

University of Southern Maine
Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

Lemuel Moody Archives Collection Finding Aid
Acc. No.: OS-1819-9

.5 linear ft. and 1 map folder

Provenance

The collection of materials was acquired 12 May 2012 in two lots from Gould Auctions of Maine. These and other lots of Moody's papers had been arranged by Timothy Gould for the purposes of the auction and do not reflect any original organization.

Biographical information

Lemuel Moody (1767-1846) was a mariner, shipmaster, ship owner, and businessman from Portland, Maine. He was instrumental in creating the 1825 sailing chart of Portland Harbour and adjacent islands, kept scientific observations (comets, sailing directions, longitude of Munjoy Hill, Portland, and thermometrical records of Portland), was one of the members of the building society that erected the Portland Observatory in 1807-9, and in later years served as an agent selling chronometers.

Scope and content

There are 89 items included in this collection. The earliest is the Observation of a comet, 1819, and the latest is a souvenir envelope dated 1875.

The materials in this collection can be loosely grouped into three subject areas: the surveying and publishing of a chart of Portland Harbor including sailing directions (1825-1839); scientific and natural phenomena (1819-1835); and Moody's chronometer business (1830-1841).

Charting Portland Harbor (1825-1839)
Folders 1-19

These materials include information about the business of creating "The Chart of Portland Harbour and Islands Adjacent..." beginning in 1825 by Lemuel Moody, George Deering and Seward Porter (1784-1838). There are contracts, receipts, accountings and some correspondence related to this chart. Moody was in the process of creating a Pilots Guide to Portland Harbor and his notes are included.

Scientific and natural phenomena (1819-1835)
Folders 20-27 and the 1 OS map folder

Moody took scientific observations of celestial phenomena such as the comet

of 1819 and he calculated the longitude of Munjoy Hill, Portland. He collected material related to the longitude of Portland from William Blackburn, and newspaper clippings about lighthouses and sea serpent sightings. Also included are one month's worth of thermometrical records of Portland, February 1835.

Chronometer business (1830-1841)
Folders 28 – 36

Moody began selling chronometers in the Portland area ca. 1830. Correspondence between suppliers of chronometers and invoices are included.

Two items do not relate to these categories: one is a bill for expenses incurred by Mrs. Nancy Webb, dated 1838, and the other is a Civil War souvenir envelope dated 1875, probably used to organize some of these materials, but dated years after Moody's death in 1846. These two 'unrelated' items are in Folder 37.

Care and control

In August 2012 the materials were housed in acid free archival folders, and the oversize materials placed in Melinex sleeves in a map folder. All were arranged by subject areas and within those subjects put into chronological order.

Inventory

Folder 1 Charting Portland Harbor

"The Portland Pilot Directions for sailing into Portland, and Harbors adjacent By Leml Moody 1829." Handwritten in pencil notation. "If I ever publish these directions, this is the correct book to publish from Decmbr 8 1830"
24 pages

Folder 2 Charting Portland Harbor

"Directions for sailing into Portland, and adjacent harbors, by Leml Moody"
11 pages

Folder 3 Charting Portland Harbor

"The following directions for Portland Harbor and also for several of the Harbors..."
15 pages

Folder 4 Charting Portland Harbor

"Directions for sailing into Portland Harbor "
25 pages, 2 covers

Folder 5 Charting Portland Harbor

"Directions for sailing into Portland, and adjacent Harbors by Leml Moody."
1 page

Folder 6 Charting Portland Harbor

"Memorandum of an agreement entered into this 30th day of May 1825 between Seward Porter, Lemuel Moody & Geo. Deering on the one part & D.G. Johnson on the other part...Portland May 30th 1825."

Folder 7 Charting Portland Harbor

2 items

Seward Porter to L. Moody, Nov. 5, 1825

Seward Porter to L. Moody, April 9, 1828

Folder 8 Charting Portland Harbor

"Money paid by Leml Moody for Publishing the chart of Cascobay," May 10, 1825 – 1831

Folder 9 Charting Portland Harbor

"Dr. Capt Seward Porter to Lemuel Moody" 1825 May – Dec. 22 1835

Folder 10 Charting Portland Harbor

"Memorandum of an agreement...30th May 1825 between Seward Porter, Lemuel Moody and Geo. Deering... with D.G Johnson" with an addendum notation by Moody referring to responsibilities between the parties, dated Jan. 1, 1836

Folder 11 Charting Portland Harbor

"Capt. Seward Porter in Acct with Lemuel Moody for publishing chart of Casco"
1825 May 16 – Decm 13, 1836

Folder 12 Charting Portland Harbor

"Expences [sic] incurred by Lemuel Moody in the survey and publishing a chart of Casco Bay" May 16th 1825 – Portland December 13th, 1836

Folder 13 Charting Portland Harbor

[Expense sheet for travel, surveying and creating charts], Decem. 13, 1836

Folder 14 Charting Portland Harbor

"Whole number of charts struck off D.G. Johnson... Mr. Allen of Boston... Mr. Cullum of Portland..Portland Demb 18th 1836"

Folder 15 Charting Portland Harbor

"Account of charts sold and delivered," [1836?]

Folder 16 Charting Portland Harbor

11 items

Receipt D.G. Johnson Sept. [?] 13, 1825

Receipt John Hooker for chart paper, Oct. 3, 1825
Receipt D.G. Johnson Oct. 24 and Nov. 3, 1825
Receipt D.G. Johnson, Nov. 18, 1825
Receipt D.G. Johnson, Nov. 21, 1825
Receipt D.G. Johnson Feb. 3, 1826 and March 22, 1826
Receipt David Buxton for pasting charts, Feb. 6, 1826
Receipt – Andrew Allen, Boston, for printing charts and altering plates
Oct 9, 1828
Receipt Anson? Smith & Co. Oct 19th [?] 1832, sheets of paper
Receipt John Cullum for alterations to chart plates and printing, Oct. 26, 1832
Receipt S.H. Colesworthy for printing and engraving charts, July 11, 1838

Folder 17 Charting Portland Harbor

4 items

[Printed certifications of chart, Nov. 1825]

"The following certificates from respectable Ship-Masters, and experienced Pilots, are deemed sufficient vouchers for the correctness and utility of this work."

Folder 18 Charting Portland Harbor

4 items

[Handwritten certifications of chart, Nov. 1825]

Folder 19 Charting Portland Harbor

2 items

Thomas Moore to L. Moody asking to continue survey to the coast of Mass. Nov 8, 1839

L. Moody to Thomas Moore declining to continue the survey due to age (73 years) Nov. 11, 1839

Folder 20 Scientific and natural phenomena

"Observation of a comet July 1819"

Folder 21 Scientific and natural phenomena

"Longitude of Portland" [1821?]

Folder 22 Scientific and natural phenomena

[Newspaper article about lighthouses, 1828]

"Notice to Mariners The two light houses lately built on Cape Elizabeth...will be lit up on the night of the 28th October inst..." Oct. 23, 1828"

Folder 23 Scientific and natural phenomena

[Newspaper clipping of advertisements 1830] including "For Sale. A first rate Cronometer, [sic], For particulars, enquire of L. Moody, near the Observatory Jan. 2." Possibly from one of editor Seba Smith's Courier newspapers.

[News head reads: OURI et Prevalerit. Day morning, Jan. 16, 1830.]

Folder 24 Scientific and natural phenomena

5 items

Newspaper articles about Sea Serpent sightings, [ca. 1833]

1. reprinted from Fenno's United States Gazette of August 17, 1793,
2. Sea Serpents..A friend...July 1833 [?],
3. Salem Mass. Aug. 19 [1833] Sea Serpent. We deem it our duty...Thomas Bridges report,
4. From the Essex Register Aug. 1833 The Haverhill Iris...,
5. The Sea Serpents are very popular "just at this moment." Capt Porter...July 1833

Folder 25 Scientific and natural phenomena

"Thermometrical Record for February 1835 at Portland Observatory"

Folder 26 Scientific and natural phenomena

[Newspaper article about lighthouses, 1835]

May 28th, 1835 by John Chandler, superintendent of light houses in Maine. Report on proposals to build 2 beacons in the harbour of Castine

Folder 27 Scientific and natural phenomena

2 items

Circular of the joint Committee on Meteorology of the American Philosophical Society and Franklin Institute. Printed with handwritten note at bottom, Mar. 20 1838 "Will Mr. Moody be so good..."

Circular of the Committee on Meteorology. appointed by the Franklin Institute Sept. 18th 1838

Correspondence arranged chronologically

Folder 28 Chronometer business

Correspondence, 1832

William Goddard to Lemuel Moody re: payments, Jan. 23, 1832

Folder 29 Chronometer business

3 items

Correspondence, 1834

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, May 31, 1834

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Sept 23, 1834

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Dec. 2, 1834

Folder 30 Chronometer business

4 items

Correspondence, 1835

Fellows & Read & Co. to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, March 10, 1835

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, April 18, 1835

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Oct. 29, 1835

Fellows & Read to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Nov. 13, 1835

Folder 31 Chronometer business

3 items

Correspondence, 1836

Fellows Read & Co. to L. Moody about chronometers, May 23, 1836

Parkinson and Frodsham [London] to Lemuel Moody about chronometers,
July 8, 1836

Dana Greely & Co. to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Sept 6, 1836

Folder 32 Chronometer business

9 items

1837 correspondence

Fellows Read & Co. to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Jan. 19, 1837

Fellows Wadsworth to Lemuel Moody about dissolution, March 4, 1837

Fellows Wadsworth to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, March 6, 1837

Fellows Wadsworth to L. Moody about chronometers, March 13, 1837

Fellows Wadsworth to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, March 29, 1837

Fellows, Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, June 12 1837

Envelope addressed to Lemuel Moody, "New York June 25 1837

acknowledging the receipt of a draft for \$222 - 7s, which was paid & placed
for my acct."

Fellows, Wadsworth receipt to L. Moody, Sept. 13, 14 & 15 1837

Fellows Wadsworth to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, Nov. 21, 1837

Folder 33 Chronometer business

4 items

Correspondence, 1838

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Feb. 24, 1838

Lemuel Moody to J. M. Gilliss about chronometers (J. Melville Gilliss, Lieut US
Navy...Dept. Charts & Instrument, copy, May 21, 1838

Fellows Wadsworth bill to Lemuel Moody about chronometers, July 6, 1838

Fellows Wadsworth to L. Moody about chronometers, July 26 1838

Folder 34 Chronometer business

6 items

Correspondence, 1839

Fellows Wadsworth to Lemuel Moody, Receipt for chronometer, Jan. 17,
1839

Parkinson & Frodsham to Lemuel Moody, chronometers, June 12, 1839

Fellows Wadsworth & Co to Lemuel Moody, July 1, 1839

Fellows Wadsworth Lemuel Moody, shipping information, July 5, 1839

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, July 16, 1839

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Nov. 1, 1839

Folder 35 Chronometer business

4 items

Correspondence, 1840

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Feb. 22, 1840

Parkinson & Frodsham to Lemuel Moody, May 19, 1840

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Oct. 8, 1840

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Dec. 11, 1840

Folder 36 Chronometer business

3 items

Correspondence 1841

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, Jan. 9, 1841

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, July 8, 1841

Fellows Wadsworth & Co. to Lemuel Moody, August. 26, 1841

Folder 37 Miscellaneous

Harvey & Ingalls Wm Ingalls to Lemuel Moody. Mrs. Nancy Webb's bill due 8 May 1837, dated June 7, 1838

Souvenir, envelope 17th June 1875 (much later than Moody's death date)

Folder 38 (Oversize) Scientific and natural phenomena

2 items

"Calculation of the longitude of Portland from the solar eclipse of Aug 17, 1821 by George Blackburn Columbia So. Car. Sept. 20th 1821"

"Calculation of the longitude of Mountjoy from an observation of the solar eclipse of February 12, 1831 by Captain Moody"

Related collections

Maine Historical Society has three related collections and a number of the printed Charts of Portland Harbour, and Islands adjacent.

1. Lemuel Moody collection (Coll. 1931) including the original subscribers list and contract for creating the Chart of Portland Harbour, 1825;

2. Portland Observatory and family papers, [between 1813 and 1939] (Coll. 1675);

3. Signal books and thermometrical records 1816-1862 (Coll. 902)