INVENTORY OF THE

GRINNELL FAMILY PAPERS

IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Chiefly business records of New York City, N.Y., and and New Bedford, Mass., merchants, 1799-1892.

Volume: 2½ inches.

Provenance: Source and accession date for bulk of material unknown.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Barbara E. Austen.

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INTRODUCTION

Individual items in this collection were given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Mrs. Orin Q. Flint, Sr., on 27 April 1935 , and by William C. Phillips on 15 November 1938. Existing records reveal neither the source nor the accession date for the bulk of the material.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The progenitor of the Grinnell family of New Bedford, Mass., was Cornelius Grinnell (1758-1850), a prominent New Bedford whaling captain and merchant. His son, Joseph Grinnell (1788-1885), began as a clerk for his father in New Bedford and by 1810 had started his own commission merchant firm, known as Fish & Grinnell, in New York City, N.Y., in partnership with Preserved Fish (1766-1846). Initially concerned with handling the oil and candle business of New Bedford merchants, the firm later branched out into other lines including packet ships to London and Liverpool, England. At Fish's retirement from the firm in 1825, Joseph Grinnell's brothers, Henry Grinnell (1799-1874) and Moses Hicks Grinnell (1803-1877), joined the company under the name of Fish, Grinnell & Company. The firm was reorganized again in 1832 when Joseph Grinnell retired and Robert Bowne Minturn (1805-1866), Henry Grinnell's brother-in-law, joined as a partner in Grinnell, Minturn & Company. The company then expanded into general shipping to Latin America, Cuba, China, and England. Joseph returned to New Bedford to begin his own shipping business.

Another son of Cornelius Grinnell, Cornelius Grinnell, Jr. (1786-1830), learned the commission business in New York but returned to New Bedford to raise sheep. His son, Lawrence Grinnell (1811-1893), entered business as a clerk in the offices of Fish & Grinnell. He, too, returned to New Bedford where he opened a sperm oil and candle factory, later entering the insurance business.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of material in this collection reflects the mercantile activities of Grinnell, Minturn & Company and its predecessors, from 1810-1892. These records encompass financial records, 1810-1841, 1884; legal documents, 1830-1843, including bills of sale for fractional interest in the ships CERES and NEW ENGLAND and for oil on board the JOSEPH MAXWELL (Ship); incoming and outgoing business correspondence with William Phillips & Son and George R. Phillips, commission merchants at New Bedford, Mass., concerning the price of oil and the state of the oil market, 1821-1892; and a telegraphic key, 1877. Another substantial portion of material reflects the business activities of Joseph Grinnell and consists of incoming business correspondence, including letters from his relative,

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont.)

Preserved Fish, asking for Grinnell's assistance in his capacity as deputy collector of customs for the port of New Bedford, 1799-1861; financial records, 1829-1855; ship's papers, including bills of sale for fractional interests and insurance policies on cargo and catchings for such vessels as the ONEIDA (Ship) and PERSIA (Ship); and an agreement, 1834. Other family members represented by correspondence, bills, ship's papers, and similar materials dating 1814-1859, are Cornelius Grinnell; his nephew, Charles Grinnell; Joseph Grinnell's brothers, Moses Hicks Grinnell and Cornelius Grinnell, Jr.,; Cornelius Grinnell, Jr.'s sons, Lawrence and Francis Grinnell; and Elisha P. Grinnell.

Printed works which provide additional information on the Grinnell family and Grinnell, Minturn & Company are ANCESTRY OF THE GRINNELL FAMILY (1931) and HOWLAND HEIRS (1919) by William M. Emery and SOUTH STREET: A MARITIME HISTORY OF NEW YORK (1934) by Richard C. McKay.

Sub-group 1. Grinnell, Minturn & Company Records, 1810-1892. Financial records; legal documents; incoming and outgoing business correspondence; and telegraphic key. 48 items. Grinnell

Sub-group 2. Cornelius ~~Howland~~ Papers, 1814. Bill of sale. 1 item.

Sub-group 3. Charles Grinnell Papers, 1822-1825. Bills. 3 items.

Sub-group 4. Cornelius Grinnell, Jr., Papers, 1830-1836. Letter to brother, Joseph Grinnell, and a plat. 2 items.

Sub-group 5. Joseph Grinnell Papers, 1799-1861. Incoming business correspondence; financial records; ship's papers; and an agreement. 77 items.

Sub-group 6. Moses Hicks Grinnell Papers, 1831-1840. Letters to brother, Joseph Grinnell, and a bill. 3 items.

Sub-group 7. Lawrence Grinnell Papers, 1839, 1857-1859. Ship's papers and letter to bank cashier. 4 items.

Sub-group 8. Francis Grinnell Papers, 1839. Bill. 1 item.

Sub-group 9. Elisha P. Grinnell Papers, 1833. Warrant. 1 item.

DESCRIPTION

Sub-group 1. Grinnell, Minturn & Company Records, 1810-1892

Series A. Financial Records, 1810-1841, 1884

Folder 1. Bills and receipts, 1810-1829, 1884
" 2-3. Orders of payment, 1833-1841

Series B. Legal Documents, 1830-1843

Folder 1. Bills of Sale, 1830-1834
" 2. Agreement, 1830; deed, 1843

Series C. Correspondence, 1821-1892

Folder 1. Incoming, 1883-1890
" 2-3. Outgoing, 1821, 1838, 1885-1892

Series D. Telegraphic Key, 1877

Volume 1. 1877

Sub-group 2. Cornelius ~~Howland~~ Grinnell Papers, 1814

Series A. Bills of Sale, 1814

Folder 1. 1814. For partial interest in MORGIANA (Schooner)

Sub-group 3. Charles Grinnell Papers, 1822-1825

Series A. Bills, 1822-1825

Folder 1. 1822-1825

Sub-group 4. Cornelius Grinnell, Jr., Papers, 1830-1836

Series A. Correspondence, 1830

Folder 1. Letter to brother Joseph, 1830

Series B. Plats, 1836

Folder 1. Plan of land belonging to the estate of Cornelius Grinnell, Jr., 1836

Sub-group 5. Joseph Grinnell Papers, 1799-1861

Series A. Correspondence, 1799-1861

Folder 1-2. 1799-1861

Series B. Financial Records, 1829-1855

Folder 1-5. Bills and receipts, 1829-1841
" 6. Order of payment, 1838; promissory note, 1855

Series C. Ship's Papers, 1832-1845

Folder 1. CORNELIA (Bark), 1837, 1840; GUSTAV (Ship), 1840
" 2. ONEIDA (Ship), 1832-1841
" 3. ONTARIO (Ship), 1839, 1845; PERSIA (Ship), 1834

Series D. Agreements, 1834

Folder 1. 1834

Sub-group 6. Moses Hicks Grinnell Papers, 1831-1840

Series A. Correspondence, 1831, 1838

Folder 1. Letters to brother Joseph, 1831, 1838

Series B. Bills, 1840

Folder 1. 1840

Sub-group 7. Lawrence Grinnell Papers, 1839, 1857-1859

Series A. Ship's Papers, 1839, 1857-1859

Folder 1. EMMA (Brig), 1839; WAVELET (Bark), 1857, 1859

Series B. Correspondence, 1857

Folder 1. Letter to cashier at Marine Bank, 1857

Sub-group 8. Francis Grinnell Papers, 1839

Series A. Bills, 1839

Folder 1. 1839

Sub-group 9 Elisha P. Grinnell Papers, 1833

Series A. Warrant, 1833

Folder 1. 1833

ADDED ENTRIES

Business records--Mass.--New Bedford
Business records--N.Y.--New York City
Commission merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
Customs administration--Mass.--New Bedford
Fish, Preserved, 1766-1846
Fish & Grinnell, New York City, N.Y. SEE Grinnell, Minturn & Company, New York City, N.Y.
Fish, Grinnell & Company, New York City, New York SEE Grinnell, Minturn & Company, New York City, N.Y.
Grinnell, Charles, 1783-1855
Grinnell, Cornelius, 1758-1850
Grinnell, Cornelius, Jr., 1786-1830
Grinnell, Elisha P fl. 1833
Grinnell, Francis, 1821-1914
Grinnell, Henry, 1799-1874
Grinnell, Joseph, 1788-1885
Grinnell, Lawrence, 1811-1893
Grinnell, Moses Hicks, 1803-1877
Grinnell, Minturn & Company, New York City, N.Y.
Insurance, Marine--Mass.--New Bedford
Insurance, Marine--Mass.--New Bedford--Policies
Merchant ships--Mass.--New Bedford
Merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
Merchants--N.Y.--New York City
Minturn, Robert Bowne, 1805-1866
New Bedford, Mass.--Commerce
New York (City)--Commerce
Oneida (Ship)
Packets
Passenger ships--N.Y.--New York City
Phillips, George R 1830-1918
Phillips, William, 1801-1886
Shipping--Mass.--New Bedford
Shipping--N.Y.--New York City
Ship's papers
Whale-oil
Whalers
Whaling--Mass.--New Bedford
William Phillips & Son, New Bedford, Mass.
Cornelia (Bark)
Emma (Brig)
Gustav (Ship)
Morgiana (Schooner)
Ontario (Ship)
Persia (Ship)
Wavelet (Bark)