Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina Research Collection  
PVMA Library

Professor Gretchen Gerzina, and her husband, Anthony, spent hundreds of hours researching her book *Mr. and Mrs. Prince: How an Extraordinary 18th-Century Family Moved Out of Slavery and Into Legend* (New York: Harper Collins, 2008) in the PVMA library’s collection of manuscripts, account books, and daybooks. Lucy Terry (later Prince) lived with the Wells family on Old Deerfield’s main street as an enslaved servant until her marriage to Abijah Prince in 1756. Although unpublished, she is known as the first African American poet. Abijah Prince lived much of his life as a slave in Northfield, Massachusetts. He served in the French and Indian wars of the 1740s and became a free man and entrepreneur. These two former slaves married, became property owners, and original settlers of Vermont.

The Gerzina’s research files that supported the writing of her remarkable book were donated to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in 2015. They contain notes and photocopies of materials researched here and elsewhere, and supplement the contents of *Mr. and Mrs. Prince*.

**Research Notes Container List**

**Box 1**
Libraries, historical societies, general materials  
Library materials  
Account books  
Memoir of Mrs. Chloe Spear  
[Research on other African Americans]  
New England slavery  
Military  
Slaves in Deerfield  
Religion  
French & Indian Wars, 1744-48 (King George’s War)  
Census  
Material culture  
Governor & Council, 1785  
Calendars, chronology

**Box 2: Individual Research files**
Josiah Prince  
Ebenezer Hunt  
Doolittle family papers  
Doolittle family  
Hugh Hall  
Williams (2 folders)  
Williams, Stephen  
Samuel Terry, Jr.  
Samuel Terry, Sr.
Benning Wentworth
Wells family
Jonathan Ashley
Burt family
Field family
Abijah Prince
Royall Tyler/S.R. Bradley
Festus
Lucy
Caleb Sharp
Jeffrey Brace
Ralph Way
Ethan Allen
Scipio Smith
Hebert Honestman
Quack, Samuel Boston
Hull, Amos & Agrippa
Abijah Prince, Jr.
Drucilla Prince
Tatnai Prince
Duroxa
Noyes family
Brownson
Isaac Searler
Caesar
Oliver Waters and co-conspirators
David Proper
Other Princes
Daisy Turner
Peter Thomas / Stephen Pellom

Box 3
Author’s galleys and manuscript of Mr. and Mrs. Prince
Several proof copies of book’s dustjacket