

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 66

Ira Robertson Accounts

c. 1904 – 1912

1 flat box
1 linear foot
Accession No. LB2008.25

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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

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PMM 66

Ira Robertson Accounts

Ira Robertson Quarry and Store (Sullivan, Me.)

Accounts, c. 1904-1912

1 flat box (1 linear foot)

Granite quarry and general store in North Sullivan, Maine.

Account and receipt book for the Ira Robertson granite quarry and general store in North Sullivan, Maine. The account book provides a detailed record of the finances of an early twentieth century granite company, the firm's business network, and the customers at the general store. The receipt book contains specific orders for granite shaped at the Robertson quarry.

In English.

J. Bently Howard; Gift; 2008; LB2008.25

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Robertson, Ira (1862-1906)

Sullivan (Me.)

Accounts

Business enterprises—Maine—Sullivan

General stores

Granite industry and trade

Acquisition:

This collection was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum by J. Bentley Howard. Howard found the books in the Harvey Robertson store building.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. The condition of some items requires special handling due to mold and fragile condition.

Condition:

The receipt book is in very poor condition, with heavy water and mold damage. Pages are fragile and stick together. Text is just barely legible. Access to this volume is restricted due to continuing presence of mold.

The checks have minor water damage and some traces of mold. The account book is in good condition, apart from repairs to the binding. Pages 57-118 have been cut or torn away.

Historical Note:

Ira Robertson (1862-1906) owned a granite quarry and general store in Sullivan, Maine. He went into business in 1892 in partnership with W. Augustus Havey, taking over the former Porcupine Quarry in West Sullivan. In 1900, the pair added a general store to their business, operating both under the name Robertson & Havey.

The Robertson & Havey partnership apparently dissolved following Ira Robertson's death in 1906. However, Robertson's children kept both businesses going for their father's estate. Harvey E. Robertson (1886-1960) became the principle in both the quarry and the store, while his siblings Augusta (b. 1889), Lillian (b. 1893), and Clyde (b. 1895) served as

bookkeepers and salesmen in the store. They operated under the name Ira Robertson until the mid-1920s, when the businesses were renamed for Harvey Robertson. Both the store and the quarry were active until Harvey's death in 1960.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains financial records for the Ira Robertson granite quarry and general store in the early years of the twentieth century. The bulk of the material is in a large account book that lists financial transactions and balances for the quarry, the general store, and for banks and real estate. Though the specifics of purchases and transactions are not recorded, this book does give detailed picture of the firm's finances and provides apparently complete lists of customers and business partners. The accounts start on January 1st, 1906 and continue until 1912.

The collection also contains a receipt book listing orders for granite from the quarry from approximately 1904 to 1906. This book is in very fragile condition, and requires special handling. Finally, there are a small handful of cancelled checks signed by Ira Robertson, recording payments to local businesses and national suppliers like Montgomery Ward.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Volume	
1	1	Account book, quarry and general store, 1906-1912
	2	Receipt book, quarry, c. 1904-1906
	3	Cancelled checks, 1906