The Government Document in Early New Jersey History

Production—Distribution—Management

Talk presented at the 2014 Fall Conference of
The Document Association of New Jersey
by
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The Documents Association of New Jersey promotes the use of and access to government publications in libraries in the NJ area.
The Two Questions

• What was New Jersey’s first government publication?

• What makes government publications different?
Where to Begin

“For practical purposes here, government publications can be said to date from after the invention of printing from movable type in the mid-1400s, or subsequent to the introduction of printing in the various jurisdictions.” (James Bennett Childs)
The Search for New Jersey’s First Public Document
When Did New Jersey Begin?

24 June 1664 release conveying land from James, Duke of York to Sir George Carteret and John, Lord Berkeley

Original at the New Jersey State Archives
The House of Stuart

- James I (1603 –)
- Charles I
- Charles II
- James II (1688 –)
- The Protectorate (1650 – 1660)
  - Oliver Cromwell
The House of Stuart, Jersey Events

1600 - 1660

James I

Charles I

1660 - 1700

Charles II

James II

Prince Charles spends two months on Jersey 1646

Charles, the titular king, spends five months on Jersey 1649 – 1650 (First NJ)

Charles restored to the throne 1660

New Jersey created 1664 (Second NJ)
Island of Jersey

Channel Islands

Jersey
Home of the Carteret Family
New Jersey’s Beginnings

1664

Owners of NJ
James, Duke of York
Carteret & Berkeley

Governors of NJ & NY
Richard Nicolls
Philip Carteret

1665

Nicolls leaves England before release of NJ to Carteret & Berkeley
Dutch surrender to Nicholls
Philip Carteret arrives in New Jersey
Nicolls made a journey through the woods to Boston, and returned back in a months time.
The Conditions for New-Planters in the Territories of His Royal Highness the Duke of York

Cambridge: Printed by Samuel Green. 1665
Landing at Elizabethtown

Howard Pyle
Another View

THE LANDING OF CARTERET IN NEW JERSEY.
The House of Stuart, The Dutch Return

- **1600**: Prince Charles spends two months on Jersey 1646
- **1649 – 1650**: Charles, the titular king, spends five months on Jersey (First New Jersey)
- **1664**: New Jersey created
- **1660**: Charles restored to the throne
- **1673 – 1674**: Dutch capture then give up NY/NJ (Third NJ) (East & West)
- **1700**: Dutch capture then give up NY/NJ (Second NJ)
Government of New Jersey 1674 – 1702

Dutch capture New York, August 9, 1673

Returned to England by Treaty of Westminster, signed Feb. 9, 1674; put into effect Nov. 1674

March 18, 1674, Berkeley sells his share of New Jersey

July 1, 1676
Quintipartite Deed

April 17, 1702

Government surrendered to Queen Anne, April 17, 1702
New Jersey becomes a unified Royal Colony
New Jersey’s First Government Publication

Original at
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
An Act for Regulating the Purchasing of Land from the Indians.

WHEREAS Several ill disposed Persons within this Province, have formerly presumed to enter into Treaties with the Indians, or Natives thereof, and have purchased Lands from them, such person or persons deriving no Title to any part of the Soil thereof under the Crown of England, or any person or persons claiming by, from, or under the same, Endeavouring thereby to subvert her Majesty's Dominion in this Country,

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor, Council, and General Assembly now met and Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That no Person or Persons whatsoever forever hereafter shall presume to buy, take a Gift of Purchase in Fee, take a Mortgage or Lease for Life or Number of Years, from any of the Indians or Natives for any Tract or Tracts of Land within this Province, after the first day of December, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Three, without first obtaining a Certificate, under the hand of the Proprieters Recorder, for the time being, certifying such person hath a Right and Title entitled to a Propriety, or share in a Propriety, such person or persons shall produce such Certificate to the Governor for the Time being, in Order to Obtain a Licence to purchase such Quantities of Land or Number of Acres from the Indians or Natives aforesaid, as such Certificate mentions.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall presume to buy, purchase, take Gift or Mortgage or Lease of any Land contrary to this present Act, he or they so offending shall forfeit Forty Shillings Money of this Province, for each Acre of Land so obtained.
New Jersey’s First Typographical Error

Anno Regni
First to Print a New Jersey Government Publication

Here lies the Body of Mr. William Bradford Printer, who departed this Life May 28, 1752, aged 92 Years. He was born in Leicestshire, in Old England, in 1660, and came over to America in 1682, before the City of Philadelphia was laid out. He was Printer to this Government for upwards of 30 Years; and being quite worn out with Old age and labour, he left this

William Bradford 1663 – 1752

Find A Grave
Russ Dodge
A Printer Arrives

From Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
With Illustrations by E. Boyd Smith
1916
Selection of Printer

1740

By Virtue of an Order of the House, I do appoint Benjamin Franklin to print these Votes.

A. JOHNSTON, Speaker.
The following is a List of the Books on Hand belonging to the Legislature:

5. Do. of the Senate of the United States, 4 Vols. Folio and one Pamphlet.
10. 1 Do. Pennsylvania Do.
14. 2 Do. by Wilson.
15. 4 Vols. Pamphlets of the Jersey Laws, bound.
16. 5 Vols. of New-Jersey Laws and Ordinances.
23. Paley's Philosophy, 2 Copies Do.
26. Journals of the old Congress, except the 7th and 9th Vols.
27. Journals of the Assembly of Pennsylvania from 1780 to 1790, incomplete.
29. 1 Pamphlet Acts of Congress.
30. 1 Do. Communications from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Congress of the United States.
31. Report of the Secretary of the Treasury containing a Plan for the further Support of the publick Credit.
32. Minutes of the Convention, ratifying the Constitution of the United States.
33. Massachusetts Perpetual Laws, 1 Vol.

The House rose without Day.

Source: Votes and Proceedings of the Twentieth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, 18 March 1796 (Original at the New Jersey State Library)
Books on Hand belonging to the Legislature—1796:
A Closer Look

Source: Votes and Proceedings of the Twentieth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, 18 March 1796 (Original at the New Jersey State Library)
What Makes Government Publications Different?
What Makes Government Publications Different?

• Production: written and printed under the auspices of some government entity (GPO)

• Distribution: importance of deposit and exchange (FDLP)

• Management: cataloging, classification, control, and special bibliographic tools (SuDoc #)
Ordered, that the said Printer print 273 Sets of the Votes of the House this Session, as soon as conveniently he can, and send 48 to the Treasurer of the Western Division, to be distributed as follows.

To the Governor 8
Each of the Council 2
The Agent 6
The Officers of the House and Council each 5

And that the Printer deliver to the Members of the House, or their Order, as follows.

Pertb-Amboy 10
Middlesex 16
Monmouth 30
Essex 25
Somerset 18
Bergen 16

Burlington City 10
Burlington County 16
Gloucester 16
Salem & Cumberland 20
Cape-May 12
Hunterdon & Morris 36

Mr. Pisser reported, that Mr. Ogden and himself waited on his Excellency with the Message of the House, and that he was pleased to say, he would send for the House as soon as he had a Council.
First Deposit to States

1777 – 1788
States to Send 13 Copies of Legislative Acts to the Secretary of Congress

On motion of Mr. Gerry, seconded by Mr. Hardy, Resolved, That the secretary of Congress apply to the executives of the several states, for thirteen copies of the legislative acts thereof, since the first of September 1774, inclusive: that one set of the said acts be retained for the use of Congress, and that he deliver to the delegates of each state, one set (exclusive of its own acts) for the use of the legislature thereof. And the secretary is further directed to adopt a similar mode for procuring the acts which may hereafter be passed as aforesaid, to the end that every state being thus informed, may have the fullest confidence in the other states and derive the advantages which may result from the joint wisdom of the whole.
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1853

Section: Statute Laws of the Separate States
Subheading: New Jersey
Grants and Concessions Record
As It Appeared in 1900

Appears under the heading “New Jersey.”

The Grants, Concessions, and Original Constitutions of the Province of New Jersey, the Acts Passed during the Proprietary Governments, and Other Material Transactions Before the Surrender thereof to Queen Anne, The Instrument of Surrender, and Her formal Acceptance thereof. Lord Cornbury’s Commission and Instructions consequent thereon. Collected by some gentlemen employed by the General Assembly, and afterwards published by virtue of an Act of the Legislature of said Province, with proper Tables alphabetically digested containing the principal matters in the Book. By Aaron Leaming and Jacob Spicer. Philadelphia: W. Bradford [1758].
A Librarian Takes Charge
What Happened 1853 to 1900?

• Country’s First Librarians’ Convention, 1853
  Issues discussed: Cataloging, classification and indexing, exchanges between libraries, selection of books, and distribution of government documents.

• Charles A. Cutter’s *Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue*, 1876
  Issued as part two of *Public Libraries in the United States of America Their History, Condition, and Management* (Presented at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education.)

• Printing Act of 1895
  Consolidated sales, library distribution, and cataloging and indexing of government publications within GPO under the Superintendent of Documents.
Government publications constitute a borderland between archives and libraries.

Friedrich Facius
Archival Arrangement

The structure of an Archive should reflect the structure of the organization that produced the documents collected in it.
Government Publications
Bibliographer/Librarian

GPO Photo Collection
Public Documents Library, 1895 – 1972
As her understanding of government information deepened over time, Hasse became ever more convinced that work with documents required an understanding of the structure and functions of government as an organization . . . .

“The study of government documents, or government publications, or official literature, is the study of the mechanism of modern government as expressed in its publications.”