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Elizabeth Little  
Papers

2008.008

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series	Subseries	Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	4	
	Series Description	5	
1	Billings Farms	6	1
2	Prout Property	7	1
3	Hobbs Brook Mills	8	1
4	Brown's Farm	10	1
5	Local History Walks	11	1
6	Estate Inventories	12	1
7	Lincoln in 1775	13	1
8	Concord Turnpike	14	1
9	Flint Properties	15	1
10	Hoar Inventory	16	1
11	American Chestnut in Lincoln	17	1
12	William Rotch Memorandum	17	1
13	Billing Family	18	1
14	Mason House	18	1
15	Research notes	19	1
16	News Letters	19	1
17	Miscellaneous	20	1

### **Collection Information**

Abstract : Historical and archaeological research materials relating to sites in Lincoln, collected or written by Elizabeth A. Little, Lincoln archaeologist and historian.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository

Preferred Citation : Archives/Special Collections of the Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in archives, 2008.

MARC Access: Collection is catalogued in MARC under the following subject headings (lsh, aat, gmgpc, etc.)

Lincoln (Mass.) -- History.

Lincoln (Mass.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.

Archaeology -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.

Dwellings -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln. Historic sites -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.

Farms -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.

Hobbs Brook (Middlesex County, Mass.)

Toll roads -- Massachusetts.

Cambridge and Concord Turnpike Corporation.

American chestnut -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.

Inventories of decedents' estates -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln. lsh

Wills -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln. lsh

Billing family.

Rotch, William, 1734-1828.

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Elizabeth A. Little, born in Vermont, lived much of her life in Lincoln. She received a PhD in Physics in 1954, and worked for several years in that field. In 1985 after returning to college, she received an MA in Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts. She was well known as a Lincoln historian and archaeologist, and did extensive research into 18<sup>th</sup> century Lincoln. She is perhaps best known for her archaeological work in Nantucket, with more than 70 publications on the historic and pre-historic Native Americans of the northeast, particularly those of Nantucket. She died August 12, 2003 at the age of 76.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection comprises research papers and other documentation written or collected around 1970 by Dr. Little relating to Lincoln history, genealogy, and archaeology, and includes materials and information about early mills and farms and their owners; early roads, specifically the Concord Turnpike; wills and estate inventories; materials relating to mature chestnut trees in Lincoln and the possible resurgence of the American chestnut; copies for research purposes of 18<sup>th</sup> century documents; newsletters of the Lincoln Historical Society, and miscellaneous materials.

The collection is divided into seventeen series, arranged topically by Dr. Little.

### **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Billings Farms, 1973. (4 items)

Series 2: Prout Property, ca. 1971. (2 items)

Series 3: Hobbs Brook Mills, ca. 1970. (16 items)

Series 4: Brown's Farm, ca. 1970. (2 items)

Series 5: Local History Walks, ca. 1970. (6 items)

Series 6: Estate Inventories, ca. 1970s. (5 items)

Series 7: Lincoln in 1775, 1974. (2 items)

Series 8: Concord Turnpike, 1900s. (2 items)

Series 9: Flint Properties, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century. (2 items)

Series 10: Hoar Inventory, 1786, transcribed 1971. (1 item)

Series 11: American Chestnut in Lincoln, 1970s. (3 items)

Series 12: William Rotch Memorandum, 1814, transcribed 1969. (1 item)

Series 13: Billing Family, 18<sup>th</sup> century, transcribed 20<sup>th</sup> century. (2 items)

Series 14: Mason House, 20<sup>th</sup> century. (4 items)

Series 15: Research Papers, 20<sup>th</sup> century photocopies of 1775 documents. (2 items)

Series 16: News Letters, 1967-1991. (7 items)

Series 17: Miscellaneous, 1986-1993. (3 items)

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 1, Billings Farms

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2008.008.1.1	Sketch map of farms and houses at Billings End, Concord (now Lincoln) : manuscript / E. A. Little, 1973. (with aqp)
1	1	2008.008.1.2	Billing family tree, brothers Nathaniel and John, and their sons and grandsons : manuscript / [E. A. Little, 1973] (with aqp)
1	1	2008.008.1.3	Deed of gift, Samuel Billing to Timothy Billing, 1739 : typescript, with sketch map / E. A. Little, [1973] (with aqp)
1	1	2008.008.1.4	Inventory of real property belonging to Daniel Billing, 1756 : typescript, with sketch map / [E. A. Little, 1973], transcribed by Ethan Heijn. (with aqp)

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 2, Prout Property

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2008.008.2.1	Prout miscellany, includes family relationships, boat and land ownership, etc. : typescript / E. A. Little, [ca. 1971]
1	2	2008.008.2.2	Summary of Stony Brook mill research, site may have been on Prout land : typescript, with sketch map / Elizabeth A. Little, March 1971.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 3, Hobbs Brook Mills

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2008.008.3.1	Letter from Betty (Elizabeth Little) to Peg, relating to Hobbs Brook mill sites : manuscript, 3 p. / March 20 nd.
1	3	2008.008.3.2	Mill history progress report; research into the Hobbs Brook mills : typescript, 7 p., maps / 1970.
1	4	2008.008.3.3	Note from Betty (Elizabeth Little) relating to mill site : manuscript / nd
1	4	2008.008.3.4	Letter from Betty Little to Peg, relating to mill site land owners in the 1700s : manuscript / nd.
1	4	2008.008.3.5	<i>The top layer of mill site history, or, The last hundred years</i> ; mill site history from ca. 1830 : typescript, 3 p., maps / Elizabeth A. Little, October 1969.
1	5	2008.008.3.6	Deed of real estate, Joseph Abbott to William Benjamin (land along Hobbs Brook and mill dam), April 17 1804 : typescript, with map / nd.
1	5	2008.008.3.7	<i>Abbott's mansion house</i> (land transactions in the area of Hobbs Brook mills : typescript, map / E. A. Little, 1970. (2 p.)
1	5	2008.008.3.8	Part of A Plan of the Town of Lincoln, 1758, showing Abbot property : photocopy / nd.
1	5	2008.008.3.9	A plan of the road from Concord to Cambridge drawn from a scale of half a mile per inch : photocopy / Peter Tufts, 1801 (?)
1	5	2008.008.3.10	Copy from a photostat of an 1794 map of the northeastern part of Lincoln and adjoining Towns, indicating mills : photocopy / nd.



Series 3, continued

1	5	2008.008.3.11	Copy of page from Joshua Childs' 1770 account book, mostly accounts with Edmund Wheeler : photocopy / n.d.
1	6	2008.008.3.12	Summary of Abbott's mill history as seen January 1971 : typescript / E. A. Little, 1971.
1	6	2008.008.3.13	Hypothetical sequence of mills, dams, canals on upper Hobbs Brook : manuscript, sketch plans / EAL (Elizabeth A. Little) 1971.
1	6	2008.008.3.14	Plan of canal, showing location of upper and lower dams ca. 1780 : photocopy / nd.
1	6	2008.008.3.15	Plan of canal and adjacent area, 1904 : photocopy / nd.
1	6	2008.008.3.16	Letter of interest in preservation of mill sites in Lincoln : typescript / Lincoln Historical Society, nd.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 4, Brown's Farm.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2008.008.4.1	Letter from Betty Little to Peg, relating to the original land comprising Brown's Farm : manuscript / May 30, nd.
1	7	2008.008.4.2	Brown's Farms, rough preliminary sketch; indicates approximate outline of the original farm and later division into four farms : manuscript, sketch map / E. A, Little, May 1969.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 5, Local History Walks

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2008.008.5.1	Letter from Betty (Elizabeth Little) to Peg, relating to presentation of local history : manuscript / nd.
1	8	2008.008.5.2	Open letter to volunteers using the natural historical resources (sites) in Lincoln : typescript / Elizabeth A. Little, Lincoln Historical Society, nd.
1	8	2008.008.5.3	Lincoln History Walk #1, Hobbs Brook at Mill Street; site description and map : typescript, 2 p. / Elizabeth A. Little, ca. 1970. (2 p.)
1	9	2008.008.5.4	Lincoln History Walk #2, Twin Pond; site description and directions : typescript / [Elizabeth Little, ca. 1970]
1	9	2008.008.5.5	Lincoln History Walk #3, Flint's Mill; site description and sketch map : typescript / Elizabeth A. Little, October 1971. (2 p.)
1	9	2008.008.5.6	Lincoln History Walk #4, Mount Misery ; site description, historical background, sketch map : typescript / Elizabeth A. Little, Lincoln Historical Society, October 1971. (3 p.)

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 6, Estate Inventories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	2008.008.6.1	Inventory of the estate of Nathan Brown, late of Lincoln, deceased December 25, 1781 : typescript, 3 p. / Middlesex Probate Series 1 #3145.
1	11	2008.008.6.2	Inventory of the estate of Gregory Stone, late of Lincoln, deceased [1807] : typescript, 4 p. / Middlesex Probate Series 1 #21599, transcribed by Elizabeth A. Little
1	12	2008.008.6.3	Inventory of the estate of William Bond, late of Lincoln, deceased, November 22, 1776 : typescript, 3 p. / Middlesex Probate Series 1 #2197.
1	13	2008.008.6.4	Inventory of the estate of Joseph Abbot, late of Lincoln, deceased, September 15, 1794 : typescript, 1 p. / Middlesex Probate Series 1 #34; transcribed by Jimmy Turner & Elizabeth A. Little, January 1972.
1	13	2008.008.6.5	Inventory of the estate of Mrs. Ruth Underwood, late of Lincoln, deceased, May 24, 1776 : typescript, 1 p. / Middlesex Probate Series 1 #23185; transcribed by Elizabeth A. Little et al., January 1972.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 7, Lincoln in 1775

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	14	2008.008.7.1	<i>My best idea of Lincoln in 1775</i> , sketch map showing houses in existence in 1775 : manuscript / Elizabeth A. Little, July 1974.
1	14	2008.008.7.2	<i>My best list of Lincoln houses in 1775</i> , lists houses still existing and those no longer in existence : typescript / Elizabeth A. Little, July 1974.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 8, Concord Turnpike

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	15	2008.008.8.1	<i>The Concord Turnpike</i> , paper on the history of the turnpike, including the Act passed by the Legislature to incorporate, published in the <i>Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Vol. 3, 1905</i> : photocopy / A. Bradford Smith, February 10, 1903. (2 copies)
1	15	2008.008.8.2	Littleton article : photocopy / from <i>Historic homes and places ...</i> , William Richard Cutter, 1908.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 9, Flint Properties

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	16	2008.008.9.1	Appraisal of the real estate of Ephraim Flint, late of Lincoln, deceased intestate; with description of the widow's dower of one-third the estate, and description of divisions of the property among the children, November 17, 1766 : typescript, 4 p. / transcribed, nd.
1	16	2008.008.9.2	Plan of the farm of George Flint, Lincoln Mass., total area 170.79 acres, scale 1 in. = 5 chains : photocopy, 2 p. / Albert E. Wood, Surveyor, November 1901.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 10, Hoar Inventory

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	17	2008.008.10.1	An inventory of the estate of Lt. John Hoar, late of Lincoln, deceased May 16, 1786, testate; including real and personal property, wearing apparel, household furnishings and furniture, tools, and notes : typescript, 5 p. / Middlesex Probate Court #11592 Series 1, transcribed by Elizabeth Little et al., December 1971.



Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 11, American Chestnut in Lincoln

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	18	2008.008.11.1	The American Chestnut in Lincoln, written by students of Smith School : 5 p., typescript, ill. / Jean Koehler and five other students, 1972.
1	18	2008.008.11.2	Map showing location of nut-bearing American chestnuts in 1972 in Lincoln : typescript, map / edited by Elizabeth A. Little, 1972.
1	18	2008.008.11.3	Henry D. Thoreau, on chestnuts in Lincoln; three excerpts from his Journals of 1856 and 1857 : typescript transcription / ca. 1970.

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Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 12, William Rotch Memorandum

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	19	2008.008.12.1	Memorandum written by William Rotch in 1814 in the 80 <sup>th</sup> year of his age; describes his actions and stand as a Quaker and pacifist during the Revolutionary War : typescript, 2 p. / transcribed by Elizabeth A. Little, 1969. (Ancestor or relation to Elizabeth Rotch Farrar of Lincoln)

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 13, Billing Family

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	20	2008.008.13.1	An inventory of the estate both real and personal, of Daniel Billing, late of Lincoln, intestate, died 1755 : typescript, 2 p. / Middlesex Probate #1-1749, transcribed by Jenny Willman et al., nd.
1	20	2008.008.13.2	Last Will and Testament of Timothy Billing of Lincoln written in 1781 : typescript, 5 p. / transcribed by Elizabeth A. Little (?), nd.

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Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 14, Mason House

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	21	2008.008.14.1	Description of the ca. 1800 Mason House on Mill Street, Lincoln : typescript, 1 p. / nd.
1	21	2008.008.14.2	Sketch plan of attic framing and first floor plan : manuscript, plan / R. C. Chapin, nd.
1	21	2008.008.14.3	Photocopies of photographs of Mason House : poor legibility, 3 prints / nd.
1	21	2008.008.14.4	Lincoln, in <i>Map of Boston and its vicinity</i> by John G. Hales : photocopy, 2 p. / 1829 original.

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 15, Research Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	22	2008.008.15.1	Town Meeting records from 1775 : photocopies, 4 p. / nd.
1	22	2008.008.15.2	Address to the Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay, re defense against British aggression; from minutes of the Second Provincial Congress, 1775 “ photocopy, 2 p. / nd.

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Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 16, News Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	23	2008.008.16.1-.5	Lincoln Historical Society newsletters, most include information about the Hobbs Brook mill sites : typescript, sketch maps / 1967-1969. (5 items)
1	23	2008.008.16.6-.7	Program notices for events : ill., maps / Lincoln Historical Society, 1991. (2 items)

Elizabeth Little Papers  
2008.008  
Series 17, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	24	2008.008.17.1	<i>The Bemis Hall Birthday Bash</i> , musical satire on the occasion of Bemis Hall 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary : booklet, 8 p. / Lincoln Players, Historical Society, 1993.
1	24	2008.008.17.2	Archaeology in Massachusetts, 1980-1985; a paper read at Symposium, Eastern States Archaeological Federation : 24 p. / Elizabeth A. Little, c. 1986.
1	24	2008.008.17.3	A portfolio of published papers by Elizabeth A. Little : typescript, 2 p. / 1976-1986.