



The New York Public Library  
Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division

Guide to the

**Martha Bradstreet land papers**

circa 1801-circa 1871

\_Map Div. 23-801

Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2023.

## Summary

**Creator:** Bradstreet, Martha, 1780-

**Title:** Martha Bradstreet land papers

**Date:** circa 1801-circa 1871

**Size:** .01 linear feet (1 oversize folder)

**Source:** Purchase; Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps, Inc.; 2022.

**Abstract:** Martha Bradstreet (1780-1871) was born in Antigua, West Indies and died in Bennettsville, New York. Through her Bradstreet relatives, Martha inherited lands in New York State, notably tracts in Cosby's Manor in the Mohawk River Valley from the estate of Major General John Bradstreet (1714-1774). Her inheritance was legally jeopardized by her early marriage in Ireland to Mathew Codd in 1799. They emigrated to New York later that year, and in 1801 they began a lengthy legal battle to regain her property rights. She restored her maiden name after their divorce in 1817. The Martha Bradstreet land papers, dated circa 1801-circa 1871, contain manuscript maps and documents pertaining to Bradstreet's legal defense of her property interests in an area known as Cosby's Manor in the Mohawk River Valley of New York, in what are now Herkimer and Oneida Counties. They comprise an exemplified copy dated 1828 of a court document dated 1806 in the case of Mathew Codd and Martha his wife v. Richard Harison and others, partitioning properties in Cosby's Manor, with an attached survey map; a separate copy of a portion of the survey map; and an undated tabulated list of related property transactions. The documents and the survey map bear annotations by "M.B." [Martha Bradstreet]. The maps are copies made by John T. Ludlam, in 1819, of maps made by Charles C. Brodhead in 1805.

**Preferred citation:** Martha Bradstreet land papers, Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2023.

## Creator History

Martha Bradstreet (August 10, 1780 - December 17, 1871) was born in Antigua, West Indies and died in Bennettsville, New York. She and her older brother Samuel were the natural children of Major Samuel Bradstreet of the 40th Regiment of Foot, who died in Antigua in December, 1779. He was the stepson and relative of Major General John Bradstreet (1714-1774) of Nova Scotia, who died in New York City. Both men were colonial officers in the British Army. Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) was Major General John Bradstreet's executor.

Martha's father Samuel and his sister Elizabeth Bradstreet Livius were the children of British Army officer John Bradstreet, a cousin of Major General John Bradstreet, and Mary Aldridge. Bradstreet's widow married Major General Bradstreet; they had two daughters, Martha Bradstreet (died 1782) and Agatha Bradstreet Evans (died February 9, 1795). Martha and Samuel's mother brought them to Major Bradstreet's sister in England, Elizabeth Livius (died May 4, 1795), when Martha was an infant. Martha was raised by her mother and by Bradstreet relatives, including Livius; she lived in Ireland and England while growing up. Samuel was raised by Livius and joined the British Army at a young age. He would later become involved in litigation with his sister in New York State.

Through her Bradstreet relatives, Martha inherited lands in New York State, notably tracts in Cosby's Manor in the Mohawk River Valley from the estate of Major General John Bradstreet. Cosby's Manor originated as a land grant to New York colonial governor William Cosby, running along both sides of the Mohawk River in what are now Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

In addition to other family bequests received by Samuel and Martha, Elizabeth Livius designated Martha as her sole heir. Martha legally jeopardized her inheritance from Livius when she married Mathew Codd in Ireland in 1799 without the consent of the British executor Charles Gould (later Sir Charles Morgan), required for marriage before the age of 21. Under the terms of that will Samuel then became sole heir. That estate would later revert to Martha, and Gould's consent to her marriage was ultimately obtained. Gould held lands and funds in trust for Bradstreet family members and was empowered to carry out transactions on their behalf; some were delegated to his son Edward Gould in New York.

Martha and Mathew Codd emigrated to New York in 1799. In 1801, having reached legal age, she and her husband began what would be a long legal battle to reclaim her property rights while seeking redress for lands the executor had sold in the meantime.

Martha Bradstreet filed for divorce from Mathew Codd in 1816, which was granted by decree in 1817. She successfully petitioned the New York State Legislature to restore her maiden name, and to legally allow the Codd children to change their surname to Bradstreet, in 1817 and 1818 respectively. Martha Bradstreet lost her claim to Cosby's Manor lands in the U.S. Supreme Court case of *James Jackson, Ex Dem. of Martha Bradstreet, v. Henry Huntington*, 30 U.S. 402 (1831), but she and her family continued using legal means to assert various property interests.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Martha Bradstreet land papers, dated circa 1801-circa 1871, contain manuscript maps and documents pertaining to Bradstreet's legal defense of her property interests in an area known as Cosby's Manor in the Mohawk River Valley of New York. The Manor's tracts ran along both sides of the Mohawk River, in what are now Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The papers comprise an exemplified copy dated 1828 of a court document dated 1806 in the case of Mathew Codd and Martha his wife v. Richard Harison and others, partitioning properties in Cosby's Manor, with an attached survey map; a separate copy of a portion of the survey map; and an undated tabulated list of related property

transactions. The documents and the survey map bear annotations by "M.B." [Martha Bradstreet]. The maps are copies made by John T. Ludlam, in 1819, of maps made by Charles C. Brodhead in 1805. Both men were surveyors in New York.

The manuscript legal document (20 pages with attached manuscript survey map) is an exemplified copy dated January 4, 1828 of a Court-appointed commissioners' report dated April 24, 1806 with map, signed by Chief Justice John Savage and clerk James Fairlie of the New York Supreme Court of Judicature. The report partitions land holdings among the parties in the case of Mathew Codd and Martha his wife v. Richard Harison, Edward Goolde, Charles Wilkes, Benjamin Walker, Nathan Williams, Jonas Platt, and Samuel Bradstreet. The survey map shows five maps on one sheet, of lot numbers 2, 43, 47, and 79, and of lots 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 as subdivided into 23 lots. A separate copy of the map of lots 57-61 is contained in the collection.

Each lot map, and the separate copy, are signed and dated by John T. Ludlam at New York, April 8, 1819, bearing the note that the originals were made by surveyor Charles C. Brodhead in 1805. The maps, in pen and watercolor on paper, show boundaries, acreage, subdivisions, roads, and the Mohawk River. The scale of each map is 20 chains per inch (1:15840). Ownership is identified in the report.

The undated manuscript tabular list of Cosby's Manor property transactions, circa 1801-circa 1871, has headings for lot numbers, ranging from 2 to 97; description; supposed number of acres in each lot; to whom sold; quantity of acres sold; and acres remained unsold. The list is annotated, with one group (not represented on the survey map) identified as forming "a large portion of the City of Utica (1854)." Another transaction includes the note "settled by myself M:B." [Martha Bradstreet]. The maps and property list are mounted on cloth, and creased from folding.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

cadastral maps  
Legal instruments  
Manuscript maps  
Manuscripts (documents)

### **Geographic Names**

Herkimer County (N.Y.) -- Maps  
Mohawk River Valley (N.Y.) -- Maps  
Oneida County (N.Y.) -- Maps

### **Subjects**

Landowners -- New York (State) -- Herkimer County  
Landowners -- New York (State) -- Oneida County  
Partition of decedents' estates -- New York (State)  
Real property -- New York (State) -- Herkimer County  
Real property -- New York (State) -- Oneida County  
Women -- Legal status, laws, etc -- United States

### **Names**

Bradstreet, John, 1711-1774 -- Estate  
Bradstreet, Martha, 1780- -- Trials, litigation, etc.  
Bradstreet, Martha, 1780-

Brodhead, Charles C.  
Codd, Mathew  
Ludlam, John T.  
Bradstreet family

## **Container List**

- o. 1 Commissioners' report of April 24, 1806 and map in re Mathew Codd and Martha his wife v. Richard Harison and others 1828 January 4 (Map dimensions: 51 x 78 cm)  
Exemplified copy. Survey map copied 1819.
- o. 1 A map of lots no. 57, 58, 59, 60 & 61, in Cosbys Manor, as the same have been subdivided into twenty three lots in 1805 1819 April 8 (21 x 53 cm)
- o. 1 Tabulated list of property transactions in Cosby's Manor circa 1801-circa 1871