

**English-Livermore
Papers, 1796-1907
MSA 190-191**

Introduction

The English-Livermore collection consists of the miscellaneous papers of Eli English (1789-1852), of Norwich, Vermont, Eli's son, Nathan Frederick English (1822-1902), and Eli's son-in-law, Benjamin Livermore (1829-1871), both of Hartland, Vermont.

Nathan Frederick English, known as Frederick or Fred, was a machinist, model maker, and inventor. Many of the letters, legal papers and accounts relate to Frederick English's inventions, as well as those of his partner and brother-in-law, Benjamin Livermore. The collection also includes in letters exchanged between Frederick and his wife, Emily Livermore English (b. 1825), as well as other family correspondence.

The papers are shelved in two flip-top archival boxes and occupy one linear feet of shelf space. The papers are part of the Harold G. Rugg manuscript collection and were housed in Doc. 87 before they were reprocessed in 1998.

A handwritten note in the collection indicates that Mr. Rugg acquired the papers from the estate of Ernest A. English, son of Nathan F. English. Ernest English died in Hartland, Vermont, in 1939.

Biographical Sketch

Eli English (March 9, 1789 - Dec. 29, 1852), of Norwich, Vermont, married Emily Amelia Stocking (August 12, 1794 - March 18, 1850).

They had at least two children: Elizabeth (b. Jan. 21, 1833) and Nathan Frederick (June 29, 1822 - March 20, 1902). They moved to Hartland, Vermont, in about 1834.

Elizabeth English married Ezra P. Chandler (d. 1885) of Peru, Vermont, a mechanic respected for his work both with wood and iron.

Nathan Frederick, known as Frederick or Fred, married Emily Livermore (b. Nov. 22, 1825) on December 9, 1845. Among their ten children were two sons: Arnaldo M. (March 2, 1849 - March 20, 1930) and Ernest A. (August 28, 1869 - March, 1939).

Frederick English, a machinist and inventor, went into the shoe machinery business in 1847 or 1848 with his brother-in-law, Benjamin Livermore. They rented a loft in Milford, Massachusetts, and pioneered the introduction of shoe machinery. Around 1850 illness forced English to return to Hartland where he made machinery with his partner Lysander Billings. English experimented with daguerreotypes and in 1862 made

a portable “ambertype” machine. In his last years he made microscopes and telescopes in his Hartland shop.

Benjamin Livermore, son of Joseph (?) Livermore, was born in Hartland, Vermont, on August 6, 1818. He died April 4, 1871. His sister, Emily (b. Nov. 22, 1825) married Nathan Frederick English.

Ezra P. Chandler, the son of John Chandler was born in Peru, Vermont, ca. 1820. He was a machinist and wheelwright. He married Elizabeth English (b. January 21, 1833), daughter of Eli and Emily Stocking English. Chandler died in November 1885.

The following inventions are listed in the Vermont Historical Records Survey, *Subject Matter Index for Patents of Vermont Inventors, 1790-1873* (VHS 608.743 H629 pt.1):

Nathan F. English

Hatchet, 1858

Photographic apparatus, 1862

Photographic printing frame, 1865

Nathan F. English and Benjamin Livermore

Boot lasting machine, 1847

Nathan F. English and G. Rowland

Wire thread for sewing leather, 1871

Benjamin Livermore

Boot crimp, 1849

Cement drain, 1860

Instrument for lasting boots, 1852

Printing device for hand, 1863

(note: VHS broadside advertising this invention is dated 1857)

Photocopies of biographical information about the English family, Benjamin Livermore, and Ezra P. Chandler from various sources in the VHS collection are located in Folder 0.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of letters, legal papers, patent agreements, receipts and miscellaneous papers of Eli English, his son Frederick, and Eli’s son-in-law Benjamin Livermore. The collection consists largely of family letters and business correspondence concerning the family’s work and inventions.

The oldest letters in the collection are those written to and by Eli English, ca. 1820. They include letters to his wife, Emily, and letters from a brother-in-law in Griggsville, Illinois, and his son, Frederick.

During 1852, when Frederick English was in Milford, Massachusetts, introducing his shoe machinery, his wife, Emily, remained in Hartland. Their correspondence during this period occupies four folders (MSA 190: 11-14).

Benjamin Livermore, Frederick English's brother-in-law and partner, wrote English detailed and frequent letters from Milford, Massachusetts, between 1846 and 1854 about their mutual business interests. These letters occupy three folders (MSA 191:5-7).

The miscellaneous papers in the collection consist of letters, legal papers and receipts that may or may not be related to the English family or Benjamin Livermore. Some of the family names in this collection are the same as family names in the English papers in the Vermont Historical Society Misc. file #424.

Related Collections

In the VHS library:

- Card catalog: see subjects "Vermont--Patents" and "Vermont--Inventions and inventors"
- Biographical and general information about the English and Livermore families in the form of reminiscences (ca. 1939) of Ernest and Arnoldo English, sons of Frederick English, is in the Howland Atwood Hartland Collections (MS, Box 9). Photocopies of these reminiscences as well as the obituaries of Ernest and Arnoldo English are in MSA 190, folder 0.
- Additional Eli and Nathan F. English letters, legal papers, and patent application for a tooth extractor; and letters to N.F. English from Benjamin Livermore are in Misc File #424. Account books of N. F. English (ca. 1860s) are in MSC 197.
- About Nathan F. English's inventions:
English, Nathan F., "Circular to artists, amateurs, and travelers," 1862. An advertising circular describing photographic apparatus patented by the author. (Small B'side 771.3 En36)
- About Benjamin Livermore's inventions:
[Livermore, Benjamin] *Instructions for making B. Livermore's hydraulic cement water conduits; patented May 1, 1860, Windsor, Vt., 1861.* (Pam)
Livermore's permutation typograph; or pocket printing machine, Windsor, VT, 1857. (S 681.61 L7S5)

“A new wonder!: an interesting and instructive exhibition! B. Livermore, inventor of the permutation typograph or pocket writing machine will exhibit his novel invention,” 1857. (B’side D 681.6 N42)

In the VHS museum:

- Benjamin Livermore’s permutation or pocket writing machine that was acquired from the Hartland (Vt.) Historical Society in 1952.

Organization

The papers are organized in four series:

- I. Eli English, 1789-1852
- II. Nathan Frederick English, 1822-1902
- III. Benjamin Livermore, 1829 - 1871
- IV. Miscellaneous

Inventory

I. Eli English, 1789-1852

- MSA 190:1 Letters by, 1820-23
- 2 Letters to, 1820-25
- 3 _____, 1834-39
- 4 _____, 1840-44
- 5 _____, Emily English, 1841 and 1845
- 6 Accounts, 1820-44
- 7 Receipts, 1820-55
- 8 Accounts, receipts undated
- 9 Legal papers, 1823-51

II. Nathan Frederick English, 1822-1902

- 10 Letters, 1843-49
- 11 _____, to Emily L. English, 1852
- 12 _____, _____, undated
- 13 _____, from Emily L. English, 1852 and 1875
- 14 _____, _____, undated
- 15 _____, from Ezra P. Chandler, 1848-56 and undated
- 16 _____, from family, 1848-53
- 17 _____, from business associates, 1839 - 49
- 18 _____, _____, 1850-54
- 19 _____, _____, 1855-60
- MSA 190:20 _____, *Scientific American*, 1858
- 21 _____, Charter Oak Life Insurance Co., 1867-86
- 22 _____, misc. business, undated
- 23 Notebook, 1857

- 24 Legal papers, 1854-59
- 25 Fire insurance, 1873-1900
- 26 Benjamin D. Godfrey patent application, undated
- 27 Patent agreements, 1848 and 1858
- 28 Drawings and formulae, undated
- 29 Receipts, 1842-1896 and undated
- MSA 191: 1 Business cards (not Vermont), undated
- 2 Envelopes, misc.
- 3 Arnolfo and Ernest English, misc. 1872-1907
- 4 English family, letters, 1873-74 and undated

III. Benjamin Livermore, 1829-1871

- 5 Letters, to N.F. English, 1846-49
- 6 _____, _____, 1850, 1854
- 7 _____, _____, undated
- 8 _____, misc., 1846-52
- 9 Miscellaneous, 1849-50
- 10 Livermore-English, misc., 1847-52
- 11 Fragments

IV. Miscellaneous

- 12 Miscellaneous, undated
- 13 _____, unrelated (?), 1830-57
- 14 Legal papers, unrelated (?), 1817-49
- 15 Receipts, unrelated (?), 1796-1850s
- 16 Letters, unrelated, 1815-1864
- 17 Autographs, unrelated, undated

Priscilla Page
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