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Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 75

Robert Limeburner Family Papers

1851 - 1899

1 flat box
1 linear foot
Accession No. LB1999.53

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 75

Robert Limeburner Family Papers

Limeburner, Robert, 1822-1884

Papers, 1851-1899

1 flat box (1 linear foot)

Sea captain from Belfast, Maine

Accounts, bills, crew lists, correspondence, and other shipping papers from Captain Robert Limeburner of Belfast, Maine. The bulk of the collection is from Limeburner's command of the ship ROBERT M. SLOMAN, which he sailed in the Peruvian guano trade just after the Civil War. The collection also includes material from Limeburner's earlier commands in the coasting trade, some shipping papers from his son, Captain Frank W. Limeburner, and a few family documents.

In English

Beatrice E. Dunham; Gift; 1999; LB1999.53

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Limeburner, Robert, 1822-1884

Coastwise shipping

Lumber trade

Merchant mariners

Ship captains

Shipping

Local Subject Headings:

Guano trade

Acquisition:

This collection was given to Penobscot Marine Museum by Beatrice E. Dunham in 1999.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

This collection is in good condition, with some light wear and foxing.

Processing Note:

Materials in this collection arrived in an embossed folder with Robert Limeburner's signature on the inside.

Related Materials:

A colored sketch of the half brig GEORGIANA (LB1999.53.2) was donated with this collection. While there is no attribution on the sketch, Limeburner may have commanded the vessel briefly in 1854.

Historical Note:

Robert Limeburner (1822-1884) was a sea captain from Belfast, Maine. He started his career in the coasting trades, and, by the 1850s, was in command of the brig SAMUEL OTIS

carrying lumber from Maine and Southern ports. He continued to sail during the Civil War, commanding the ships EMILY GARDINER and ROBERT M. SLOMAN, both Belfast-built vessels that were registered in Hamburg, Germany, to protect them from Confederate privateers. These vessels were active in the Peruvian guano trade, primarily carrying guano to European ports.

Limeburner married Mary Walker (1825-1897) of Brooksville, Maine. They had two sons: Rufus P. (b. 1850) and Frank W. (1852-1912), both of whom spent their early careers as sea captains. Mary Walker Limeburner was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Belfast through the 1890s.

Oscar L. Limeburner (1850-1902) was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Means) Limeburner, also of Belfast. Thomas Limeburner was a stonecutter, but Oscar became a mariner.

Scope and Content:

Accounts, bills, crew lists, correspondence, and other records of Captain Robert Limeburner's maritime career form the bulk of this collection. Limeburner's command of the brig SAMUEL OTIS, in the coastal lumber trade, and the ship R. M. SLOMAN, in the guano trade, are best represented. Almost all of the correspondence relates to the affairs of the R.M. SLOMAN; most letters were written by Baker McNear or his son, George W. McNear, both sea captains who evidently took a management role in the vessel. These provide details on the European coal and guano trades, from freight rates to chronometer prices.

There are also a few documents from other members of the family, namely, bills of lading from the coasting schooner MARY FARROW, commanded by Frank W. Limeburner in the 1870s; a list of membership dues from the Belfast Women's Christian Temperance Union, kept by treasurer Mary Limeburner; and a mate's certificate for Oscar L. Limeburner. The collection also contains seamen's protection certificates for Eben Hale of Sedgwick, John H. Hunt of Lubec, and Amos G. Walker of Brooksville; accounts for the ship HOPE addressed to Captain R. Meldrum; and some blank shipping forms.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	
1	1	Robert Limeburner, shipping papers, brig SAMUEL OTIS, 1852-1859
	2	Ship EMILY GARDINER, 1860-1861
	3	Ship ROBERT M. SLOMAN, 1865-1868
	4	Robert Limeburner, correspondence, 1857-1868
	5	Robert Limeburner, personal accounts; undated material Mary (Walker) Limeburner, Women's Christian Temperance Union membership list, 1891
	6	Frank W. Limeburner, shipping papers, schooner MARY FARROW, 1877 Oscar L. Limeburner, mate's license, 1899
	7	Circulars; blank shipping forms; chart of approaches to Liverpool, 1860
	8	Seamen's protection certificates for Eben Hale, John H. Hunt, and Amos G. Walker, 1849-1855 Account for ship HOPE addressed to Captain R. Meldrum, 1866