



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Gerry-Townsend papers

1675-1846

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Summary

Title: Gerry-Townsend papers

Date: 1675-1846

Size: .84 linear feet (2 boxes, 2 volumes, 1 other item)

Source: Annette Townsend Phillips (great, great-granddaughter of Elbridge Gerry)

Abstract: The Gerry-Townsend family of Massachusetts included statesman Elbridge Gerry (1744-1814). The collection consists of correspondence of Elbridge Gerry, 1773-1814, and his son-in-law David S. Townsend, 1812-1846); legal papers and accounts of Eliza Gerry, administrator of Elbridge Gerry's estate; deeds, mortgages, and other land papers concerning lands owned by the Gerry and Townsend families in Boston; and diary, 1813, Elbridge Gerry, Jr. kept during a journey from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Washington, D.C. Includes letters relating to Gerry's mission to France, 1797-1798 (the XYZ Affair), and to national politics. Correspondents include John Adams, William Gordon, Gideon Granger, Thomas Jefferson, James Lovell, James Madison, W. Vans Murray, George Partridge, C.C. Pinckney, Samuel Osgood, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., James Warren, James Wendell, and John Wendell.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Gerry-Townsend papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Archives Unit, 2016

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Accounts

Diaries

Estate records

Probate accounts

Geographic Names

Cambridge (Mass.) -- Tours
United States -- Foreign relations -- France
United States -- Politics and government -- 1789-1815
Washington (D.C.) -- Description and travel
Washington (D.C.) -- Social life and customs

Occupations

Diplomats
Statesmen

Subjects

Real property -- Massachusetts -- Boston
XYZ Affair, 1797-1798

Names

Adams, John, 1735-1826
Gerry, Elbridge, 1744-1814
Gerry, Elbridge, 1791-1883
Gerry, Eliza
Gordon, William, fl. 1763-1809.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826
Lovell, James, 1737-1814
Madison, James, 1751-1836
Murray, William Vans, 1760-1803
Osgood, Samuel, 1748-1813
Partridge, George, 1740-1828
Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, 1746-1825
Trumbull, Jonathan, 1740-1809
Warren, James, 1726-1808
Wendell, James
Wendell, John, 1731-1808
Gery family
Townsend family

Container List

Correspondence of Elbridge Gerry 1773-1814

- b. 1 f. 1 1773-1778
- b. 1 f. 2 1780-1781
- b. 1 f. 3 1783-1786
- b. 1 f. 4 1787-1790
- b. 1 f. 5 1791-1800
- b. 1 f. 6 1801-1805
- b. 1 f. 7 1806-1814, undated

- v. 1 Letterbook 1797-1801 (Photostats)

Elbridge Gerry Estate papers 1812-1817

Papers of Eliza Gerry as Administratrix of the estate of Elbridge Gerry

- b. 1 f. 8 Papers relating to the administration of the estate
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Accounts
The greater part relating to the estate of Elbridge Gerry

Land papers 1675-1846 (Originals and transcripts)

Deed, mortgages, etc. concerning lands in Boston, Massachusetts owned by Elbridge Gerry, Dr. David Townsend, and Major David S. Townsend.

- b. 2 f. 1 1675-1799
- b. 2 f. 2 1803-1846
- v. 2 Diary of Elbridge Gerry, Jr 1813 (Negative photostat)

Correspondence of David S. Townsend 1812-1846

- b. 2 f. 3 1812-1817
- b. 2 f. 4 1818-1820
- b. 2 f. 5 1821-1829
- b. 2 f. 6 1830-1836, 1846
- b. 2 f. 7 Return of cannon in and near Boston 1776
- b. 2 f. 7 Ordnance mounted on Castle Island 1780
- b. 2 f. 8 Playing card (Jack of Spades with computations on verso)
- b. 2 f. 8 *Boston Patriot*
One issue, March 28, 1810 containing statements in support of Gerry for Governor of Massachusetts