Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 41
Ella Hopkins Sweetser
Family Papers
1868-1948

2 boxes
1 linear foot
Accession No. LB2016.10

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PMM 41
Ella Hopkins Sweetser Family Papers

Sweetser, Ella A. Hopkins, 1870-1948
Sweetser, Joseph Decrow, 1867-1933

Papers, 1868-1948
2 boxes (1 linear foot)
Sea captain’s wife and genealogist from Searsport, Maine
Probate records, investment accounts, school notebooks, marriage announcements, and other miscellaneous family material from Ella A. Hopkins Sweetser of Searsport, Maine, as well as extensive genealogical notes on the Hopkins and other related families. The collection also includes some business correspondence related to the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company from Sweetser’s husband, Joseph D. Sweetser, who was a captain with the line.

In English
Estate of Ellen O. Fuller; Gift; 2016; LB2016.10
Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:
Sweetser, Ella A. Hopkins, 1870-1948
Sweetser, Joseph Decrow, 1867-1933
American-Hawaiian Steamship Company
Searsport (Me.)
Genealogy
Investments
Probate records
Ship captains

Acquisition:
This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by the estate of Ellen O. Fuller, along with some ephemera from the Penobscot Marine Museum and a group of New England road maps.

Restrictions
This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions, except where materials may retain their original copyright.

Condition:
This collection is generally in good condition. A few documents have light foxing or are on unstable papers, which are deteriorating. Most show light wear commensurate with age.

Historical Note:
Ella Adams Hopkins Sweetser (1870-1948) was born in Searsport, Maine. She was the daughter of Elisha Hopkins, a physician, and Cynthia Adams Hopkins, and was educated at Abbot Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. In 1906, Ella married Joseph Decrow Sweetser (1867-1933), a Searsport sailing ship master who had become a captain for the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company. The couple lived briefly in Brooklyn, New York, but returned to Searsport after World War I. There, Joseph served as the President of the Searsport National Bank and Ella took an active interest in genealogy. They had no children.
Scope and Content:
This collection contains marriage certificates, probate records, investment accounts, genealogical notes, and other family papers from Ella Hopkins Sweetser and her family. The bulk of this material is genealogical, either in the form of marriage announcements and family registers, or Sweetser’s extensive genealogical research into her Hopkins ancestry. Other documents include Sweetser’s investment ledgers from the 1930s and a detailed probate inventory that lists household furnishings and possessions.

The collection also contains a few papers from Joseph D. Sweetser’s career on American-Hawaiian Line steamships. These include letters appointing him to command, inventories of stores onboard, and Sweetser’s Citizen Seaman’s Identification Card from 1920.

Box and Folder List:

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<td>Elisha and Cynthia Adams Hopkins: marriage, family and probate records, 1868-1901</td>
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<td>Eaton, Noyes, French, and Hopkins families</td>
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