

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 35**

**Capt. William F. Hopkins Collection**

**1887-1909**

5 boxes  
2.5 linear feet  
Accession No. LB2003.38

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

Penobscot Marine Museum  
11 Church St., Searsport, Maine 04974  
penobscotmarinemuseum.org  
207-548- 2529 ext. 212 | [libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org](mailto:libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org)

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# PMM 35

## Capt. William F. Hopkins Collection

### **Hopkins, William F., 1859-1923**

Papers, 1887-1909

5 boxes plus 1 oversize folder (2.5 linear feet)

Schooner captain from Northport, Maine

Accounts, bills, charter parties, wage receipts, correspondence, and other documents from vessels commanded by Captain William F. Hopkins between 1887 and 1909. The bulk of these are from the schooner STAR OF THE SEA, which Hopkins sailed in the 1890s. The collection provides a detailed record of the businesses and sailors involved in the coal, lumber, phosphate, and sugar trades between New York, Philadelphia, southern US ports, and the Caribbean.

In English

Family of Robert P.L. and Elizabeth W. McLain; Gift; 2003; LB2003.28

Finding aid available; folder level control.

### Subject Headings:

Hopkins, William F., 1859-1923

SENATOR SULLIVAN (schooner)

STAR OF THE SEA (schooner)

Coal trade

Coasters (ships)

Coastwise shipping

Lumber trade

Merchant mariners

Shipping

Ships—equipment and supplies

Sugar trade

Wages

### Local Headings:

Phosphate trade

West Indies trade

### **Acquisition:**

This collection was donated to Penobscot Marine Museum by the family of Robert P.L. and Elizabeth W. McLain in 2003. The McLain family found the papers in the attic of their house in Northport, Maine, which had previously been owned and occupied by Captain William F. Hopkins.

### **Restrictions:**

This collection is open to research. There are no special restrictions.

### **Condition:**

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some have mouse damage, have started to yellow, or have slightly battered and torn edges. Many of the bound volumes have fairly heavy

damage to the covers and bindings from mice, silverfish, and other pests. However, the text blocks remain intact and legible.

**Processing Note:**

The documents have been unfolded, flattened, and rehoused, but otherwise minimally processed since acquisition.

**Historical Note:**

William F. Hopkins was born in 1859 in Hampden, Maine. He moved to Northport, Maine, as a child, and, with his brothers, started a career at sea. He spent his career in the coasting and West Indies trades, carrying bulk cargoes of coal, lumber, phosphate rock, ice, and sugar to ports in New England, the mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Cuba, and other Caribbean islands. By 1889, Hopkins was a captain aboard the schooner F.H. ODIORNE, owned by W.F. Green & Sons of Boston. In 1891, he took command of W.F. Green's schooner STAR OF THE SEA, followed by the schooner SENATOR SULLIVAN in 1900. Hopkins' last vessel was likely the schooner VIKING of New York, which he sailed from 1907 to 1911.

William F. Hopkins married Clara A. Crockett (1872-1954) in 1891. They had no children, but lived with Clara's family in Northport. Hopkins died in 1923.

**Scope & Content:**

This collection contains bills, receipts, accounts, correspondence, charter parties, and other business records from the schooners STAR OF THE SEA, SENATOR SULLIVAN, and VIKING during the years they were commanded by Captain William F. Hopkins. It provides a highly detailed record of Hopkins's participation in the coastwise coal, lumber, phosphate, and sugar trades, but little personal material.

A majority of the documents in this collection are accounts, bills, receipts, and other records from the various brokers, chandlers, customs agents, and other firms involved in handling a vessel's business in port. Charter parties and bills of lading provide a fairly complete record of the merchants and cargoes that Hopkins worked with. The collection is particularly detailed regarding seamen: there are receipts for wages paid to nearly every crewmember that Hopkins shipped over fifteen years, as well as some more detailed slop accounts in which Hopkins kept track of individual sailor's cash advances and clothing and tobacco purchases. Business correspondence tends to be brief and direct; much of this is from William F. Green & Co., Hopkins's managing owners in Boston, and merchants that Hopkins worked with in other ports.

**Box and Folder List:**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Business cards
	2	Charter parties, clearance certificates, and other shipping documents, 1891-1901
	3	Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1887-1891
	4	Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, Feb. – Aug. 1892
	5	Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, Sept. – Dec. 1892
	6	Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1893-1895
	7	Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1896-1898

- 8 Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1898-1900
- 9 Business correspondence, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1901-1904
- 2 1 Bills and receipts, 1888-1892
- 2 2 Bills and receipts, 1893
- 3 3 Bills and receipts, 1894
- 4 4 Bills and receipts, 1895
- 5 5 Bills and receipts, 1896-1897
- 6 6 Bills and receipts, 1898-1899
- 7 7 Bills and receipts, 1901-1909
- 8 8 Bills and receipts, undated
- 3 1 Accounts, 1891-1893
- 2 2 Accounts, 1894-1897
- 3 3 Accounts, 1899-1900
- 4 4 Accounts, 1901-1903
- 5 5 Bills and accounts, mold damaged, 1892-1895
- 6 6 Charter parties and other shipping documents, 1890-1892
- 7 7 Charter parties and other shipping documents, 1893-1895
- 8 8 Charter parties and other shipping documents, 1896-1897
- 9 9 Charter parties and other shipping documents, 1898-1901
- 10 10 Correspondence and clippings, Capt. William F. Hopkins, 1892-1900
- 4 1 Account books, provisions: schooner STAR OF THE SEA, schooner SENATOR SULLIVAN, and Captain William F. Hopkins, c. 1894-1897
- 2 2 Notebooks (3), Capt. William F. Hopkins, c. 1895-1900
- 3 3 Rough account books (4), Capt. William F. Hopkins, c. 1893-1898
- 4 4 Rough account books (2), including crew accounts, Capt. William F. Hopkins
- 5 5 "Street Directory and Guide to Greater New York"
- "Vest Pocket Map of Boston"
- "Regulations Concerning the Harbor of the Port of Galveston," c. 1889
- 6 6 Wage receipt books (4), STAR OF THE SEA, 1891-1896, and SENATOR SULLIVAN, 1900-1901
- 7 7 Wage receipt book, schooner VIKING, 1908
- 8 8 Wage receipt books (3), STAR OF THE SEA, 1893-1899
- 5 1 Log-book, STAR OF THE SEA, blank
- 2 2 Log-book, SENATOR SULLIVAN, with slop accounts, undated
- 3 3 Account book, general accounts and slop accounts, STAR OF THE SEA, 1891-1893

Oversize Material

- OS 1 Oversized documents, 1887-1909