

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 74

Edwin P. Treat Co. Papers

1825-1887
Bulk 1854-1874

3 boxes
1.5 linear feet
Accession No. 1982.27; 1983.11

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 74

Edwin P. Treat Company Papers

Treat, Edwin P., 1834-1918

Papers, 1825-1887, bulk 1854-1874

3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

Storekeeper, lumber manufacturer, and merchant from Frankfort, Maine

Account books, ledgers, and memo books from Edwin P. Treat, a merchant and storekeeper in Frankfort, Maine. The collection includes records of inventory and sales at Treat's general store, the assembly of lumber and hay cargoes shipped from Frankfort, profits and expenses from vessels partly owned by Treat, and income from Treat's rental properties. These records are for Edwin P. Treat's own business ventures, though they frequently involve other members of the Treat family.

In English

Museum purchase; 1982 and 1983; 1982.27 and 1983.11

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Treat, Edwin P., 1834-1918

Frankfort (Me.)

General stores

Hay trade

Household supplies

Lumber trade

Merchants

Shipping

Ship owners

Sugar trade

Local Subject Headings:

West Indies trade

Acquisition:

Penobscot Marine Museum purchased this collection in 1982 and 1983. Material purchased in 1982 had been collected by the late Robert B. Applebee.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition. Covers and bindings on individual volumes are worn and often warped, with occasional insect or mouse damage.

Historical Note:

Edwin Parker Treat (1833-1918) was part of a large family of merchants, shipbuilders, and sailors from Frankfort, Maine. He started his career as a grocer and dry goods merchant, retailing foodstuffs, textiles, ready-made clothing, hardware, and ceramics to local families. At the same time, he participated in the Treat family's maritime ventures, assembling cargoes for Treat vessels and selling the goods that they brought back from the West Indies; outfitting ships;

and managing his own and other's shares in local vessels. Edwin P. Treat became more involved with the shipping business over time, assembling cargoes of lumber and hay. By the 1870s, he was primarily active in shipping management, manufacturing barrel staves, and handling rental properties. He apparently retired from business in the 1880s, becoming a newspaper correspondent and notary public.

Scope and Content:

Day books, ledgers, accounts and memoranda from merchants and ship owners in Frankfort, Maine. The earliest document in this collection is a fragment of an account book listing orders that Frankfort families placed for merchandise from Boston in 1825 and 1826. However, the bulk of the collection consists of accounts for Edwin P. Treat's many business activities in the 1850s and 1860s. Four daybooks and a ledger record most of Treat's business interactions, from retail sales to outfitting and occasionally building vessels, collecting cargoes of lumber and general merchandise, selling return cargoes of West Indian sugar and cigars, and income received from ships and rental properties. The daybooks also reflect the evolution of Treat's business, from one dominated by the general store to one primarily reliant on investments in ships and buildings.

The remaining account books deal with specific facets of Treat's business. From the general store, there are memo books with fairly detailed lists Treat's inventory of dry goods, including textiles, ready-made clothing, ceramics, and hardware. Two account books list everything purchased by the families of Jonathan Treat and Captain Henry Treat, giving a detailed record of material life in Frankfort in the 1850s. Other account books record cargoes of hay, barrel staves, and cordwood that Treat assembled to ship to Boston, Prince Edward Island and the West Indies. Finally, a set of memo books contain lists of assets and liabilities, memos of charter parties, lists of tasks to accomplish, a singing school roster, and other miscellaneous memoranda.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	
1	1	Merchandise ordered from Boston, R. Treat & Co. and others, 1825-1826

Volume	
MS 421	E. P. Treat & Co. Daybook, 1858-1859
MS 420	Daybook, 1861
MS 419	Daybook, 1862-1864
MS 416	Daybook, 1872-1874

Box	Folder	
1	2	E. P. Treat & Co. Ledger, 1855-1860
	3	Index to ledger, 1855-1860
	4	Assets and liabilities, 1858
	5	General store, merchandise memo books, 1857-1859
	6	Merchandise memo books, 1860-1861
	7	Merchandise memo books, 1862, 1864
	8	General store, Treat family account books, 1854-1857
	9	Lumber cargo books, 1854-1868
	10	Hay cargo books, 1863-1865
	11	Labor accounts, "Store Lot and Brook," 1859
	12	Memo books, miscellaneous, 1863-1869