Guide to the George Boyd and William Boyd Papers, 1773-1775; 1818-1821

Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**
George Boyd and William Boyd Papers, 1773-1775; 1818-1821

**Repository:**
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
http://www.nhhistory.org/

**Collection Number:**
1974.075

**Author of Finding Aid:**
Unknown. Finding aid re-written and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler

**Creators:**
Boyd, George, 1733-1787
Boyd, William, 1773 – approximately 1821

**Language:**
The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**
One box, one envelope

**Abstract:**
Papers, 1773-1821, include mostly letters dealing with the commercial activities of William and George Boyd.
Access and Use

**Acquisition Information and Provenance:**
Gift of William R. Corwine, 1974

**Processing Information:**
This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person but was re-written and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in April, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

**Access Restrictions:**
Available for research.

**Location:**
The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**
This collection is on paper; there are no technical requirements for use.

**Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**
For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

**Preferred Citation:**

Collection Overview

**Biographical Information**

George Boyd, 1733-1787, was a successful shipbuilder and merchant in Portsmouth, NH in the 1760's and early 1770's. He was reportedly the richest man in Portsmouth, NH in 1770. His principal business was shipbuilding, but in 1762, he purchased the mill of Peter Livius and began exporting lumber. He was a Colonel in the militia but had loyalist leaning. He left Portsmouth at the beginning of the Revolution and died when he returned to the city in 1787.

William Boyd, son of George Boyd, was born in Portsmouth, NH in 1770. He left for England with his father in 1775 and did not return until 1787. He began a career as a shipping merchant and remained in Portsmouth until 1810-1815 when he moved to New Orleans and became a commission merchant. Little is known of Boyd after 1821 but it is assumed he remained there until his death.
**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

George Boyd’s letter book (91 pages) was kept for his business; most were written between 1773 and 1775 and deal with his commercial activities: contracts, shipping schedules, construction, credit, accounts. There is some political comment and assessment of British commercial policy.

William Boyd’s letter book (598 pages) was also kept for his business and covers the period April 27, 1818 to May 21, 1821. The letters deal almost exclusively with his commercial activities: contracts, prices, volumes, commodities, credit, the state of the New Orleans market and fluxes in the Mississippi trade in general. There are also accounts of several legal disputes, the yellow fever epidemic of 1819-1820, slave transactions, pirates, business failures in New Orleans, the Louisiana courts and some mentions of politics.

The collection includes some transcriptions.

**Arrangement:**
The books are bound and letters remain in the order in which they were written. The pages of George Boyd’s book are unnumbered; it contains 91 letters. William Boyd’s book has 598 numbered pages containing 542 letters.

**Contents List**
The original cataloger prepared lists of some of the people listed in the books. These are transcribed below.

**George Boyd letter book, 1773-1775**

Barkley, Robert (Philadelphia)
Curlett, John
Curlett, Captain Thomas
Coffin, Peter (Exeter)
Crugar & Mallard (Bristol, England)
Crugar, Harry
Crugar, Henry (New York)
Crugar, Nathaniel (St. Croix)
Delany, Daniel (Boston and St. Christopher)
Foster, John (Portsmouth)
Fraser, Thomas (London)
Geyer, Frederick William
Good, John
Graigie, George
Groub, Samuel (London)
Hambleton, John
Howell, Jacob
Howell, Joshua (Philadelphia)
Jones, Mrs. Hanah
Lane, Son & Fraser (London)
William Boyd Letter book, 1818-1821 [the original cataloger also listed page numbers upon which the letters appeared.]

Aigry, Thomas & Emmerson, Edward (Hallowell) 471, 533, 555, 565
Bell, Andrew W. (Portsmouth) 426, 432, 454, 538, 571
Binney, Colonel Amos (Boston) 79, 181, 261, 288, 463, 532, 535, 549, 477
Blunt, Captain Robert (Portsmouth) 168
Brierley, Benjamin (Portsmouth) 126, 130, 137, 159, 317, 328, 344, 350, 377, 444, 492
Burroughs, Edward (Mobile) 169, 185, 410
Calvill, John & son (New York) 68, 86, 92, 122, 161
Cannon, Isaac & Jacob (Laurel, DL) 574
Cartegril, Jaun (Havana) 526
Chadwick, Samuel (Charlestown, SC) 135, 383, 401, 440, 458, 500, 519, 558, 575, 577, 589
Clap, Asa (Portland, ME) 307, 508
Eastman, Jonathan L. (Baltimore) 73, 184, 384, 385, 505
Estes, Thomas (St. Louis) 313, 334, 419, 564
Fine, Henry M. (Philadelphia) 79, 525
Green, Charles B. (Natchez) 132, 153
Haven, Nathaniel A. & John (Portsmouth) 286, 319, 329, 336, 360, 504
Hickey, Philip (Baton Rouge) 142, 148, 153, 179, 183, 203, 220, 240, 263, 346, 353, 381, 388, 494
Ingersoll, William (Mobile), 98, 99, 104, 108, 124, 177, 182, 224, 268, 340, 451, 512
Ketchum, J. & Co. (Bayou Sara), 247, 408, 448, 464, 486
Langham, Major Angus L. (St. Louis), 201, 446, 550
Lewis, David (Philadelphia), 23, 27, 40, 44, 355, 389, 465, 474, 480, 503, 504, 508
Lewis, Haven, & Co. (Philadelphia), 31, 208, 420, 422, 431, 434, 435, 436, 448, 464, 489, 524,
      539
Lord, John P. & Samuel (Portsmouth), 114, 171, 178, 181, 189, 204, 208, 274, 278, 294, 302,
      359, 502
McIntire, William (New York), 357, 441, 468, 490, 520, 576
Mackay, John (Boston), 120, 174, 220, 282, 392, 396
March, Clement (St. Louis), 46, 56, 99, 110, 111, 165, 199, 206, 226, 246, 310, 323, 375, 423,
      447, 481, 487, 513, 534, 562, 580
Milne, Richard (Philadelphia), 321, 382, 387
Nillen, Gov. James (New Orleans), 339
Northam, Stephen P. (Newport, RI), 541, 552, 556, 567, 584, 595
Packard & Gowan (Havana), 100, 101, 140, 145
Parker, John R. (Boston), 168, 218, 222
Paul, Gabriel (St. Louis), 164, 165, 230, 277
Perkins & Parker (Bangor, ME), 154, 289, 451
Potter, Capt. Robinson (Newport, RI), 516, 530, 533, 543, 572
Rice, John (Portsmouth), 203, 257, 333, 412, 453, 592
Ruggles, Nathaniel S. (Newport, RI), 483, 486, 496, 542, 569, 594
Rust, David (Mobile), 93, 183
Robinson, Philip (Charlestown, SC), 428, 520, 566, 568
Robinson, Jacob (Bath, ME), 540, 581
Rose, John (Charlestown), 599
Scribner, Eliphalet (Port au Prince), 141, 146
Smith, R.L. (Natchez), 248, 264, 266, 279, 337
Tenant, Thomas (Baltimore), 7, 14, 21, 35, 47, 75, 144, 366
Venables, Richard R. (St. Louis), 41, 89, 113, 253, 313, 335, 373, 423, 487
Whittelsey, Chauncey (Middletown, CT), 80, 119, 196
Wilkinson, Joseph B. (Washington, MI), 327, 543
Winter, James (Bath, ME), 544

Subject Terms
[The person who did the original finding aid listed a few New Hampshire people as subjects; they are below. A complete list of names found in the correspondence, also done by the original cataloguer, is above under ‘Contents List.’]

People:

   Boyd, George, 1733-1787
   Boyd, William 1770-ca. 1840
   Foster, John
   Graigie, George
Langdon, John
Livius, Peter
Meserve, George
Sherburne, Daniel
Sherburne, Samuel
Wentworth, John
Wentworth, Joshua
Whitwell, William

Organizations:
United States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783

Subjects:
Colonial Currency
Colonial Shipping and Commerce
Commerce - New Orleans
Judiciary – New Orleans
Mississippi Valley Trade
Piracy – New Orleans
Politics – New Orleans
Royalists – United States – Revolutionary War
Slavery – New Orleans
Slavery – United States
Yellow Fever – New Orleans

Locations:
New Orleans, LA
Portsmouth, NH

Occupations:
Merchants.
Ship builders