

# CAPE ANN Museum

## Library & Archives

1+ 978-283-0455 x19

library@capeannmuseum.org

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### CAPE ANN ANCHOR WORKS COLLECTION

<b>Creator:</b>	Cape Ann Anchor Works
<b>Dates:</b>	1880-1972
<b>Quantity:</b>	6.5 linear feet (1 document box, 6 cartons)
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Accession #: 1998.13 ; Donated by: Eric Ronnberg
<b>Identification:</b>	A86; Archive Collection #86
<b>Citation:</b>	[Document Title]. The Cape Ann Anchor Works Collection, [Box #, Folder #, Item #], Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives, Gloucester, MA.
<b>Copyright:</b>	Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Librarian/Archivist.
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Finding Aid:</b>	Jane W. Mead, 2017, supervised by Stephanie Buck, Librarian/Archivist

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### Historical Sketch

The Cape Ann Anchor Works originated in a blacksmith shop owned by Benjamin Haskell in 1823 where he made hand forged anchors for the Gloucester fishing fleet. In partnership with others, Haskell opened a forge on Vincent's Cove in 1859 where he was able to make 500-pound anchors. The company was incorporated in 1866 as the Cape Ann Anchor Works. The anchor works and its smokey forge were surrounded in Vincent's Cove by fish processing companies and their fish flakes. In 1880, John Pew & Sons paid the Cape Ann Anchor Works to move to Whittemore Street where it enlarged its plant and engaged in general forging in addition to anchor-making. Later named Cape Anchor Works and Forging Company, the company produced axels and crankshafts for heavy industry and its products were shipped

27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 USA

+1 978-283-0455

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throughout the United States and to Canada. The company stopped making anchors in 1916 but expanded its operations to supply the military with marine forgings during the First and Second World Wars. Cape Ann Anchor Works merged with Standard International in 1969 and ceased operations in 1985. Its real estate has been acquired by McNiff Company.

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### **Acquisition Note**

The account books itemized in Series I were donated to Eric Ronnberg, Jr. as the last buildings on the Anchor Works property were being demolished. Ronnberg then donated the ledgers to the Cape Ann Museum to compliment its maritime history collections.

Items in Series II and IV have been collected over time by the CAM Archives as relevant to local history. Series III is reserved pending completion of a proposed donation to the collection. Series V references relevant materials that are not housed with the collection, the location noted in parentheses.

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### **Scope and Content of the Collection**

The materials in this collection include ledger books dating between 1882 and 1913 with a few gaps. The ledgers include:

- Order books detailing customer name and location, and descriptions of the product ordered often including a sketch;
- Sales records detailing company name, details of merchandise ordered, shipping instructions amount of sale by piece and total. Sales are totaled by month and are broken out in a Summary of Sales, Iron Forgings, Steel Forgings, Anchors, and Miscellaneous.

In addition to local interest, the materials are relevant to the study of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial economy.

Other items include an agreement between CAAW and John Pew, advertising brochures, correspondence related to the sale of CAAW and to the decline of the business, and magazine articles. Related information located in the CAM Library, The Archives of the City of Gloucester, and the Sawyer Free Library is noted.

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### **Series Description**

Series I: Account Books

Series II: Material in Box D21

Series III: Deeds, Plans & Photographs

Series IV: Vertical File references

Series V: Misc. other resources

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## **Container List**

### **Series I Account Books**

#### **Box 1**

12 Order Books 1882-1889

#### **Box 2**

11 Order Books 1900-1908

#### **Box 3**

2 Order Books 1907-1913

3 Record Books 1902-1915

1 Account Book 1899-1900

#### **Box 4**

3 Order Books 1882-1898

#### **Box 5**

3 Order Books 1898-1905

#### **Box 6**

1 Order Book 1905-1907

### **Series II Box D21**

#### **FF12**

Agreement between John Pew & Sons and the Cape Ann Anchor Works, Vincent's Point , 1880

#### **FF13**

Advertising card (photo by Spooner)

Advertising Book

Invoice, 1912 - J.W. Penney & sons

#### **FF15**

Industry Magazine, 1952, *Eyes Right on Gloucester* (Le Pages, Mighty Mac, Cape Ann Anchor, Fish Processing)

#### **FF17A**

Correspondence mostly to do with sale & purchase of shares in the CAAW

1. With J.W. Penny Sons Co., 1902, 1907 (3)
2. With Old Colony Trust Co., 1952 (3)
3. With H.D. Edwards & Co., 1959, 1964 (14)
4. With Mrs. Elizabeth W. Phillips, stockholder, 1959 (2)
5. With Mrs. Helen Sewall, stockholder, 1959 (2)
6. With Mr. Lawrence Jodrey, stock hled by John Story, 1961 (1)
7. With Mr. William E. Creamer, H.C. Wainright & Co., 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966 (6)
8. With Winslow, Cohu & Stetson, 1964 (2)
9. With Mr. Benjamin A. Bailey, 1947, 1964, 1965 (6)

10. With (Ruth) Mrs. Alfred M. Brooks, 1964 (2)
11. With Mr. William J. & Robert M. MacInnes, 1964 (2)
12. With Mrs. Ethel Daley, 1964 (3)
13. With Mr. John N. Easterbrook, 1951, 1953, 1964 (7)
14. With Franklin & Company, 1964 (2)
15. With Mr. John T. Holden, 1964, 1965 (5)
16. With Mr. W. J. Anderson, Cape Ann Bank & Trust, 1965 (2)
17. With Mrs. Louise L. Campbell, 1959, 1964, 1965 (4)
18. With Mr. Peter Miller, 1966 (2)
19. With Mr. Burton Fisher, Whiteface Inn, (25)
20. With Mr. Andrew Nutton, 1963, 1964, 1968 (6)
21. With Norm, 1965 (2)
22. Blank announcement of merger of CAAW with Standard International, 1969 (3)
23. Stockholder lists: Sept. 1958, June 1964, Nov 1964, Apr 1965 (4)
24. Advertising brochure, 1968
25. Spring Meeting menu, 1972

### **Series III Deeds, Plans & Photographs**

*Reserved*

### **Series IV VF**

#### **Small Business Misc. G.**

Guano Factory, Cape Ann Anchor Works, 1884

#### **Small Business Misc. C.**

Cape Ann Forge (Anchor Works)

### **Series V Misc. Other Resources**

c.1882-5 Edward J. Corliss & J.F. Ryan Photographs. Whittemore Street CAHA #20424-20427.  
(CAM Archives)

1884 Atlas of Gloucester and Rockport Mass. G.E. Hopkins, Plate 4 showing Cape Ann Anchor Works at Vincent Street. (CAM Library)

1903-1906 Scrap Book, Assessor's Office. 3 volumes - individual articles are not dated.  
(Gloucester City Archives)

Gen. Electric Buys City Land of \$700 – bound by land “now or formerly of the Cape Ann Anchor Works” (Book 3)

To Build a Big Wharf. Work at Cape Ann Anchor Works to commence Monday. Will Also Dredge Way to Main Channel. (Book 1)

Will Remove to New Quarters. Perkins Box Factory Likely to Occupy Shoe Factory Building. Spur Track Will Facilitate Out-of-Town Shipments.

1917. Sanborn Map, sheet 46. Whittemore Street and Cape Ann Anchor Works.(CAM Photo Archives)

1909 Ad – Fishing Masters' Association. *Fishermen of the Atlantic*. (CAM Archives)

1920 Ad – Master Mariners' Association of Gloucester, Mass. (CAM Archives)

1930 Stone, Orea Lavallo. Cape Ann Anchor & Forge Company. in *History of Massachusetts Industries. Their Inception, Growth and Success. Volume III.* pp. 121-124.

Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce. Past Presidents.

1937 & 1940 Richard R. Foster, Cape Ann Anchor Works and Forging Company

198? Gloucester Daily Times article re: sale to a person from NY (Sawyer Free Library archives)