

INVENTORY OF THE
HOWLAND FAMILY PAPERS
IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Chiefly financial records and correspondence of
New Bedford, Mass., and New York City, N.Y.,
merchants, 1788-1885.

Volume: 7 inches.

Provenance: Chiefly a gift of Lawrence Osgood on 22 December 1980.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Barbara E. Austen.

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INTRODUCTION

The bulk of material in this collection was given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Lawrence Osgood on 22 December 1980. A ledger was the gift of Alec DeHart on 12 November 1920.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Joseph Howland, the son of Gideon Howland of Dartmouth, Mass., was born in 1762. He engaged in the West Indies trade from Boston and New Bedford, Mass., acting as merchant, managing owner, and captain for such vessels as the FRANKLIN (Sloop) and EMIGRANT (Schooner). Two merchant firms were formed by Howland. The first, called Joseph Howland & Company, seems to have included his uncle, Cornelius Grinnell, and was active in New Bedford from about 1798-1802. The second firm, Joseph Howland & Son, in which his son, Francis Howland (1787-1834), was most probably the partner, was also active in New Bedford, from about 1804-1820. Joseph Howland lived and worked for a number of years in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., before returning to Dartmouth, Mass., where he died in 1839. His brother, John Hicks Howland, was born in Dartmouth in 1774. He commanded merchant vessels, many for his brother, Joseph, before starting his own business in 1798. In 1810 he moved to New York City, N.Y., where he became a prominent shipping merchant, residing there until his death in 1849.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials in this collection principally reflect the mercantile and personal activities of Joseph Howland from 1788-1885. Of primary importance is incoming and outgoing business and personal correspondence, 1789-1827, which includes letters from his brother, Gideon Howland, Jr., and other members of the Howland and Grinnell families concerning current market values in New York City; from a shipmaster concerning shipping blacks to New Orleans; and from a friend concerning the peace agreement at the close of the War of 1812. This material is supplemented by financial records including accounts current, invoices of goods shipped, and insurance policies on vessels, dating 1788-1825; legal documents, 1792-1838, including apprenticeship indentures, power of attorney certificates, and a copy of his will; French spoliation claims, 1800-1885, consisting of newspaper clippings, notes, and correspondence of Maximilian Eppendorff, Howland's son-in-law; and a travel journal outlining his trip to Michigan in 1825.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont.)

The records of Joseph Howland & Company, 1798-1801, consist of insurance policies, a letter to John Howland, and a bill. Joseph Howland & Son is represented by financial records, encompassing a ledger, 1804-1811, for food stuffs and hardware sold to individuals and vessels, and bills and receipts, 1808-1819; incoming correspondence, 1811-1813, concerning the sale of flour and salt; and an insurance policy, 1812.

John Hicks Howland's papers consist of a letter concerning the capture of a vessel in 1814 and a letter to Joseph from John H. Howland & Company, New York City, N.Y., 1822; financial records, 1822; and a holograph copy of his will, 1852. His wife, Sarah Hazard Howland, and his daughter, Sarah Rodman Howland Gillies Osgood, are represented by a copy of a sampler, 1802, and a copy of a letter to John Hicks Howland, 1850, respectively. It should be noted that among the papers of each individual and each company are photocopies of original documents, copied before 1980. Printed works which provide additional information on the Howland family are THE HOWLAND HEIRS by William M. Emery (1919) and A BRIEF GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF ARTHUR, HENRY, AND JOHN HOWLAND AND THEIR DESCENDANTS by Franklyn Howland (1885).

- Sub-group 1. Joseph Howland & Company Records, 1798-1801. Insurance policies; business letter; and a bill. 5 items.
- Sub-group 2. Joseph Howland & Son Records, 1804-1819. Financial records; incoming business correspondence; and insurance policies. 29 items.
- Sub-group 3. Joseph Howland Papers, 1788-1885. Financial records; incoming and outgoing business and personal correspondence; legal documents; French spoliation claims; and a travel journal. 143 items.
- Sub-group 4. John Hicks Howland Papers, 1814-1852. Incoming and outgoing business correspondence; financial records; and a will. 5 items.
- Sub-group 5. Sarah Hazard Howland Papers, 1802. Copy of a sampler. 1 item.
- Sub-group 6. Sarah Rodman Howland Gillies Osgood Papers, 1850. Copy of letter to her father. 1 item.

DESCRIPTION

Sub-group 1. Joseph Howland & Company Records, 1798-1801

Series A. Insurance Policies, 1798-1801

Folder 1. 1798, 1801. For cargo on board COLUMBIA
(Schooner) and FRANKLIN (Sloop)

Series B. Correspondence, 1799

Folder 1. Letter to John Howland, 1799

Series C. Bills, 1801

Folder 1. 1801

Sub-group 2. Joseph Howland & Son Records, 1804-1819

Series A. Financial Records, 1804-1819

Volume 1. Ledger, 1804-1811

Folder 1-3. Bills and receipts, 1808-1819

Series B. Correspondence, 1811-1813

Folder 1. 1811-1813

Series C. Insurance Policies, 1812

Folder 1. 1812. For ELIZA ANN (Sloop)

Sub-group 3. Joseph Howland Papers, 1788-1885

Series A. Financial Records, 1788-1825

Folder 1. Accounts current, 1788-1825

" 2-8. Bills and receipts, 1788-1825

" 9. Invoices of oil and goods shipped, ca. 1795,
1799, 1821

" 10. Insurance policies on vessels, 1800, 1805

" 11. Certificates, 1815-1817

" 12. Memoranda, ca. 1816, ca. 1822

Series B. Correspondence, 1789-1827

Sub-series 1. Incoming, 1789-1827

Folder 1. 1789-1811

" 2. 1815-1821

" 3. 1822

" 4. 1824-1827

Sub-series 2. Outgoing, 1818-1819

Folder 1. 1818-1819

Sub-group 3 (cont.)

Series C. Legal Documents, 1792-1838

- Folder 1. Apprenticeship indentures, 1792, 1804, 1818
- " 2. Power of attorney certificates, 1793, 1801, 1821-1824
- " 3. Agreements, 1799, 1821; bond agreement, 1825; copy of Joseph Howland's will, 1838

Series D. French Spoliation Claims, 1800-1885

- Folder 1. 1800, 1857, 1885

Series E. Travel Journal, 1825

- Folder 1. 1825

Sub-group 4. John Hicks Howland Papers, 1814-1852

Series A. Correspondence, 1814, 1822

- Folder 1. 1814, 1822

Series B. Financial Records, 1822

- Folder 1. Order of payment and receipt, 1822

Series C. Will, 1852

- Folder 1. 1852

Sub-group 5. Sarah Hazard Howland Papers, 1802

Series A. Sampler, 1802

- Folder 1. 1802 Photocopy

Sub-group 6. Sarah Rodman Howland Gillies Osgood Papers, 1850

Series A. Correspondence, 1850

- Folder 1. Letter to father, 1850 Photocopy

ADDED ENTRIES

Account books--New Bedford, Mass.--1804-1811
 Boston, Mass.--Commerce
 Business records--Mass.--New Bedford
 Business records--N.Y.--Poughkeepsie
 Capture at sea
 Claims
 Commission merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
 Commission merchants--N.Y.--Poughkeepsie
 Diaries--Poughkeepsie, N.Y.--1825
 Eppendorff, Maximilian, 1820-1905
 French spoliation claims
 Howland, Francis, 1787-1834
 Howland, Gideon, Jr., 1770-1847
 Howland, John Hicks, 1774-1849
 Howland, Joseph, 1762-1839
 Howland, Sarah Hazard, 1781-1847
 Insurance, Marine--Mass.--New Bedford--Policies
 John H. Howland & Company, New York City, N.Y.
 Joseph Howland & Company, New Bedford, Mass.
 Joseph Howland & Son, New Bedford, Mass.
 Merchant ships--Mass.--New Bedford
 Merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
 Merchants--N.Y.--New York City
 Michigan--Description and travel
 New Bedford, Mass.--Commerce
 New York (City)--Commerce
 Osgood, Sarah Rodman Howland Gillies, 1817-1893
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.--Commerce
 Seizure of vessels and cargoes
 Shipping--Mass.--Boston
 Shipping--Mass.--New Bedford
 Ship's papers
 Slave-trade--La.--New Orleans
 United States--History--War with France, 1798-1800--Claims
 United States--History--War of 1812--Peace
 United States--History--War of 1812--Prizes
Columbia (Schooner)
Eliza Ann (Sloop)
Franklin (Sloop)

