of Sharon was described as living in a hut and growing beans and corn.<sup>27</sup> Many cases concerning Native Americans involve crimes, whether as victims, perpetrators or both. Jonathan Cook of Harwinton was found guilty of lascivious carriage in the 1765 sexual assault on a Native American "squaw" named Judith by forcibly pulling up her clothes and molesting her, while an example of Native-on-Native crime can be found in the State's 1836 suit against Alexander Kelson of Kent for assaulting Eunice Mawwee also of Kent.<sup>28</sup>

### Women

Documenting the customs and costs of early American childbirth can be difficult, as few women had the time, paper or literacy to leave a written record of this time in their lives. For the researcher, court records can be a rich source of contemporary detail of 18<sup>th</sup> century childbirth. In her 1764 suit against Alexander Bryan, Ruth Ashman included in the account of her lying in her child's layette. This consisted of three blankets, four little shirts, five little caps, six bibs, two pairs of stockings and a pair of little shoes—plus only 18 "clouts," or diapers and a paper of little pins with which to fasten them.<sup>29</sup>

We know from the records of the Litchfield County Court that women were not passive bystanders. Consider the case of Mrs. Hannah Tyler of Goshen, charged by the authorities with breach of law and assault on Samuel Pettibone. Pettibone was involved in litigation with Hannah's husband Benijah, and feelings must have been running high between the families when, on 13 July 1772, she marched to his gristmill and "with a wicked and mischievous Design to abuse injure and Affront the sd Samuel ... purposely Empty her Chamber pott (filled with Chumberly and the Excrements of a human body) on the body of said Samuel & thereby defiled his body and his apparrell."<sup>30</sup>

Women can be found in cases with an economic basis. Mary Marks sued Dr. Lemuel Winslow to collect £12 for "tending people in a pox house by your request & imployment 40 days at 6/p Day."<sup>31</sup> Hepzibah Osborn was a party to the suit brought by her father against Jacob Peck for default on his contract for Hepzibah's apprenticeship to learn the "art and mystery of a weaver of linnen & wollen."<sup>32</sup>

Women even appear in cases involving false imprisonment. Cash Africa of Litchfield, reputed to have been among the blacks who served in the Revolutionary War, sued Deborah Marsh, complaining that she

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<sup>25</sup> LCC Files, 1801, Box 140, folder 10. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 1, folder 23.

<sup>26</sup> LCC Files, 1829, Box 289, folder 14. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 3, folder 12.

<sup>27</sup> LCC Files, 1787, *Pierce v. Shoggom*, Box 84, folder 11. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 3, folder 4.

<sup>28</sup> LCC Files, *Rex v. Cook*, 1765, Box 24, folder 8; *State v. Kelson*, 1836, Box 309, folder 16. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 3, folders 1, 16.

<sup>29</sup> LCC Files, 1764, Box 18, folder 16. Other suits by single women against the fathers of their bastards that include itemized statements of costs of lying-in are: *Smith v. Evarts*, Box 29 Folder 14; *Sackett v. Freeman*, Box 32 Folder 20; and *Landon v. Chipman*, Box 44 Folder 5.

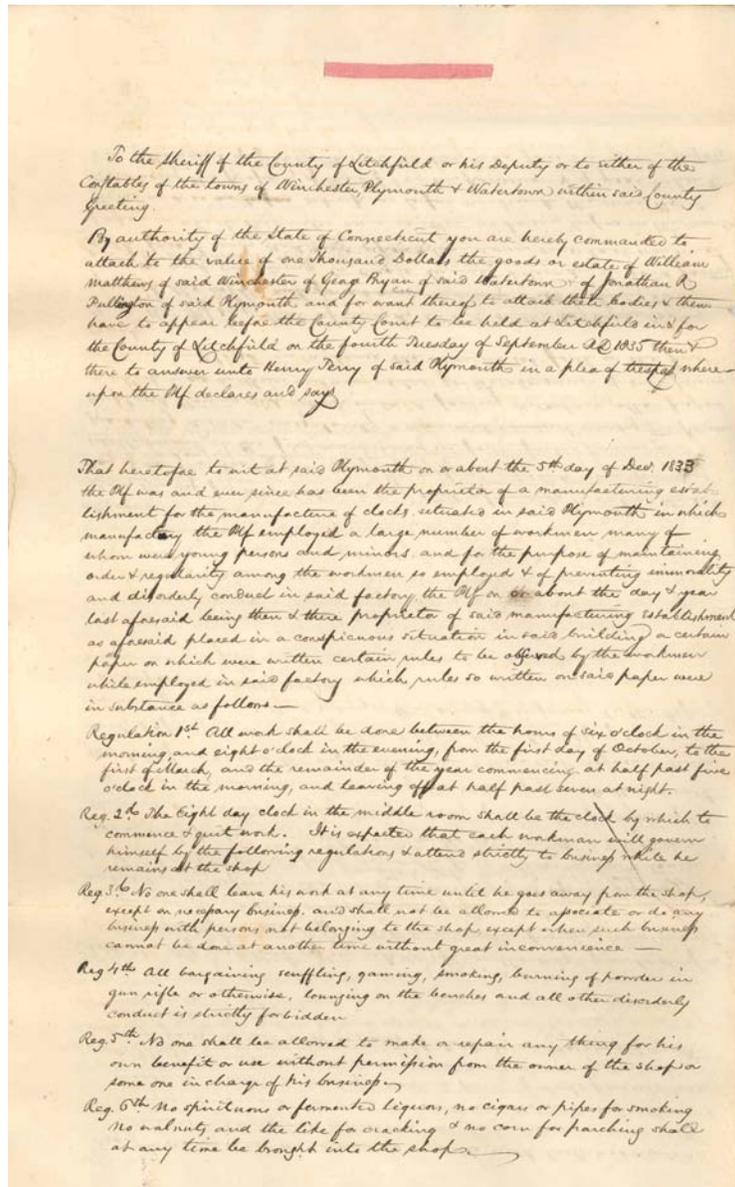
<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, 1772, Box 37, folder 18.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, 1785, Box 73, folder 16.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, 1759, Box 8, folder 2.

did, "on 15 September 1774 an Assault make upon the Plt and did then and there with force and arms unlawfully seize upon the person of the Plt ... imprison the Plt and hold him to hard labour from that time to the Date of this writ" three years later. Deborah was found guilty and ordered to pay Cash £200.<sup>33</sup>

### Illustration 2



First page of work rules at the Terry Clock Co. in 1835<sup>34</sup>

### Defamation

Plaintiffs frequently sued over insults or rumors that struck at the heart of their place in society. These suits, containing as they do exact quotes from conversation or correspondence, provide us with a valuable

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, 1777, Box 39, folder 8. See also *Minorities Collection*, Box 1, folder 9.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, *Terry v. Matthews, Bryan & Pullington*, 1835, Box 306, folder 19.

window on the past. Ephraim Kirby of Litchfield sued Reverend Amos Chase for defamation in 1803. Kirby reported that, despite his sterling character, Chase said of him, “no man ought to vote for Col. Kirby to be Governor of this State, for he is a corrupt and vile character. Two young women which [sic] lived in his family were by him lately begotten with child, and he sent them away privately to prevent discovery.”<sup>35</sup> If people had not heard the story before, they knew all about it as a result of the court case. Kirby was unsuccessful in his suit, as was his gubernatorial campaign against Jonathan Trumbull.

Lengthy transcriptions of correspondence can be found in two cases. In the first, William Kasson of Bethlem sued his sister Ruthan Kasson of the same town in 1815. Ruthan had written a letter, transcribed verbatim in the writ, to the fiancé of a young woman named Wealthy Steel who lodged with William and his family. In this letter, Ruthan accused Wealthy and William of committing adultery and engaging in other scandalous behavior.<sup>36</sup> In the second case, a criminal case was brought against Ezra M. Howland of Kent in 1854 for the slander of Mrs. Eli Clark. The case revolved around a document prepared by Howland purporting to be the minutes of a town meeting called to discuss Mrs. Clark’s behavior (possibly gossiping). Two copies of this vituperative diatribe, which contains racist and scatological language, are contained in the court file.<sup>37</sup>

Mary Goodwin, a minor, and her father Thomas, sued over tales of her misbehavior at a dance held at Elihu Harrison’s house in Litchfield in 1781. It was said that Mary had allowed David Harrison, Solomon Woodruff and John Woodruff to “debauch her chastity.” Not so, say the plaintiffs. The young men, “instigated by . . . mear malice,” “put into a Bowl of Toddy a quantity of Cantharides or Spanish flies and gave the same to the Plt to drink of . . . to deprive [her] of her reason that they might accomplish the vile purposes of their Heart.”<sup>38</sup> Chastity, for a young girl who relied on marriage to provide for her future, was her most valuable commodity, to be protected at all costs, in court if not at dances.

For a businessman like David Buell, to be considered guilty of the “detestable crime of dishonesty” was to lose his livelihood. So when Edward Phelps questioned his integrity by publicly denouncing Buell in 1772, saying “he has no more honesty than the Devil nor never had [,] his Books are as false as the Alkoran,” he filed suit and was successful.<sup>39</sup>

Similarly, Robert Livingston Jr., of the Manor Livingston in Albany County, New York sued George Caldwell of Salisbury because the latter called him a rogue and knave who starved the workers at his ironworks and cheated them out of their wages.<sup>40</sup> Justice of the Peace William Kellogg of Cornwall brought suit against Harley R. Ludington for saying that he “gave judgment in Catlin’s favor because he owed Catlin for a hat.”<sup>41</sup> And Ephraim Hinman, brigadier general of the 8<sup>th</sup> Connecticut regiment, was said to be taking payoffs to grant discharges from military service, including silver spoons and a Merino ram.<sup>42</sup> Even the clergy were not immune. Rev. Samuel Whittlesey of Washington was said by Lewis Ford to be a thief: “I caught a man last night stealing [my] hens . . . it was Parson Whittlesey . . . should like [him] better if he would keep out of my hen roost.”<sup>43</sup>

Of course, success in a defamation case might not repair the plaintiff’s reputation. Consider the suit of Elijah and Betsy Warner of Kent against John and Lydia Hopson. The Warners asserted that Lydia called

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<sup>35</sup> LCC Files, 1803, Box 149, folder 2.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 1815, Box 217, folder 18.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 1854, Box 345, folder 18.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, 1781, Box 54, folder 7.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid, 1772, Box 42, folder 7.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid, 1765, Box 25, folder 2.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, 1819, Box 255, folder 3.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, *Hinman v. French*, 1813 Box 207, folder 2.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid, *Whittlesey v. Ford*, 1812, Box 204, folder 18.

Betsy and her children whores and thieves and said that, “burning is too good for them.” Although the defendants were found guilty, the damages Mrs. Warner were received was only one cent.<sup>44</sup>

### Medicine

Physicians also sued to counteract rumors of their malpractice. Dr. Oliver Fuller of Kent sued another Kent physician Benjamin Chase in 1770 for defaming his character and damaging his reputation. Chase was heard to say that Fuller’s “devilish” medicine had killed Simon Geer’s wife, and that he would never prescribe such things. Fuller prevailed and was awarded \$2 damages.<sup>45</sup>

Robert North, a transient who held himself out as a trained physician, was hired to treat Mrs. Avis Colver of Litchfield, the wife of Joshua Colver. In 1762 he dosed her with physick, making her quite ill. Depositions in the file reveal that North was in fact trained as a carpenter, but he had been unable to make a living in New York at that trade. The depositions in this case provide a remarkable amount of detail on the practice of medicine at the time.<sup>46</sup>

Smallpox was a scourge that was feared by all throughout the early years of Litchfield County’s existence, in part due to the fact that the cause of the disease and how it spread were unknown. The Connecticut Colony passed a law in 1732 requiring all dogs to be destroyed in any town where smallpox was suspected; this law stayed on the books until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the middle of the century, the state of knowledge about the disease and its prevention had advanced. Benjamin Franklin published a treatise while in London in 1759 titled “Some Account of the Success of Inoculation for the Smallpox in England and America,” and Connecticut law was amended in 1760 to permit inoculation with the virus. However, this could only take place after two-thirds of the town’s voter’s approved, and those involved were required to be quarantined, either voluntarily or by force, in the same manner as those who acquired the disease through other means.<sup>47</sup>

Smallpox broke out in Litchfield County in 1761, and there are a number of cases that provide insight into changing attitudes toward the disease. The King’s Attorney filed three suits against Salisbury residents Amos Bird, Richard Brownson and Katharine Marsh for voluntarily receiving smallpox by inoculation “to the great terror of His Majesty’s subjects.”<sup>48</sup> The defendants were found not guilty. However, suits against Jonathan Hunter of Sharon, accused of leaving a house where smallpox infection was present although ordered to stay and nurse the widow Eleanor Crocker and Daniel Champion of Sharon, accused of throwing down a fence erected around Ensign Thomas Austin’s house where smallpox existed, prevailed.<sup>49</sup>

But even in 1801, physician Vine Utley of Winchester was charged with inoculating his wife Rebecca against smallpox without a license.<sup>50</sup> By 1830, however, inoculation only appeared in the courts in allegations of malpractice, as when Harriet Ann Landon of Salisbury, a minor, sued Dr. Asahel Humphrey of Salisbury for malpractice. Landon claimed that Humphrey injured her while inoculating her for “kine pock” by cutting a tendon, ligament and nerve at her elbow, causing her to lose the use of her arm.<sup>51</sup>

### Amusements

Entertainments of varying sorts can be found in the criminal cases, including playing at dice and charging admission to see performances of rope dancing and other feats of dexterity.<sup>52</sup> One African-

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid, 1823, Box 275, folder 9.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid, 1770, Box 32, folder 4.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid, 1762, Box 16, folder 8.

<sup>47</sup> Charles J. Hoadly, ed., *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, Vol. 11 (Hartford: Press of The Case. Lockwood & Brainard Company), 359-61, 380.

<sup>48</sup> LCC Files, 1761, Box 11, folders 7, 15.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid, 1761, Box 11, folders 15-16.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, 1801, Box 141, folder 12.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid, 1830, Box 291, folder 17.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid, *State v. Williams*, 1821, Box 269, folder 20; *State v. McGlover*, 1823, Box 275, folder 3.

American husband and wife were charged with keeping a house of bawdry and Polly French of Salisbury seems to have been a dominatrix, charged with “restraining, correcting [,] suppressing & punishing Rogues & other lewd [emphasis original] & idle dissolute persons.”<sup>53</sup>

In 1794 the state dropped a case against “Merryman” who, with his servant Don Pedro Clores, exhibited tightrope walking and other “feats of uncommon dexterity . . . tending to collect together spectators to gratify vain and useless curiosity” in Litchfield.<sup>54</sup> The newspapers of the day contained large announcements of the spectacle, which seems to have been popular with area residents.

While Hiram Walters was charged with running an illegal lottery in 1823, legal lotteries, e.g., those approved by the General Assembly, were a popular tool to raise constructions funds for churches and turnpikes.<sup>55</sup> Disputes arose about prizes and payouts, though. The Bridgewater Society lottery seems to have been particularly ill managed, and the committee (Andrew Minor and Abijah Treat of New Milford and Truman Burch of Brookfield) had a number of suits filed against them.<sup>56</sup>

Then as now, boys would be boys, and instances of goofing off can be found in the court records. Hiram Tyrol, apprenticed to Hezekiah Treadwell to learn house joinery and cabinet making, played at “unlawful games” instead of working at his tasks.<sup>57</sup> John Roberts, a minor of Barkhamsted, and his friends gathered in the street in Barkhamsted on April 1, 1831, a day appointed by the Governor for public fasting, to play “games of sport and recreation called Ball and Quoit.”<sup>58</sup> Barkhamsted seems to have been a hotbed of such behavior: the State brought charges against Ralsemon Taylor, Sylvester Brown, Harlow Gillet and Henry Brown for breach of peace for assembling to play ball, cards, dice and tables, drink and carouse<sup>59</sup>

### Provenance

The county clerk was responsible for gathering, organizing, and preserving the records for the Litchfield County Court. They were transferred to the Connecticut State Library in 1921.

### Arrangement

At some point before the records were received by the Connecticut state Archives, they were rearranged. The original arrangement was by year and court session, with each file identified by a docket number. This arrangement scheme is reflected in the contemporaneous record books listed below.

The papers contained in *Files*, however, are now arranged chronologically by year, merging the year’s court sessions into one run. Within the year, individual cases are arranged alphabetically by the plaintiff’s surname. The 2001-2004 Court Records Project has maintained this organization.

For criminal cases, the plaintiff name varies by time period. Up to the Revolutionary War, suits were filed by the King’s Attorney and the cases were styled: *Rex* versus the defendant. For about ten years after

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid, *State v. Jacklin and Peck*, 1821, Box 269, folder 20; *State v. French*, 1821, Box 269, folder 20. For *Jacklin v. Peck*, see also *Minorities Collection*, Box 2, folder 15

<sup>54</sup> LCC Files, *State v. Partridge*, 1794, Box 105, folder 12.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid, 1823, Box 275, folder 3.

<sup>56</sup> See, for example, the suit brought by Henry S. Whiting in Box 243 Folder 16, or that of Noble Day (Box 245 Folder 18), both concerning tickets in the fourth class, second division of the lottery.

<sup>57</sup> LCC Files, *Treadwell v. Thomas*, 1817, Box 250, folder 13.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, 1831, Box 297, folder 19.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid, 1833, Box 301, folder 2.

the start of the war, look under *Gov[ernor] & Co[mpany]* for criminal matters. By 1784, criminal cases were brought on behalf of the *State* [of Connecticut].

### Related Records

Additional information can be found in the following:

Litchfield County Court *Index to Records* 1751-1855 (11 volumes). See container list **Litchfield County No. 1**. The *Index to Records* is a master index to all the volumes, with entries by case name.

Litchfield County Court *Records*, 1751-1855 (22 volumes). See container list **Litchfield County No. 2**;

Litchfield County Court *Dockets*, 1759-1855 (19 volumes). See container list **Litchfield County No. 6**;

Litchfield County Court *Executions*, 1768-1855 (5 volumes). See container list **Litchfield County No. 4**;

Litchfield County Court *Appeals* 1798-1854 (5 volumes); See **Guide to the Records of the Judicial Department**; and

Litchfield County Court *Defaults*, 1798-1855 (16 volumes). See container list **Litchfield County No. 7**.

*Litchfield County. County Court. Papers by Subject*. See separate finding aid. *Papers by Subject* is an artificial collection consisting of materials removed from Litchfield County Court *Files* series by State Library staff after the records were received from the Litchfield court. *Papers by Subject* consists of records in certain subject categories that were removed from Litchfield County Court *Files* as State Library staff reorganized them in the 1920s or 1930s. These artificial collections were pulled together to assist researchers by identifying material relating to topics of interest. For some subject categories, not all items were identified or removed by the processors. The 2001-2004 Court Records Project transferred many records from *Files* to *Papers by Subject*. However, isolated items remain in *Files*, particularly in these categories: Conservators & Guardians, Costs, Executions, Licenses and Travel records relating to highways, bridges and turnpikes. To some extent, this reflects organization of the records. For example, in earlier years, Costs and Executions are often found interfiled with the court case to which they apply.

Closely related records are those of the Litchfield County Superior Court. This court heard appeals from cases decided by the county court and the bulk of cases heard by the Superior Court for each county consisted of appeals from the lower court.

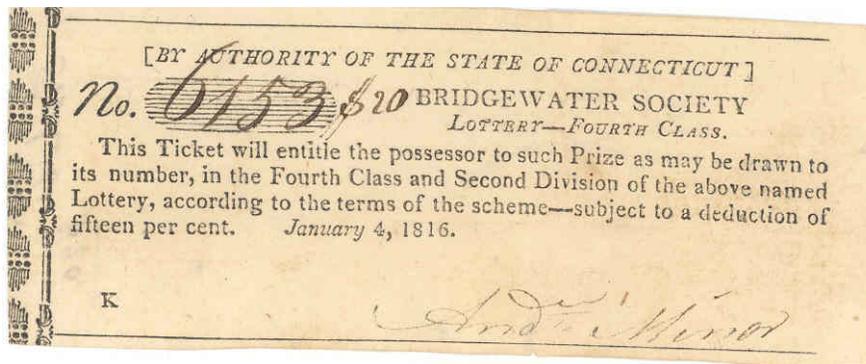
In addition, many of the cases heard by the County Court originated in the local justice court, convened by the Justices of the Peace of each town. For more information about Justice of the Peace Courts, and for a list of the State Library's holdings, please see **Guide to the Records of the Judicial Department, Second Edition**, pages 57-61.

If a researcher is interested in records relating to will or estates, please check the Probate Court Records (RG 004). Land records for Connecticut towns can provide further information for matters relating to real estate. More importantly for the researcher, most land records have been indexed by both the Grantor (owner or seller) and Grantee (buyer or person with a claim to the property). In Connecticut, property deeds are recorded in the records of the town where the land is located, rather than on a county basis as is common in most parts of the country. The State Library has an extensive collection of microfilmed land record volumes and indexes from towns throughout the state

Access Note

Many of the papers found in *Files* for the Litchfield County Court are fragile and they must be handled with great care. Photocopies have been inserted in place of originals for materials on African Americans, Native Americans, and for other items considered to be particularly valuable or vulnerable.

**Illustration 3**



**Ticket for the Bridgewater Society Lottery used as evidence in 1817 lawsuit<sup>60</sup>**

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, *Whiting v. Minor & Treat*, 1817, Box 243, folder 16.

**Container Listing**

1. **1751-52**  
Abbe-Wright (folders 1-16) Box 1
2. **1753**  
Abbe-Bellowes (folders 17-20)  
Benton-Unidentified Box 2
3. **1754**  
Abbott-Sundry Box 3  
Swan-Unidentified (folders 1-4) Box 4
4. **1755**  
Adams-Welch (folders 5-20)  
Weller-Unidentified (folder 1) Box 5
5. **1756**  
Adams-Unidentified (folders 2-14)
6. **1757**  
Allen-Holenbeck (folders 15-20)  
Holloway-Unidentified (folders 1-10) Box 6
7. **1758**  
Adam-Knowls (folders 11-20)  
Lawrence-Unidentified (folders 1-9) Box 7
8. **1759**  
Adams-Litchfield (folders 10-18)  
Livingston-Unidentified (folders 1-11) Box 8
9. **1760**  
Addams-Hinman (folders 12-18)  
Hitchcock-Unidentified Box 9
10. **1761**  
Allen-Hide Box 10  
Hill-Skilton Box 11  
Smedly-Unidentified (folders 1-10) Box 12
11. **1762**  
Abbe-Camp (folders 11-20)  
Canaan-Hopkins Box 13

Hopkins-Richmond	Box 14
Robards-Unidentified (folders 1-13)	Box 15
<b>12. 1763</b>	
Abbott-Bingham (folders 14-20)	
Bird-Hinman	Box 16
Hoffman-Ray	Box 17
Read-Unidentified (folders 1-14)	Box 18
<b>13. 1764</b>	
Adams-Bayard (folders 15-20)	
Beach-Govenor	Box 19
Grant-Moss	Box 20
Munger-Westover	Box 21
White-Unidentified (folders 1-4)	Box 22
<b>14. 1765</b>	
Allen-Dixon (folders 5-20)	
Doud-Moody	Box 23
Munger-Thomlison	Box 24
Thomlinson-Unidentified (folders 1-8)	Box 25
<b>15. 1766</b>	
Averet-Kelsey (folders 9-20)	
Kent-Undated (folders 1-11)	Box 26
<b>16. 1767</b>	
Allen-Diems (folders 12-20)	
Donaghy-Tomlinson	Box 27
Tomlinson-Unidentified (folders 1-7)	Box 28
<b>17. 1768</b>	
Adams-Govenor (folders 8-20)	
Grant-Woodward	Box 29
Woodworth-Unidentified (folder 1)	Box 30
<b>18. 1769</b>	
Abernethy-Orton (folders 2-20)	

Painter-Undated (folders 1-12)	Box 31
<b>19. 1770</b>	
Adams-Chandler (folders 13-20)	
Chandler-Sacket	Box 32
Salisbury-Unidentified (folders 1-11)	Box 33

**Illustration 4**



**On extremely rare occasions, court records served for pleasure purposes,  
as this example of student art work shows<sup>61</sup>**

**20. 1771**  
Abbot-Fuller (folders 12-20)

<sup>61</sup> Ibid, *Bradley & Bradley v. Phelps*, 1813, Box 205, folder 10.

Gay-Stannard	Box 34
Starr-Undated (folders1-7)	Box 35
<b>21. 1772</b>	
Ackley-Butler (folders 8-20)	
Canaan-Kilborn	Box 36
Kingman-Sheldon	Box 37
Sheldon-Undated (folders1-15)	Box 38
<b>22. 1773</b>	
Abernarthy-Baldwin (folders16-20)	
Barbur-Hazard	Box 39
Hide-Pond	Box 40
Pratt-Wheeler	Box 41
White-Unidentified (folders1-3)	Box 42
<b>23. 1774</b>	
Adams-Catlin (folders 4-20)	
Catlin-Hoffman	Box 43
Hopkins-Prindle	Box 44
Pundersen-Vosburgh	Box 45
Vaughn-Unidentified (folders1-7)	Box 46
<b>24. 1775</b>	
Abbott-Clarke (folders 8-20)	
Cockran-Pickett	Box 47
Pitcher-Unidentified (folders 1-15)	Box 48
<b>25. 1776</b>	
Agard-Kent (folders 16-20)	
Kilborn-Woodbury (folders 1-7)	Box 49
<b>26. 1777</b>	
Africa-Smith (folders 8-20)	
Starr-Unidentified (folders 1-3)	Box 50
<b>27. 1778</b>	
Atwood-Winchester (folders 4-15)	

Abbot-Freeman (folders 16-20)	
Frisbie-Unidentified (folders 1-16)	Box 51
<b>28. 1780</b>	
Adams-Canfield (folders 17-20)	
Carrington-Unidentified	Box 52
<b>29. 1781</b>	
Adams-Cook	Box 53
Cooley-Lyman	Box 54
McLean-Smith	Box 55
Smith-Unidentified (folders 1-13)	Box 56
<b>30. 1782</b>	
Adams-Bennett (folders 14-20)	
Bennett-Field	Box 57
Foot-Lord	Box 58
Lynde-Shethar	Box 59
Sill-Yale	Box 60
Yale-Unidentified (folder 1)	Box 61
<b>31. 1783</b>	
Adams-Bronson (folders 2-20)	
Brown-Fox	Box 62
Gaplin-Kettell	Box 63
Knowles-Ross	Box 64
<b>32. 1784</b>	
Ross-Tomlinson	Box 65
Tomlinson-Unidentified (folders 1-13)	Box 66
<b>33. 1784</b>	
Adams-Baker (folders 14-20)	
Balcom-Cutler	Box 67
Darling-Kingsbury	Box 68
Knickerbacor-Richards	Box 69

Richards-Tyler	Box 70
VanNess-Unidentified (folders 1-9)	Box 71
<b>34. 1785</b>	
Abernethy-Beach (folders 10-20)	
Beach-Griffin	Box 72
Hall-New Milford	Box 73
Nickelson-Thomas	Box 74
Thorpe-Unidentified (folders 1-9)	Box 75
<b>35. 1786</b>	
Ackley-Bissell (folders 10-20)	
Blaklee-Long	Box 76
Lord-Smith	Box 77
Stannard-Unidentified (folders 1-10)	Box 78
<b>36. 1787</b>	
Adams-Bisco (folders 11-20)	
Bissell-Johnson	Box 79
Johnson-Simpson	Box 80
Skinner-Unidentified (folders 1-13)	Box 81
<b>37. 1788</b>	
Abels-Bacon (folders 14-20)	
Baker-Deming	Box 82
Deming-Livingston	Box 83
Lloyd-Smith	Box 84
Smith-Unidentified (folders 1-18)	Box 85
<b>38. 1789</b>	
Adams-Atwood (folders 19-20)	
Atwood-Desbroses	Box 86
Dickinson-Mansell	Box 87
Marsh-Smith	Box 88
Smith-Unidentified (folders 1-14)	Box 89

**39. 1790**

Adams-Boardman (folders 15-20)  
Bogardus-Lane Box 90  
Lane-Smith Box 91  
Smith-Unidentified (folders 1-11) Box 92

**40. 1791**

Adams-Canfield (folders 12-20)  
Carpenter-Lewis Box 93  
Lillee-Stork Box 94  
Storm-Yale (folders 1-7) Box 95

**41. 1792**

Ackley-Chittenden (folders 8-20)  
Chittenden-Judd Box 96  
Keep-Ruggles Box 97  
Sackett-Unidentified (folders 1-16) Box 98

**42. 1793**

Adams-Bacon (folders 17-20)  
Bacon-Fuller Box 99  
Garritt-Penfield Box 100  
Pepoon-Whittlesey Box 101  
Wickwire-Unidentified (folders 1-2) Box 102

**43. 1794**

Adams-Canfield (folders 3-20)  
Carpenter-Holley Box 103  
Holley-Porter Box 104  
Post-Young Box 105

**44. 1795**

Adams-Church Box 106  
Church-Judd Box 107  
Judson-Sherman Box 108  
Shotwell-Unidentified (folders 1-15) Box 109

**45. 1796**

Adams-Bacon (folders 16-20)	
Baldwin-Fairchild	Box 110
Fancher-Pearsall	Box 111
Peck-Wadsworth	Box 112
Wadsworth-Wright (folders 1-5)	Box 113

**46. 1797**

Adams-Buell (folders 6-20)	
Buell-Gleason	Box 114
Giddings-Lombard	Box 115
Loomis-Smith	Box 116
Southbury-Unidentified	Box 117

**47. 1798**

Akins-Buell	Box 118
Bulford-Douglas	Box 119
Driggs-Johnson	Box 120
Johnson-Neely	Box 121
New Hartford-Smedly	Box 122
Smith-Wells	Box 123
Wessells-Wright (folders 1-5)	Box 124

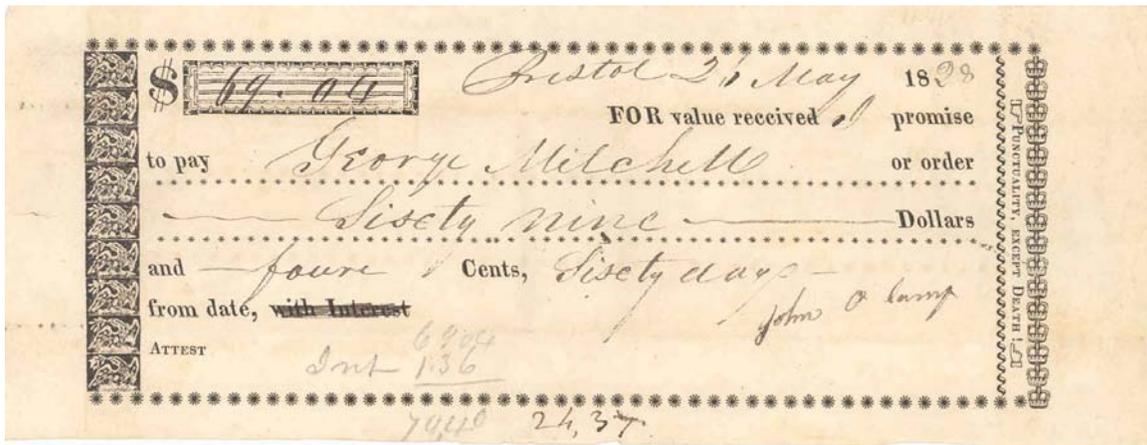
**48. 1799**

Akins-Boardman (folders 6-20)	
Boardman-Church	Box 125
Church-Gibbs	Box 126
Giles-Landon	Box 127
Landon-Moore	Box 128
Morey-Royce	Box 129
Rudd-Tallmadge	Box 130
Tallmadge-Young (folders 1-18)	Box 131

**49. 1800**

Abbott-Atwater (folders 19-20)	
Atwood-Broome	Box 132
Brown-Cutler	Box 133
Cutler-Haskell	Box 134
Haviland-Marshall	Box 135
Martin-Rowe	Box 136
Rowlee-Warner	Box 137
Warner-Young (folders 1-3)	Box 138

**Illustration 5**



**Printed promissory note that stipulates “Punctuality except death”<sup>62</sup>**

**50. 1801**

Abernathy-Canfield (folders 4-20)	
Canfield-Howes	Box 139
Hubbard-Prindle	Box 140
Prior-Wardwell	Box 141
Warner-Young (folders 1-7)	Box 142

**51. 1802**

Abeck-Canfield (folders 8-20)	
Canfield-Humphrey	Box 143

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, *Mitchell v. Camp*, 1830, Box 292, folder 3.

Humphrey-Prior	Box 144
Pritchard-Wakeman	Box 145
Walker-Wright (folders 1-7)	Box 146
<b>52. 1803</b>	
Adams-Bowne (folders 8-20)	
Bradley-Conklin	Box 147
Cook-Judson	Box 148
Kellogg-Nott	Box 149
Oconor-Stevens	Box 150
Stiles-Unidentified (folders 1-12)	Box 151
<b>53. 1804</b>	
Abernathy-Blakesley (folders 13-20)	
Boardman-Collar	Box 152
Collier-Johnson	Box 153
Johnson-Orsborn	Box 154
Orvis-Sterling	Box 155
Stevens-Young (folders 1-16)	Box 156
<b>54. 1805</b>	
Abbot-Bacon (folders 17-20)	
Bacon-Chittenden	Box 157
Chittenden-Holabird	Box 158
Holcomb-Nettleton	Box 159
Norton-Rockwell	Box 160
Rockwell-Young	Box 161
<b>55. 1806</b>	
Adams-Chittenden	Box 162
Chittenden-Hopkins	Box 163
Hough-Nott	Box 164
Nott-State	Box 165
State-Young (folders 1-18)	Box 166

**56. 1807**

Abell-Allen (folders 19-20)	
Andrews-Cameron	Box 167
Camp-Goshen	Box 168
Grant-Moseley	Box 169
Moulten-St John	Box 170
St John-Yale	Box 171

**57. 1808**

Abel-Beecher	Box 172
Beecher-Chittenden	Box 173
Chittenden-Gay	Box 174
Gaylord-Lamson	Box 175
Landon-Pettibone	Box 176
Phelps-Sanford	Box 177
Sawyer-Walter	Box 178
Warren-Yale (folders 1-9)	Box 179

**58. 1809**

Abel-Beecher (folders 10-20)	
Beecher-Chittenden	Box 180
Chittenden-Eno	Box 181
Ensign-Hull	Box 182
Humphrville-Mansfield	Box 183
Manville-Reed	Box 184
Reed-Studley	Box 185
Sutcliff-Young	Box 186

**59. 1810**

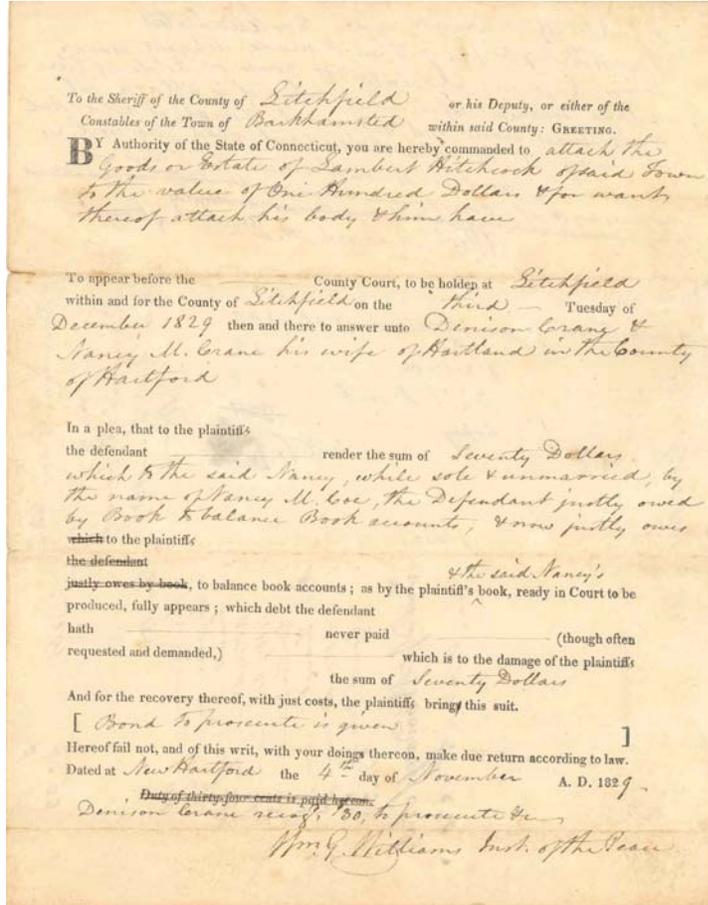
Abell-Calhoon	Box 187
Calhoon-Fenn	Box 188
Fenn-Johnston	Box 189

Jones-Northrop	Box 190
Norton-Skinner	Box 191
Slosson-Young	Box 192
<b>60. 1811</b>	
Abernethy-Calhoon	Box 193
Calhoon-Curtis	Box 194
Dakin-Heacock	Box 195
Hendryx-Lusk	Box 196
Lusk-Phelps	Box 197
Phelps-State	Box 198
State-Woodward (folders 1-17)	Box 199
<b>61. 1812</b>	
Abbott-Barlow (folders 18-20)	
Barnard-Colebrook	Box 200
Cornstock-Hall	Box 201
Hall-Mallery	Box 202
Marshall-Seymour	Box 203
Seymour-Wright	Box 204
<b>62. 1813</b>	
Adam-Church	Box 205
Clarke-Hart	Box 206
Harvey-Minott	Box 207
Mitchell-Sterling	Box 208
Stickles-Yale (folders 1-12)	Box 209
<b>63. 1814</b>	
Abernethy-Bradley (folders 13-20)	
Brewster-Gould	Box 210
Graham-Lewis	Box 211
Lewis-Rosseter	Box 212
Rowley-Wilcox	Box 213

Wilcox-Wright (folders 1-4)

Box 214

**Illustration 6**



**Book debt of Nancy M. Crane against Lambert Hitchcock  
suing for \$70 damage<sup>63</sup>**

64. **1815**  
Aakins-Bradley (folders 5-20)
- Brewster-Cornwall Box 215
- Cowles-Gunn Box 216
- Gunn-Lambert Box 217
- Lamson-Mitchell Box 218
- Morison-Raymond Box 219

<sup>63</sup> Ibid, *Crane & Crane v. Hitchcock*, 1830, Box 291, folder 2. See also page 30 for the actual book account.

Reed-State	Box 220
Sterling-Youngs (folders 1-19)	Box 221
<b>65. 1816</b>	
Abbott-Adam (folder 20)	
Alexander-Bostwick	Box 222
Botsford-Chapin	Box 223
Chapman-Delavan	Box 224
Deming-Griswold	Box 225
Gross-Hubbard	Box 226
Hubbell-Lamb	Box 227
Lamb-Mills	Box 228
Mill-Porter	Box 229
Porter-Shelton	Box 230
Shelton-Sturdevant	Box 231
Sugden-Winchester	Box 232
Wolcott-Unidentified (folders 1-2)	Box 233
<b>66. 1817</b>	
Abernathy-Blake (folders 3-20)	
Blake-Catlin	Box 234
Catlin-Cook	Box 235
Cook-Garnsey	Box 236
Garnsey-Hickox	Box 237
Hide-Johnston	Box 238
Johnston-Lockwood	Box 239
Lord-Northrop	Box 240
Northrop-Russell	Box 241
Russell-Stoddard	Box 242
Stone-Yale	Box 243

**67. 1818**

Abernethy-Chittenden	Box 244
Chittenden-DeForest	Box 245
Deforest-Haydon	Box 246
Hazen-Lamb	Box 247
Lamb-Noble	Box 248
Norfolk-Seymour	Box 249
Seymour-Wilcox	Box 250
Williams-Youngs (folders 1-2)	Box 251

**68. 1819**

Abbott-Bradley (folders 3-20)	
Bradley-Cook	Box 252
Cook-Guild	Box 253
Gunn-Johnston	Box 254
Johnston-Lyman	Box 255
Lyman-Peters	Box 256
Pettibone-Smith	Box 257
Soule-Warner	Box 258
Warner-Yale (folders 1-10)	Box 259

**69. 1820**

Abernethy-Benham (folders 11-20)	
Benjamin-Cowles	Box 260
Crane-Harrison	Box 261
Harrison-Lamson	Box 262
Landon-Mitchell	Box 263
Moore-Seymour	Box 264
Seymour-Wadsworth	Box 265
Wadsworth-Youlen (folders 1-15)	

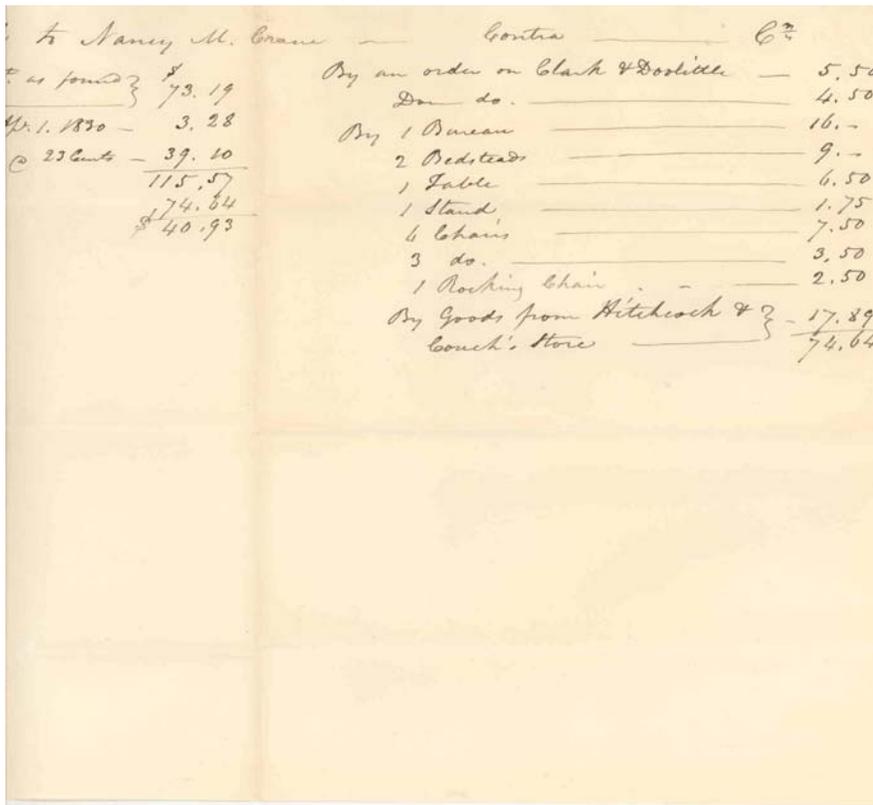
**70. 1821**

Abernethy-Beers (folders 16-20)	
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Bellamy-Goshen	Box 267
Granger-Merrell	Box 268
Merrell-State	Box 269
Steele-Wordin (folders 1-15)	Box 270
<b>71. 1822</b>	
Abernethy-Bradley (folders 16-20)	
Bragg-McMahon	Box 271
Mallory-Treat	Box 272
Tucker-Woodward (folders 1-6)	Box 273
<b>72. 1823</b>	
Adam-Fuller (folders 7-20)	
Galpin-Shelton	Box 274
Shepard-Younglove (folders 1-11)	Box 275
<b>73. 1824</b>	
Abernethy-Clark (folders 12-20)	
Cole-Peck	Box 276
Peet-Young (folders 1-17)	Box 277
<b>74. 1825</b>	
Adam-Bloss (folders 18-20)	
Boardman-Litchfield	Box 278
Lockwood-Winegar	Box 279
Winegar-Younglove (folder 1)	Box 280
<b>75. 1826</b>	
Abernethy-Hitchcock (folders 2-20)	
Hoadley-Smith	Box 281
Smith-Young (folders 1-13)	Box 282
<b>76. 1827</b>	
Abernethy-Case (folders 14-20)	
Catlin-Mygatt	Box 283
New Hartford-Titus	Box 284

- Tobey-Yale (folders 1-7) Box 285
- 77. 1828**  
 Abbott-Dorr (folders 8-20)
- Downs-Smith Box 286
- Smith-Yale (folders 1-14) Box 287
- 78. 1829**  
 Abernethy-Butler (folders 15-20)
- Camp-Monson Box 288
- Morehouse-Strong Box 289
- Stuart-Yale (folders 1-8) Box 290

**Illustration 8**



**Account of Nancy M. Crane with Lambert Hitchcock, showing that she was paid in furniture<sup>64</sup>**

- 79. 1830**  
 Abbott-Cook (folders 9-20)

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

Cornish-Lyman	Box 291
McIntire-State	Box 292
Sterling-Youngs (folders 1-9)	Box 293
<b>80. 1831</b>	
Abbe-Clement (folders 10-20)	
Colebrook-Pelton	Box 294
Pendleton-Watson	Box 295
Wells-Woodruff folders (1-3)	Box 296
<b>81. 1832</b>	
Abbe-Gregory (folders 4-20)	
Harrison-State	Box 297
State-Woodbury (folders 1-9)	Box 298
<b>82. 1833</b>	
Abbe-Catlin (folders 10-20)	
Chaffee-Landon	Box 299
Langdon-State	Box 300
State-Yale (folders 1-15)	Box 301
<b>83. 1834</b>	
Abbe-Boardman (folders 16-20)	
Boardman-Humphrey	Box 302
Humphrey-Stanley	Box 303
State-Young (folders 1-13)	Box 304
<b>84. 1835</b>	
Abbe-Bierce (folders 14-20)	
Birge-Marsh	Box 305
Merriam-Tuttle	Box 306
Tyler-Yale folders (1-6)	Box 307
<b>85. 1836</b>	
Abbe-Gaoler (folders 7-20)	
Gleason-State	Box 308

	State-Wright	Box 309
<b>86. 1837</b>		
	Abbe-Hunt	Box 310
	Ives-Turner	Box 311
	Van Dusen-Young (folders 1-4)	Box 312
<b>87. 1838</b>		
	Adam-Fuller (folders 5-20)	
	Gaoler-Rowley	Box 313
	Sage-Wright	Box 314
<b>88. 1839</b>		
	Abernethy-Lyman	Box 315
	Markham-Vincent	Box 316
	Wade-Winegar (folders 1-2)	Box 317
<b>89. 1840</b>		
	Abbe-Green (folders 3-20)	
	Hallock-Rowley	Box 318
	Sage-Wyth (folders 1-16)	Box 319
<b>90. 1841</b>		
	Abbe-Bellamy (folders 17-20)	
	Benedict-Mygatt	Box 320
	Newell-Sullivan	Box 321
	Talmadge-Wright (folders 1-6)	Box 322
<b>91. 1842</b>		
	Adams-Judd (folders 7-20)	
	Kellogg-Woodruff	Box 323
<b>92. 1843</b>		
	Abbe-Sperry	Box 324
	State-Wyant (folders 1-12)	Box 325
<b>93. 1844</b>		
	Agard-Lyman (folders 13-20)	
	McGregor-Woodward	Box 326

<b>94. 1845</b>		
	Abel-Sperry	Box 327
	State-Wright (folders 1-8)	Box 328
<b>95. 1846</b>	folders 9-20)	
	Jackson-State	Box 329
	State-Winchester (folders1-9)	Box 330
<b>96. 1847</b>		
	Abernathy-Griswold (folders.10-20)	
	Hard-State	Box 331
	Stoddard-Woodruff	Box 332
<b>97. 1848</b>		
	Ames-Sharon	Box 333
	Shelton-Young (folders 1-19)	Box 334
<b>98. 1849</b>		
	Alvord-Baker (folder 20)	
	Baldwin-Sharon	Box 335
	Skilton-Wright	Box 336
<b>99. 1850</b>		
	Adams-Perry	Box 337
	Pettibone-State	Box 338
	State-Worthy (folders 1-5)	Box 339
<b>100. 1851</b>		
	Adams-Riley (folders 6-20)	
	Roberts-Wright	Box 340
<b>101. 1852</b>		
	Abernethy-State	Box 341
	State-Woodbury (folders 1-12)	Box 342
<b>102. 1853</b>		
	Adam-Dayton (folders 13-20)	
	Demars-State	Box 343
	State-Woodworth (folders 1-16)	Box 344

- 103. 1854**  
Alvord-Bushnell folders 17-20)
- Canfield-State Box 345
- State-Wright (folders 1-4) Box 346
- 104. 1855**  
Averill-Woodruff (folders 5-10)
- 105. Discontinuances, 1831-1855**
- Adams-Merwin Box 347
- Merwin-Yale Box 348