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ArchivesSpace

Coe Family Papers

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 29, 2016.

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator:	Coe family
Title:	Coe Family Papers
ID:	SpC MS 0104
Date [inclusive]:	1836-1943
Date [bulk]:	1860-1942 (bulk)
Physical Description:	15 cubic feet (19 boxes)
Physical Description:	7 linear feet (ledgers)
Physical Location:	
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Consist primarily of business records of the brothers Eben S. Coe and Thomas Upham Coe, with a few papers of Thomas's wife, Sada L. Coe. The materials reflect the involvement of the Coes in land acquisition and management and the lumber industry in the northern part of Maine, as well as Eben Coe's partnership in the S.R. Bearce and R.C. Pingree companies in Lewiston, Maine. Much information is also included about the administration of the very sizeable estate left by Thomas Upham Coe at his death in 1920.

Preferred Citation

Coe Family Papers, SpC MS 0104, [Box No.], [Folder No.] or [Ledger No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

The collection contains the business records and personal papers of members of the Coe family, especially the brothers Eben S. Coe and Thomas Upham Coe. The family, centered in Bangor, Maine, owned and managed large tracts of forest land in northern Maine. Their father, also Ebenezer S. Coe,

established the family business presence in Maine when he became a partner with David Pingree of Salem, Massachusetts in various timber enterprises in the Allagash region and in Aroostook County. Pingree, a shipping merchant in Salem, sought other investments in the 1830's and acquired a large tract of timber land in western Maine. Coe, an engineer, was employed by Pingree to survey the region. He advised Pingree to buy more land and moved to Bangor to manage the estate. In the 1840's Coe and Pingree purchased land in the Allagash lakes region and Coe established a farm on the shore of Chamberlain Lake. The farm provided hay for the workhorses and vegetables for the lumber crews. Coe was also instrumental in constructing dams on the Allagash River and reversing the flow of the upper Allagash into the east branch of the Penobscot River. The Coe office in Bangor supplied and financed jobbers, maintained river improvements, and handled leases and maintained files of applicants for sporting camps on Coe and Pingree land. Ebenezer Coe died in 1862 and David Pingree in 1863; the estates then passed to David Pingree, Jr. and the Coe brothers.

Eben S. Coe (the younger) was also a partner with Samuel R. Bearce in the firm of S.R. Bearce and Co. in Lewiston, Maine. They were dealers in lumber and operated a sawmill to manufacture boards, clapboards, shingles, and laths. Bearce, in Lewiston, was the active member of the firm. Upon his death in 1874, his estate was sold to R.C. Pingree and the partnership of R.C. Pingree and Co. was formed. This firm continued to operate a sawmill in Lewiston and to provide finished lumber products, including moldings, building finish and trim, doors, windows, blinds, and mantels.

Eben Coe also acted as manager of the forest lands belonging to himself and Pingree heirs and siblings David Pingree, Anna P. Peabody, and Ann Maria Wheatland. The Pingrees had acquired large holdings of land which became available when the European and North American Railroad failed as well as from other sources and their property topped one million acres of forest land. Eben Coe was also one of the incorporators of the Androscoggin River Improvement Company and was associated with the Richardson Lake Dam Company and the Errol Dam Company.

Eben Coe died on December 9, 1899, and his brother, Thomas inherited the majority of Eben's land holdings.

Thomas Upham Coe was born in Northwood, New Hampshire, on December 8, 1837. His family moved to Bangor when he was eight years old. He attended Bowdoin College, graduating in 1857, and received his A.M. from Bowdoin three years later. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1861 and then went to Paris for two years, where he studied at the Ecole de Medicin.

In 1864 he returned to Bangor and practiced medicine for about 15 years. He then withdrew from his practice in order to give more time to his financial and business interests. He had acquired large tracts of timberland in Maine and New Hampshire and also managed the land he had inherited at his brother's Eben's death in 1899. He was the owner of large amounts of real estate in Bangor, especially commercial property, and in 1892 he constructed a business block in the city.

Thomas Coe was also a director and member of the executive board of the Merrill Trust Company, the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company, the Orono Pulp and Paper Company, and a trustee of the Penobscot Savings Bank. He was also a trustee of the Bangor Public Library and president of the Bangor Opera House Association.

Thomas Coe married Sada L. Harthorn on May 23, 1867. Their only son, Dudley Coe, died at age 14 in 1887. Thomas Coe died on July 31, 1920, and Sada Coe died on November 3, 1926.

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Scope and Contents

The Coe family papers consist primarily of business records of the brothers Eben S. Coe and Thomas Upham Coe, with a few papers of Thomas's wife, Sada L. Coe. The materials reflect the involvement of the Coes in land acquisition and management and the lumber industry in the northern part of Maine, as well as Eben Coe's partnership in the S.R. Bearce and R.C. Pingree companies in Lewiston, Maine. Much information is also included about the administration of the very sizeable estate left by Thomas Upham Coe at his death in 1920.

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Conservation Note

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Documents have been surface cleaned as needed and metal fasteners removed. Photographs have been housed in polypropylene sleeves and remain with the relevant documents.

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Arrangement

The papers are arranged in four series: Papers of Eben S. Coe, Papers of Thomas Upham Coe, Records of the estate of Thomas Upham Coe, and Papers of Sada L. Coe. The papers of Eben Coe are divided into three sub-series: Executive records of E.S. Coe, financial records of E.S. Coe, and logging operations of E.S. Coe.

The executive records sub-series consists primarily of incoming correspondence, 1864-1888, to Eben Coe from S.R. Bearce, R.C. Pingree and others involved in running the companies in Lewiston, discussing routine business matters, shipments of lumber and finished materials, supplies, etc. The letters also give accounts of river levels and conditions of logs in the river. This sub-series also contains information on Coe and Pingree land purchases and holdings, maps and plans of property, and advertisements and circulars relating to the workings of a sawmill.

The financial records of E.S. Coe contain information on notes and bills payable and receivable, 1854-1899, and Coe's accounts with various townships and towns in which he had land holdings.

Information given in these accounts includes lists of tools used, amounts paid to various loggers, and state and county taxes collected. Accounts for the Chamberlain Farm make up part of this group of records.

The sub-series involving Coe's logging operations contains applications for permits, 1886-1899, surveys of logs cut, annual inventories and sales of lumber, 1854-1883, and Coe's notes and other information about lumber and logging.

The papers of Thomas Upham Coe include a series of daybooks, 1904-1920, maintained by his private secretaries and containing financial information and a record of day-to-day operations of his office. The series also includes lease plan books, 1915-1920, for Coe's forest lands, records of rents of his properties, 1902-1927, and information about the estate of his brother Eben, for which Thomas served as executor. It also includes cashbooks, journals and ledgers giving financial information about Coe's activities.

The records of the estate of Thomas Coe, meticulously maintained by estate administrator Charles A. Potter, include daybooks from August 1920 to December 1942 detailing investments, expenses, etc., related to the trusts established by Coe, specifications for construction in 1928 of the Coe building in Bangor, and expenses from Coe's other real estate holdings, 1930-1932. Also included are income tax documents related to the estate, 1921-1943, and cashbooks, journals, ledgers and check registers.

The papers of Sada L. Coe contain correspondence, 1926-1927, about her estate; daybooks recording financial information, 1920-1928, about her inheritance from her husband and then from her own estate; and check registers and a cashbook from her estate.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

207.581.1686

spc@umit.maine.edu

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll/>

Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Coe family papers came to the University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collection as a gift in 1989 from Henry Sutcliffe Coe through the Coe Management Group of Bangor.

Restrictions on Use

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Logging -- Maine
- Lumbering -- Maine
- Bangor (Me.)
- Lewiston (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Daybooks
- Ledgers (Account books)
- Journals (accounts)
- Coe family
- Coe, Eben S., 1814-1899
- Coe, Thomas Upham, 1837-1920
- Coe, Sada L., -1926

Collection Inventory

Series I: Papers of Eben S. Coe

Sub-series 1: Executive records of E.S. Coe

Title/Description	Instances
Sundry papers pertaining to Lewiston drives, 1860-1874	Box 1 Folder 1-2
S.R. Bearce and Co., misc. memoranda, 1863-1875	Box 1 Folder 3-4
Letters from S.R. Bearce and Co. and others, February 1864-December 1865	Box 1 Folder 5
Letters from S.R. Bearce and others, 1866	Box 1 Folder 6
Letters from R.C. Pingree and others, 1867-1871	Box 1 Folder 7-15
Letters from R.C. Pingree and S.R. Bearce, 1872	Box 1 Folder 16-17
Letters from R.C. Pingree and others, January 1873-October 1876	Box 1 Folder 17-26
Letters from R.C. Pingree and others, January 1877-December 1880	Box 2 Folder 1-10
Letters from R.C. Pingree, January-December 1881	Box 2 Folder 11-12
Letters from R.C. Pingree and others, January 1882-December 1883	Box 2 Folder 13-17
Letters from C.C. Wilson and others, March-December 1884	Box 2 Folder 18
Letters to and from John B. Cotton and Edward L. Wood, treas., 1884-1885	Box 2 Folder 19
Letters from R.C. Pingree and C.C. Wilson, January-December 1885	Box 2 Folder 20-21
Letters from R.C. Pingree and others, January-December 1886	Box 2 Folder 22-23
Letter from R.C. Pingree, January 1887	Box 2

	Folder 24
Letters from R.C. Pingree and Co., C.C. Wilson and others, 1884-1887	Box 2 Folder 25
Letters from R.C. Pingree and Co., C.C. Wilson and others, 1887-1888	Box 3 Folder 1
E.S. Coe correspondence, 1894	Box 3 Folder 2
R.C. Pingree and Co.: Mantels [catalog, undated]	Box 3 Folder 3
Insurance on steam mill, Lewiston, 1873	Box 3 Folder 4
Androscoggin [sic] memorandum, 1886-1899	Folder Ledger
Office memorandum, 1889-1898	Folder Ledger
Office memorandum, 1898-1899 [E.S. Coe], 1906-1914 [T.U. Coe]	Folder Ledger
[Coe and Pingree: Land holdings and transactions, 1830s-1860s]	Folder Ledger
Deeds, 1836-1889	Box 3 Folder 5
Land purchases from Pingree estate, 1864-1879	Box 3 Folder 6
Lewiston real estate, 1/2 divided with estate S.R.B., 1874-1877	Box 3 Folder 7
Miscellaneous papers: Lewiston business matters, 1855-1874	Box 3 Folder 8
Sundry memos, advertisements, etc.	Box 3 Folder 9
Advertisements, circulars: steam and water mills, machinery, planing, belting files, 1860-1874	Box 3 Folder 10
Maps	Box 3 Folder 11
Maps and plans of property, 1850s-1900s	Box 3

	Folder 12
Copy of will and papers and deeds relating to estate of Eben. Coe, 1859-1875	Box 4 Folder 1
Documents re estate of S.R. Bearce, 1876	Box 4 Folder 2
Sub-series 2: Financial records of E.S. Coe	
Title/Description	Instances
E.S. Coe: [Trial balances], October 1861-January 1895	Box 4 Folder Ledgers
E.S. Coe: Trial balance, 1900-1907	Folder Ledger
Notes due to Simon Batchelder, 1842	Box 4 Folder 3
Notes and bills payable, 1854-1878	Folder Ledgers
Notes and bills receivable, 1864-1899	Box 4 Folder 4
Journal, 1864	Box 4 Folder 5
E.S. Coe's account current with 1/4 und. Chamberlain Farm, February 1, 1896-January 1, 1899	Box 5 Folder 1
Forest land accounts, February 1, 1896	Box 5 Folder 2-3
E.S. Coe's accounts current with parts of sundry townships to, February 1, 1897	Box 6 Folder 1-2
E.S. Coe's individual town accounts, February 1, 1898	Box 6 Folder 3
E.S. Coe's individual town accounts to, February 1, 1898	Box 7 Folder 1
E.S. Coe: Accounts current to, January 1, 1899	Box 7 Folder 2-3
E.S. Coe's checkbook, Kenduskeag National Bank, October 26, 1898 and February 1, 1900	Box 8

Folder 1

Sub-series 3: Logging operations of E.S. Coe

Title/Description	Instances
E.S. Coe: Applications for permits, 1886-1895, 1898-1899	Box 8 Folder Ledgers
J.R. Spencer permit and agreement to Jas. M. McNulty and contract for logs, 1896	Box 8 Folder 2
Logging operations, 1862-1937 [6 vols.]	Folder Ledger
Bearce and Co. logs, 1863 to 65 and log marks, 1863-1865	Box 8 Folder 3
Bearce and Co.: Survey of logs cut, 1864-1872	Box 8 Folder 4
Bearce and Co., Plumer and Co.: Log book, 1871; timber book, undated	Box 8 Folder 5
S.R. Bearce and Co.: Annual inventories, sales of lumber, etc., 1854-1874	Box 8 Folder 6
Bearce and Co.: Plan for steam mill machinery, undated	Box 8 Folder 7
R.C. Pingree and Co.: Annual inventories, sales of lumber, etc., 1874-1883	Box 8 Folder 8
Calvin Turner memo book, 1867	Box 8 Folder 9
E.S. Coe: Notes, etc., re lumbering, 1894-1895	Box 8 Folder 10
Act of incorporation, minutes, etc., Androscoggin River Improvement Co., 1852-1876	Box 8 Folder 11
E.S. Coe: Records of Richardson Lake Dam Co., 1853-1879, records of Errol Dam Co., 1876-1878	Box 8 Folder 12
Maine legislative and public documents re land use (printed compilation belonging to E.S. Coe), 1850s	Folder Ledger
Data taken from U.S. Senate Forestry Commission report of, 1892	Box 8

	Folder 13
Documents, reports, court cases	Box 8
	Folder 14
Unidentified photograph of lumber company or sawmill	Box 8
	Folder 15
Photograph: New home built by John Morrison on Grant farm, 2R13, summer of 1893	Box 8
	Folder 16

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Series II: Papers of Thomas Upham Coe

Sub-series 1: Daybooks

Title/Description	Instances
Daybooks, April 7, 1904-August 2, 1910	Box 9
	Folder 1-7
Daybooks, August 3, 1910-April 11, 1915	Box 10
	Folder 1-6
Daybooks, April 18, 1915-October 4, 1918	Box 11
	Folder 1-7
Daybooks, October 5, 1918-June 12, 1920	Box 12
	Folder 1-3

Sub-series 2: Financial records

Title/Description	Instances
Lease plan book, Vol. I: A-H, I-L, 1915-1920	Box 12
	Folder 5-6
Lease plan book, Vol. II: M-W and leases not in force, 1915-1920	Box 12
	Folder 7-8
Carmel lots: Miscellaneous papers, receipts, expenses, etc., 1868-1873 [T.U. Coe]	Box 12
	Folder 10
Stock documents, 1902	Box 12
	Folder 14
Receipt of collection of U.S. inheritance tax and legacy return and papers connected therewith, est. of E.S. Coe	Box 12

	Folder 17
Will of E.S. Coe and papers relating to probate thereof; also collateral inheritance tax due thereon to state of Maine, 1899-1901	Box 12 Folder 18
Estate of E.S. Coe: check register, 1900-1901	Box 12 Folder 21
Sheets showing cashbook totals kept by C.A. Potter, 1920-1921	Box 12 Folder 22
Notes of T.U. Coe, paid, 1901-1917	Box 12 Folder 23
Notes of T.U. Coe to Pickering and others from 1868 to date [1916]: all paid, 1916	Box 12 Folder 24
T.U. Coe: miscellaneous financial documents	Box 12 Folder 25
Record of rent no. 1, January 1902-1915	Folder Ledger
Record of rent no. 2, 1916-1927	Folder Ledger
Correspondence, incoming	Box 12 Folder 4
Will of Thomas Upham Coe, 1919	Box 12 Folder 9
Agreements, permits, etc., 1890-1895	Box 12 Folder 11
Description of real estate held on 1st September 1904, made by Rob. S. Hagar	Folder Ledger
Record of keys kept, 1904	Box 12 Folder 12
Notes in regard to titles of forest lands held on 1st September 1904 made by Robert Sidney Hagar, September 1904	Folder Ledger
C.P. [Charles Potter?] official statements, 1902 [for T.U. Coe]	Box 12 Folder 13
Abstracts from will recorded in eight counties in Maine, est[ate] of E.S. Coe, 1900	Box 12 Folder 15
Executor's first and second and final accounts and vouchers, est. of E.S. Coe, 1901	Box 12

	Folder 16
Inventory, estate of E.S.C.	Box 12
	Folder 19
Estate of E.S. Coe: inventory and appraisal, February, 1900	Box 12
	Folder 20
T.U. Coe: trial balances, 1907-August 1, 1920	Folder Ledgers
T.U. Coe: Journals A-L, January 31, 1900-July 30, 1920 [6 vols.]	Folder Ledger
T.U. Coe: Journal entries, Vol. 1-11, May 2, 1900-December 30, 1905	Folder Ledger
T.U. Coe: Ledgers, A-C, 1871-1920 [3 vols.]	Folder Ledger
Great Northern Paper Co. operation on Twp. north of T. no. 1 Range 8, winter of 1906-07	Box 12
	Folder 26
Scale cards, etc., for Gore land, 1907	Box 12
	Folder 27
Miscellaneous documents re lumbering, 1909, 1912, 1917-1918, undated	Box 12
	Folder 28
Miscellaneous personal materials	Box 12
	Folder 29
Catalogs, etc.	Box 13
	Folder 1
F.J. Barnjum literature	Box 13
	Folder 2-3
Annual reports, etc., of social clubs	Box 13
	Folder 4
Secretary's minutes of the Kineo Library Assoc., 1900-1910	Box 13
	Folder 5

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Series III: Records of the estate of Thomas Upham Coe

Sub-series 1: Daybooks

Title/Description	Instances
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Daybooks, June 13, 1920-October 15, 1921	Box 13 Folder 9
Daybooks; auxiliary daybooks, kept by George W. Banton, vacations, etc., October 17, 1921-December 29, 1923; August 11, 1913- November 6, 1915	Box 13 Folder 10
Auxiliary daybooks kept by George W. Banton, vacations, etc., February 11, 1916-October 31, 1924	Box 13 Folder 11-13
Daybooks: Trustees, estate of Thomas Upham Coe, July 31, 1920-October 16, 1924	Box 13 Folder 14-19
Daybooks: Trustees, estate of Thomas Upham Coe, October 17, 1924-April 18, 1929	Box 14 Folder 1-6
Daybooks: Trustees, estate of Thomas Upham Coe, April 19, 1929-August 29, 1932	Box 15 Folder 1-7
Daybooks: Trustees, estate of Thomas Upham Coe, August 30, 1932-August 31, 1938	Box 16 Folder 1-12
Daybooks: Trustees, estate of Thomas Upham Coe, September 1, 1938-December 1942	Box 17 Folder 1-7

Sub-series 2: Financial records

Title/Description	Instances
Income tax documents, estate of T.U. Coe, 1933-1943	Box 18 Folder 1-7
Stock and bond data [estate of T.U. Coe]	Box 13 Folder 7
Receipts, 1927: estate of T.U. Coe	Box 13 Folder 8
T.U. Coe: income tax documents, 1913-1918	Box 17 Folder 12
Income tax documents, 1919-1921	Box 17 Folder 13
Income tax documents, estate of T.U. Coe; Mrs. T.U. Coe, 1922-1928	Box 17 Folder 14-15
Income tax returns, estate of T.U. Coe, 1929-1930	Box 17 Folder 16
Fiduciary return of income, estate of T.U. Coe, 1931-1932	Box 17

	Folder 17
Cashbooks A-D, estate of T.U. Coe, August 1920-March 1931	Folder Ledger
Cashbook, executors of will of Thomas Upham Coe, 1920-1923	Folder Ledger
Record of costs of improvements made on buildings belonging to estate of T.U. Coe in Bangor and Lewiston, 1920-1941	Folder Ledger
Estate of T.U. Coe: check registers, 1922-June 1932	Box 18 Folder 8-14
Estate of T.U. Coe: check registers, June 1932-August 1939	Box 19 Folder 1-3
Notes of C.A. Potter re estate of T.U. Coe	Box 13 Folder 6
Specifications for construction of store and office building for estate of T.U. Coe, 1928	Box 17 Folder 8
Expenses for Coe block, 1930-1932	Box 17 Folder 9-10
Grinnell Co. inspection report, automatic sprinkler system, estate of T.U. Coe, 511-73 Main St., Bangor, 1936-1939	Box 17 Folder 11
Journals, estate of T.U. Coe, September 1920-November 1926	Folder Ledger
Ledger, estate of T.U. Coe, 1920-1928	Folder Ledger

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Series IV: Papers of Sada L. Coe

Sub-series 1: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, etc., re estate of Sada Coe, 1926-1927	Box 19 Folder 4-5

Sub-series 2: Daybooks

Title/Description	Instances
Daybooks of Mrs. T.U. Coe, September 1, 1920-September 30, 1925	Box 19

Folder 6-7

Daybook of Mrs. T.U. Coe; daybook of estate of Sada L. Coe,
 October 1, 1925-November 3, 1926; December 6, 1926-May 29,
 1928

Box 19

Folder 8

Sub-series 3: Financial records

Title/Description	Instances
Cashbook, executors of the will of Sada L. Coe, Mrs. Thomas Upham Coe, 1926-1928	Folder Ledger
Check register, September 14, 1920-May, 1928 [estate of Sada L. Coe?]	Box 19 Folder 9-10

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