

New Hampshire State Library



Noah Cooke Papers

Call#: ARC 347.742 C7721

Finding Aid

Prepared by Nicole A. Thomas,
edited by Amber Cushing, 2007;
expanded, cataloged, and formatted by Linda Kent
Technical Services, NHSL
December, 2008

Scope and Content Note: The collection includes materials relating to Noah Cooke's work as a lawyer in Keene, New Hampshire, as well as his tenure as town clerk of Keene (1795-1804). The contents consist of court documents from cases dating from 1782-1821. These include, but are not limited to, copies of pleas, arguments, reports, and judgments. There is also Cooke's copy book of legal forms.

Biographical Background: Noah Cooke was born in Hadley, Massachusetts in October, 1749. He graduated from Harvard College in 1769 and went on to study divinity. He received his license to preach in 1771. From 1775 until 1780 he served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary War, achieving the rank of colonel. In 1780 he left the army and moved to Keene, N.H. Here he read law with Daniel Newcomb, Esq. and was admitted to the bar in 1784. After practicing law for several years, he became the town officer in 1792, town moderator in 1793, and then town clerk of Keene in 1795, a post he held continuously until 1804. He was the first president of the General Monadnock Society for the Promotion of Morals (1814) and was the librarian for the Social Library (precursor to the Keene Public Library) at the time of his death in October, 1829.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the New Hampshire State Library in 1899 by Mrs. Bennett H. Nash, a granddaughter of Noah Cooke.

Span Dates: 1782-1821, n.d.

Collection Size: There are 48 loose items in two folders, and one bound copy book of legal forms or declarations, housed in one legal-size Hollinger box (.25 linear ft.)

Copyright Status and Access: The collection is owned by New Hampshire State Library and may be viewed by request.

Subjects, People, Names

Communication in law - Keene, New Hampshire - 18 th -19 th centuries	
Cooke family	Lawyers - Keene, N.H.
Cooke, Noah	Legal correspondence
Keene, New Hampshire - History	

Arrangement and Description: The material in this small and cohesive collection is arranged at the folder level.

Container List: Two folders, one book

Folder 1: 1782-1821

- Paterson vs. Haywood, 1782
- John Sternes, constable of Winchester, correspondence, 1787
- Alexander Stewart, summons, 1788
- Hall vs. Geer, statement, 1793
- Town of Gilsum, paupers' petition, 1797
- Town of Gilsum, judgment, 1797
- Blake vs. Marsh, pleas, 1797

Johnson vs. Hoar, command for goods or estate, 1798
Reed vs. Rook, motion to sever judgment, 1798
"Case on statute for not discharging a mortgage when fair", command for goods or estate, 1799
Declaration, 1800
Real estate decree, 1800
Robeson vs. Root, judgment, 1800
Graves vs. Willson, plea, 1800
Daniel Lawrence, writ notice of slander/defamation, 1801
Allen & Bond vs. How, pleas, 1801
Bartlets vs. North, pleas, 1806
Bond vs. Wilder, deed, 1807
Winch & Row, indenture, jointure or marriage settlement (?), 1807
White vs. Edwards, action, 1808
Parties unknown, please, 1809
Bond vs. Wilder, plea, 1810
Shapley vs. Mann, please, 1811
Reed vs. Kendall, pleas, 1813
Elliot & Appleton, vs. Bemis, pleas, 1814
Baldwin vs. Teukson, report, 1814
Farrar vs. Fisk, statement, 1815
Messenger vs. Mugg, pleas, argument & action, 1815
Francis vs. Robinson, please, 1816
Chapman vs. Linn, opinion of Noah Cooke, 1819
Cooke, Woodward & Daniels vs. Eleanor & Becca Wilson, indenture, 1821

Folder 2: undated

Peters vs. Graves, pleas and arguments
More vs. Billings, arguments
Mann vs. Kneeland, arguments
Shirtiff vs. Parker (?), arguments
Robeson vs. Root, plea
[Unreadable], plea
Geer vs. Grout, plea
Robeson vs. Root, plea
J.W., notice of set off of a promissory note
Case in nature of waste, declarations
Bond & Wheck, billings
Gould vs. Parker, set up of lottery
Foster, power of attorney
Abel Parker, Esquire, judgment of probate
Farmers' dispute concerning the cutting of trees

Legal copy book: 139 pages, ca. late 1700's