

New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

RICHARD LANG PAPERS

Register

Compiled by
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RICHARD LANG PAPERS
(1792-1825)

The Richard Lang Papers consist of the correspondence received by Hanover merchant Richard Lang (1769-1840). These papers are contained in six boxes and total 1508 items. The correspondence is mainly business related, with 676 items alone coming from Richard's brother Daniel Lang, a Salem (Mass.) merchant. Included is one folder of correspondence (13 items) related to the Dartmouth College Case.

The Lang Papers are a permanent gift to the New Hampshire Historical Society. What follows is a biographic sketch of Richard Lang, a geneological chart of the Lang family, an inventory of the collection, and a list of card titles for cards filed in the Mss. Room card file.

Richard Lang (1769-1840)

Richard Lang was born on June 25, 1769 in Salem, Massachusetts. He was the son of Deacon Richard Lang (1733-1820), a Salem silversmith, and Katharine Cox, also of Salem. Young Richard was one of eleven children, six of whom lived to maturity. Little is known of Richard's childhood, but by 1789, he owned a store in Hanover, N.H.. He returned to Salem for the winter, but in February 1790, he purchased land for a permanent store in Hanover. On August 14, 1791, Richard married Sarah (Sally) Saunders of Salem. They had three children; John S. (1792-1839), Sarah (1794-1822), and Susan (1796-1840). In 1793, he began work on his home on West Wheelock Street--one of the finest houses in Hanover.

Richard Lang was one of the first merchants in Hanover, and the only one of the town's early merchants to be successful. He did not operate alone. He received imported items from New York through Gilbert and John Aspinwall, and from Salem through his brother Daniel. Each spring, Richard would travel to New York and order goods from the Aspinwall brothers. While gone, Daniel would cover the store in Hanover and brother Nathaniel would handle affairs in Salem. Daniel would also cover for Richard in Hanover when the latter visited Salem. Lang's Salem trade moved overland by wagon. The New York trade moved up and down the Connecticut River, usually involving the firm of Jones and Tuttle in Hartford. As roads improved in New Hampshire and as credit became harder to get in New York, Richard relied more heavily on brother Daniel and the Salem trade. The New York trade seems to have stopped in 1806. At this point, both Richard and Daniel became more stationary. Richard still visited Salem, but affairs in Hanover during his absence were handled by clerks, or, after 1814, by his son John S. Lang (1792-1839).

It did not take Richard Lang long to become the largest individual land owner in Hanover. He was twice elected selectmen of the town (1793 and 1800), chosen to be fire warden several times, and in 1797, was an agent in the Dartmouth College Lottery. His son John graduated from Dartmouth in 1815, and eventually took over most of his father's business in 1821. John married Emily Murdock of Norwich, while sister Susan married Professor Charles Haddock. Richard himself was personally interested in Dartmouth College, and supported the Trustees in the dispute with President John Wheelock. Lang was even named in one of the auxiliary cases initiated by the Trustees (Lang vs. Hatch).

One reason for Richard Lang's success was his close relationship with his brother Daniel. Richard was inclined to take risks. He engaged heavily in real estate speculation and money lending. Daniel was just the opposite. His regular and lengthy letters to Richard not only informed the latter about business matters, but constantly exhorted him not to take bad money, not to get into debt, and not to sell for less than a profit. Daniel's letters took on a religious fervor after his recovery from a near-fatal illness in the winter of 1807. Many of his letters following this date read more like sermons than business correspondence. Daniel's letters also provided Richard with news of the family in Salem and news of the world in general. Of particular interest are his comments on the Napoleonic Wars.

Just as it was family ties that helped Richard Lang rise to the top, it was family tragedy that greatly saddened Lang's final years. Between 1820 and 1825, Richard's father, his sister Hannah, his brother Nathaniel, his daughter Sarah, and his wife Sally all died. Nathaniel was perhaps the most pathetic. Never as bright or ambitious as brothers Daniel and Richard, Nathaniel's business in Salem had failed miserably. Daniel and Richard did everything possible to keep their older brother out of the poor house. Throughout his last years, Nathaniel drifted through life partially blind, usually coughing up blood, frequently bedridden, and always penniless.

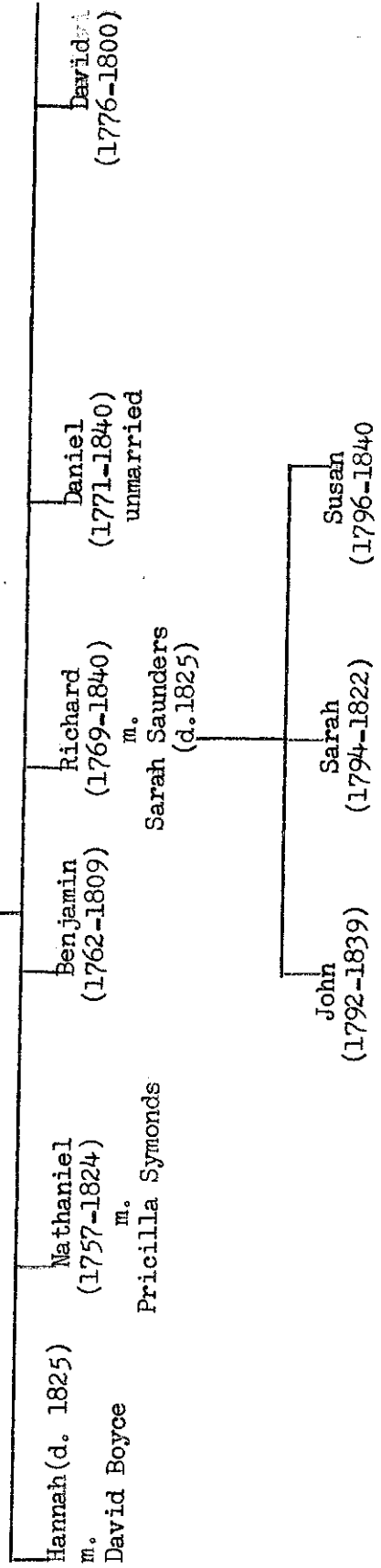
Richard Lang's own business failed in 1833, but fortunately he had vast real estate holdings to fall back on. In 1839, however, his son John died. The following year, Susan Haddock, Lang's only surviving child, passed away. In this same year, Richard and his unmarried brother Daniel died as well. Richard was seventy-one at his death in Brattleboro, Vt.

LANG GENEALOGY

Deacon Richard Lang (1733-1820)

m.

Katharine Cox



INVENTORY

Richard Lang Papers (1791-1825)
-1508 items-

BOX I: Richard Lang Correspondence (July 1791-Sept 1799)--298 items

Folder 1: (July 1791-Aug 1795)--48 items

Letters to Richard Lang from John Saunders (4), John Saunders, Jr. (5), Wm. Prescott (3), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (4), Daniel Lang (4), and Abel Lawrence (1) from Salem; Letters from J. Saunders, Jr. to his father (5); Letters from Gilbert & John Aspinwall (2) in New York, John Wheelock (1) and Bezaleel Woodward (1) in Hanover, and Jones & Tuttle in Hartford, Ct. (1). Letters to Lang in Hanover have also come from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Orford, Claremont, Salisbury, Northumberland, Enfield, Lebanon, and Amherst.

Folder 2: (Sept 1795-Oct 1796)--53 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (11), Nathaniel Hopkins (2), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (2), and Nathaniel Lang (4) in Salem; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (2) and John Saunder, Jr. (2) in New York; Benjamin Haskell (1) in Boston; Francis Brown & Co. (1) in Hartford; and Gen. Ira Allen (1) in Vt.. Letters to Lang in Hanover have also come from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Harland, Vt., Keene, Charlestown, Lebanon, Thetford, Vt., Orford, Norwich, Vt., Plymouth, and Chelsea, Vt. There are also 2 letters from Jenny Daniels to Molly Brooks and Polly Buremore in Salem.

Folder 3: (Nov 1796-Sept 1797)--54 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (10), Rev Daniel Hopkins (3), and Nathaniel Lang (3) in Salem; Gilbert & John Aspinwall in New York (2); Benjamin Haskell (1) in Boston; Francis Brown & Co. (3) and Codwise & Ludlow & Co. (1) in Hartford, Ct. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Plymouth, Royalton, Vt., Gilmanton, Lebanon, Orford, Tunbridge, Vt., Grafton, Sheldon, Vt., Thetford, Vt., Lincoln, Concord, Concord, Vt., Londonderry, and Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 4: (Oct 1797-Aug 1798)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (10), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1), and Nathaniel Lang (1) in Salem; Daniel D. Rogers (1) in Boston; and Doctor Nathan Read (1) in Hanover. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Thetford, Vt., Woodstock, Vt., Hopkinton, Charlestown, Tunbridge, Vt., Norwich, Vt., Exeter, Orford, Newbury, Vt., Dorchester, Haverhill, Springfield, Vt., and Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 5: (Sept 1798-Mar 1799)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (12) and Nathaniel Lang (2) in Salem; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (3) and Negemiah Rogers & Co. (3) in New York; and John Wendell (1) in Portsmouth. Also, a letter from Wendell to Willian Gray in Salem. Letters to Lang from the following

local and/or N.H. towns: Orford, Northumberland, Canaan, Concord, Vt., Vergennes, Vt., Plymouth, Thetford, Vt., Norwich, Vt., Newbury, Vt., Salisbury, Randolph, Vt., and Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 6: (Apr 1799-Sept 1799)--49 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (16) and Nathaniel Lang (6) in Salem; John Saunders, Jr. (1), George Crowingshield & Sons (2), Gilbert & John Aspinwall (3), Woolsey & Rogers (1), and Nehemiah Rogers & Co. (1) in New York; John Wendell in Portsmouth (1); and Jones & Tuttle (1) in Hartford, Ct.. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Orford, Newbury, Vt., Lebanon, Windsor, Vt., Derby, Vt., Haverhill, Chelsea, Vt..

BOX II: Richard Lang Correspondence (Oct 1799-Apr 1803)--284 items

Folder 1: (Oct 1799-July 1800)--53 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (7), Nathaniel Lang (8) William & George Dean (2), and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (3) in Salem; John S. Lang (1) in Hanover; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (4) and Nehemiah Rogers & Co. (1) in New York; Daniel D. Rogers (1) in Boston; Jones & Tuttle (1) in Hartford, Ct.; and John Wendell (2) in Portsmouth. There is a copy of a Richard Lang advertisement. Letters from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Tunbridge, Vt., Bradford, Vt., Orford, Royalton, Vt., Strafford, Vt., Concord, Concord, Vt., Sharon, Vt., and Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 2: (Aug 1800-Mar 1801)--39 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (10), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (2), and Nathaniel Lang (2) in Salem; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (5) and Nehemiah Rogers & Co. (1) in New York; Francis Brown & Co. (1) and Reuben & Henry King (1) in Hartford, Ct.; and Daniel D. Rogers (1) in Boston. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Canterbury, Concord, Vt., Randolph, Vt., Derby, Vt., and Orford.

Folder 3: (Apr 1801-Aug 1801)--41 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (9), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (3), and Nathaniel Lang (4) in Salem; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (3), Woolsey & Rogers (1), and George Lewis (1) in New York; Caleb Tuttle of Jones & Tuttle (2) in Hartford, Ct.; and Benjamin Clark (1) in Flushing, N.Y.. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Norwich, Vt., Springfield, Vt., Windsor, Vt., Haverhill, and Canaan.

Folder 4: (Sept 1801-Mar 1802)--53 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (25) and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1) in Salem; and Gilbert & John Aspinwall (3) and John March (1) in New York. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Windsor, Vt., Randolph, Vt., Concord, Vt., Chelsea, Vt., and Norwich, Vt..

Folder 5: (Apr 1802-Nov 1802)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (24), William Gray, Jr. (1), and Nathaniel Lang (2) in Salem; Porter & Jones (1) in Hartford, Ct.; and Gilbert and John Aspinwall (2) and John Saunders, Jr. (1) in New York. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Orford, Weathersfield, Vt., Norwich, Vt., Haverhill, Enfield, and Windsor, Vt.,

Folder 6: (Dec 1802-Apr 1803)--51 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (26) and Benjamin Blanchard (1) in Salem; Daniel D. Rogers (1) in Boston; Sebastian C. Cabot (1) in Hartford, Ct.; John Saunders, Jr. (1) and Gilbert and John Aspinwall (1) in New York; and Charles Marsh (3) in Woodstock, Vt.. Letters from the following local and/or N.H. Towns: Concord, Vt., Windsor, Vt., Orford, Orange, Chelsea, Vt.,

BOX III: (May 1803-Mar 1806)--273 items

Folder 1: (May 1803-Oct 1803)--56 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (20) and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1) in Salem; Thomas Chapman (2) in Greenfield, Mass.; Samuel Rowley (1) and Benjamin J. Gilbert (1) in Hanover; Charles Marsh (1) in Woodstock, Vt.; Gilbert & John Aspinwall (3) and John Goodwin (1) in New York; and Porter & Jones (2) and Michael Mignath (1) in Hartford, Ct.. Letters from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Enfield, Windsor, Vt., Barre, Vt., Newbury, Vt., Lebanon, Hollis, Peacham, Vt.,

Folder 2: (Nov 1803-Mar 1804)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (25) and Nathaniel Lang (1) in Salem; Samuel Rowley (2) in Hanover; Charles W. Apthorp (1) in Boston; Horace Uttley (1) in Hartford, Ct.; and Gilbert & John Aspinwall (1) and Furman & Makes (2) in New York. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Haverhill, Boscawen, Windsor, Vt., Randolph, Vt., Salisbury, Exeter, and Concord, Vt.,

Folder 3: (Apr 1804-Sept 1804)--40 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (23) and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1) in Salem; Samuel Rowley (2) in Hanover; Charles W. Apthorp (1) in Boston; Porter & Jones (2) in Hartford, Ct.; and Timothy Farrar (1) in Lebanon. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Norwich, Vt., Haverhill, and Concord, Vt.,

Folder 4: (Oct 1804-Apr 1805)--41 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (23) and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1) in Salem; Samuel Rowley (1) in Hanover; Ebenezer B. Morse (1) in Worcester, Mass., Woolsey & Rogers (1) in New York; and Daniel Oliver (1) in Boston. There is a letter from James Murch attacking Thomas Jefferson's attitude toward the clergy. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Haverhill, Windsor, Vt., Vershire, Vt., Norwich, Vt., and Peacham, Vt.,

Folder 5: (May 1805-Sept 1805)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (12), Silas Betton (1), and John Jenks (1) in Salem; Peter Ludlow (1) of New York; Daniel Oliver (1) of Boston; and Samuel Rowley (1) in Hanover. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Chester, Vt., Randolph, Vt., Lebanon, Haverhill, Peacham, Vt., Concord, Vt., Berlin, Vt., Lancaster, and Windsor, Vt..

Folder 6: (Oct 1805-Mar 1806)--42 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (20) and Silas Betton (1) in Salem; John J. Glover (1) in New York; Samuel Rowley (1) in Hanover; Daniel Oliver (1) in Boston; and Horace Uttley (1) in Hartford, Ct.. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Chelsea, Vt., Randolph, Vt., Bath, Vershire, Vt., Peacham, Vt., and Concord, Vt..

BOX IV: (Apr 1806-Apr 1814)--254 items

Folder 1: (Apr 1806-Aug 1807)--47 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (27) and Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1) in Salem; Daniel Oliver (1) in Boston; and Gilbert & John Aspinwall (1) in New York. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Norwich, Vt., Concord, Vt., and Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 2: (Sept 1807-June 1808)--42 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (18), Nathaniel Lang (2), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1), and Daniel Hopkins, Jr. (1) in Salem; A. B. Richardson (1) in Boston; and a letter from Benjamin J. Gilbert concerning the legal affairs of Lang. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Claremont, Haverhill, Randolph, Vt., Concord, Vt., Lunenburg, Vt., Chelsea, Vt., Lebanon, and Windsor, Vt..

Folder 3: (Aug 1808-Oct 1809)--44 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (17), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (2), Eben Seccomb (2), and Ichabod Tucker (1) in Salem; E.B. Morse (1) in New York; Ethan Smith (1) in Hopkinton; Lowell Walker (1) in Templeton, Mass.; and a letter from Benjamin J. Gilbert concerning N.H. politics. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Windsor, Vt., Montpelier, Vt., Salisbury, and Rutland, Vt..

Folder 4: (Nov 1809-Oct 1811)--43 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (25), Eben Seccomb (1), Abner Jones (1), and Nathaniel Lang (1) in Salem; John S. Lang (1) in Hanover; Benjamin J. Gilbert (2) from Concord; and Daniel Oliver (1) from Boston. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Hartland, Vt., New London, Bridgewater, Vt..

Folder 5: (Jan 1812-July 1813)--41 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (29), Rev. Daniel Hopkins (1), Nathaniel Lang (1), and C. H. Orne (1) in Salem; as well as letters from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Hartland, Vt.,

Royalton, Vt., Concord, Vt., Concord, Chelsea, Vt., Haverhill, Randolph, Vt., Windsor, Vt., and Salisbury.

Folder 6: (Aug 1813-Apr 1814)--37 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (25), John S. Lang (1), and Nathaniel Lang (1) in Salem; as well as a notice concerning the N.H. Iron Factory Co.. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Royalton, Vt., Exeter, Springfield, Vt., and Norwich, Vt..

BOX V: (May 1814-Dec 1819)--209 items

Folder 1: (May 1814-Dec 1814)--34 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (15), Nathaniel Lang (12), and Brown Emerson (2) in Salem; and John S. Lang (1) in Hanover. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Concord, and Norwich, Vt..

Folder 2: (Jan 1815-July 1816)--38 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (21), Nathaniel Lang (6), Reuben D. Mussey (2), John S. Lang (1), and Seth Low (1) in Salem; John S. Lang (1) from Hanover; and J. & E. Phillips (1) in Boston. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Haverhill, Plainfield, Vt., and Strafford, Vt..

Folder 3: (Aug 1816-Dec 1816)--34 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (28) and Nathan Goodale (2) in Salem. Letters to Lang from Chelsea, Vt..

Folder 4: (Jan 1817-May 1817)--28 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (18) and John Saunders, Jr. (1) in Salem; and J. & E. Phillips (1) in Boston. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Hallowell, Salisbury, and Norwich, Vt..

Folder 5: (June 1817-July 1818)--30 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (18) and Ichabod Tucker (2) in Salem; John S. Lang (4) in Hanover; and Charles B. Haddock (1) in Andover, Mass.. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: Concord, Vt., Haverhill, and Williamstown, Vt..

Folder 6: (Sept 1818-Dec 1818)--32 items

Letters to Richard Lang from Daniel Lang (25) and Benjamin Pickman (1) in Salem. Letters to Lang from the following local and/or N.H. towns: West Fairlee, Vt., and Orange.

The following names have been added to the Mss. Room Name Index:

Allen, Gen Ira	Porter, John
Aspinwall, Gilbert & John	Pratt, Joseph
Bannister, William	Prescott, William
Brown, Francis	Read, Dr. Nathan
Emerson, Brown	Rowley, Samuel
Farrar, Timothy Jr.	Saunders, John
Fletcher, Richard	Saunders, John Jr.
Gilbert, Benjamin J.	Seccumb, Eben
Gray, William Jr.	Smith, Ethan
Green, Isaac	Smith, Isreal
Haddock, Charles B.	Steele, Daniel
Hatch, Reuban	Thompson, Thomas W.
Hibbard, David	Thorla, Thomas
Hopkins, Rev. Daniel	Wendell, John
Jefferson, Thomas	Wheelock, J.
Kendrick, Stephen	Wheelock, John
Lang, Daniel	Williams, Azarias
Lang, John S.	Williston, David
Lang, Nathaniel	Woodward, William H.
Lang, Richard	
Marsh, Charles	
Moriarity, John	
Murch, James	
Oliver, Daniel	
Parrish, Elijah	
Pierce, David Jr.	

The following subject titles have been added to the Mss. Room Subject Index:

Dartmouth College
Lawyers
N.H. Iron Factory Co.
N.H. Missionary Society
Occupations-Merchants
Politics-N.H. election of 1810
Trade and Commerce
Vermont

The following town has been added to the Mss. Room Town File:

Hanover