

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 11**

**John C. Blanchard Letters**

1843-1852

¼ box  
.125 linear feet  
Accession No. LB1973.1, 1982.32, and LB2000.47

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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

## **Copyright Restrictions**

The material described herein is the physical property of the Penobscot Marine Museum. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to the Penobscot Marine Museum. For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research." If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law. It is the user's responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

## **Copyright © 2020 by Penobscot Marine Museum**

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Stephen Phillips Memorial Library at the Penobscot Marine Museum.

# PMM 11

## John C. Blanchard Letters

**Blanchard, John C., 1811-1887**

**Blanchard, Caroline Houston, 1808-1889**

Letters, 1843-1852

¼ box (.125 linear feet)

Sea captain from Searsport, Maine

Family and business correspondence from John C. Blanchard of Searsport, Maine.

These letters were written when Blanchard was sailing between Europe, New Orleans and the West Indies. Most are from family, discussing details of Blanchard's voyages and of family life in Searsport. The remainder discuss the business of shipping in the antebellum sugar and cotton trades.

In English

David Hoffman; Gift; 2000; LB2000.47. William H. Pendleton; Gift; 1981; 1981.32.

Shaw B. Smith; Gift; 1973; LB1973.1.

Finding aid available; folder level control

### Subject Headings:

Blanchard, John C., 1811-1887

Blanchard, Caroline Houston, 1808-1889

Searsport (Me.)

DEMERARA (brig)

HEBREW (ship)

Cotton trade

Ship captains

Ship captains' spouses

Shipping

Sugar trade

### Local Subject Headings:

West Indies trade

### Acquisition:

The bulk of this collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by David Hoffman. William H. Pendleton and Shaw B. Smith gave smaller groups of letters; Smith, a descendent of John C. Blanchard, also donated photocopies of original letters still in his family's possession.

### Restrictions

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

### Condition:

This collection is in good condition.

### Historical Note:

John C. Blanchard (1811-1887) was a sea captain from Searsport, Maine, who sailed in the sugar and cotton trades from the West Indies and New Orleans to ports like New York, Boston and Liverpool. His commands, many of which were built and owned in Searsport,

included the brig DEMERARA, ship HEBREW and bark JOHN CARVER. Blanchard retired from the sea in the late 1850s, when he moved to Corinth, Maine and became a farmer. He also served as a town selectman and represented Corinth in the Maine State Legislature.

Blanchard married Caroline Houston (1808-1889) in 1833. They had six children: Ellen J. (b. 1834), Edward D. (b. 1836), Hollis H. (1838-1898), Emeline E (b. 1841), Celia (b. 1843), Frank E. (b. 1847), and George (b. 1851). Both Edward and Hollis became sea captains. Hollis, who had gone to sea with his father as a twelve year old, was captain of the steamer PORTLAND when it disappeared in a gale in 1898. Edward had a long career commanding square-rigged vessels, and retired to his father's farm in Corinth.

### Scope and Content:

This collection contains personal and business correspondence from John C. Blanchard while at sea in the 1840s and 1850s. The bulk these are between Blanchard and his wife, Caroline, discussing family matters, happenings in Searsport, finances, and details of Blanchard's voyages. There are also letters from Blanchard's children and siblings. A few letters from R.P. Buck, shipping agents in New York, and other merchants deal more directly with the shipping business.

### Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence, 1843-1846
	2	Correspondence, 1847-1852 and undated
	3	Correspondence, 1819-1852 (accrual; many are photocopies of originals held elsewhere)

### Itemized List:

#### Folder 1:

1. Feb. 2, 1843 from wife dated in Belfast and postmarked W. Prospect to JCB at New Orleans
  - [pencilled note ". . . written soon after my birth. Celia."]
  - From Caroline: Mentions his business and their baby born Jan. 14, Celia Maria; - mentions sister Margaret [partly torn].
  - [right side of 2nd page is torn and missing]
  - [added note in a different hand from Emily].
2. Dec. 23, 1843 dated in Belfast to JCB, Charleston, SC c/o Smith Moury Sr.(?)
  - From wife: news of children; mentions her brother and sister, Captains Sweetser and Ross, P. Quimby (magnetism), Mr. Carr.
3. Feb. 5, 1844 dated in Belfast, postmarked W. Prospect, to JCB, New York c/o Messrs. Buck & Peters
  - From wife: news from home; Mrs. Mathews, Mr. Shirley, Capt. Park of the Calcutta, death of Robert Clary; the children; formation of the new town [Searsport].
4. Aug. 15, 1844 dated in Nuevitas [Cuba] to [Mrs.] JCB, West Prospect

- From JCB: business news, general news; expects to be in port in 30 days.
5. Sept. 20, 1844 dated in Nuevitas [Cuba] aboard barque CALIFORNIA to [Mrs.] JCB, West Prospect
    - From JCB: Speaks of life aboard, lying in harbor; mentions Capt. Mayhew of barque CALIFORNIA; his family.
  6. Nov. 5, 1844 dated in Belfast, postmarked Prospect to Capt. JCB, Norfolk, VA
    - From Caroline B.: relates events in her trip home from New York; mentions Capt. Ross, Mr. Howe, and Dr. Simonton
  7. Feb. 23, 1846 dated in Searsport, to JCB, New York, c/o Meyers, Buck & Peters
    - From wife: general household news; mentions Capts. Gilkey and Butman, William Young; whooping cough; school.
  8. March 10, 1846 dated Boston to JCB, New York, c/o Moses Buck & Peters
    - From brother Alfred: business, mentioning steamer PORTLAND and other vessels.
  9. March 20, 1846 dated in New York to [Mrs.] JCB, Searsport
    - From JCB: moving in to new house (Capt. Isaac's); mentions Capt. Gilkey, junior and senior; bound now for Nuevitas.
  10. Sept. 27, 1846 dated Searsport to JCB, New York, c/o R. P. Buck, Esq.
    - From wife: she is not well; son is 3 weeks old.
  11. Oct. 14-16, 1846 from Searsport to JCB, New York, c/o P. Buck, Esq.
    - From daughter Ellen J. Blanchard: announced birth of new brother Frank Edger [sic]
    - From wife C. Blanchard: speaks of moving, the children, health, name for baby; calls daughter Ellen L.; wants JCB home for winter; "Mrs. Foster" to move into their house.
  12. Oct. 30, 1846 from New York to JCB, Searsport
    - From Richard P. Buck: concerning expenses of refitting DEMERARA; buying and selling vessels.
- Folder 2:
13. Jan. 1, 1847 postmarked Searsport to Capt. JCB, New York, c/o Mr. P. Buck, Esq.
    - From wife: writes of her illness and children
    - From daughter Ellen J.: writes of mother's illness, fire in Searsport with several stores burning.
  14. Feb 2, 1847 dated Searsport to JCB, New York, c/o P. Burke, Esq.
    - From wife: writes of family, health, and schools
    - From daughter Ellen: short note.
  15. Feb 9, 1847 dated Searsport to JCB, New York, c/o Tho. P. Black, Esq.
    - From Caroline: Mentions health of children; Capt. Gilkey and Capt. William Butman; discusses her finances; Odd Fellows Society formed in Searsport.
  16. Jan 29, 1848 dated Cardenas [Cuba] to [Mrs.] JCB, Searsport
    - From JCB: business is poor; bound for New York with molasses.

17. Sept. 8, 1848 dated Belfast to Capt. Blanchard, Searsport  
- From W. H. Burrill [?], [attorney?]: concerning balance due on brig DEMERARA.
18. Apr. 21, 1849 dated Liverpool to Capt. JCB, ship HEBREW, c/o American Consul, Cork, Ireland  
- From kinsman David Nichols, Jr.: regarding repairs of JCB's ship; general news; deaths of locals.
19. Dec. 12, 1850 dated Searsport to JCB, Boston (to Moses Blanchard, Sherman & Co.)  
- From wife: asks him to send supplies, molasses, corn, etc., and Christmas gifts for children, including a Bible dictionary for Ellen Jane.
20. Feb. 8, 1852 dated new Orleans to Mrs. JCB, Searsport  
- From JCB: concerning his and her finances; gives her advice; school and crew news; long letter.
21. Mar. 4, 1853 dated New Orleans to Mrs. JCB  
- From JCB: writes about family and friends, etc.
22. Dec. 13, 1857 dated Searsport to JCB of barque JOHN CARVER c/o American Consul, Havana  
- From Caroline: Aunt Gilmore and Clifford; Capt. Butman to marry Miss Oakes; C. Phineas Pendleton going to Florida; Jonathan Gilmore; weather and family news.
23. Sept. 6, 1867(?) dated Frankfort to Mrs. Caroline Blanchard, Searsport  
- From "friend" Caroline Mugridge: social news, health, men, Martha, Dolly Smith, Abigail Porter, Lydia and William Towl.
24. Oct. 18 (no year), New York postmark from JCB to his wife, addressed to JCB, West Prospect  
- From JCB in Nuevitas [Cuba]: sent draft for \$150; gives explicit directions concerning her journey to New York; she will join him for his next voyage. [in pencil, Farmingdale Frankfort 75 miles \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ ]