

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 92**

**A.J. Nickerson Store Accounts**

1873 – 1896

9 volumes  
1.5 linear feet  
Accession No. LB1993.156

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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## PMM 92

### A.J. Nickerson Store Accounts

**Nickerson, Augustus Johnson, 1844-1909**

Accounts, 1873-1896

9 volumes (1.5 linear feet)

Ship chandlery and grocer in Searsport, Maine.

Eight daybooks and a ledger from the A.J. Nickerson Store in Searsport, Maine, recording the sale of retail groceries, shipbuilding tools and hardware, marine supplies like rope and paint, and provisions for voyages. Most customers were Searsport residents, ship carpenters, or vessels built and owned in Searsport.

In English

John Roulstone; Gift; 1993; LB1993.156. Found in collection.

Finding aid available; folder level control

**Subject Headings:**

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

Accounts

General stores

Grocers

Ship chandlers

Shipbuilding—equipment and supplies

Ships—equipment and supplies

**Acquisition:**

The two volumes from the 1890s were donated by John Roulstone in 1993. The remainder are early additions to the collection.

**Restrictions**

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

**Condition:**

This collection is mostly in good condition. Covers are worn. The front cover of the 1892 daybook is missing.

**Related Materials:**

PMM 89 contains a letter copy book from Henry H. Grant, an early partner in the Nickerson store, which contains many letters about securing stock for Nickerson, Grant & Co.

PMM 16 contains financial and personal papers from Augustus J. Nickerson and his family, though few business papers.

**Historical Note:**

The A.J. Nickerson Store was a general store and ship chandlery in Searsport, Maine. It was founded in 1873 as a partnership between Augustus Johnson Nickerson (1844-1909) and Henry H. Grant (1848-1916), named Nickerson, Grant & Co. The business sold retail groceries and some dry goods to Searsport residents; provisions to ships calling at Searsport; ship supplies, including rope, paint, oil and nails; and shipbuilding tools to local ship carpenters. The

store's customers included major shipbuilders like William McGilvery and Josiah Dutch, as well as vessels that were built and owned in Searsport.

Henry H. Grant left the partnership in 1875, and Nickerson carried on the business under his own name thereafter. The basic business of the A.J. Nickerson store remained the same for the next several decades. As business offered, Nickerson also bought and shipped produce from the Searsport area; built and managed two schooners, the GEORGIA GILKEY and MABEL I. MEYERS; purchased and ran a large grain and flour business based in Portland with his brother, Edwin; and acted as a ship broker. The A.J. Nickerson store closed in 1900.

### **Scope and Content:**

This collection contains eight daybooks and a ledger from the A.J. Nickerson grocery store and ship chandlery in Searsport, Maine. The earliest entries cover the establishment of the business as Nickerson, Grant & Co., including the purchase of store fixtures and stock. Later entries cover the full scope of the store's business, including sales of retail groceries, ship supplies and provisions, and shipbuilding tools to individuals and vessels from Searsport and beyond. There are itemized lists of cookware, tablewares, and other equipment provided to newly built Searsport ships, as well as purchases made by vessels when calling at Searsport. The daybooks contain records of some small loans and other financial transactions handled by the store, and the ledger notes where purchases were paid for with goods, services, or cash.

### **Box and Folder List:**

MS 55	Ledger, 1873-1877
MS 61	Daybook, October 1873 – March 1874
MS 68	Daybook, April 1874 – October 1874
MS 298	Daybook, January 1876 – September 1876
MS 34	Daybook, September 1876 – September 1877
MS 58	Daybook, October 1877 – November, 1878
MS 35	Daybook, January 1880 – December 1880
MS 474a	Daybook, October 1892 – April 1894
MS 474b	Daybook, April 1894 – June 1896