

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 61

Turner & Blanchard Records

1910 – 1915

1 box
0.5 linear feet
Accession No. LB1991.188

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 61

Turner & Blanchard Records

Turner & Blanchard

Records, 1910-1915

7 volumes (.5 linear feet)

Stevedoring firm in Brooklyn, New York.

Seven volumes of stevedoring records for steamships in the American-Hawaiian Line during calls at Brooklyn, New York. Each volume contains records of hours worked, cargo handled, and gangs of longshoremen employed by the stevedoring firm Turner & Blanchard for individual visits. There are records for the steamships AMERICAN, GEORGIAN, HAWAIIAN, KANSAN, KENTUCKIAN, OREGONIAN, and TEXAN.

In English.

Dr. John R. Richardson; Gift; 1991; LB1991.188

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Blanchard & Turner (New York, N.Y.)

American-Hawaiian Steamship Company

Cargo handling

Loading and unloading

Merchant ships

New York Harbor (N.Y. and N.J.)

Stevedores

Sugar trade

Acquisition:

This collection was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Dr. John R. Richardson.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

The text blocks are in good condition, but covers are fragile, flaking, and loose from the text blocks.

Historical Note:

Turner & Blanchard was a major stevedoring firm in New York harbor. It was formed in 1910 by Solon E. Turner, formerly of Trecartin & Turner, and Albert Nichols Blanchard. Turner & Blanchard worked primarily with large, trans-oceanic steamships, maintaining contracts to load and unload vessels from the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company, the Norwegian American Line, the Bank Line, and the Luckenbach Steamship Company, among others. The firm was a major part in New York's labor market, employing approximately 30,000 stevedores in 1946 alone, and like other firms of its size, a focus of twentieth century labor movements. Turner & Blanchard operated until 1962, when it was sold to the Luckenbach Steamship Company.

Though founded in New York, Turner & Blanchard had strong ties to Maine. Solon E. Turner (b. 1857) was from Lubec, and Albert N. Blanchard was from a family of Searsport sea

captains. Blanchard had commanded sailing ships in the Cape Horn trades before he joined the stevedoring business. Two of Blanchard's brothers, Phineas Banning (1879-1962) and Scott (1883-1959) also became partners in Turner & Blanchard; both had formerly been sea captains as well. The partners maintained ties to Maine throughout their lives, and most either retired to the state or are buried there.

The American-Hawaiian Steamship Company was founded in 1899 to carry cargo between New York, San Francisco, and Hawaii. It was founded by a group of New York and California ship brokers, all of whom had been active in managing sailing ships on similar routes. The company built its own fleet of large, steel steamers powered by oil-burning engines. Most of these vessels were named after states. The firm was highly successful, and, by World War I, owned a quarter of American tonnage in ocean-going steamships. The firm continued to operate until the early 1950s, when the fleet was sold.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains seven notebooks kept by Turner & Blanchard, recording loading and unloading operations on American Hawaiian Line steamers between 1910 and 1915. Entries consist of a narrative of the whole process of unloading and loading the ship, with accounts for time spent on various tasks and how cargo was stowed for each port of call. Individual stevedores are not mentioned, but the number of gangs employed, hours and overtime worked, and manpower needed for each stage of the process are noted. Each volume contains records for one ship, each voyage numbered sequentially. There are volumes for the steamers AMERICAN, GEORGIAN, HAWAIIAN, KANSAN, KENTUCKIAN, OREGONIAN, and TEXAN.

Many of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company's captains in this period were from Searsport, and the person who kept these records made note of them. Lincoln A. Colcord, Frank L. Dow, and Joseph D. Sweetster are all noted here.

Box and Folder List:

Volume 1	Stevedoring records, S.S. AMERICAN
2	Stevedoring records, S.S. GEORGIAN
3	Stevedoring records, S.S. HAWAIIAN
4	Stevedoring records, S.S. KANSAN
5	Stevedoring records, S.S. KENTUCKIAN
6	Stevedoring records, S.S. OREGONIAN
7	Stevedoring records, S.S. TEXAN