

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 89

Henry H. Grant Letter Copy Books

1873 – 1892

2 volumes
.375 linear feet
Accession No. LB2007.11, MS 192

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

Penobscot Marine Museum
11 Church St., Searsport, Maine 04974
penobscotmarinemuseum.org
207-548- 2529 ext. 212 | libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org

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PMM 89

Henry H. Grant Letter Copy Books

Grant, Henry H., 1848-1916

Letter copy books, 1873-1892

2 volumes (.375 linear feet)

Ship broker, commission merchant, and insurance agent in Searsport, Maine

Two letter copy books from Henry H. Grant of Searsport, Maine, containing business correspondence related to Searsport's shipping and maritime industries. The earlier volume, with letters written between 1873 and 1875, contains letters from Nickerson, Grant & Co., a ship chandlery and grocery, as well as letter about Grant's insurance business. The later volume, dating between 1890 and 1892, contains letters about the shipping business, marine insurance, and the lumber trade with Bucksville, South Carolina.

In English.

Faith Garrold; Gift; 2007; LB2007.11. MS 192.

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Grant, Henry H., 1848-1916

Nickerson, Augustus J. (Augustus Johnson), 1844-1909

Grocers

Lumber trade

Marine insurance

Merchants

Ship brokers

Ship chandlers

Shipping

Acquisition:

The 1873 volume was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Faith Garrold in 2007.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

These volumes are in good condition, though made of fragile materials. The covers and spines are worn, and edges of the tissue paper pages are broken in places.

Related Materials:

Account books and a ledger from Nickerson, Grant & Co. (later, the A.J. Nickerson store) are in PMM 92. More material on William McGilvery and Bucksville, South Carolina, is in PMM 76, the William McGilvery Papers.

Historical Note:

Henry H. Grant was a ship broker, commission merchant, and insurance agent in Searsport, Maine. He was the son of Giles C. and Desiah Hichborn Grant of Prospect, Maine, and the nephew of influential Searsport shipbuilder and merchant William McGilvery. Grant was involved with many aspects of business in Searsport. In 1873, while acting as an insurance

agent, he went into business with A.J. Nickerson to run Nickerson, Grant & Co., a grocery and ship chandlery. When that partnership dissolved in 1875, Grant continued to act as an insurance agent, as well as serving as an agent for southern yellow pine shipped from Bucksville, South Carolina, a venture spearheaded by William McGilvery. Grant also represented the McGilvery family in the ALABAMA claims court, seeking reparations for harm done to shipping during the Civil War. By the late 1880s, Grant was advertising his services as a ship broker and commission merchant for shipping in Searsport and nearby towns. He moved to Portland, Maine, in the 1890s, and became a bookkeeper for a flour wholesaler.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains two letter copy books with outgoing correspondence written by Henry H. Grant. Both are primarily business correspondence. The first volume contains letters dated 1873 to 1875, when Grant was part of Nickerson, Grant & Co. Many of the letters are from the chandlery and grocery business, often about shipping and receiving stock via schooner from ports around Penobscot Bay. Other letters are about Grant's work as an insurance broker for Searsport vessels and properties, and some relate to miscellaneous shipping business.

The second volume contains letters written between 1890 and 1892, when Grant was working as a commission merchant and ship broker in Searsport. Most of these letters are concerned with ship management and insurance, often for vessels owned in Searsport and active in the lumber trade with Bucksville, South Carolina. There are also letters about buying and selling vessels, and Grant's outlook on maritime business. This volume also contains a few personal letters to friends and family.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	
1	1	Henry H. Grant and Nickerson, Grant & Co., Letter Copy Book, 1873-1875
	2	Henry H. Grant, Letter Copy Book, 1890-1892