

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 130
Holmes Hole Union Wharf Records 1834-1932
By John Shannon

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No. RU130

Title: Holmes Hole Union Wharf Collection 1834-1932

Creator:

Quantity: .75 cubic feet

Abstract: The Holmes Hole Union Wharf Collection, 1834-1932, includes the stockholders' journal, and a daily account book from the original company and accounts books of its successor, the Vineyard Haven Wharf Company. The stockholders' journal includes minutes from stockholders' meetings and lists of investors and dividends paid.

Acquisition Information: The collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in 2005 from the Woods Hole Museum.

Processing Information: John Shannon, 2011

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Record Unit 130, Holmes Hole Union Wharf Collection, 1834-1932

Index Terms

- Holmes Hole Union Wharf Company
- Vineyard Haven Wharf Company
- New England Steamship Company
- Smith , Charles
- Look, Charles
- Hillman, Elijah
- Bradley, Thomas
- Allen, Bartlett
- Packer, Ralph

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Account Books

Biography/Historical Note: The Holmes' Hole Union Wharf Company was formed in 1833 by Charles Look, Elijah Hillman, Thomas Bradley, Bartlett Allen and their associates. On March 4, 1835, the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives passed a private and special statute, "An Act to incorporate the Holmes Hole Union Wharf Company." The act, Chapter 19, stated:

Sect. 1 BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Elijah Hillman, Thomas Bradley, Bartlett Allen, Charles Look, their associates, successors, and assigns, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Homes' Hole Wharf Company, with all the powers and requirements, contained in the eighty-third chapter of the statutes of eighteen hundred and thirty-three.

Sect. 2. Be it further enacted, That said corporation may hold and possess a certain wharf, situate in the harbor of Holmes' Hole, in Dukes County, bounded by the food of the street leading to the water, between the land of Jonathan Luce, Jr. and that of the heirs of Silas West, and running thence in a parallel line of said street, twenty-five rods, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging.

Owners petitioned the State of Massachusetts and were granted permission on February 15, 1881 to change the company name to the Vineyard Haven Wharf Company. The company provided wharfage services for vessels in Vineyard Haven Harbor. The wharf was located at the end of Union Street, now the site of the Steamship Authority dock.

Scope and Content Note: The .75 cubic feet unit contains the accounting information relating to the Holmes Hole Union Wharf Co. and its successor, the Vineyard Haven Wharf Company. The documents are financial in nature, including journals with stockholder information, day-to-day shipping information, and individual accounts. It also includes a letter from the New England Steamship Company.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Letter to company treasurer Ralph M. Parker included with company's certificate of condition (actual certificate not included) from New England Steamship Company, February 6th, 1926.

Series II: Account Books

Box 1 of 1

Folder 2: Book 1- the Wharf Co. Stockholders journal, 1834-1898

Folder 3: Book 2- Union Wharf Co. Daybook and Cash Accounts, notes on "Steamer Monohansett", 1856-1863

Folder 3: Vineyard Haven Wharf Co. General Journal, 1926-1932. Includes loose papers

Folder 4: Vineyard Haven Wharf Co. Figuring Journal, 1926-1944