

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 100

Henry S. Rich Papers

1850 – 1866

7 volumes
.5 linear feet
Accession No.1959.173, 1959.174

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 100

Henry S. Rich Papers

Rich, Henry S., 1821-1872

Papers, 1850-1866

7 volumes (.5 linear feet)

Ship and steamer captain from Bucksport, Maine

Diaries and account books kept by Captain Henry S. Rich, covering his career as a packet ship captain in the antebellum cotton trade, voyages to San Francisco and Calcutta, and work as a steamboat captain. Both account books and diaries are highly detailed records of the workings of Rich's ships in port and at sea, with a few personal accounts.

In English

Colonel Albert T. Rich; Gift; 1959; 1959.173 and 1959.174

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Rich, Henry S.

JOHN H. JARVIS (Ship)

ENOCH TRAIN (Ship)

WELLFLEET (Ship)

Accounts

Diaries

Cotton trade

Emigration and immigration

Guano

Packets

Shipping

Ships—equipment and supplies

Ships—maintenance and repair

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Local Subject Headings:

Cape Horn trade

Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Colonel Albert T. Rich, grandson of Henry S. Rich.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition, with some wear on the covers.

Related Materials:

Penobscot Marine Museum holds portraits of Henry S. Rich and his wife, Mary F. McIntire; a portrait of the ship WELLFLEET, and a few other artifacts from the Rich family.

Historical Note:

Henry S. Rich (1821-1872) was a sea captain active in the antebellum cotton trade. He was born in Bucksport, Maine, but made his career commanding packet ships for Boston merchants. Rich's commands included the ship JOHN H. JARVIS, owned by Snow & Rich, and the ships ENOCH TRAIN and WELLFLEET, owned by Isaac Rich. In the 1850s, Rich principally sailed between Boston, New Orleans, and Liverpool, carrying cotton to England and, often, immigrants on the return to Boston. During the Civil War, Rich sailed the ship WELLFLEET to San Francisco, then made several voyages from Europe to the Pacific after the ship was sold to owners in Hamburg and renamed SENATOR WEBER. After the Civil War, Rich became a steamboat captain. He commanded the steamer CLEOPATRA, then took command of the steamer KATAHDIN, which ran between Boston and Bangor, Maine, in 1868. He remained with the KATAHDIN until his death in 1872.

Henry S. Rich lived in Chelsea, Massachusetts for much of his career. He married Mary Francis McIntire of Castine, Maine.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains two diaries and five account books kept by Captain Henry S. Rich before and during the Civil War. The account books, which Rich kept in daybook, ledger, and voyage-by-voyage formats, contain detailed financial records of Rich's voyages in the ships JOHN H. JARVIS, ENOCH TRAIN, and WELLFLEET. These include records of crew wages and advances; ship maintenance and repair; wharfage and loading charges; port labor; clothing sold as slops aboard ship; and all other expenses incurred in the operation of a ship. The ships' income and disbursements to the owners are also recorded. A few pages are dedicated to accounts for the steamer CLEOPATRA in 1866.

There are two journals in this collection, one kept by Rich aboard the ship JOHN H. JARVIS in the early 1850s while sailing between Boston, New Orleans, and Liverpool; the other aboard the ship WELLFLEET on a voyage to San Francisco, the Chincha Islands, Europe, and Calcutta in the early 1860s. Both contain daily entries with notes on weather, sailing conditions, navigation, chronometers, and other concerns at sea, along with descriptions of cargo carried. The WELLFLEET journal also contains lengthier, more descriptive entries about the sailing qualities of the ship, comments on the Chincha Islands and the port of Calcutta, an encounter with the Confederate commerce raider CSS FLORIDA.

Both the account books and the diaries are focused on the business of Rich's ships. There are a few pages of personal accounts in the back of MS 148, dealing with household expenses and income from shares in ships that Rich owned. There are also occasionally personal notes in the diaries.

Item List:

MS 150	Daybook, ship JOHN H. JARVIS, 1850-1854
MS 148	Ledger, ship JOHN H. JARVIS, 1850-1854 Personal accounts, Henry S. Rich, 1856-1858
MS 128	Disbursements, ship JOHN H. JARVIS, 1850-1854
MS 147	Account book, ships ENOCH TRAIN, JOHN H. JARVIS, and WELLFLEET, 1854-1866
MS 149	Disbursements, ships ENOCH TRAIN, JOHN H. JARVIS, and WELLFLEET, 1854-1865; steamer CLEOPATRA, 1866
MS 16	Journal kept aboard ship JOHN H. JARVIS, 1850-1854
MS 31	Journal kept aboard ship WELLFLEET (renamed SENATOR WEBER), 1862-1864