

Papers of  
John Langdon

1778-1779

0.1 cubic feet

Finding Aid prepared by  
Wade Wyckoff  
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Operational Archives Branch  
Naval Historical Center  
805 Kidder Breese Street SE  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

## **Biographical Note**

John Langdon, 1739-1819, was a leading merchant and privateer owner of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. A delegate to the Continental Congress, he resigned from that office in June 1776 to become the Continental Navy Agent in Portsmouth. He later became a signer of the Constitution of the United States, a U.S. Senator, and governor of New Hampshire. As Navy Agent, he procured supplies to build and fit out warships for the Continental Navy.

The Continental Navy Board of the Eastern Department, which usually met in Boston, acted for the Continental Congress's Marine Committee in administering the affairs of the Continental Navy in New England. The Board's responsibilities ranged from obtaining ships, men, and supplies, to selecting and removing officers and issuing sailing orders.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of correspondence of John Langdon. Eleven of the 16 manuscripts are letters sent to Langdon by the Continental Navy Board of the Eastern Department, each signed by one or more board members, John Deshon, William Vernon, and James Warren. Four of the manuscripts are letters by Continental Navy captains concerning inquiries into the performance of their duties, including John B. Hopkins and Thomas Thompson.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically, and a typewritten transcript accompanies each letter.

**Reference copies of the letters and transcripts have been made and are to be used by all researchers.**

## **Box and Folder List**

### **Box 1**

#### Series I: Correspondence, 1778-1779

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Reference Copies   | 1778-1779 |
| 2. Original Documents | 1778-1779 |