

Rev. Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798)

Correspondence, 1760-1790

 $\frac{1}{2}$ Box (67 items)

Jeremy Belknap was born on June 4, 1744 in Boston. He graduated from Harvard in 1762, after which he filled a succession of teaching positions in Milton, N.H. (1762-64), Portsmouth, N.H. (1764-65), and Greenland, N.H. (1766-67). In 1767, he accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in Dover where he remained until 1786. From 1787 until his death in 1798, he occupied the pulpit of the Federal Street Church (now the Arlington Street Church) in Long Lane. His achievements ranged from writing the monumental History of New Hampshire, and founding the Massachusetts Historical Society, to antislavery efforts and sustained literary activity.¹

The correspondence consists mainly of family letters, particularly those of Belknap to his children Joseph, Sarah, and Samuel. Several letters to his wife Ruth comprise an account of a journey to Philadelphia in 1785. A number also deal with Belknap's early years between Harvard and Dover. *A very interesting letter from Belknap to Jedidiah Morse, 1786, regarding corrections to his Geography is included.*

<u>Names</u>	<u>Places</u>
Cooper, William	Boston
Eliot, Samuel (subject)	Dover
Frothingham, Thomas (sub.)	New York
Green, Ezra	Philadelphia
Haven, Samuel	Providence
Hazard, Ebenezer (sub.)	White Mts.
Langdon, William	
MacClintock, Samuel	
Partridge, George	
Porter, Nathaniel	
Stevens, Nathaniel	
Thayer, Lydia	
Thomas, Isaiah (sub.)	
Wheelock, Elezar (sub.)	
Wingate, Paine	

<u>Subjects</u>
Family
Indenture
Indian education
Poetry

1. See Clifford K. Shipton, Sibley's Harvard Graduates XV (1970), 175-195 for a good biographical sketch and Sidney Kaplan, "The History of New Hampshire: Jeremy Belknap as Literary Craftsman," William and Mary Quarterly 3d Ser., XXI (1964), 18-39 for an evaluation of his literary activities.