

**PLYMOUTH, 1767  
BOOK 53, PAGE 155**

**JOHN HANCOCK  
AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SIGNATURE**

John Hancock, patriot and statesman, was a stalwart force behind the American Revolution. His headline first signature on the Declaration of Independence cast no doubt of his ardor for the cause. This single signature is the origin of the phrase "Put your John Hancock" ... on the document at hand. While Governor of the Commonwealth, Hancock was very active in Plymouth area real estate, and his signature was found on many original documents recorded at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds. Hancock's ardor spilled over into his business dealings. On at least one occasion, he pursued satisfaction from a local Plymouthian who owed him money. The following portion of his recorded instrument leaves no doubt Hancock was not to be denied.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and Paul J. Garvin

From the "Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection"