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Joseph Bowker

The cover is a facsimile of an inventory page of Joseph Bowker's Estate, whose life(1725-1784) is the content of this volume.

He moved to Rutland in 1775, becoming an early political and governmental leader in Vermont. He held numerous positions, including Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectman, first Judge of the County Court, and first Probate Judge.

In 1778 he was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives where he served as Speaker of the House until accepting a position on the Governor's Council.

As a result of his numerous and successful positions within the State he became known as John Hancock of Vermont. This was a complimentary reference to John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence.