

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 53**

**Captain Francis Haskell Papers**

1810 – 1843

1 box  
0.5 linear feet  
Accession No. LB2009.5

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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# PMM 53

## Captain Francis Haskell Papers

**Haskell, Francis, 1791-1856**

Papers, 1810-1843

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Sea captain and merchant from Deer Isle, Maine

Bills, accounts, correspondence, deeds, and other business documents from Francis Haskell and the Haskell family of Deer Isle, Maine. Haskell was a sea captain and merchant engaged in coastal trade from Penobscot Bay to ports from New Brunswick to Philadelphia. This collection contains material from multiple vessels owned or operated by the Haskells, as well as accounts for business on Deer Isle and detailed probate records for Francis Haskell's brothers, Benjamin S. and Jonathan.

In English.

Sarah and John Ames; Gift; 2009; LB2009.5

Finding aid available; folder level control

**Subject Headings:**

Haskell, Francis, 1791-1856

Haskell, Jonathan, 1782-1825

Haskell, Benjamin S., 1781-c. 1822

APOLLO (brig)

LUCY (schooner)

TRUE AMERICAN (schooner)

Deer Isle (Me.)

Coasters (ships)

Coastwise shipping

Executors and Administrators

Lumber trade

Merchant mariners

Merchant ships

Ship captains

Shipowners

Shipping

Ships—maintenance and repair

Wages

**Local Headings:**

Potato trade

**Acquisition:**

This collection was given to Penobscot Marine Museum in 2009 by Sarah and John Ames, who owned an antique shop in Camden. The Ameses acquired these papers from another antique buyer in coastal Maine.

**Restrictions:**

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

**Condition:**

The collection is in good condition, with light wear commensurate with age.

**Processing Notes:**

This collection appears to have arrived in its original order, as determined by paper labels used to bind the documents into packets for storage. Each folder corresponds to one of these labels. However, the packets seem to have been made some years after the bills and letters accumulated, perhaps by Haskell or another mid-nineteenth century organizer. As a result, the papers are not perfectly organized by type or topic. Information on vessels or personal accounts is therefore scattered through multiple folders.

**Historical Note:**

Francis Haskell (1791-1856) was part of a large family of sea captains, merchants, and ship-owners in Deer Isle, Maine. He was the son of Jonathan (1755-1830) and Dorothy Shute Haskell (1763-1849). Jonathan Haskell was sailor and merchant, and Francis, along with his brothers Benjamin (1781-c.1822), Jonathan (1782-1826), and David (1799-1877), followed his father into the business.

With his father, brothers, and cousins, Francis Haskell owned shares in a large number of schooners, including the GEORGE WASHINGTON, LUCY, CONSTITUTION, POLLY & PHEBE, and STORK. The family worked with merchants in Deer Isle, Castine, and around Penobscot Bay to assemble cargoes of lumber and potatoes for ports like Boston and New York. The majority of their business was centered in Deer Isle, though they sailed as far afield as New Brunswick and Philadelphia. Haskell and his brothers commanded many of the vessels they employed, often, it seems, on a voyage by voyage basis.

Francis Haskell married Mary "Polly" Spofford. They had two daughters: Sarah (b. 1828) and Lucretia (b. 1831).

**Scope & Content:**

This collection contains accounts, bills, correspondence, bills of sale, and other papers from the Haskell family's many maritime business ventures. The bulk of the collection relates to business conducted by Francis Haskell, though his brothers Jonathan and Benjamin Haskell, cousins Levi Marshall and Mark Haskell, and other family members and business partners are also represented.

Most of this collection is financial: bills, accounts, receipts, and notes of hand for transactions in Deer Isle, Castine, Boston, and further abroad. These provide detailed, if fragmentary, information on cargoes, vessel maintenance, and crew, as well as domestic goods purchased for family on Deer Isle. Correspondence is limited to letters about freight and cargo, illustrating the business networks of Penobscot Bay early nineteenth century. At least fifteen vessels are mentioned in the collection; the TRUE AMERICAN (schooner), APOLLO (brig), GEORGE WASHINGTON (schooner), LUCY (schooner), and STORK (schooner) are among the best represented.

Francis Haskell was the executor for his brothers Benjamin S. and Jonathan, and detailed probate accounts for both estates are here. Otherwise, except for where personal and commercial business overlapped, there is little personal material.

### Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	"Bills for 1832/TRUE AMERICAN"
	2	"Severill Bills of all Kinds/Brig APOLLO Bills"
	3	"Receipts and Orders"
	4	Receipts and Orders
	5	Receipts
	6	Receipts
	7	"Bills 1821"
	8	"Bills for 1842 and other Papers"
	9	"Notes signed by F. Haskell"
	10	"Notes and Receipts for Taxes"
	11	Bills of Sale
	12	"Bonds & Deeds & Bills of Sale"
	13	"Bills of Benj. S. Haskell's Administration 1825"
	14	"Jonathan Haskell's Bills of Administration in the year 1826/Francis Haskell Administrator"