

Record Groups PC

Provincial Congress

Repository:
Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125

Reviewed 2020-08-21

Record Group List:

- [Provincial Congress \(PC1\)](#)
- [Provincial Congress – Committee of Safety \(PC2\)](#)
- [Provincial Congress – Committee of Supplies \(PC3\)](#)

Record Group Descriptions and Related Series:

Record Group Number: PC1

Record Group Name: Provincial Congress

Historical Note:

As of Aug. 1, 1774, Gov. Thomas Gage had replaced the Council chosen from among the members of the General Court with one appointed by royal writ of mandamus. On Sept. 1 he called for the election of representatives to a General Court to meet in Salem on Oct. 5, but on Sept. 28 discharged them. Nevertheless ninety elected representatives met as scheduled, protested Gage's action, and on Oct. 7 resolved themselves into a Provincial Congress. They then adjourned until Oct. 11 in Concord, where 250 elected delegates assembled as a governing body of Massachusetts in opposition to the crown-appointed governor and council.

John Hancock was chosen president and Henry Gardner receiver general, with taxes to be paid to him instead of to the royal government. A Committee of Safety was appointed Oct. 26, 1774; with the congress it was responsible for military organization and provisioning of supplies and ordnance. The congress dissolved on Dec. 10, 1774, followed by a second, Feb. 1-May 29, 1775, and a third beginning May 31, 1775.

Replying to a request of the second congress, on June 9, 1775 the Continental Congress resolved that the 1691 Massachusetts Bay charter had been abridged and that the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and councilors were vacant; it advised the Provincial Congress to request towns to elect representatives to a General Court, which would choose councilors. The third Provincial Congress dissolved itself on July 19, 1775, when the

General Court convened as the official and permanent government of Massachusetts. St 1775-76, c 1 confirmed the resolves of the preceding congresses.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/122297699>

Related Series:

Proceedings, 1774-1775

Identifier: PC1/1704X
Extent: Originals 2 volumes
Copies (transcript) 0.43 cubic ft. (2 volumes)
Copies (series microfilm) 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm
Arranged: In three subseries:
(1) Oct. 7-Dec. 10, 1774
(2) Feb. 1-May 29, 1775
(3) May 31-July 19, 1775;
Arranged within each subseries chronologically by date of meeting.
Notes: Owned and annotated by William Lincoln, compiler of published version. Vol. 1 (Oct. 7, 1774-Apr. 15, 1775) presented by nephew William S. Lincoln to state secretary in 1889. Vol. 2 (Apr. 22-May 21, 1775) presented by Lincoln to American Antiquarian Society in 1875; transferred to Archives at request of State Archivist Richard Hale, 1971.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/83622717>

Records, 1774-1775

Identifier: PC1/2045X
Extent: For current extent, consult index database
Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/81818786>

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Record Group Number: PC2

Record Group Name: Provincial Congress – Committee of Safety

Historical Note:

Per a resolve of Oct. 20, 1774, the first Provincial Congress established the nine-member Committee of Safety to oversee actions taken for the defense and safety of the Province of Massachusetts Bay during the Revolutionary War. The committee supervised the process

of military build-up and provided for procurement and disbursement of arms, munitions, and other supplies through oversight of the Committee of Supplies.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/145429840>

Related Series:

Minutes, 1774-1775

Identifier: PC2/380X

Extent: 1 volume

Copies 3 microfilm reels ; 35 mm

Arranged: Arranged chronologically.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/82210825>

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Record Group Number: PC3

Record Group Name: Provincial Congress – Committee of Supplies

Historical Note:

In pre-Revolutionary Massachusetts, the first Provincial Congress ordered a committee to inquire and report on the proper time for the province to provide a reserve of powder, ordnance, and ordnance stores (Journals, Oct. 24, 1774). The committee provided an itemized list of proposed ordnance the following day. Then the congress appointed a Committee of Supplies to work in conjunction with the Committee of Safety to provide for the reception, support, and provision of any militia that might be formed (Journals, Oct. 26, 1774). The committee continued in existence for only a few months after the resumption of the General Court in July 1775 (Resolves 1775-75, c 371 (Nov. 9, 1775)). Its work was assisted by a commissary (Journals, Feb. 11, 1775) and a quartermaster general (Journals, Committee of Safety, Apr. 30, 1775)

During the period of the second Provincial Congress, the Committee of Supplies was empowered to purchase military stores and provisions and to deposit them in suitable places for delivery to the troops by the commissary general (Journals, Apr. 29, 1775). The following day the Committee of Safety was able to report (Journals, Apr. 30, 1775) the presence of ordnance stores at Cambridge and Watertown (at Edward Richardson's tavern, to which Capt. Waite Foster had been ordered to care for cannon and entrenching tools-- Journals, Committee of Safety, Apr. 22, 1775), supply sites that amassed and delivered

weaponry and accouterments to the Massachusetts army. Soon thereafter, the third congress appointed Major Nathaniel Barber ordnance storekeeper at Cambridge (Journals, June 7, 1775), succeeded by Ezekiel Cheever (Journals, June 27, 1775). Meantime, four storekeepers of officer rank were authorized (Journals, June 19, 1775). Following his July 1775 assumption of command of the Continental Army in Cambridge, George Washington reorganized Massachusetts ordnance stores and storekeepers. In August, he appointed Cheever to the position of Commissary of Artillery, later renamed Commissary of Military Stores of the Continental Army.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/145429905>

Related Series:

Ordnance store records, 1775

Identifier: PC3/2353X

Extent: 1 folder

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/82628454>

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