

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 41**

**Ella Hopkins Sweetser  
Family Papers**

1868-1948

2 boxes  
1 linear foot  
Accession No. LB2016.10

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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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:**

Obj. ID	Box	Folder	
41-7	1	1	Elisha and Cynthia Adams Hopkins: marriage, family and probate records, 1868-1901
41-1		2	Ella A. Hopkins, school exercise books, Abbot Academy, c. 1885
41-6		3	Ella A. Hopkins and Joseph D Sweetser, marriage announcements, 1906
41-7		4	Joseph D. Sweetser, shipping correspondence and ephemera, c. 1875-1920
41-1		5	Ella A. Hopkins Sweetser, investments and income, 1901-1943
41-7		6	Ella A. Hopkins Sweetser, estate papers, 1948
41-5		7	Ephemera, Searsport, miscellaneous
41-4		8	Ephemera, Colcord family
	2		Genealogy notes, Ella Hopkins Sweetser:
41-8		1	Nickerson and Harwich families
41-9		2	Stockton Springs-area families
41-10		3	Carver family
41-11		4	1790 Census; Smith/Godfrey family
41-12		5	Hopkins family
41-13		6	Hopkins, Godfrey, King, and Cole families
41-14		7	Stockbridge and Barstow families
41-15		8	Otis and Tilden families
41-16		9	Eaton, Noyes, French, and Hopkins families