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
Penobscot Marine Museum
11 Church St., Searsport, Maine 04974
penobscotmarinemuseum.org
207-548-2529 ext. 212 | 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 It is the user’s responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.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 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:

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