Rev. Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798)

Correspondence, 1760-1790

1/2 Box (67 items)

Jeremy Belknap was born on June 4, 1744 in Boston. He graduated from Harvard in 1762, after which he filled a succession of teaching positions in Milton, N.H. (1762-64), Portsmouth, N.H. (1764-65), and Greenland, N.H. (1766-67). In 1767, he accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in Dover where he remained until 1786. From 1787 until his death in 1798, he occupied the pulpit of the Federal Street Church (now the Arlington Street Church) in Long Lane. His achievements ranged from writing the monumental History of New Hampshire and founding the Massachusetts Historical Society, to antislavery efforts and sustained literary activity.¹

The correspondence consists mainly of family letters, particularly those of Belknap to his children Joseph, Sarah, and Samuel. Several letters to his wife Ruth comprise an account of a journey to Philadelphia in 1785. A number also deal with Belknap’s early years between Harvard and Dover. A very interesting letter from Belknap to Jedidiah Morse, 1786, regarding corrections to his Geography is included.

Names

Cooper, William
Eliot, Samuel (subject)
Frothingham, Thomas (sub.)
Green, Ezra
Haven, Samuel
Hazard, Ebenezer (sub.)
Langdon, William
MacClintock, Samuel
Partridge, George
Porter, Nathaniel
Stevens, Nathaniel
Thayer, Lydia
Thomas, Isaiah (sub.)
Wheelock, Eleazar (sub.)
Wingate, Paine

Places

Boston
Dover
New York
Philadelphia
Providence
White Mts.

Subjects

Family
Indenture
Indian education
Poetry