

**Sturgis Library Archives**  
**MS. 171**  
**Prince Family Letters, 1715-1751**

**Extent:** 1 folder in multifold box.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of 3 early letters written by members of the Prince family – John, Thomas, and Sarah.

**Historical and biographical information:** John Prince (1692-1717) and Rev. Thomas Prince (1687-1758), both born in Sandwich, were sons of Samuel Prince (1649-1728) and Mary Hinckley (1662-1736), and grandsons of Governor Thomas Hinckley (1618-1706 and his wife Mary Smith (1630-1703) of Barnstable.

**John** appears to have been a mariner, and asks in this letter to be kept from “delusion and debauched company...debauchery especially in the talk, that being very common among sailors.” He was lost at sea in 1717, two years after the letter was written.

**Thomas** was a noted clergyman, scholar, and author. He was minister at the Old South Church in Boston for 50 years. The letter in this collection is dated 1756, two years before his death.

**Sarah** was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Prince, and was an American Christian prayer group leader and writer. She married Moses Gill (1734-1800) in 1759, and she died in 1771. Gill went on to become the fourth Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, from 1794-1800, and Acting Governor from June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1799 to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1800, the day he died.

**Access:** Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

**Acquisition:** Donated by Judith Staples.

**Processed by:** Lucy Loomis, March 2020.

**CONTENTS:**

- Information and articles on John, Thomas, and Sara Prince, and Moses Gill.
- 1715 letter from John Prince to his wife Elizabeth.
- 1750 letter from Sarah Prince to Mrs. Laziell (?), possibly a cousin
- 1751 letter from (Rev.) Thomas Prince to cousin Elizabeth Ellis.