

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 87

Daniel C. Nichols Family Papers

1846 – 1915

1.5 boxes

.75 linear feet

Accessions No. A117, LB 1973.75, and LB2006.41

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

Penobscot Marine Museum

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PMM 87

Daniel C. Nichols Family Papers

Nichols, Daniel C., 1845-1928

Papers, 1836-1915

1.5 boxes (10 volumes; .75 linear feet)

Sea captain from Searsport, Maine

Account books and diaries from the Daniel C. Nichols family of Searsport, Maine, documenting the affairs of a captain active in the China trade and the investment patterns of a seafaring family in Maine. About half of the collection directly relates to Nichols's career at sea, including ship's accounts, slop accounts, a log-book, and two diaries. The remainder consists of account books tracking income from the many ships in which the Nichols family owned shares.

In English

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Rivers; Gift; A117. Joseph F. & Natalie Nichols; Gift; 1993; LB1993.75. Sally B. Savage; Gift; 2006; LB2006.49.

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Nichols, Daniel C., 1845-1928

Nichols, Alexander Clark, 1808-1884

Porter, William P., 1818-1853

EMILY REED (ship)

MANUEL LLAGUNO (ship)

ROBERT PORTER (bark)

WANDERING JEW (ship)

Investments

Merchant mariners

Ship captains

Ship captains' spouses

Ships—equipment and supplies

Shipping

Local Subject Headings:

Cape Horn trade

China trade

Acquisition:

The bulk of this collection came from the estate of Lucy Nichols, the granddaughter of Daniel C. Nichols.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

The collection is mostly in good condition. Some bindings are fragile. Most volumes are well worn.

Related Materials:

An earlier account book for the bark ROBERT PORTER, while commanded by Cyrus Alexander Nichols, is in MS 281.

Historical Note:

Daniel Clark Nichols (1845-1928) was a sea captain from Searsport, Maine. He was the son of Alexander Clark Nichols (1808-1884), a Searsport ship carpenter who invested heavily in shares of the Searsport ships. Daniel C. Nichols started his career at sea in the early 1860s with voyages to Singapore, Rangoon, and other East Asian ports. He went on to command a number of Maine ships, including the barks COMMODORE DUPONT and ROBERT PORTER and the ships WANDERING JEW, EMILY REED, and MANUEL LLAGUNO. Nichols primarily sailed long-distance, deep sea routes to ports in East Asia and around Cape Horn. He retired from the sea in 1905.

Daniel C. Nichols's first wife was Mary Brastoe Porter (1848-1893). Mary was the daughter of William C. Porter, another Searsport sea captain, and niece of Robert Porter, a sea captain and investor. They had three children: Clinton (1871-1880), Lois Mabel (1877-1881), and Robert Porter (1882-1948). Robert Porter Nichols later moved to Massachusetts and Rhode Island with his wife, Martha J. Ross Nichols, and worked as an auditor.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains account books, diaries, and a log-book from Daniel C. Nichols and his family. Approximately half of the material documents Nichols's career at sea. The earliest of these, a combination journal and account book, records Nichols's early career as a sailor and a mate on several Searsport vessels sailing in East Asia during the Civil War. A mate's license for trade in the Britain's Asian colonies, which Nichols procured during this period, is here as well. Account books and one log-book, for the bark ROBERT PORTER, document Nichols's later career. These include ship's accounts, recording the income and expenses for each vessel, and slop accounts, recording wages earned by individual sailors set against purchases of clothing and tobacco that they made from the ship's stores.

There are two diaries in this collection. One was written by Daniel C. Nichols in 1904, while at sea on the ship MANUEL LLAGUNO on a voyage from Singapore to New York and back to Java. It contains daily entries about the workings of the ship, the crew, and of Nichols's activities ashore. The other was written by Mary B. Porter Nichols in 1868 and 1869, while the couple was courting, in the blank pages of Nichols's account book from the early 1860s. Mary's diary includes descriptions of her daily life in Searsport, reflections on religion, and thoughts about her long-distance relationship.

The remainder of the collection consists of account books documenting the Nichols family's investments. Three of these list income from shares in Maine ships: two were started by Alexander Clark Nichols and William Porter, respectively Nichols's father and father-in-law, and were continued by Daniel C. and Mary Nichols; and one was started by Daniel C. Nichols. The final book lists investments made by Robert P. Nichols and his wife, Martha, all of which were in stocks and bonds.

Box and Folder List:

Vol. 1	Daniel C. and Mary B. Nichols, diary and account book, 1862-1869
MS 469	Daniel C. Nichols diary, ship MANUEL LLAGUNO, 1904
Folder 1	Certificate of competency for Daniel C. Nichols as mate in a home trade ship, Singapore, 1865
MS 351	Log-book, bark ROBERT PORTER, 1878-1879

- Point Lopez – Falmouth – Bordeaux – New York – Anjer Point, Java
- Vol. 2 Ship's account book, WANDERING JEW, EMILY REED, and MANUEL LLAGUNO, 1890-1905
- Folder 1 Disbursements of ship MANUEL LLAGUNO, Hong Kong, 1905
- Vol. 3 Slop accounts, summary, 1888-1899
Includes accounts for painting ship, 1902-1905, and living expenses, 1910-1915
- Vol. 4 Slop accounts, individual sailors, 1903-1905
- Vol. 5 Ship investment account book, Alexander Clark Nichols, 1836-1890
(Oversize: P 11)
- Vol. 6 Ship investment account book, William Porter and Daniel C. Nichols family, 1846-1887
- Vol. 7 Ship investment account book, 1879-1901
- Folder 1 Copies of wreck reports, ships HENRIETTA and WANDERING JEW, 1895
- Vol. 8 Investment account book, Robert P. and Martha R. Nichols, 1910-1914