

F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77029322>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014007>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander Papers

Span Dates: 1836-1894

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1849-1862)

ID No.: MSS29322

Creator: Lander, F. W. (Frederick West), 1821-1862

Creator: Lander, J. M. (Jean Margaret), 1829-1903

Extent: 1,250 items

Extent: 12 containers

Extent: 3.2 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm77029322>

Summary: Engineer, explorer, and army officer (F. W. Lander). Actress (J. M. Lander). Correspondence, writings, military dispatches and telegrams, notes, maps, reports, scrapbooks, printed material, and other papers relating to F. W. Lander's explorations in the West, advocacy of a western railroad system, political activities in California, and service during the Civil War. Also correspondence, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting the acting career of J. M. Lander.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922--Correspondence.

Booth, Edwin, 1833-1893--Correspondence.

Boucicault, Dion, 1820-1890--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889--Correspondence.

Fillmore, Millard, 1800-1874--Correspondence.

Floyd, John B. (John Buchanan), 1806-1863--Correspondence.

Garrett, John W. (John Work), 1820-1884--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Jefferson, Joseph, 1774-1832--Correspondence.

Johnston, Harriet Lane, 1830-1903--Correspondence.

Keene, T. W. (Thomas Wallace), 1840-1898--Correspondence.

Kelly, Moses, active 1861--Correspondence.

Lander, F. W. (Frederick West), 1821-1862.

Lander, J. M. (Jean Margaret), 1829-1903. F. W. Lander and J.M. Lander papers. 1836-1894.

Lane, Joseph, 1801-1881--Correspondence.

Marlowe, Julia, 1865-1950--Correspondence.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885--Correspondence.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885.

McDougall, J. A. (James Alexander), 1817-1867--Correspondence.

Potter, John Fox, 1817-1899.

Pryor, Roger A. (Roger Atkinson), 1828-1919.

Reade, Charles, 1814-1884--Correspondence.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.

Ritchie, Anna Cora Ogden Mowatt, 1819-1870--Correspondence.

Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence.

Sand, George, 1804-1876--Correspondence.

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.
Stone, Chas. P. (Charles Pomeroy), 1824-1887.
Stout, Lansing, 1828-1871--Correspondence.

Subjects

Overland journeys to the Pacific.
Railroads--West (U.S.)
Roads--West (U.S.)
Roads--West (U.S.)--Surveying.
Theater--Caribbean Area.
Theater--Europe.
Theater--United States.

Places

California--Politics and government--1850-1950.
Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration.
West (U.S.)--Maps.
West (U.S.)--Surveys.

Titles

F.W. Lander papers
Frederick West Lander papers
J.M. Lander papers
Jean Margaret Lander papers

Occupations

Actresses.
Army officers.
Engineers.
Explorers.

Provenance

The papers of F. W. Lander, engineer, explorer, and army officer, and J. M. Lander, actress, were given to the Library of Congress by the executors of the estate of J. M. Lander in 1900.

Processing History

The papers of F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander were processed circa 1900-1920. The finding aid was created in 1977 and revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

The Lander Papers were described in *The Handbook of the Library of Congress* (1918): 214-216.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, F. W. Lander and J. M. Lander Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

F. W. Lander

Date	Event
1821, Dec. 17	Born, Salem, Mass.
1830's	Attended Governor Dummer Academy, Byfield, Mass.
1837	Graduated, engineering school of F. A. Barton, Andover, Mass.
1841	Completed engineering studies, Norwich University, Northfield, Vt.
1850	Chief civil engineer, Northern Pacific Railroad expedition
1854	Led expedition exploring railroad route through South Pass
1857-1858	Chief engineer, Ft. Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon Road
1858-1859	Special agent for Indians along Wagon Road
1858-1861	Superintendent, Ft. Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon Road
1860	Married Jane Margaret Davenport
1851	Confidential mission to Governor Sam Houston of Texas on behalf of the United States Aide-de-camp to General George Brinton McClellan (1826-1885) Appointed brigadier general of volunteers Wounded in leg at Edwards Ferry, Md.
1862	Led charge at Blooming Gap, receiving commendation from secretary of war
1862, Mar. 2	Died in camp, Cacapon River, Va.

J. M. Lander

Date	Event
1829, May 3	Born, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England
1837	Made first professional appearance as an actress, Richmond Theatre, London, England
1838-1842	Toured the United States as an actress
1842-1844	Traveled in England and France and studied under private tutors
1846-1848	Performed in Holland and Germany
1849	Emigrated to the United States and continued her acting career
1860	Married F. W. Lander
circa 1862-1865	Served as a hospital nurse
1866	Resumed acting career
1877	Retired from the stage; resided in Washington, D.C., and Lynn, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frederick West Lander (1821-1862) and Jean Margaret Lander span the period 1836-1894, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1849-1862. F. W. Lander's professional activities as an explorer-engineer in the West, 1853-1861, and his service as an officer in the Union Army, 1861-1862, account for the largest portion of the material. There is little documentation of his early career as a railroad construction engineer in Massachusetts or of his personal life. Some evidence of his efforts in poetry and politics is included in the collection. The papers are organized into five series: [General Correspondence and Related Material](#), [Dispatches](#), [Letter Copybook](#), [Miscellany](#), and [J. M. Lander Papers](#).

As an explorer in the West, F. W. Lander led or took part in five expeditions to discover and survey easier and shorter routes from the interior to the Pacific coast. Notes, sketch maps, reports, and correspondence document these explorations. During these years he served as chief engineer and superintendent of the Fort Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon Road, a route calculated to improve on the Oregon trail as a migration path. Lander's advocacy of a western rail system and his concern that the region be rapidly settled are manifested in correspondence with his superiors in the Department of the Interior and in draft and printed reports and memorials to Congress, manuscript and printed copies of his *Emigrant Guide*, and newspaper articles. Especially evident in the correspondence, particularly with subordinates, are the problems and dissensions involved in exploration under aegis of the government and the day-to-day rigors incident to life in the wilderness and conflict with the native population.

Also documented is Lander's military career in the Civil War. As an aide-de-camp to General George Brinton McClellan (1826-1885) and as a brigadier general of volunteers under General Chas. P. Stone, Lander added to the fame he had earlier achieved, as an explorer and Indian fighter, by conspicuous bravery in military actions on the upper Potomac River. Dispatches, letters, and telegrams document in considerable detail troop movements and command decisions involved in the war in what was then western Virginia. Newspaper clippings describe Lander's exploits.

Also documented by newspaper clippings are other aspects of Lander's life. His political activities as a Democrat in support of John C. Breckinridge for president in California in 1860, his exertions as a publicist for railroad building endeavors, and his involvement in personal and professional quarrels were widely reported in the press. One such quarrel, an affair of honor involving congressmen Roger A. Pryor of Virginia and John Fox Potter of Wisconsin in which Lander acted as a second is detailed in a sequence of letters from April 1860 in the General Correspondence and Related Material series and in the scrapbooks and newspaper clippings in the Miscellany.

F. W. Lander's correspondents include Jefferson Davis, John B. Floyd, John W. Garrett, George Brinton McClellan (1826-1885), William S. Rosecrans, and Winfield Scott. There are copies of letters from Lander to Simon Cameron, Moses Kelly, Joseph Lane, J. A. McDougall, George Brinton McClellan, Lansing Stout, and others.

The papers of J. M. Lander consist of correspondence, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items relating to her career as an actress. Her renown during a forty-year career is attested to by clippings of reviews from European, North American, and Caribbean newspapers. The correspondence reflects her acquaintance in political, social, and artistic circles. Included are letters from Alexander Graham Bell, Edwin Booth, Dion Boucicault, Henry Clay, Millard Fillmore, John Hay, Joseph Jefferson, Harriet Lane, T. W. Keene, Julia Marlowe, Charles Reade, Whitelaw Reid, Anna Cora Ogden Mowatt Ritchie, and a letter of introduction to George Sand.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence and Related Material, 1849-1862](#)
- [Dispatches, 1862](#)
- [Letter Copybook, 1857-1858](#)
- [Miscellany, 1854-1862](#)
- [J. M. Lander Papers, 1836-1894](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<p><u>General Correspondence and Related Material, 1849-1862</u></p> <p>Letters received, copies of letters sent, telegrams received, copies of telegrams sent, writings and reports, maps, orders, invoices, transcripts of newspaper articles, poetry, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically with an undated volume at the end.</p>
BOX 5-8	<p><u>Dispatches, 1862</u></p> <p>Military dispatches and telegrams received and copies of dispatches and telegrams sent.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 9	<p><u>Letter Copybook, 1857-1858</u></p> <p>Copies of letters sent.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically. <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 17,156.</i></p>
BOX 9-10	<p><u>Miscellany, 1854-1862</u></p> <p>Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings about F. W. Lander, a bound itinerary kept by J. F. Mullooney and R. L. Poor, and newspaper clippings.</p> <p>The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically and the clippings by subject.</p>
BOX 11-12	<p><u>J. M. Lander Papers, 1836-1894</u></p> <p>Correspondence, scrapbooks of theater reviews and notices, calling cards, a photograph, receipts, a passport, newspaper clippings, playbills, and other miscellany and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	General Correspondence and Related Material, 1849-1862 Letters received, copies of letters sent, telegrams received, copies of telegrams sent, writings and reports, maps, orders, invoices, transcripts of newspaper articles, poetry, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically with an undated volume at the end.
BOX 1	1849, Dec.-1861, Apr. 11
BOX 2	1861, Apr. 24-Nov. 24
BOX 3	1861, Nov. 24-1862, Mar. 6
BOX 4	Undated
BOX 5-8	Dispatches, 1862 Military dispatches and telegrams received and copies of dispatches and telegrams sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5	1862
BOX 5	Jan. 7-26
BOX 6	Jan. 27-Feb. 6
BOX 7	Feb. 7-12
BOX 8	Feb. 14-25
BOX 9	Letter Copybook, 1857-1858 Copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically. <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 17,156.</i>
BOX 9	1857, Apr. 30-1858, Mar. 22
BOX 9-10	Miscellany, 1854-1862 Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings about F. W. Lander, a bound itinerary kept by J. F. Mullowney and R. L. Poor, and newspaper clippings. The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically and the clippings by subject.
BOX 9	Scrapbooks
BOX 9	1854-1862
BOX 9	1862, obituary
BOX 9	Journal, "Ft. Kearney, South Pass & Honey Lake Wagon Road: Notes of Travel, Courses and Distances between Ft. Laramie and Forks of South Pass & Ft. Thompson Road," kept by John F. Mullowney and R. L. Poor, 1857
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings
BOX 10	About F. W. Lander
BOX 10	Buchanan, James, and Jefferson Davis
BOX 10	Business and economic affairs
BOX 10	Civil War
BOX 10	Activities

Miscellany, 1854-1862

Container	Contents
BOX 10	General
BOX 10	Indian affairs
BOX 10	King, Thomas Starr
BOX 10	Marriage
BOX 10	Obituaries and memorial tributes
BOX 10	Pacific railroad
BOX 10	Poetry
BOX 10	Poetry by F. W. Lander
BOX 10	Pryor-Potter affair
BOX 10	Politics
BOX 10	Western activities
BOX 10	Writings and reports of speeches
BOX 10	Miscellaneous
BOX 11-12	J. M. Lander Papers, 1836-1894 Correspondence, scrapbooks of theater reviews and notices, calling cards, a photograph, receipts, a passport, newspaper clippings, playbills, and other miscellany and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 11	Correspondence, A-Z, 1844-1894 (4 folders)
BOX 11	Miscellany
BOX 11	Scrapbooks
BOX 11	1836-1839
BOX 11	1840-1849
BOX 11	1851-1869
BOX 12	Undated (2 vols.)
BOX 12	Calling cards
BOX 12	Engraving from photograph of F. W. Lander
BOX 12	Passport, 1852
BOX 12	Poetry
BOX 12	Receipts, 1848-1849
BOX 12	United States House of Representatives, private act no. 32, for the relief of J. M. Lander
BOX 12	Theater bills and advertisements
BOX 12	Theater notes