



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Am .0683

**Sarah Cresson transcriptions of James Parker
letters and documents**

circa 1916

1 box, 2 volumes, 0.4 linear feet

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Restrictions: None

Sarah Cresson transcriptions of James Parker letters and documents

Creator: Cresson, Sarah

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Abstract

This collection consists of two volumes of letter press copies of transcriptions of selected records between or pertaining to James Parker and Benjamin Franklin that date from about 1739 to 1775. The transcriptions were done around 1916 by Sarah Cresson from the Franklin letter books in the possession of the American Philosophical Society.

James Parker (1714-1770), born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, became one of the nation's most well-known printers. During the 1730s, he was employed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia. By 1742, however, he had moved to New York and, with Franklin's assistance, created his first newspaper, the *New York Gazette Revived in the Weekly Post Boy*. He also established himself as the public printer for the province of New York in 1743. He opened New Jersey's first printing house in 1751 in his native Woodbridge. Parker was appointed controller and secretary of the General Post Office of the British Colonies in 1756. Two years later, he was named the government printer of New Jersey. In addition to newspapers, Parker published novels, almanacs, magazines, and papers. He and Franklin remained in contact until his death in 1770.¹

The first volume contains correspondence from James Parker and others to Benjamin Franklin; the letters date primarily from the 1760s to the early 1770s with less items dating from the 1730s, 1740s, and 1750s. Among the records transcribed in the second volume are agreements, bonds, bills, receipts, memoranda, and other legal and financial papers. Each volume is indexed.

Because the letterpress pages are fragile and some of the copy is fading or flaking, photocopies of the letters have been made. Researchers are asked to use them before using the original volumes.

Subject headings

Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790

Parker, James, 1714-1770

¹ William H. Benedict, "James Parker, the printer, of Woodbridge, *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, new series 8 (July 1932), 195-196.

Bibliography

Benedict, William H. "James Parker, the printer, of Woodbridge." *Proceedings of the Historical Society of New Jersey*, new series 8:3 (July 1923): 194-199.
[call #UNJ F 131 .N58]

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of Sarah Cresson, 1916.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Sarah Cresson transcriptions (Am .0683), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

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This collection was formerly known as Collection 467.