

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 10

Frank B. Averill Family Papers

1865-1891

1 box
0.5 linear feet
Accession No. LB1995.416, LB1998.43

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PMM 10

Frank B. Averill Family Papers

Averill, Frank B., 1844-

Averill Family

Papers, 1865-1891

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Sea captains from Rockland, Maine

This collection contains letters written by Captains Frank B. Averill and Cyrus B. Averill, brothers from Rockland, Maine, discussing daily life and business in the coasting trade. Frank B. Averill primarily sailed in the lime trade between Rockland and New York, while Cyrus B. Averill carried general cargoes to southern ports, the West Indies, and, occasionally, Europe. Many of the letters are addressed to Frank's wife, Margaret H. Averill; some were written by or to close family and friends.

In English.

Renny Stackpole; Gift; 1995; LB1995.416; Renny Stackpole; Gift; 1998; LB1998.43

Finding aid available; folder level control.

Subject Headings:

Averill, Cyrus B., 1833-1908

Averill, Frank B., 1844-

Averill, Margaret H. Martin, 1839-1912

Coasters (ships)

Coastwise shipping

Lime industry

Loading and unloading

Ship captains

Local Headings:

Lime trade

West Indies trade

Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Renny Stackpole in two parts. The bulk of the collection arrived in 1995. About 30 letters followed in 1998.

Restrictions:

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Condition:

The collection is in good condition, apart from occasional minor mouse damage.

Related Materials:

Another group of letters between Frank B. Averill, Margaret H. Averill, Cyrus B. Averill, and close family are held at Mystic Seaport Museum, Coll. 260.

This collection arrived with a folder of materials from the Philbrook family of South Thomaston, Maine. No connection between the two families has been established, so the Philbrook material has been separated and filed in PMM 3, Family Boxes.

Historical Note:

Captains Frank B. Averill (b. 1844) and Cyrus B. Averill (1833-1908) were brothers and master mariners from Rockland, Maine. Frank sailed primarily in the lime trade from Rockland. He usually carried lime from Rockland to New York, returning with a general cargo for Boston or smaller New England ports. His commands included the schooners UNION, RED JACKET, and CLARA RANKIN. Frank married Margaret Hunter Martin (1839-1912) and had three sons: Frank C. (b. 1867), Cyrus B. (b. 1869), and Albert E. (b. 1876).

Cyrus B. Averill sailed in the general coasting trade, frequenting ports like New York, Baltimore, and Savannah, and occasionally sailing to the Caribbean for sugar or Europe with a cargo of oil. His commands included the brig DUDLEY and the barks DON JUSTO, ALMOUR, and SURPRISE. Cyrus married Hannah Sophia Eldridge and had one daughter, Minnie (b. 1852), who occasionally accompanied him to sea.

Frank and Cyrus Averill evidently maintained close personal and financial relationships over the course of their careers, and their families shared an address with their father, Elijah M. Averill, through the 1880s.

Scope and Content:

The bulk of this collection consists of letters written by Frank B. Averill and Cyrus B. Averill, mostly to Frank's wife, Margaret. They cover the brother's maritime careers from the end of the Civil War to the early 1890s, providing a personal record of the lime trade and the broader coastal trading business.

Frank B. Averill's letters tend to be brief, discussing his ship's business, weather conditions, and comments on stevedoring and market rates. Cyrus B. Averill's letters cover many of the same topics, along with more detailed descriptions of ports visited, family affairs, and other daily occurrences. The remaining letters are all from close family and friends of the three main correspondents, most of whom were also involved in Rockland's shipping business.

Box and Folder List:

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Letters, Elijah M. Averill to his son, Frank B. Averill, 1867-1871 |
| | 2 | Letters, Frank B. Averill to his wife, Margaret H. Averill, 1865-1867 |
| | 3 | Letters, Frank B. Averill to Margaret H. Averill, 1868-1877 |
| | 4 | Letters, Frank B. Averill to Margaret H. Averill, 1879-1891 |
| | 5 | Envelopes, Frank B. Averill to Margaret H. Averill |
| | 6 | Letters, Cyrus B. Averill to Frank B. Averill, 1865-1898 |
| | 7 | Letters, Cyrus B. Averill to Margaret H. Averill, 1865-1884 |
| | 8 | Letters, Cyrus B. Averill to Frank and Margaret Averill, 1869 |
| | 9 | Letters from Cyrus B. Averill, misc., 1884 and undated |
| 10 | | Letters to Margaret H. Averill, multiple senders, 1868-1890 |