

Benjamin Lincoln letter

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Lincoln, Benjamin, 1733-1810.
Title:	Benjamin Lincoln letter
Dates:	1778
Extent:	0.05 cubic feet (1 folder)
Identification:	MS 0495

Biographical/Historical Note

Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810) was born in Hingham, Massachusetts. He married Mary Cushing on January 15, 1756; together they raised six sons and five daughters. In 1757, Lincoln became the Hingham town clerk and was elected justice of the peace in 1762. He served in the legislature in 1772 and 1773, and he was also a member of the Provincial Congress during this time. A Major-General in the Continental Army, in August of 1776 he commanded troops near Boston; a year later he raised a militia in Vermont. Lincoln was commander of the American Army in the Southern department in 1778. He was with the allied forces under the command of Count d'Estaing in the siege and assault on Savannah in September and October of 1779. He was captured during the siege, but was exchanged and returned to battle to fight at Yorktown. In 1781, Lincoln became the Secretary of War, a position he held until 1783. After this time, he became involved in land speculation in Maine, an investment that proved to be financially unsound for Lincoln. He fought against Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts in May, 1787. In 1789 and 1793, Lincoln was involved in the negotiations taking place with the Creek Indian tribes. Lincoln became the collector at the port of Boston in 1789, a position he held until his retirement in 1809, the same year as his death.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains a letter from Benjamin Lincoln, 1778, possibly to John Wereat. The letter is regarding the capture of Savannah by the British on December 29, 1778. This is a negative photocopy of the original letter in the Library of Congress.

Index Terms

Georgia--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Letters (correspondence)
Lincoln, Benjamin, 1733-1810.
Savannah (Ga.)

Location of Originals

Original letter in the Library of Congress.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Unknown.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Benjamin Lincoln letter, MS 495, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Unknown.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Item 1: Benjamin Lincoln letter to John Wereat?, 1778 December 31 (2.0 p.)

Sent from Pocotaligo, South Carolina. Regarding capture of Savannah by the British on December 29, 1778. Negative photocopy.