

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 73

Smart/Clark/Riley Family Papers

1828 - 1964

1 flat box
1 linear foot
Accession No. LB2014.19

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 73

Smart/Clark/Riley Family Papers

Smart, E. K. (Ephraim K.), 1786-1831

Smart, Mary H., 1791-1883

Riley, Miriam Clark, 1866-1938

Papers, 1828-1964

1 flat box (1 linear foot)

Family of farmers and woolen mill operators in Searsport, Maine

Account books and memorabilia from four generations of a matrilineal branch of the Smart/Merithew/Clark/Riley family of Searsport and Monroe, Maine. Two account books make the bulk of the collection: one for Ephraim K. Smart's textile finishing mill in the late 1820s, and one for his wife, Mary H. Smart's, activities after his death. Later generations are represented by mementos, clippings, and a few letters.

In English

Marguerite Riley; Gift; 2014; LB2014.19

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Smart, E. K. (Ephraim K.), 1786-1831

Smart, Mary H., 1791-1883

Searsport (Me.)

Textile finishing

Textile industry

Mills and mill-work

Dyes and dyeing

Genealogy

Widowers

Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Marguerite Riley, a descendent of the individuals represented in this collection.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition. All covers on the books are worn. The covers of the two Smart family account books are deeply scored. The spine of the Clark bible is broken and the binding is fragile. All of the volumes have adhesive labels on the covers placed by later generations of the family.

Processing Note:

Clippings, notes, and other loose items tucked into volumes have been left where they were found. The majority of these are in the account book from Ephraim K. Smart's fulling mill.

Historical Note:

The individuals in this collection are related along a matrilineal branch of the Smart/Merithew/Clark/Riley family of Searsport, and later Monroe, Maine.

Ephraim K. Smart (1786-1831) and his wife, Mary H. (Cass) Smart (1791-1883), moved from New Hampshire to the west part of Prospect, Maine, about 1810. Ephraim built and operated a woolen mill, carding wool fibers, fulling fabric, and dyeing cloth for local customers. After Ephraim died in a mill accident in 1831, Mary H. Smart maintained her household in Prospect, which later became Searsport, selling eggs and taking in sewing work for extra income.

Bathsheba Smart (1820-1904), one of Ephraim and Mary's daughters, married Jeremiah C. Merithew, a farmer in Searsport. Their daughter, Harriet P. Merithew (b. 1849) married farmer Ivory G. Clark (1843-c. 1869) in 1865. They had two children: Miriam E. (1866-1938) and Ivory N. (b. 1868). The family lived with Harriet's parents after Ivory G. Clark's death, and all moved to Monroe in the 1870s.

Miriam Clark married Charles E. Riley (1858-1930), a farmer from Monroe, Maine, in 1886. Several of their children later moved to the Boston area.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains material from four generations of the Smart/Merithew/Clark/Riley family. The earliest item is an account book from Ephraim K. Smart's textile mill, which contains entries for carding wool fibers and fulling, dressing, dyeing, and pressing woven fabrics. The book also records payments from Smart's customers, which often took the form of foodstuffs, horse hire, and other goods or services. An account book kept by Mary H. Smart records some of her activities after Ephraim's death, including sewing clothing, selling eggs, and taking in boarders. It also contains notes on Searsport schools, quotations from published works, expenditures on food and dry goods, and notes on family genealogy. Newspaper clippings have been laid into both books, likely by Mary H. Smart.

The remainder of the collection is more fragmentary. There is a book of marital advice presented to Ivory G. Clark and Harriet Merithew on their marriage, along with Clark's family bible. Another volume, written circa 1870, lists Searsport residents with their ages. A few letters, notes on genealogy, newspaper clippings, and mementos of Monroe, Maine represent the Miriam Clark Riley and her children.

Box and Folder List:

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|----------|---|
| Volume 1 | Ephraim K. Smart, fulling mill account book, 1828-1831 |
| 2 | Mary H. Smart, account book and notebook, 1847-1882 |
| 3 | Ivory G. Clark, New Testament |
| 4 | Ivory G. Clark and Harriet P. Merithew, marriage book, 1865 |
| 5 | Searsport population census, 1870 |
| Folder: | Deeds, Mary H. Smart, 1835, and Jeremiah C. Merithew, 1868 |
| | Letters, to Miriam Clark Riley, 1918 |
| | Charles W. Riley, 1938 |
| | Invitations and calling cards, Riley family, 1894-1931 |
| | Notes on genealogy |
| | Programs, mementos, and newspaper clippings, Monroe, Maine, 1897-1964 |