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Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 84

Dudley Saltonstall Papers

1779-1821

1 flat box
1.5 linear feet
Accession No. LB2013.26

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 84

Dudley Saltonstall Papers

Saltonstall, Dudley, 1738-1796

Papers, 1779-1821, bulk 1779

1 flat box (21 sheets)

Captain in the Continental Navy and commander of the Penobscot Expedition

Correspondence, procedural notices, and legal notes from Commodore Dudley

Saltonstall's court martial after the failure of the Penobscot Expedition, including testimony and court decisions. There are also a few documents related to Saltonstall's earlier career, and one letter about a Revolutionary War pension for captain Joseph Williams of Norwich, Connecticut.

In English

Museum Purchase; 2013; LB2013.26

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Saltonstall, Dudley, 1738-1796

Penobscot Expedition (1779)

Trials (Naval offenses)

United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783

United States. Continental Navy

Acquisition:

This collection was purchased by Penobscot Marine Museum in 2013.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition. Some documents have tears.

Related Materials:

The documents in this collection have been scanned and are available online:

<<<https://penobscotmarinemuseum.org/PMM-Reader/Topics/saltonstall-papers/>>>

Historical Note:

Dudley Saltonstall (1738-1796) was a sea captain, merchant, and privateersman best known for leading the Penobscot Expedition during the American Revolution. Saltonstall was originally from New London, Connecticut, and sailed as a privateer during the Seven Year's War. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he was one of the first men commissioned by Connecticut as a Navy captain, and commanded the flagship of an expedition that raided the Bahamas for cannons and gunpowder in 1776. In 1779, Saltonstall was placed in command of a fleet sent to dislodge the British from Castine, Maine. This assault, known as the Penobscot Expedition, ended in the capture or loss of the entire American fleet, and Saltonstall was subsequently court-martialed and dismissed from the Continental Navy. He spent the rest of the war as a profitable privateer.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains procedural notices, legal notes, and correspondence from Dudley Saltonstall's court martial over the failure of the Penobscot Expedition in 1779. These include legal summons, transcripts of testimony, court decisions, and Saltonstall's protests over a change in date that meant many of his witnesses would no longer be present. It also includes Saltonstall's appeal to Samuel Huntington, president of the Continental Congress.

While court martial documents form the bulk of the collection, there are a few letters and notes from Saltonstall's earlier career on the navy ship TRUMBULL in Connecticut. There is also a letter regarding a Revolutionary War pension for Joseph Williams of Norwich, Connecticut, dated 1821.

Container List:

- 2013.26.2-3 Warrant for Court Martial of Dudley Saltonstall, September 7, 1779 (2 copies)
- 2013.26.4 Order to appear before the Massachusetts Board of Inquiry, September 11, 1779
- 2013.26.5-6 Request to change date of Court Martial, September 13, 1779 (2 copies)
- 2013.26.9-10 Protest against Naval Board Proceedings, September 17, 1779 (2 copies)
- 2013.26.7-8 Petition to compel witnesses to remain for trial, September 17, 1779 (2 copies)
- 2013.26.11 Order to provide copies of Council of War proceedings, September 23, 1779
- 2013.26.12 Order to provide copies of Council of War proceedings, September 24, 1779
- 2013.26.14 Vote of Court Martial re: Saltonstall's right to call a Council of War, October 6, 1779
- 2013.26.14 Procedural decision re: Saltonstall's right to call a Council of War, October 7, 1779
- 2013.26.15 Copy of decision text, October 7, 1779
- 2013.26.20 Petition from Dudley Saltonstall to Samuel Huntington, November 26, 1779

- 2013.26.18 Notes, Dudley Saltonstall, regarding actions at Castine
- 2013.26.16 Notes, Dudley Saltonstall, of questions to be asked other witnesses

- 2013.26.1 Letter from Thomas Mumford to Dudley Saltonstall, September 6, 1779
- 2013.26.17 Letter from the Navy Board to Dudley Saltonstall, October 7, 1779
- 2013.26.19 Receipt to Jasper Park, wood for ship TRUMBULL, November 2, 1779

- 2013.26.21 Letter, Pension Office to Charles Lathrop re: pension for Joseph Williams, April 25, 1821