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ArchivesSpace

Mayo (Gideon) Papers

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on June 27, 2017.

Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

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

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Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department |
| Creator: | Mayo, Gideon, 1808-1876 |
| Title: | Gideon Mayo Papers |
| ID: | SpC MS 0331 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1827-1920 |
| Date [bulk]: | 1846-1876 (bulk) |
| Physical Description: | 5 cubic feet (5 boxes) |
| Physical Location: | |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | Records from Mayo's involvement in various businesses in the Orono, Maine area and as an agent for several sawmills on the Stillwater River, including the Basin Mills, the Island Mills, and the Orono Manufacturing Company. |

Preferred Citation

Papers of Gideon Mayo, SpC MS 0331, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biography

Gideon Mayo was born in 1808 and lived in Orono, Maine. He was involved in various businesses in the Orono area and served as agent for several sawmills on the Stillwater River, including the Basin Mills, the Island Mills, and the Orono Manufacturing Company. Several of the major investors and directors in these companies were located in New York City and included Courtlandt Palmer, Charles Gould, Rutherford Moody, George H. Ford and Samuel D. Dakin. Insurance documents in the collection describe the Basin Mills as sawmills containing "four gangs, eight single saws, two circulars, four edgers, two lath machines and running gear; a one story building containing a shingle machine and a clapboard

machine, and a two story workshop." The Orono Manufacturing Company consisted of sawmills and water-power on the lower dam at Ayers Island on the Stillwater River in Orono.

Mayo also became involved in the 1850s in founding and financing the Penobscot Railroad Company and served as a member of the Board of Directors and as president of the company. This railroad, approximately 15 miles long, ran from the Kenduskeag Stream in Bangor to a terminus on the north shore of the Stillwater River in Orono to its final terminus at Milford, Maine. Mayo also served as a director of the Old Town and Lincoln Railroad Company, and he and his partners had interests in wharf property, primarily the Roberts Wharf in Bangor.

Mayo was recommended in 1865 to become collector of the port of Bangor but instead became pension agent for the United States Bureau of Pensions at Bangor in the late 1860s and 1870s.

Gideon Mayo was married to Martha A.H. Mayo and had several children, including Charles W., Edward P., Henry, Elbridge G., and Annie. Mayo died in 1876.

The collection also contains a small amount of material belonging to George H. Hamlin; Mayo and Hamlin may have been relatives by marriage. George Hamlin was born in Sidney, Maine, in 1850. He graduated in 1873 from the Maine State College, now the University of Maine, in the Department of Civil Engineering. After graduating, he became a tutor in the department and in 1880 was appointed Professor of Civil Engineering. He was treasurer of the college from 1889 to 1896 and was active in the Alumni Association. He also had a general engineering business and was an advocate for the development of good roads in the state of Maine.

George Hamlin married Annie M. Mayo in 1877 and had four children, only two of whom, Charles Mayo and George Harold Hamlin, lived into adulthood.

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Scope and Contents

The collection is arranged in three series: papers of Gideon Mayo, papers of Charles W. Mayo, Gideon Mayo's son, and papers of George H. Hamlin. The Gideon Mayo series is arranged in five sub-series: correspondence, legal records, financial records, company records, and personal and miscellaneous material.

The Gideon Mayo papers begin with incoming correspondence, 1846-1876, primarily concerning financing and running the sawmills and other properties of Mayo and his business partners, especially Courtlandt Palmer and S.D. Dakin. Other letters deal with efforts to finance and build the Penobscot Railroad; correspondents include Israel Washburn, Jr. and John A. Poor, an early advocate of building railroads in Maine.

The legal records include deeds, 1827-1874; leases for mills and equipment, 1849-1871; agreements to sell Mayo saws and other equipment, 1850-1853; and writs issued to Mayo and his partners, 1848-1872. The financial records sub-series contains information about accounts settled, 1837-1867;

bills for business expenses and equipment, 1839-1879; receipts, 1840-1876; and notes issued and paid, 1836-1876. These two sub-series give a clear picture of the financial and physical difficulties involved in establishing and running businesses and railroads in mid-19th century Maine.

The company records sub-series gives more detailed information about Mayo's various business ventures, especially his involvement in lumbering and sawmills. This series ends with various personal papers, including a folder of recommendations for Mayo as collector of the port of Bangor and a file of his records as pension agent.

The papers of Charles W. Mayo, Gideon Mayo's son, deal primarily with his activities as administrator of his father's estate, as well as personal and family matters. They include incoming correspondence, 1876-1882; probate and legal documents; an inventory of Gideon Mayo's estate; and bills and claims against that estate, 1876-1878.

The papers of George H. Hamlin are a mix of personal and business records. His incoming correspondence, 1876-1912, includes information about forming the Alumni Association for the Maine State College, the promotion in 1896 of an engineering experiment station bill similar to the Hatch Act for agriculture, and letters concerning his involvement in lumbering activities. Also included in this series is a group of questionnaires Hamlin sent in 1894 to selectmen and road commissioners in Maine asking about town financing for roads, wages paid to maintain roads, difficulties in keeping roads in good repair, etc.

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Organization of the Records

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

207.581.1686

um.library.spc@maine.edu

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

Processing Information

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Custodial History

The Gideon Mayo papers were purchased by the University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections in 1987.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

Restrictions on Access

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Businessmen -- Maine -- Orono
- Railroads -- Maine
- Orono (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Business records
- Bills of sale
- Receipts (Financial records)
- Legal documents
- Mayo, Gideon, 1808-1876
- Mayo, Charles W. (Charles William), 1898-1968
- Hamlin, George H.
- Orono Manufacturing Company

- Penobscot Railroad Company

Collection Inventory

Series I: Papers of Gideon Mayo

Sub-series 1: Correspondence

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Correspondence, incoming, 1846-1868 | Box 1 Folder 1-27 |
| Correspondence, incoming, 1869-1876 | Box 2 Folder 1-9 |

Sub-series 2: Legal records

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|--------------------|
| Deeds, 1827-1874 | Box 2 Folder 10 |
| Leases, 1849-1871 | Folder 11 |
| Writs, 1848-1872 | Folder 12 |
| Miscellaneous legal documents, 1848-1859, 1872, undated | Folder 13 |
| Agreements, 1850, 1852, 1853 | Folder 14 |
| Bond, 1850 | Folder 15 |
| Old bonds of mills bo't by S.D. Dakin, 1851-1852 | Folder 16 |
| Roberts Wharf papers, 1853-1861 | Folder 17 |
| Leases of Roberts Wharf, 1857-1861 | Folder 18 |
| Documents re Courtlandt Palmer | Folder 19 |
| Webster Treat, letters and accounts, 1856-1872 | Folder 20 |

Sub-series 3: Financial Records

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-----------------------|
| Accounts settled, 1837-1867, undated | Box 2 Folder 21-26 |
| Hinckley, Eagan and Mansfield accounts, 1848 | Folder 27 |
| E.P. Mayo account, 1876-1878 | Folder 28 |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Bills, 1839-1879, undated | Box 3 Folder 1-40 |
| Orders, 1848-1870 | Folder 41 |
| Receipts, 1840-1876, undated | Box 4 Folder 1-3 |
| Notes issued and paid, 1836-1876, undated | Folder 4-7 |
| Remittances, 1874-1875 | Folder 8 |
| Miscellaneous financial records, 1846-1875 | Folder 9 |

Sub-series 4: Company records

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|--------------------|
| Island Mills records, 1847-1853 | Box 4 Folder 10 |
| Basin Mills records, 1847-1862 | Folder 11 |
| Orono Manufacturing Co. records, 1852-1857 | Folder 12 |
| Lumbering documents | Folder 13 |
| Invoice and survey of lumber resources to the 1st of Oct., 1846 | Folder 14 |
| Certificates of time, 1848-1853 | Folder 15 |
| Land below the mills (Notes and accounts), 1851 | Folder 16 |
| Sundry mill accounts, 1853 | Folder 17 |
| Six saw block (Bills), 1853 | Folder 18 |
| Penobscot Railroad Co. records, 1853-1863 | Folder 19 |
| Edward Mansfield: Bills, 1836-1885 | Folder 20 |
| Edward Mansfield: Correspondence, notes, receipts, 1838-1881 | Folder 21 |

Sub-series 5: Personal and miscellaneous material

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|--------------------|
| Memo books, 1859, 1861, 1863 | Box 4 Folder 22 |
| Memoranda, undated | Folder 23 |
| Recommendations for collector, port of Bangor, 1865 | Folder 24 |
| Pension agent records, 1866-1873 | Folder 25 |
| Miscellaneous papers, 1854 | Folder 26 |
| Miscellaneous | Folder 27-28 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Miscellaneous personal papers | Folder 29 |
| Searsport house | Folder 30 |

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Series II: Papers of Charles W. Mayo

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------------------|
| Correspondence, incoming, 1876-1882, undated | Box 4 Folder 31-32 |
| Account with G. Mayo from, 1864 to 1876 | Folder 33 |
| Memo book: Farm account, January 1, 1877-1878 | Folder 34 |
| Memo book, 1879 | Folder 35 |
| Receipts, 1869-1879 | Folder 36 |
| Leases, deeds, 1870s | Folder 37 |
| Probate and legal documents re estate of Gideon Mayo | Folder 38 |
| Inventory of estate of G. Mayo | Folder 39 |
| Bills against estate of Gideon Mayo, 1876-1878, undated | Folder 40 |
| Claims against estate, 1877-1878 | Folder 41 |
| Wilson claim, 1879 | Folder 42 |

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Series III: Papers of George H. Hamlin

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-------------------|
| Correspondence, incoming, 1876-1912, undated | Box 5 Folder 1 |
| Bills and receipts, 1873-1911 | Folder 2 |
| Personal papers | Folder 3 |
| Miscellaneous notes and business papers | Folder 4 |
| Memorandum book, undated | Folder 5 |
| Deeds | Folder 6 |
| Records of the Telos Canal Co. | Folder 7 |
| Records of Winn Water and Power Co. | Folder 8 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Road survey, 1894 | Folder 9-10 |
| Harold Hamlin: Bank statements, 1919-1920 | Folder 11 |
| Harold Hamlin: Cancelled checks, 1920 | Folder 12 |

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