

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 68**

**Edwin and Abbie Clifford Papers**

1863-1872

1 oversize box  
1.75 linear feet  
Accession No. 2013.9.5-7

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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# PMM 68

## Edwin and Abbie Clifford Papers

**Clifford, Edwin W.**, 1834-1872

**Clifford, Abbie J. Longfellow**, 1839-1901

Papers, 1863-1872

1 oversize box (1.75 linear feet)

Sea captain from Stockton, Maine

Account book, log-book, and a few business papers from the schooner DACOTAH and brig ABBIE CLIFFORD, both commanded by Captain Edwin W. Clifford of Stockton, Maine. The collection documents routine business of the sugar trade in the West Indies and Brazil, as well as Clifford's last voyage, when his wife, Abbie, navigated the ABBIE CLIFFORD to New York after Edwin died of yellow fever.

In English.

Sandy Nickerson; Gift; 2013; 2013.9.5-7

Finding aid available; folder level control

### Subject Headings:

Clifford, Abbie J. Longfellow, 1839-1901

Clifford, Edwin W., 1833 or 1834-1872

ABBIE CLIFFORD (brig)

Merchant ships

Ship captains

Ship captains' spouses

Shipping

Sugar trade

Women and the sea

### Local Subject Headings:

China trade

South America trade

West Indies trade

### Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Sandy Nickerson, in memory of Evelyn Jeanette Seekins Cutler.

### Restrictions

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

### Condition:

The collection is in fair condition. The spine of the log-book has been mended with tape, likely not archival. The account book has mouse and insect damage, numerous torn or cut pages, and evidence of past mold and water damage.

### Related Materials:

Penobscot Marine Museum has an embroidered silk shawl, presented to Abbie Clifford in Hong Kong circa 1870, a pair of her knit stockings, and a Clifford family photo album, all part of accession 2013.9.

**Historical Note:**

Edwin W. Clifford (1834-1872) was born in Stockton, Maine. He was the son of Jacob and Hannah Clifford, and, like several of his brothers, started going to sea as a teenager. Clifford spent much of his career commanding ships in the sugar trade with Cuba, the West Indies, and Brazil, though he made at least one trip to Hong Kong and Singapore in 1870. Clifford's commands included the schooner DACOTAH and brig ABBIE CLIFFORD, both built in Stockton.

Edwin W. Clifford married Abbie J. Longfellow (1839-1901) in 1857. Abbie frequently accompanied her husband to sea. She was aboard the ABBIE CLIFFORD in 1872, when Edwin and the first mate died of yellow fever shortly after leaving Pernambuco. Abbie navigated the brig safely to New York, their intended destination. She later remarried, to George Brown, a farmer in Chelsea, Maine.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains a log-book, account book, and some loose bills from the brig ABBIE CLIFFORD and schooner DACOTAH, both commanded by Edwin W. Clifford. These are primarily business documents for two vessels engaged in the sugar trade in the 1860s and 1870s. The account book lists expenses from the DACOTAH for several voyages to the West Indies, as well as some slop accounts with individual sailors, who likely sailed on the ABBIE CLIFFORD. The log-book lists weather, courses, sail plans, and other events on the ANNIE CLIFFORD's voyage from New York to Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco in 1872. The loose accounts are all from a stop in Singapore in 1870.

Though the log-book is an official account, it does mention Abbie Clifford's assumption of the brig's navigation after her husband died on the way to New York. Likewise, the account book contains extensive calculations for navigation, which may have been written by Abbie while learning to navigate in the late 1860s. There are also a few newspaper articles about the 1872 voyage, kept on a scrapbook page by Abbie Clifford.

**Box and Folder List:**

Box	Folder
1	1 Account book, schooner DACOTAH, 1863
	2 Log-book, brig ABBIE CLIFFORD, December 1871 – June 1872 New York – Rio de Janeiro – Pernambuco – New York
	3 Bills and accounts, brig ABBIE CLIFFORD, Singapore, 1870
	4 Clippings, ABBIE CLIFFORD, 1872, assembled as a scrapbook page <i>New York Herald</i> , January 15, 1892, on the death of Albert Victor, Prince of Wales