

**John Strong (1738-1816)**  
**Family Papers, 1762-1870**  
**Doc 10 & MS Size C**

## **Introduction**

This collection contains legal records of the family of John Strong (1738-1816) and his son Moses (1772-1842) of Rutland and Addison Counties, Vermont. The provenance of the collection is unknown; it was reprocessed in 2003. The collection consumes 1 linear foot of shelf space.

## **Biographical Sketches**

John Strong, the son of Noah and Deborah Strong, was born in Salisbury, Connecticut, on August 16, 1738. He married Agnes McCure (1739-1829), also of Salisbury, on September 2, 1759. In 1765 he came to Addison, Vermont, to build his house, and the next year moved his family from Connecticut. At this point he had three children, Asa, Samuel, and Polly. Eight more children were born in Vermont, and a ninth child was later adopted. During the Revolutionary War the family relocated to Dorset, and John represented Dorset from 1779 to 1782, and from 1781 to 1782 he was elected Assistant Judge for Bennington County. In 1783 he returned to Addison, and represented that town from 1784 to 1786. In 1785 he was elected first judge of the Addison County Court, and from 1786 to 1801 he was elected Judge of Probate and member of the Council (the equivalent of Senate). In 1791 he was a member of the convention ratifying the U.S. Constitution. In 1801 failing health caused him to give up his positions, and he died on June 16, 1816.

Moses, the seventh child of John Strong, was born June 6, 1772. He married Lucy Maria Smith of West Haven, Vermont, on December 20, 1801. They had ten children, and an eleventh by his second wife, Harriet Woodbridge Hopkins, daughter of Enoch Woodbridge, Chief Justice of Vermont. Moses lived in Shoreham until 1810, when he moved to Rutland. He was a lawyer in Rutland and Middlebury, a large landholder, a state legislator, and a judge of the county court. At one time he was engaged in forging iron and manufacturing. His last child, Agnes, married Samuel Ormsbee, in 1838. Ormsbee's brother, Edgar L. Ormsbee, appears to have worked in partnership with Moses Strong, and by the 1830s the law firm had become Merrill and Ormsbee. Moses Strong died September 29, 1842.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection of almost 1000 pieces is heavily weighted towards the legal careers of John and Moses Strong, though there are a few personal letters. Both men were large landholders, and there are 52 deeds for land bought by John and 39 by Moses, plus assorted other deeds. The collection has many letters from clients urging action, or asking that action be stopped. Included are many writs asking sheriffs to order people to

appear to pay debts, and to “attach goods or estate”. There are lists of names of grantees to lands, treasurer’s receipts for granting fees turned in by John Strong, surveyors’ reports and bills. The collection also includes correspondence on estate settlement matters, sworn testimony from out of state on legal matters.

On the back of each document is a pencilled number, added when the collection was first organized, in a straight chronological fashion. Document #364 is the first letter that asked John Strong to act in a lawyer’s capacity, as #433 is the start of communications with Moses as a lawyer, and from there on most of papers relate to Moses and not John. Many of the John Strong documents involve summonses, signed by John as a Justice of the Peace. #281 is a list of militia members for Burlington in 1787. (In correspondence John is often referred to as “General”, or “Colonel”, or “Major”.) #605 contains a series of toasts given July 4, 1802, #687, 698, 712, 713 are long letters to John from his brother Adonijah Strong of Salisbury, Connecticut asking about a deed matter and some black oxen. #844 is a long letter dealing with non-payment of alimony, the husband about to skip the state, after he had “beat, whipped, vexed her greatly”. #780 contains a plea from a woman that her man be freed from debtor prison.

The collection also includes John Strong’s book of accounts from 1771 to 1798, which includes a list of land purchases and who they were sold to, mostly in Panton and Addison. There is a daily account book for 1799 and 1800 for Shoreham, perhaps of a medical nature (?), and a tax book of 1805. There is also a court book kept by Moses Strong which contains a series of notes on land ownership records, and the disposition of Addison and Rutland County cases between 1812 and 1826.

### **Related Collections**

MS Box 27- Ira B. Strong papers  
MSS 19, #13  
Small B-side, B St885c  
MSS 18, #86  
Chronological 787261, 787262, 787273, 788114.

### **Inventory**

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Doc 10:01 | Strong family personal letters |
| 02        | Land deeds of John Strong      |
| 03        | Land deeds of Moses Strong     |
| 04        | Non-Strong deeds               |
| 05        | 1771-1781 legal papers         |
| 06        | 1782-1784 legal papers         |
| 07        | 1785-1787 legal papers         |
| 08        | 1788-1791 legal papers         |
| 09        | 1792-1795 legal papers         |
| 10        | 1796-1799 legal papers         |

- 11 1800-1802 legal papers
- 12 1803-1805 legal papers
- 13 1806-1808 legal papers
- 14 1809-1810 legal papers
- 15 1811-1812 legal papers
- 16 1813-1814 legal papers
- 17 1815-1839 legal papers
- 18 1840-1870 miscellaneous papers
- 19 undated papers
- 20 tax and account books
- 21 account book, court records
- MS Size C 1762 charter for Neshobe (later Brandon), granted by George III.

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