

Subject Index
to the
"Massachusetts" Series
of the
"Judd Manuscript"

Forbes Library
Northampton, Massachusetts

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most important sections of Sylvester Judd's sixty-four volume collection of notes, excerpts, and summations is his "Massachusetts" series. It is a set of five large note-books containing nearly 1800 pages of material dealing with those aspects of the Massachusetts colonial government which were relevant to the western half of the colony. Judd gathered much of the material from the state archives in Boston, and significant sections of each volume carry designations given that material by the state archives. As with the other parts of his "Manuscript," Judd's collection lacks any apparent system of organization, and thus it has been extremely difficult to use as an historical or genealogical tool. The following index is an effort to alleviate that problem.

The emphasis of the "Massachusetts" series is in three major areas. True to his local history orientation, Judd included a great deal of material on the establishment of the various towns of western Massachusetts. The particular emphasis is on those communities founded late in the seventeenth century and those established in the first half of the eighteenth century, especially in Berkshire County. The second major concern of the series is with the frontier and its defense. There are extensive military sections dealing with fortifications and defense

in general, as well as with troop recruitments and muster rolls. Of particular interest is the section devoted to the papers of Israel Williams. There are also important portions on the various frontier wars of the period 1689 to 1763. The third area of interest is in the War for Independence, where the emphasis is on the part played by western Massachusetts in supplying troops and money for the war effort.

Of particular note because of its failure to be included, is genealogical material. It was an important part of the "Connecticut" and "Hadley" series, and the core of the "Vital Statistics" series, but is omitted here in the "Massachusetts" series. The genealogical entries of BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, and PROBATE RECORDS do not appear as main entries in the volumes indexed here, although they are occasionally used as sub-entries for individuals. One suspects that the gathering of the usual genealogical information would have been so vast an undertaking that even the indefatigable Judd shied away from the undertaking.

As with the other indexes to the "Judd Manuscript," this one attempts to follow Judd's own emphasis regarding the relevance and importance of any particular subject. A major effort has been made, however, to make this index compatible in terminology and consistent in organization with the other indexes available. The

"Massachusetts" series is most similar to the "Connecticut" series and many of the same entries are present in both indexes. The emphasis of the index is on towns wherever possible, and appropriate cross references have been included. A few communities are listed under their original names where their modern names were not included by Judd or available from accessible reference works.

Judd did not label his material in a consistent manner, and it has been necessary to select certain terms, which, while they are not Judd's, describe the contents of the "Massachusetts" volumes in ways that it is hoped will be useful and helpful. Some of them are obvious, but others need some explanation. The following terms will be found both as separate main entries and as sub-entries under the towns wherever applicable:

BOUNDARIES is an entry which refers to some note made by Judd regarding the boundary location of a particular town, usually its determination as the result of some controversy.

CHURCH is the entry used for material relevant to the church as a congregation or as a building. It does not include references to the minister.

CLERGY refers to the minister, having to do with his appointment and support, as well as his activities.

FOUNDING is an entry which refers to the establishment of the town, to include such things as the founding covenant and its signers, a land grant by the General Court for a town, or a petition regarding the establishment of a particular town.

INDIANS is an entry covering Indian relations in a town, usually relating to the sale of land by the Indians or to military activity involving them

INHABITANTS refers to some listing of the residents of a particular town, such as a list of "proprietors" or signers of a petition.

LAND GRANTS is an entry used to indicate a list of the individual recipients or owners of land in a particular field or town.

ROADS is an entry which deals with the laying out or maintenance of the streets of a particular town or the location of inter-town or colony roads.

TAXATION is an entry referring to lists of property assessments made on the individual towns by the colonial government or on the individual owner by the towns. The name of the owner, the value of the property, and the amount of the assessment are usually included.

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