

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 69**

**Rufus S. Cole Account Books**

1849-1896

1 box  
0.5 linear feet  
Accession No. 1955.34.3

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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## PMM 69

# Rufus S. Cole Account Books

**Cole, Rufus S.**, 1822-1896

Account books, 1849-1896

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Shoemaker in Sedgwick, Maine

Account books from Rufus S. Cole, a shoemaker in Sedgwick, Maine. These record boots and shoes made by Cole for individual buyers, other agricultural work that Cole occasionally took on, and payments, often in goods or foodstuffs. There are also two volumes of domestic accounts and a volume of Cole's observations on local schools, which he made on behalf of the school board.

In English

Mrs. R. Harvey Sargent; Gift; 1955; 1955.34.3

Finding aid available; folder level control

### Subject Headings:

Cole, Rufus S. (Rufus Sargent), 1822-1896

W. G. Sargent & Co.

Sedgwick (Me.)

Account books

Casual labor

Rural schools

Shoe industry--Maine

Shoemakers

### Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Mrs. R. Harvey Sargent, wife of Rufus S. Cole's grandson.

### Restrictions

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

### Condition:

The bindings on the volumes are fragile and some covers are detached. Pages have been cut from some of the volumes and there is often surface dirt and other light wear. The collection is otherwise in good condition.

### Historical Note:

Rufus S. Cole (1822-1896) was a shoemaker in Sedgwick, Maine. His father, Thomas Cole, and brother, Edward P. Cole, were also shoemakers, and they sometimes worked for each other. Rufus also worked on his own account, making boots and shoes and doing agricultural work for families in Sedgwick. He spent more of his time farming later in life, and served as an inspector for local schools.

Rufus S. Cole married Margaret Flye. They had three daughters: Mary E. (b. 1844); Rachel (b. 1846), who became a milliner; and Eva C. (b. 1852), who married Rodolph B. Sargent, a sailor.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains ten volumes of accounts kept by Rufus S. Cole and his family in Sedgwick, Maine. Seven are for Cole's shoemaking business, listing the number and types of shoes or boots that he made for individual customers. These also list other types of work that Cole did, often agricultural tasks like haying, and payments made in the form of food or other goods. Cole's business accounts with his father and brother, also shoemakers, and the W.G. Sargent & Co. store are also listed.

Two of the remaining books contain accounts for the Cole family's domestic expenses, largely for food, textiles, tools, and magazine subscriptions. The final volume records Cole's work on the local public school committee. It contains observations from Cole's visits to each school in the district in the 1880s and 1890s, as well as a few accounts.

**Box and Folder List:**

MS#	Box	Folder	
371	1	1	Rufus S. Cole, account book, 1849-1855
369		2	1855-1860
370		3	1859-1862
364		4	1864-1869
373		5	1869-1877
365		6	1878-1896
367		7	"Pass Book, R.S. Cole to W.G. Sargent & Co.," 1868-1870
368		8	Family expenses, 1864-1865
366		9	Family expenses, 1868
372		10	School district inspections and accounts, 1882-1894