

# Princeton University Library

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### James Alexander Papers, 1688-1756: Finding Aid

#### Summary Information

<b>Call number:</b>	C0024
<b>Location:</b>	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Manuscripts Division. One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
<b>Size:</b>	4 linear feet (10 boxes)
<b>Language(s) of material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	James Alexander was a lawyer in New Jersey and New York during the eighteenth century. This collection consists of correspondence, documents, and manuscripts of James Alexander, the bulk of which relate to the allocation and ownership of land, primarily in New Jersey and New York.

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## Biography of James Alexander

James Alexander was a lawyer in New Jersey and New York during the eighteenth century. Born in Scotland in 1691, Alexander fought in the Rebellion of 1715, which resulted in the exile of the Stuarts from England. That year, he moved to the United States and became the surveyor general of the Province of New Jersey. He served on both the Council of New York, from 1721 to 1732, and the Council of New Jersey, from 1723 to 1735. From 1723 to 1727, he also served as New Jersey's attorney general. Alexander died in 1756.

## Description

The collection consists of correspondence, documents, and manuscripts of James Alexander, the bulk of which relate to the allocation of land, primarily in New Jersey, or to the legal and government problems arising from its ownership during the period Alexander was surveyor-general of New Jersey and, later, New York. Indian deeds, surveys, and a "Copy of the Jersey Commission for running the Division Line betwixt the Province of New Jersey and New York" are included, with petitions and correspondence regarding land riots (1740) and those arrested during land disputes, and the petition of Alexander and William Smith for reinstatement after their disbarment in the libel trial of printer/publisher John Peter Zenger. In addition, there are letters and documents signed by colonial governors of New York and New Jersey, including William Burnet, Robert Hunter, Edward Hyde Cornbury, Cadwallader Colden, and Jonathan Belcher, as well as letters by David Ogden, and Richard Stockton.

## Arrangement

The letters and documents have been tipped into 10 folio-sized bound volumes and are arranged in rough, chronological order.

## Access and Use

### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research use.

### Restrictions on Use and Copyright

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

## Processing and Other Information

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); James Alexander Papers; Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joe Calizo in 1996. Finding aid written by Joe Calizo in 1996.

Biography written by Jessica Marati, '08.

### Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks and Cristela García-Spitz on April 27, 2007. Created from MARC record via MarcEdit and XSL stylesheets in 2007.

### Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

## Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Zenger, John Peter, 1697-1746 -- Trials, litigation, etc.
- New Jersey -- Governors -- 18th century.
- New York (State) -- Governors -- 18th century.
- New Jersey -- Boundaries -- New York (State) -- 18th century.
- New Jersey -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
- New Jersey -- Politics and government -- To 1775.
- New York (State) -- Boundaries -- New Jersey -- 18th century.
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- To 1775.
- Indians of North America -- New Jersey -- Land transfers -- 18th century.
- Land tenure -- New Jersey -- Cases -- 18th century.
- Deeds -- New Jersey -- 18th century.
- Surveys (land) -- New Jersey -- 18th century.
- Surveyors -- New Jersey -- 18th century.
- New Jerseyana
- American history/Colonial

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Copy of "An Act by the New Jersey Assembly to vest in Trustees a power of Selling any quantity of unlocated lands within the patents of Minisink and Wawayanda not exceeding One Thousand Pounds from each of the said Patents to defend the Title and Possessions of the Proprietors of the said two Patents against the intentions of the People of east New Jersey and other purposes therein mentioned", Feb. 16, 1756	10	89
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