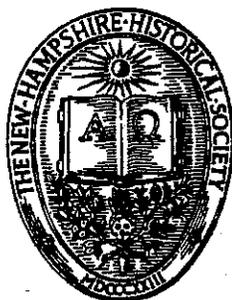


**THE PAPERS OF JOHN LANGDON  
and the  
LANGDON-ELWYN FAMILY**

**A Register of the Collections  
at the  
New Hampshire Historical Society**

**Arranged and Described by  
Thomas E. Camden  
Mary Ann Gundersen**



**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
1984**

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

### The John Langdon Papers

The John Langdon Papers consist of about 1000 items which were given to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1895 by the Rev. Alfred Langdon Elwyn of Philadelphia, great-grandson of John Langdon. Additional papers were added to the collection by Mrs. William Gorham Rice of Albany, New York, and Lemuel A. Welles of Ridgefield, Connecticut.

This collection also includes papers belonging to John Langdon's father and grandfather, as well as their descendents. The papers are arranged by author and further by the name of a ship within John Langdon's papers. The inventory which follows details the types of documents included in the collection. The majority of the material relating to John Langdon is commercial correspondence and business accounts. Also included are a number of receipts for individuals employed by Langdon to construct the Raleigh, Ranger, and America. These receipts often can be traced to entries in the Langdon Account books which are described below. Several papers relating to Langdon's property and servants in Portsmouth, New Hampshire are located in this collection.

### The Langdon-Elwyn Family Papers

The Langdon-Elwyn Family Papers were placed on deposit at the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1979 by the State of New Hampshire. They were bequeathed to the state as part of the Estate of John Elwyn Stone. The collection consists of 12 manuscript boxes and 9 volumes which contain primarily correspondence and business accounts. The papers are arranged by recipient and then chronologically within those areas. Most of the correspondence is concentrated in three areas.

The first area consists of that correspondence received by John Langdon covering the period from 1762 to 1818. Among the correspondents are Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. Of special interest are several letters from Tobias Lear to John Langdon relating to the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. A large collection of papers relating to the Moffatt-Whipple family are also included in this section.

The second area consists of correspondence received by Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn, the only child of John Langdon and Elizabeth Sherburne Langdon. The correspondence spans the period from 1816 to 1855 and is primarily from her husband, Thomas Elwyn, and their nine children.

The third area of concentration is correspondence received by Alfred Langdon Elwyn, one of the sons of Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn and Thomas Elwyn. Alfred Langdon Elwyn was a well known physician in Philadelphia. This correspondence spans the years from 1825 to 1867, and is from both family and colleagues.

Finally, two oversize account books belonging to John Langdon are of special importance in this collection. The two volumes form a set which covers the period from 1766 to 1796. The ledger is arranged by the name of the person holding the account, and the daybook is arranged chronologically by the date of the transaction. The two volumes are cross-referenced by page numbers appearing in the left-hand columns of both books.\* For example, an entry in the daybook preceded by the number 74 would also be entered under someone's account on page 74 of the ledger. These volumes show the accounts of various individuals, including John Paul Jones, people employed by Langdon for construction of the Ranger, Raleigh, and America, as well as Langdon's own accounts with the Marine Committee.

\* These volumes, number 8 and 9, have been microfilmed on reels 6 and 7 so that both may be viewed simultaneously on different readers to assist in cross-referencing accounts.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

JOHN LANGDON

- 1741, June 26 Born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, son of John Langdon and Mary Hall Langdon
- 1760 Clerk in the counting house of Daniel Rindge, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- 1763 Captain of Rindge's ships the Keppel and the Brittania
- 1764 Part owner of the Flying Horse and joined his brother's firm, Sherburne and Langdon
- 1767 Establishes own business and owner of the Andromache and the Agamemnon
- 1776 Appointed Agent of Prizes and Continental Agent for New Hampshire. Served as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
- 1775-1777  
1786-1787 Member of the Continental Congress
- 1777, February Married Elizabeth Sherburne, daughter of John Sherburne, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and first cousin of Mrs. Mrs. Woodbury Langdon
- 1777-1782 Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives
- 1778 As Continental Agent oversaw construction of the Ranger, Raleigh, and America in Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- 1779 President of the New Hampshire Convention for Regulating the Currency
- 1780 Commissioner to raise men and procure provisions for the Army
- 1785-1786 Served in the New Hampshire State Legislature and was President of the State of New Hampshire
- 1787 Member of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia
- 1788-1789  
1805-1809  
1810-1812 Governor of New Hampshire
- 1789-1801 Senator from New Hampshire
- 1819, September 18 Died in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

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LANGDON/ELWYN FAMILY PAPERS

Genealogical Note

Tobias Langdon (1660-1725) - married Mary Hubbard

John Langdon (1708-1780) - married Mary Hall

Woodbury Langdon

Mary Langdon

Elizabeth Langdon

Martha Langdon

Abigail Langdon

John Langdon (1741-1819) - married Elizabeth Sherburne

Elizabeth Langdon (1777-1860) - married Thomas Elwyn

Catherine Cecilia Elwyn (1798-1833)

Elinor Elisabeth Elwyn (1799-?)

John Langdon Elwyn (1801-?)

Emily Sophia Elwyn (1802-1878)

Alfred William Langdon Elwyn (1804-1884)

Charles Henry Langdon Elwyn (1807-1848)

Emma Matilda Langdon Elwyn (1809-1862)

Thomas Octavius Langdon Elwyn (1811-1831)

William Octavius Langdon Elwyn (1811-1828)

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Alfred William Langdon Elwyn (1804-1884) - married Mary Middleton Mease

Alfred Langdon Elwyn (1832-?) - married Helen Maria Dyer

Frances Cadwalader Elwyn (1865-?) - married Gordon Wendell

Frances Gordon Wendell (1891-?) - married John Stone

John Elwyn Stone

Frances Stone Warrick

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JOHN LANGDON PAPERS

Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>		
1	1	Deeds- Tobias Langdon	1716-1721	
	2	Accounts- Joseph Langdon	1734-1764	
	3	Legal papers-Joseph Langdon	1767-1800	
	4	Surveys- Capt. Samuel Lagndon	1781	
	5	Correspondence- Maj. Sam'l Langdon	1777-1816	
	6	Accounts-Maj. Sam'l Langdon	1773-1811	
	7	Correspondence, accounts- Samuel Langdon, Jr.	1831-1841	
	8	Correspondence- Rev. Joseph Langdon	1786-1820	
	9	Accounts- Mark Langdon	1729-1736	
	10	Accounts- John Langdon Sr.	1744-1759	
	11	Bond- Abigail Goldthwaite	1782	
	12	Correspondence-Woodbury Langdon	1762-1800, 1832	
	13	Not Filmed	Copies-Corr.-Woodbury Langdon	1777-1779
	14		Deeds-Woodbury Langdon	1769-1808
	15		Correspondence- John Langdon	1760-1763
	16		Accounts- John Langdon	1761-1763
	17		<u>Keppel</u>	1763
	18		<u>Brittania</u>	1763-1764
	19		<u>Brittania</u>	1764
	20		<u>Brittania</u>	1764
	21		<u>Flying Horse</u>	1764
	22		<u>Damon</u>	1764-1765
	23		<u>Damon</u>	1764-1765
	24		<u>Damon</u>	1765
2	1	<u>Hector</u>	1765-1766	
	2	<u>Hector</u>	1765-1766	
	3	<u>Hector</u>	1766	
	4	Correspondence-John Langdon	1766-1769	
	5	<u>Andromache, Agamemnon</u>	1767-1769	
	6	Correspondence-John Langdon	1770-1775	
	7	<u>Middlesex</u>	1770-1772	
	8	Accounts	1773-1775	
	9	Correspondence-John Langdon	1776-1787	
	10	Correspondence-John Langdon	1788	
	11	Correspondence-John Langdon	1796-1819	
	12	Correspondence-John Langdon	1777-1828	
	13	Accounts-John Langdon	1776-1777	
	14	<u>Betsy, Friends Adventure,</u> <u>Elizabeth</u>	1776-1777	
	15	<u>Raleigh</u>	1776-1777	
	16	<u>Chasse Marie, Hampden, Sullivan,</u> <u>Mary, Aurora, Eleanor</u>	1776-1777	
	17	Accounts- John Langdon	1784-1787	

Roll 1

Roll 2

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	
2	18	Accounts-John Langdon	1788-1820
3	1	Accounts-John Langdon	1760-1765
	2		1763-1765
	3		1765-1767
	4		1769-1775
	5		1777
	6		1777
	7		1778-1787
	8		1816
	9		1816
	10		undated
11	undated		

Folder

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LANGDON/ELWYN FAMILY PAPERS

Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1  Roll 2	1	Correspondence - John Langdon 1762-1769
	2	1772-May 1773
	3	June 1773-1775
	4	Jan-July 1776
	5	Aug-Dec 1776
	6	Jan-May 1777
	7	June-Dec 1777
	8	1778
	9	1779
	10	1780-1785
	11	1786
	12	Jan-May 1787
	13	June-Aug 1787
	14	Sept-Dec 1787
	15	1788

2  Roll 3	1	Correspondence - John Langdon Jan-Feb 1789
	2	March 1789
	3	April 1789
	4	May-Sept 1789
	5	Oct-Nov 1789
	6	Dec 1789
	7	1790-1791
	8	1792
	9	1793-1798
	10	Jan-April 1799
	11	May-Dec 1799
	12	1800-1812
	13	1804
	14	1805
	15	1806
	16	1807
	17	1808-1809
	18	1810-1812
	19	1813-1818
	20	Not Filmed
21		Correspondence - John Langdon. Undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	1	Correspondence between John Langdon and Tobias Lear 1783-1788
	2	1789
	3	1790-1800
	4	1801-1814
	5	Business Accounts - John Langdon 1750-1774
	6	1777-1789
	7	1790-1804
	8	1804-1818
	9	undated
	10	House Inventory - John Langdon 1823
4	1	Correspondence - William Whipple 1775-1776
	2	1777
	3	1778-1784
	4	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - Moffatt-Whipple 1771-1813
	5	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - John Moffatt 1758-1791
	6	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - John Moffatt 1758-1795
	7	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - William Whipple 1773-1799
	8	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - William Whipple 1771-1796
	9	Business Accounts and Estate Proceedings - William Whipple 1776-1796
5	1	Correspondence - J.B. Watts to Peter Livius 1763
	2	Correspondence - John Palfrey, undated
	3	Correspondence - Silas Deane, undated
	4	Correspondence - Woodbury Langdon 1789
	5	Petition to John Sullivan from his brigade, undated
	6	Correspondence - George Washington 1777
	7	Correspondence - Meshech Weare 1779
	8	Correspondence - Samuel Adams 1768-1769
	9	County Records, State of New Hampshire, undated
	10	Committee Reports, State of New Hampshire 1778-1779
	11	Correspondence and Committee Reports, State of New Hampshire 1783-1785
	12	Addresses to the Senate, State of New Hampshire 1786-1788
	13	Addresses to the House and Senate, State of New Hampshire 1807
	14	Addresses to the House and Senate, State of New Hampshire 1808
	15	Anonymous Reports, Headquarters, Newport, R.I. 1778
	16	Correspondence - James Jarvis to Thomas Tuxton, 1770
	17	Miscellaneous Manuscript Pieces

Roll 3

Roll 4

Roll 4

Box

Folder

Description

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Correspondence - Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn 1816  
1817  
1818  
1819  
1820  
Jan-May 1821  
July-Dec 1821  
1822  
1823  
1824  
Jan-July 1825  
Aug-Dec 1825  
Jan-July 1826  
Aug-Dec 1826  
1827

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Correspondence - Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn Jan-July 1828  
Aug-Dec 1828  
1829  
1830  
1831-1839  
1841-1848  
1850-1851  
1852  
1853-1855  
undated

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Correspondence - Alfred Langdon Elwyn 1825  
Jan-March 1826  
April-Oct 1826  
1827-1828  
1829  
1830-1831  
Feb-May 1832  
June-Nov 1832  
1833  
Jan-May 1834  
Aug-Dec 1834  
Jan-March 1835  
April-Aug 1835  
Sept-Dec 1835

Roll 5

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	
9	1	Correspondence - Alfred Langdon Elwyn	Jan-March 1836
	2		April-Aug 1836
	3		September 1836
	4		Oct-Dec 1836
	5		1837
	6		Jan-May 1838
	7		June-Dec 1838
	8		Jan-May 1839
	9		June-Dec 1839
	10		1840
	11		Jan-May 1841
	12		June-Dec 1841
10	1	Correspondence - Alfred Langdon Elwyn	Jan-May 1842
	2		July-Dec 1842
	3		Jan-July 1843
	4		Aug-Dec 1843
	5		Jan-April 1844
	6		May-Dec 1844
	7		1845
	8		1846
	9		1847-1850
	10		1867
	11		undated
	12		undated
	13		undated
	14		undated
	15		undated
	16		undated
	17		Miscellaneous
11	1	Correspondence - Thomas Elwyn	1793-1801
	2		1802
	3		1803-1809
	4		1810-1811
	5		1812
	6		1813
	7		1814-1817
	8		undated
	9		1803=1809
	10	1815-1826	Correspondence - John Langdon Elwyn
	11	1813-1827	
	12	1828-1839	Correspondence - Rev. Alfred Elwyn
	13	1880-1887	
	14	1889-1907	Correspondence - Gordon Wendell
	15	undated	
	16	undated	
	17	undated	
		Correspondence - Mrs Gordon (Fanny) Wendell	undated
		Correspondence - Elwyn Family, Miscellaneous	

Roll 5

Roll 6

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
11	18	Legal Documents - Catherine Cecilia and Benjamin W. Rogers Undated
	19	Deed - Chester County, PA 1865
	20	Correspondence and Receipts - Mease Family Undated
	21	Receipts and "Autobiography" - James Mease Undated
	22	Correspondence - George de Passau to David Lewis 1809
	23	Correspondence (in Italian) - Garribaldi 1832
	24	Correspondence - Ellen Coolidge to Mrs. Eaton 1826
	25	Correspondence - Charles Henry Langdon Elwyn 1824-1833
	26	Correspondence - Thomas O.L. Elwyn 1826, 1828
12	1	Blank Forms - Miscellaneous
	2	Newspaper Clippings - largely Philadelphia and New York, mid 1800's
NOT FILMED	3	Newspaper Clippings - largely Philadelphia and New York, mid 1800's
	4	Envelopes and Stamps
	5	Envelopes and Stamps
	6	Personal Correspondence and Business Papers of John Elwyn Stone (donor) 1910-1972
	7	Personal Diary of John Elwyn Stone 1936

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LANGDON/ELWYN FAMILY PAPERS

Account Books

- Roll 6
1. Condition: poor; spine broken; front and back endboards completely separated. Some pages completely disconnected from spine.  
Size: 6½" x 8"  
Subject Matter: account book of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists  
Date: 1844-1867
  2. Condition: fair, spine weak but not broken; endboards secure, leather frayed or decomposed at seams  
Size: 7" x 9¼"  
Subject Matter: ledger of James Mease M.D.  
Date: 1793-1822
  3. Condition: poor, back endboard completely separated, leather on spine and edges frayed.  
Size: 8" x 12½"  
Subject Matter: letter book of Dr. John Langdon Elwyn (contains copies of letters from Elwyn to others)  
Date: 1793-1802
  4. Condition: fair; spine weak but intact (leather on spine has decomposed and is missing in several spots) interior pages in excellent condition  
Size: 8" x 12 3/4"  
Subject Matter: daily farm journal of James Mease - includes expenses, lists of produce, farm utensils, taxes, livestock, inventory of articles at the farm and indentures  
Date: 1804-1810

5. Condition: poor, softbound, all pages have become separated from binding, newspaper items pasted in are decomposing due to the adhesive

Size: 7 3/4" x 12"

Subject Matter: recipe book, largely composed of newspaper clippings but includes some handwritten recipes and household hints

Date: basically undetermined (several clippings are dated 1869)  
Not Microfilmed

6. Condition: good; spine good, slightly frayed on edges; endboards intact

Size: 8 1/2" x 13 1/2"

Subject Matter: largely unused, contains 7 pages of miscellaneous newspaper clippings (pasted in) and eight pages of what appears to be a child's drawings

Date: undetermined  
Not Microfilmed

7. Condition: poor, cover decomposed and corners frayed. Endboards partially separated from spine. Some pages have become separated from spine. Inside pages are brittle.

Size: 10 1/2" x 17" (343 pages)

Subject Matter: scrapbook of James Mease, contains index in front, largely newspaper clippings, miscellaneous subject matter

Date: undetermined (contains newspaper articles dating from 1739-1834)  
Not Microfilmed

8. Condition: good, leather frayed on corners but spine is intact, endboards are secure. Interior pages are in very good condition (very little staining, not brittle)

Size: 12 1/2" x 18 1/2"

Subject Matter: account book of John Langdon; largely shipping expenditures (cargo, hired help, materials for construction of vessels, etc.)

Date: 1766-1795

9. Condition: fair, endboards secure; spine intact however leather has come off in several spots; edges frayed, some pages have come loose from binding.

Size: 13 3/4" x 18 1/2"

*Indexed*

Subject Matter: account book of John Langdon (arranged by name of accountee) see account book 8

Date: 1766-1796

## NOTE ON THE INDEX

The following is a name index of correspondence and business receipts or accounts in the John Langdon Papers and the Langdon-Elwyn Family Papers at the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Letters written between two parties other than those listed below are indexed twice under each name. Also, recipients of letters from the names below are indexed twice. Otherwise, the index is of correspondents only.

John Langdon (JL)	Charles Henry Langdon Elwyn (CLE)
Woodbury Langdon (WL)	Thomas Octavius Langdon Elwyn (TLE)
Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn (ELE)	William B. Elwyn (WBE)
Thomas Elwyn (TE)	Rev. Alfred Langdon Elwyn (Rev. ALE)
Alfred William Langdon Elwyn (AE or ALE)	John Gilbert Stone (JGS)
John Langdon Elwyn (JLE)	John Elwyn Stone (JES)
Emily Sophia Elwyn (EE)	Mary Middleton Mease (MMM)

Names of witnesses, executors, town officers, and secretaries have not been included in the index. Names have not been modernized, and are not cross-referenced to common spellings.

Names entered as headings in John Langdon's Ledger (Vol. #9) have been included in the index. Names appearing within the contents of the accounts and volumes 1-8 have not been indexed.

Locations given for each item indicates the box, folder, and item. The item number 11:7:4 would be found in box 11, folder 7, item number 4. Box and folder identification labels appear at the top of each frame of the microfilm. Folders on the microfilm are separated by blank frames. These notations can then be located on the microfilm using the Description of the Microfilm Roles which follows, or the key at the foot of each page of the index. Location numbers preceded by an \* indicate that the item is from the John Langdon Papers and can be located on one of the first two reels of microfilm. Locations appearing in the form of a single, or multiple page numbers refer to names entered as headings in John Langdon's ledger (Vol. #9) which is located on microfilm reel 7.

The abbreviation B.A. is used to indicate that the document is a business account, agreement, or receipt.

### ITEMS NOT MICROFILMED

Copies of documents in other repositories, Box 12 of the Langdon-Elwyn Family Papers, and volumes #5, 6, and 7 have not been microfilmed. Questions regarding items not filmed, the collections themselves, or the index should be addressed to the Manuscripts Curator, New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MICROFILM ROLLS

Roll 1 . . . . . John Langdon Papers, \*1:1 to \*2:7

Roll 2 . . . . . John Langdon Papers, \*2:8 to \*3:11  
Langdon-Elwyn Papers, 1:1 to 1:11

Roll 3 . . . . . Langdon-Elwyn Papers, 1:12 to 4:5

Roll 4 . . . . . Langdon-Elwyn Papers, 4:6 to 8:11

Roll 5 . . . . . Langdon-Elwyn Papers, 8:12 to 11:12

Roll 6 . . . . . Langdon-Elwyn Papers, 11:13 to 11:26 and  
Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8

Roll 7 . . . . . Langdon-Elwyn Papers, Volume 9