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Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 97

Benjamin L. Colcord Store Accounts

1856-1873

3 volumes
.25 linear feet
Accession no. LB2021.4

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 97

Benjamin L. Colcord Store Accounts

Colcord, Benjamin L., 1833-1872

Accounts, 1857-1873

3 volumes (.25 linear feet)

Grocer and merchant in Searsport, Maine.

Three ledgers from Benjamin L. Colcord's grocery store in Searsport, Maine. Most entries are for retail accounts with individual Searsport residents, listing sales of groceries, housewares, and hardware. There are occasional accounts for outfitting ships that called in Searsport, and for transactions for wharfage, labor, and other interactions with Searsport's maritime businesses.

In English

Found in Collection; LB2021.4

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Colcord, Benjamin L., 1833-1872

Searsport (Me.)

Accounts

Business enterprises—Maine—Searsport

General stores

Grocers

Restrictions

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

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition. Covers are worn and pages have some light foxing and/or staining. The front cover of MS 310 is missing.

Related Materials:

More material on Benjamin L. Colcord's family, particularly his son, Lincoln A. Colcord, and grandchildren, Lincoln R. and Joanna Carver Colcord, is in PMM 29, the Colcord Family Papers. PMM 29 also contains a few documents directly related to Benjamin L. Colcord.

Historical Note:

Benjamin L. Colcord (1833-1872) was a grocer and merchant in Searsport, Maine. Colcord established himself in business by 1856, when he was still in his early twenties. Colcord's store primarily sold groceries, along with some housewares, hardware, and supplies like kerosene. The store was principally a retail business for local residents, though Colcord occasionally supplied ships and other vessels. Benjamin L. Colcord died in 1872, and his store closed about the same time.

Benjamin L. Colcord married Mary Helen Carver (1833-1906). They had two children: Lincoln Alden Colcord (1857-1913), a Searsport sea captain, and Frank W. Colcord (1861-1923), who became a photographer in Boston.

Scope and Content:

Three ledgers from Benjamin L. Colcord's store, containing itemized sales of groceries, dishes, hardware, housewares, and other supplies. Most customers were individuals from Searsport, Maine, and most accounts record simple retail transactions. There are occasional entries for sales of provisions and crockery for ships calling at Searsport. Some accounts, as with McGilvery & Colcord, contain entries for labor, wharfage, and other activities that indicate Colcord's engagement with Searsport's maritime business networks.

Item List:

MS 310	Ledger, B.L. Colcord, 1857-1858
MS 312	Ledger, B.L. Colcord, 1859-1864
MS 313	Ledger, B.L. Colcord, 1865-1873