

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 95

Melissa Arey Emery Diaries

1873 – 1888

3 boxes
.75 linear feet
Accession No.LB1994.75

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 95

Melissa Arey Emery Diaries

Emery, Melissa Arey (1837-1900)

Diaries, 1873-1888

3 boxes (.75 linear feet)

Sea captain's wife from Owls Head, Maine

Eight diaries kept by Melissa Arey Emery, describing her daily activities as a sea captain's wife in a rural town; her husband, John J. Emery's activities as a schooner captain who mixed sailing with ship repair and farming; and the social and business networks of the family's neighborhood in Owls' Head, Maine. Penobscot Marine Museum holds photocopies and transcripts of the original diaries, copied from the originals by descendants of the Emery family.

In English

Muriel Martin; Gift; 1994; LB1994.75

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Emery, Melissa Arey, 1837-1900

Emery, John J., 1827-1891

Owls Head (Me.)

Ship captains' spouses -- Maine -- Owls Head -- Diaries.

Women -- Maine -- Owls Head -- Diaries.

Ship captains' spouses.

Ship captains

Women.

Local Subject Headings:

Lime trade

Acquisition:

These diaries were photocopied and transcribed from the originals by Muriel Martin, the great-granddaughter of Melissa Arey Emery. Martin donated the copies to PMM.

Restrictions

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

Condition:

The photocopies and transcripts are in good condition.

Processing Note:

Muriel Martin's genealogical notes and indexes to names found in the diaries have been left with the typescripts of the relevant year.

Historical Note:

Melissa Arey Emery (1837-1900) was a sea captain's wife from Owls Head, Maine. She was from a family of seafarers: her father, Lewis O. Arey (1812-1898) and brother, Seth D. Arey (1838-1895) were also sea captains. Melissa married sea captain John J. Emery (1827-1891) in 1857. Emery sailed in the coasting trade, carrying lime to Boston and cargos as far as South America; he also fished, repaired vessels, worked on the family farm, and did odd jobs in

Rockland and Owls Head as the occasion arose. Melissa herself tended a local store and helped manage the family's investments in ships.

Melissa and John J. Emery had five children: Seth A. (b. 1860), who listed himself in the 1880 census as a grocer and later moved to Massachusetts and became a druggist; Mary R. (b. 1864); Rose N. (b. 1866); Nellie R. (b. 1868); and Marian B. (1876-1886).

Scope and Content:

This collection contains photocopies and transcripts of eight diaries kept by Melissa Arey Emery between 1873 and 1888. Emery's detailed, daily entries record her own daily activities, including domestic tasks like sewing, baking, washing, berry picking, and redecorating the house; as well as business activities including keeping a store, writing accounts, and receiving money from ships. Emery wrote in similar detail about her husband, John J. Emery's activities while he was home, including loading cargo into schooners, doing vessel maintenance, farm work, herring fishing, and other short-term jobs in Owls Head and Rockland. The diaries also record the movements of her friends, family members, and neighbors, delineating the social and economic networks of a rural, maritime community.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	
1	1	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1873
	2	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1876
	3	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1877
	4	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1879
2	1	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1880
	2	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1881
3	1	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1883
	2	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1885
	3	Diary (photocopy and transcript), 1888