

Porter Family Papers, 1761-1793
S 974.42 H231p, Manuscript

Gift of David Cooley and Samuel P. Cooley

Biographical Note:

The papers of the Porter family of Hadley, Massachusetts consist of materials relating to two brothers, Eleazer and Elisha. Both are the sons of Eleazer and Sarah Pitkin Porter. All of the papers relating to Eleazer and some of the papers of Elisha were donated in September 2017 by Samuel P. Cooley. The majority of the Elisha Porter materials were donated in December 2017 by David Cooley. Samuel Cooley also donated some military clothing belonging to the Porter family as well.

Eleazer Porter (1728-1797) graduated from Yale in 1748 and became a lawyer in Hadley. He was subsequently chosen Justice of the Peace, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Judge of Probate. He married first, his cousin, Anne Pitkin, and second, Susanna Edwards, daughter of Jonathan Edwards. In total, he had nine children. At the time of his death, his estate was one of the largest in the town.

Elisha Porter (1742-1796) graduated from Harvard College in 1761, after transferring from Yale. Like his older brother, he became a lawyer. During the Revolution, Elisha was the colonel of the Fourth Hampshire Regiment. He participated in the the battle of Bunker Hill, served as a courier for General Washington, served in Canada, fought in the Saratoga Campaign, and escorted Burgoyne to Boston following his surrender. He also served as Sheriff for Hampshire County during and after the war. He married twice, first to Sarah Jewett, and second, to Abigail Phillips. In total, he had six children.

Scope and Contents:

The papers of **Elisha Porter** are divided into two groups, those produced during the years of the Revolutionary War, and those produced before or after the war. The items produced during wartime will be given a near item level account, while those produced outside of the war will be given a broader account.

Eleazer Porter's papers consist of writs, orders, summonses, receipts, and invoices from 1761-1793. The papers deal with his positions as a Justice of the Peace, and a Judge. There are little personal papers. Folders are arranged by type of material, and then by date.

There are also unidentified receipts that could belong to either brother. Lastly, there is a folder of miscellaneous material, relating to both brothers and other family members, some unidentified.

Container List (2 Boxes)

Elisha Porter Papers

Box 1

Folder	Item
	War Related Materials
1	Provisions account book (1776-1777) and payroll account book (1776-1777) for Porter's Regiment
2	8 page transcript of court marital of Samuel Howe and trial of Eustis Howe, 1777; formal request for court martial, 1777
3	Militia returns for 1775 for the towns of: Leverett, Greenwich, Pelham, New Salem, Sunderland, Granby, Shutesbury, Ware, Belchertown, Amherst, South Hadley, and an unidentified town
4	7 printed broadsides: 17 Jan 1776 recruitment of battalions; 10 Feb 1776 recruitment and payment for Hampshire & Berkshire County Regiments in Canada; 1776 enlistment enrollment (blank); 8 Aug 1777 reinforcement of troops on Northern army; 15 Aug 1777 enlistment of troops; 10 Jun 1778 reinforcement for Northern army; 5 Jun 1780 Raising more troops (4 p.) with town allotments
5	Military Receipts: March 1778 Porter from Billings for making coat and epaulettes; Jan 1776 Porter from Billings for cloth, buttons, waistcoat; Sept 1775 repairing coat & breeches; Feb. 1778 Porter from Miles for breeches; Jany 1776 Porter to Hunt for room and board; April 1777 Porter from Bird for French steel; Sept 1777 Porter to Hunt for room and board; Nov 1781 Porter to Bliss for sale of guns
6	Military Orders: 4 Aug 1775 directed to follow orders of Gen. Washington; 22 Jan. 1776 copy of appointment as Colonel of Regiment; 11 April 1776 Porter giving orders for Regiment to proceed to Crown Point; 20 Apr 1776 orders from Benedict Arnold to proceed to Quebec; 23 May 1776 Baron de Woedtke on forwarding baggage; 26 May 1776 Orders to Porter from Gen. Wooster to La Chine; 1 July 1777 Commissioned as Colonel of fourth Regiment of militia; 3 Aug. 1777 Ordered to be ready at a moment's notice to march; 21 Aug 1777 Porter orders Cook to proceed with men to Manchester; 22 Aug 1777 Porter orders Hooker to march his men to Manchester; 16 June 1778 orders to Porter to be ready instantly; 25 June 1778 Porter ordered to raise men for the guard at Springfield; 11 Sept 1778 ordered to send men to Providence; 28 June 1779 calling for an enquiry or court marital
7	Military Orders: Letter from George Washington to Porter ordering him to Canada 10 Feb 1776
8	Contains various documents relating to Porter's time in the Revolution, including: returns on militia from Ware and Greenwich; an undated proclamation not to accept any commission from royal authority; a Commissary chart for Porter's Regiment; a list of officers from Belchertown, Greenwich, and Ware; Porter's appointment as Colonel of the Fourth Regiment, signed by John Hancock; return of Porter's regiment from August 1779; Report of the Guards at

	New London 1779; Blank Pay roll for Porter's regiment; seven pieces of correspondence relating to his military service or his family from John Hancock, Joseph Smith, Philip Schuyler, Rev. Hopkins, Noah Cooke, Nehemiah Williams, and Justice Forward
	Non-War Related Materials
9	Valuation of the County of Hampshire, 1768; Warrant to meet to elect representatives to general Court, 1768; Account of William Catherwood, Barrack Master in Boston, in quartering troops in that city, 1769
10	Four documents related to the pension application of Lt. John Smith verifying his service in Col. Porter's Regiment
11	Receipts and Invoices, Personal, 1763-1771 (53 items)
12	Receipts and Invoices, Personal, 1772-1793 (58 items)
13	Correspondence, Personal, 1762-1793 (13 items)
14	Settlement of account, 1781; appointment as Sheriff, 1777; Newspaper clipping from <i>The People's Journal</i> (Greenwich, NY.) Oct. 25, 1877 regarding life and military service of Elisha Porter

Eleazer Porter Papers

Box 2

Folder	Item
1	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1761-1763
2	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1764
3	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1765-1766
4	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1767
5	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1768
6	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1769
7	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1770
8	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1771
9	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, 1772
10	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, Jan.-Aug. 1773
11	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, Sept.-Dec. 1773
12	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, Jan.-May 1774
13	Writs, Orders, and Summonses, June-Dec. 1774
14	Receipts and Invoices, 1764-1773

Porter Family

Box 2

Folder	Item
15	Unidentified Receipts and Invoices, 1763-1793, undated
16	Miscellaneous Material