

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State Vermont State Archives

Abner Osgood, Impeachment Considered, Dismissed, 1785

Impeachment for mal-administration of Osgood, a justice of the peace, was requested through petition to the General Assembly. The petition was ultimately dismissed.

On October 20, 1785, while the impeachments of [Lyon](#) and [Barret](#) were concluding, Dr. Nathaniel Gott of Lunenburg filed a petition with the General Assembly requesting the impeachment of Justice of the Peace Abner Osgood of Guildhall for mal-administration (For Gott and Osgood's petitions see [Vermont State Papers](#) Vol. 8., pp. 150-153, 196). On October 27th the committee to whom the petition was assigned reported that "it appears the said Abner Osgood did issue a warrant to apprehend the body of said Gott and did not set forth any matter of charge in said warrant--That the said Osgood did grant an attachment on book account against the said Gott where damages were laid at 15 [pounds] and the sum in demand was 9 [pounds] 8 [shillings]. The said Gott pleaded to the jurisdiction of the court and read the law respecting the limitation of a justices court yet notwithstanding he the said Osgood proceeded to try said cause and rendered judgment thereon..."

The committee recommended, and the General Assembly agreed, that Osgood "appear at the next session of Assembly and shew cause if any he has why an impeachment should not be prosecuted against him." ([Vermont State Papers](#), Vol. III, Part II, p. 206).

On September 7, 1786 Osgood petitioned the General Assembly for postponement of his hearing until the next session, citing the difficulty of the journey and the limited time he had to respond. There is a note in the Manuscript Vermont State Papers, Vol. 17, p. 173 that the impeachment petition was dismissed; see in the same volume pages 157 and 168).

