

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 32**

**Vessel Papers Collection**

c. 1790 – c. 1970

37 boxes  
18.5 linear feet  
Open collection

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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# PMM 32

## Vessel Papers Collection

**Penobscot Marine Museum, collector**

Papers, c. 1790 – c. 1960  
37 boxes (18.5 linear feet)

This is an open collection containing manuscript material generated by vessels, primarily those that were built and owned along the coast of Maine. A wide variety of vessels are represented, including large ocean-going ships, coasting schooners, fishing boats, steamers, and yachts. Document types include, but are not limited to, ship registers, enrollments, tonnage admeasurements, clearance certificates, manifests, crew lists, bills, accounts, and correspondence. Most vessels are represented by less than two folders of material.

In English

Organized in two series: Series I. Coastal Vessels; Series II. Deep Sea Vessels

Open collection; multiple sources and accessions

Finding aid available at repository; folder level control.

**Subject Headings:**

Coasters (ships)  
Commerce  
Customs administration  
Fishing boats  
Merchant ships  
Schooners  
Sailing ships  
Shipping  
Ships  
Yachts

**Acquisition:**

This is an open collection, assembled from multiple sources over many years. New material is added as it enters Penobscot Marine Museum's collection.

**Restrictions**

This collection is open for research. Please consult staff to determine reproduction rights to individual items.

**Condition:**

Materials in this collection are generally in good condition.

**Processing Note:**

This collection serves to organize individual documents and small groups of manuscripts which are unrelated to extant manuscript collections and are not large enough to form a freestanding collection. Some documents may be related to other manuscript collections, but are filed here due to separate provenance. The collection is intended to house primary documents: research notes, articles, and other secondary materials are filed in PMM 24.

Because this is an open and growing collection, it is organized solely by vessel name. New material is added as it is collected.

**Scope and Content:**

This is an open collection containing manuscript materials generated by vessels that were built, owned, or active along the Maine coast. A wide variety of vessels are represented, including large ocean-going ships, coasting schooners, fishing vessels, steamers, and yachts. The bulk of the collection is from nineteenth-century merchant vessels. Series I., Coastal Vessels, contains material that vessels that predominantly traded along the Atlantic coast of the United States or fished from U.S. ports. Series II., Deep Sea Vessels, has material from vessels primarily engaged in the transatlantic, China, West Indies, and Cape Horn trades and similar long-distance routes.

Document types include, but are not limited to, ship registers, enrolments, tonnage admeasurements, clearance certificates, manifests, crew lists, bills, accounts, and correspondence. Of these, official documents predominate, and a significant portion of the documents here were issued by the U.S. Customhouse in Castine. They type and quantity of documents is different for each vessel.

**Collection Overview:**

Series I. Coastal Vessels  
Alphabetical by vessel name

Series II. Deep Sea Vessels  
Alphabetical by vessel name