

D3187G

A Booke for the  
Copping of Leters  
& other things  
Relating to ye Compa<sup>d</sup>  
for propagation of  
the Gospell  
in New England & c  
1688

“The lost cannot be recovered; but let us save what remains; not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use, in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.”

*Thomas Jefferson*

*Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the*

Letter Book, 1688-1761

of the

Company for Propagation of the

Gospel in New England

Vesta Lee Gordon, *Editor*



1969

Microfilm Publications  
University of Virginia Library  
Number Eight

**ANNE FREUDENBERG**  
*Project Director*

## Introduction

The "Society for Propagation of the Gospel in New England" was chartered in 1649 for the purpose of converting the New England Indians. In 1661/62 it was rechartered and named the "Company for Propagation of the Gospel in New England and the parts adjacent in America." The Company sponsored missionaries in America until the Revolutionary War at which time its missionary activities were turned to Canada. In 1961 it was still functioning under the name of the "New England Company."

The Company's function was that of a corporation. The revenues from its investments, chiefly in property, were sent to Commissioners in New England who in turn paid the missionaries or dispersed the funds as directed by the Company. The "Commissioners for Indian Affairs," as they were designated, were appointed by the members of the Company, and were usually Boston merchants, or New England officials.

For historical studies on the "Company for Propagation of the Gospel in New England" the following works should be consulted:

Kellaway, William, "The Collection for the Indians of New England, 1649-1660," *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library Manchester*, 39 (1956-57), 444-462.

Kellaway, William. *The New England Company, 1649-1776, Missionary Society to the American Indians*. Glasgow: The University Press, 1961.

*The New England Company of 1649 and John Eliot*, ed. by George Parker Winship. (Publication of the Prince Society, v. 36.) Boston: Plimpton Press, 1920.

Venning, William Marshall, "Origin of the New England Company, London, with an Account of its Labours on Behalf of the North American Indians," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, new series, 2 (1885), 293-301.

## The Letter Book

The majority of correspondents in the Letter Book, 1688-1761, are the Company's governors, secretaries or clerks, and treasurers who are writing to the Commissioners in America. Letters discuss affairs of the Company, requests and directives to the Commissioners, and financial matters. The Company's affairs concern the education of the Indians, with references to Harvard College and other schools supported by the Company, the providing of religious texts in translation, and the settlement of the Indians on their own separate lands. Financial matters concern the dispersal of funds sent the Commissioners, and attempts to collect money from the Company's investments in England. In addition, the Letter Book contains copies of various charters dating from 1662, financial receipts, deeds, indentures, and other legal papers.

The Letter Book is 322 numbered pages of laid paper with writing on 321. It is 31.5 centimeters, bound in vellum with a blind tooled design on both front and back covers.

A book plate on the interior of the front cover states that the volume was sold by Richard Wootton, Stationer, White Hart, in Kingstreet by the Guildhall. In all probability the volume was purchased in the first quarter of the Eighteenth Century and the earlier letters copied into it at that time.

The arrangement of the items is generally chronological by year; however, within the year letters appear to have been copied at random. Documents, especially the charters, are not in chronological order.

The microfilm of the Letter Book was filmed at a reduction of 12:1, two pages to a frame and occupies approximately 20 feet of microfilm.

## Provenance

The Letter Book was acquired by the University of Virginia Library in 1938 as part of the Mather Collection of the Tracy W. McGregor Library. Mr. McGregor had acquired the Mather Collection from William Gwinn Mather in 1935. This collection consists of manuscripts of various members of the Mather family,

especially Cotton and Increase, and printed materials pertaining to the Mathers and the Puritan Movement in New England. William Gwinn Mather had purchased the Letter Book from the dealer Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles, London, in January 1925. The whereabouts of the volume before 1925 has not been determined.

The Guildhall Library in London possesses the Company's Letter Book, 1762-72, and other archives of the New England Company which were transferred to their custody in 1953. A search by the Guildhall Library at that time revealed no other letter books.

## The Index

The index cites only personal names—correspondents, recipients, signators, witnesses, and names on financial receipts. Names appearing within the text were not included.

Names were keyed to the pagination which appears either on the outer corners or on the middle of the pages. Paging was chosen as the keying device because frequently letters of the same date do not appear in order.

Paging numbers give the full extent of the item; ie. 123, 123-25, 125, indicates that there are three items, the second occupying page 124 and part of pages 123 and 125. Two or more items are also shown, ie. 120 (3 items). This method was chosen to indicate the number of items relating to each name.

Members of the Company are designated by "S," Commissioners by a "C," followed by the dates of their election or the year in which their names appear in the records.<sup>1</sup> Charters, indentures, etc. have been indexed under the heading "Documents." Further, it was impossible to identify recipients of letters on p. 28, 80-82, and 265-66.

---

1. Kellaway's *The New England Company* was a great aid in identifying and dating many of the Company members and Commissioners.

# Index

S Member of the Company

C Commissioner for Indian Affairs

- A**dney, *Sir* Thomas, d.1750, S 1720; 248-50.
- Ashurst, Henry [d.1705/6, S 1698; or, *Sir* Henry, *bart.*, d.1711, S 1681]; 3, 5, 9 (2 items), 13 (2 items), 14, 15 (2 items), 18, 54, 58, 72, 73, 74, 74-75, 79 (2 items), 80, 82, 83, 93 (2 items), 102.
- Ashurst, Robert, d.1726, S 1698, Company gov. 1719/20-1726; 164-65, 165, 166, 167-68, 171-73, 176-78, 178, 179-81, 181, 182, 183, 192 [believed to be author of the following unsigned letters: 174-76, 184, 185-87].
- Ashurst, *Sir* William, d.1719/20, S 1681, Company treas. 1681-1696?, Company gov. 1696-1719/20; 19-20, 22-23, 24-26, 27-28, 29, 29-33, 54-55, 55-57, 59-60, 61, 62-64, 70-72, 77-78, 80-82, 84, 85, 85-86, 87-88, 90, 91-92, 94-95, 95-97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 104-05, 115-16, 118-19, 120, 121-22, 123-24, 124, 125-26, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133, 133-34, 134-35, 135-36, 136-38, 140-41, 141-43, 143-44, 146, 146-48, 154-56, 157, 158, 159-62, 162-63.
- B**anister, Thomas, d.1709, Boston merchant, C 1698/99; 34, 57 (2 items).
- Barton, Edward, S *ca.*1698; 151-52, 152-53, 169-70.
- Belchar, Andrew, Boston merchant; 58, 75.
- Bellamy, John, Company clerk; 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 8-9, 9, 10, 10-11, 11, 13, 14 (2 items), 16, 17, 18, 23-24, 28, 93.
- Bellomont, Richard Coote, *1st earl*, d.1701, gov. of Mass., S *ca.*1697, C 1699; 18, 21, 22.
- Blathwait, William; 301.
- Bletsoe [Blettsoe], Thomas, of London; 61, 102.
- Bondet, Daniel, d.1722, missionary in New Rochelle [N.Y.]; 29.
- Boyle, Robert, 1627-1691, Company gov. 1661/62-1689; 2.
- Bradstreet, Simon, 1603-1697, gov. of Mass., C 1685; 3, 4, 5, 7, 8-9, 10, 10-11, 11.
- Brenton, Jahleel, Boston merchant; 5 (2 items), 13.
- C**arter, John, d.1725, attorney; 61, 150-51.
- Carter, Richard, *brother* to John & his executor; 199.
- Chancellor, Lord High, 1710 July [Cowper, William, *1st earl* Cowper, d.1723]; 100.
- Clarke, Francis, *brother* to John Clarke & Boston merchant; 33, 58, 82, 84.
- Clarke, John, Company clerk; 33, 58, 103, 106-11, 112, 118-19, 129, 139-40, 149-50, 150-51, 151-52, 152-53.
- Clarke, *Sir* Robert, *bart.*, d.1746, S 1713, Company gov. 1728-1746; 150-51, 208, 217, 229-30, 237-39.
- Clements, Simon, Boston merchant, C 1697?-1698/99; 21, 22.
- Cocksedge, Henry; 271, 281, 284, 286, 291.
- Cocksedge, John; 146.
- Coleman, John, Boston merchant; 59.
- \*Cowper, William, *1st earl*, d.1723 [Lord High Chancellor, 1710 July]; 100.

\* According to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, v.4, p. 1316, Cowper was Lord High Chancellor 1707 May-1710 Sept.; according to the *Handbook of British Chronology*, 2d ed., 1961, p. 87, the seal was in commission 1708 Sept. 28-1710 Oct. 19.



Cox [Coxe], Daniel, d.1730, S 1681; 3 (2 items), 5 (2 items).

Cross, William Glen, New York merchant; 103.

Daniel, William, of Essex; 258.

Davie [Davy], John, *bart.*; 90, 139-40.

Davies, Samuel, 1723-1761, pres. College of New Jersey; 296-97, 302-03, 310, 314-15.

Disewell, John; 106-11, 112.

Documents [charters, indentures, etc.]; 28, 35-53, 65-66, 67-69, 76-77, 85, 89, 89-90, 100-01, 103, 106-11, 112, 112-13, 113-14, 118-19, 126-29, 129, 149-50, 151-52, 152-53, 169-70, 188-91, 204-06, 227, 248-50, 278-79, 320-21.

Dongan, Thomas *see* Limerick, Thomas Dongan, *2d. earl.*

Dowbiggin, Chr.; 106-11, 112.

Dudley, Joseph, d.1720, gov. of Mass., C 1685; 2 (2 items), 3 (2 items), 133.

Dummer, Jeremiah, d.1718, of Boston, C 1704; 117.

Dummer, Jeremiah, d.1739, colonial agent; 117 (2 items), 118-19, 148.

Dummer, William, 1677-1761, lt. gov. of Mass., C 1716; 148.

Dyke, Rowland; 126-29.

Edwards, Jonathan, 1703-1758; 274.

Eyton, James, of London; 58, 59, 75, 103.

Fitch, Thomas, d.1736, Boston merchant, C 1705; 14, 165.

Frank [Franks], *Rev.*, John, of Bath; 299, 305, 306-07.

George, John, Boston merchant; 21.

Gifford, James; 23-24.

Gill, Michael; 126-29, 129.

Green, Bartholomew, 1666-1732, Boston printer; 89-90.

Gunston, John, d.1729, S 1704, Company treas. 1720-1729; 103, 118-19, 149-50, 150-51, 151-52, 152-53, 169-70, 188-91, 193 (2 items), 194 (2 items), 195 (2 items), 196, 202, 207 (2 items).

Gyles, Francis; 126-29.

Hammond, Lawrence; 126-29.

Hedmans, Philip, Boston merchant; 145 (2 items).

Hirst, Grove, Boston merchant; 82, 138, 145.

Howard [Signed "By writ of the privy seal. Howard" 1663]; 35-53.

Hutchinson, Edward, d.1752, C 1724/25; 182.

Jackson, Benjamin, Boston merchant; 18, 21.

Jekiel, John, of Boston; 138, 149.

Lane, John, S 1709, Company sec.; 82, 84, 138, 145 (3 items), 149, 215, 219, 219-20, 222, 224, 227, 229, 243.

Lane, *Sir* Thomas, d.1709, S 1698?; 14 (2 items), 18, 34 (2 items).

Leverett, John, 1662-1724, pres. of Harvard; 99, 123-24, 130.

Lewis, Job, Boston merchant; 145 (2 items).

Limerick, Thomas Dongan, *2d earl.*; 106-11, 112, 113-14.

Lloyd, John, of London; 148.

Lossingham, Samuel; 229-30.

Lovelace, Francis, 1618?-1675?; 113.

Loyd, James, Boston merchant; 13.

Lynde, Benjamin, of London; 21.

Lynde, Samuel, *brother to* Benjamin & Boston merchant; 21.

Mason, John, captain of the ship *New London*; 89.

Mast, Thomas, of Suffolk; 213.

Mather, *Dr.* [Cotton or Increase]; 54-55.

Mather, Cotton, 1663-1728, C 1698/99; 125-26, 135-36.

Mather, Increase, 1639-1723, C 1690; 8 (2 items), 124, 134-35.

Mauduit, Jasper, d.1772, S 1745, Company treas. 1748-1765, Company gov. 1765-1772; 262, 262-63, 263, 264, 265-66, 267, 267-68, 268, 269, 270, 273, 274, 275, 276-77, 280, 281, 285, 286, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292-94, 295, 298-99, 300 (2 items), 305, 306-07, 311-13, 313-14, 314-15, 315, 316, 316-18 [believed to be the author of the following unsigned letters: 271 (3 items), 272, 281 (2d item), 282, 283, 284 (2 items), 286-87, 294 (2 items), 295 (2d item), 296-97, 299, 301 (2 items), 302-03, 303-04, 306, 306-07, 308, 308-09, 309, 310 (2 items), 311, 316 (2d item)].

Mauduit, William; 273, 283.

Mauon, Jos.; 126-29.

Mayhew, Mathew, d.1710; 113-14.

Mayhew, Thomas [1593-1682; or, d.1714]; 113-14.

Mould, Samuel, captain of the ship *Try All*; 85.

Myers, George, rent collector in York; 23-24.

**N**ewman, Henry, 1670-1743, agent for Harvard College; 118-19.

Northey, Edward; 118-19.

**O**liver, Andrew, 1706-1774, C 1733, Commissioner's treas. 1741-1774; 235-36, 236, 241-43, 243, 244-45, 245, 246-47, 251, 252, 253-54, 255-56, 257, 259, 259-61, 262-63, 263, 264, 267, 267-68, 270, 271 (2 items), 272, 276-77, 280, 281, 282, 283 (2 items), 285, 286-87, 288, 290, 292-94, 294 (2 items), 295 (2 items), 298-99, 300 (2 items), 301, 302-03, 303-04, 306, 308, 308-09, 309, 310, 311, 311-13, 315, 316, 316-18, 318, 319.

**P**almer, Eliakim, d.1749, S 1741; 237-39.

Parker, *Mr.*, of London; 239-40.

Penhallow, Samuel, d.1726, C 1724; 183.

Phillips, John, treas. of Mass.; 8.

Phips, *Sir* William, 1651-1695, gov. of Mass., C 1691; 15-16.

**R**obinson, John; 217.

Robinson, Nath.; 300.

Ryder, *Sir* Dudley, 1691-1756, lord chief justice of the King's bench; 278-79.

**S**altonstall, Gurdon, 1666-1724, gov. of Conn., C 1724; 157, 181.

Sergeant, Peter, d.1714, Boston merchant, C 1698/99; 34, 54, 61, 62-64, 79 (2 items), 83, 102.

Sewall, Samuel, 1652-1730, C 1698/99, Commissioner's sec. 1700-1724, Commissioner's treas. 1701-1724; 29-33, 55-57, 59-60, 62-64, 70-72, 77-78, 83, 84, 85-88, 91-92, 93, 94-95, 95-97, 98, 102, 104-05, 115-16, 120, 121-22, 126, 126-29, 131, 132, 136-38, 140-41, 141-43, 143-44, 146-48, 154-56, 158, 159-62, 164-65, 167-68, 171-74, 174-76, 176-78, 178, 179-81, 184.

Shute, Samuel, 1662-1742, gov. of Mass., C 1716; 162-63.

Slaughter, *Mr.*, of London; 240.

Smart, William, of Essex; 257-58, 262, 316.

Stoddard, David; 106-111, 112.

Stone, John, of London; 145.

Storke, Samuel [d.1746, C 1733; or, d.1753, S 1745]; 237-39.

Stoughton, William, d.1701, lt. gov. of Mass., C 1685, Commissioner's treas. 1685-1701; 2 (2 items), 4, 7, 8-9, 10, 10-11, 11, 12-13, 13, 15, 15-16, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 24-26, 27-28.

**T**ailer, William, d.1731/32, lt. gov. of Mass.; 106-111, 112, 133-34.

Talcott, Joseph, 1669-1741, gov. of Conn., C 1724/25; 193, 196, 197.

Taylor, treas. of Mass. province [may be James Taylor, Boston merchant]; 15.

Taylor, James, Boston merchant; 18, 34, 80, 117.

Thomas, Edward, Boston merchant; 1 (2 items), 3, 4, 6 (2 items).

Thompson [Thomson], Robert, d.1695, S 1688, Company gov. 1692-1695; 1 (3 items), 3, 4, 5, 6 (2 items), 12-13, 15-16.

Thompson, William, d.1728, S 1709, Company gov. 1726-1728; 197, 198, 199, 200-01, 202-03, 204.

Thomson, Joseph, of London; 34, 57 (2 items), 150-51.

Todd, John, missionary in Virginia; 313-14.

Tooke, Edmond, Company sec.; 188-91.

Treat, Robert, 1622-1710, gov. of Conn., C 1690?; 22.

**W**hyling, Joseph, treas. of Conn.; 18.

Wilkins, Thomas, of London; 83.

Wilks, Francis, d.1742, S 1730; 229-30, 237-39.

Williams, Elisha, 1694-1755, C 1751; 273, 275, 284, 289.

Williams, Joseph, d.1748/49, S 1722, Company treas. 1729-1748; 209, 210, 211, 211-12, 212 (2 items), 213 (3 items), 214, 214-15, 215 (2 items),

216 (2 items), 217 (2 items), 218, 220-21, 221-22, 222-23, 223, 224 (2 items), 225-26, 228, 229, 229-30, 230-31, 231-33, 233-34, 235, 235-36, 236, 237-39, 239-40, 240, 241-43, 244-45, 245, 246, 251, 252, 253-54, 255-56, 257, 257-58, 258, 259, 259-61.

Willoughby, Francis, of Charlestown [Mass.]; 126-29.

Winthrop, Adam, d.1743, C 1713, Commissioner's treas. 1724-1741; 148, 166, 185-87, 192, 193, 194, 195 (2 items), 198, 200-01, 202, 202-03, 204, 207 (2 items), 208, 209, 210, 211, 211-12, 212 (2 items), 213 (2 items), 214, 214-15, 215 (3 items), 216, 218, 219, 219-20, 220-21, 221-22, 222, 222-23, 223, 224 (3 items), 225-26, 227, 228, 229 (2 items), 230-31, 231-33, 233-34, 235.

Winthrop, John, [writing from London, may be Gov. John Winthrop]; 16, 17, 18, 22.

Winthrop, John, 1638-1707, gov. of Conn.; 58, 72, 73 (2 items), 74, 74-75.

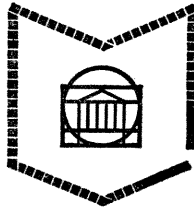
Winthrop, Wait Still, d.1717, C 1690; 17, 82.

Wright, Thomas, d.1773, S 1749, Company treas. 1765-1773; 300, 319.









MICROFILM/PUBLICATIONS  
of the  
University of Virginia Library

1. *The Lee Family Papers, 1742-1795*. Eight rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*, 51 pages.
2. *The Hamond Naval Papers, 1766-1825*. Three rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*, 41 pages.
3. *The Carter Family Papers, 1659-1797*. Four rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.
4. *John Henry Ingram's Poe Collection*. Nine rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.
5. *Virginia Gazette Daybooks, 1750-52, 1764-66*. One roll of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.
6. *The Papers of R. M. T. Hunter, 1817-1887*. Thirteen rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.
7. *James Monroe Papers in Virginia Repositories*. Thirteen rolls of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.
8. *The Letter Book, 1688-1761, of the Company for Propagation of the Gospel in New England*. One roll of microfilm and a printed *Guide*.

Enquiries concerning the purchase or loan of  
MICROFILM/PUBLICATIONS should be  
directed to the:

Curator of Manuscripts  
University of Virginia Library  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent data collection procedures and the use of appropriate statistical techniques to interpret the results.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the challenges and limitations of data analysis. It notes that while data provides valuable insights, it is not infallible and must be used in conjunction with other forms of evidence and expert judgment.

4. The final part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and conclusions. It reiterates the importance of a systematic and rigorous approach to data analysis and the potential for data to inform decision-making and improve organizational performance.