Palmer-Loper Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2003

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79035410

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003068

Prepared by Audrey Walker, Michael Spangler, and Lisa Madison
Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: Palmer-Loper Family Papers
Span Dates: 1667-1994
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1790-1930)
ID No.: MSS35410
Creator: Loper family
Creator: Palmer family
Extent: 10,000 items
Extent: 34 containers plus 3 oversize
Extent: 13.6 linear feet
Extent: 11 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mmc79035410
Summary: Seafaring and merchant families. Correspondence, logbooks and journals, ships' papers, financial and business records, and printed matter documenting the voyages and business activities of Nathaniel Brown Palmer, Alexander Smith Palmer, Richard Fanning Loper, and other members of these maritime families of Stonington, Connecticut.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Bush, Frederick T.--Correspondence.
Cook, Frederick Albert, 1865-1940--Correspondence.
Crosby, John Schuyler, 1839-1914--Correspondence.
Dixon, Nathan Fellows, 1812-1881--Correspondence.
Dixon, Nathan Fellows, 1847-1897--Correspondence.
Fanning, Edmund, 1769-1841--Correspondence.
Forbes, R. B. (Robert Bennet), 1804-1889--Correspondence.
Gregory, Francis H., 1848-1929--Correspondence.
Hart, Ira. Ira Hart sermon notes.
Hobbs, William Herbert, 1864-1952--Correspondence.
Loper family--Correspondence.
Loper family.
Loper, Elizabeth Dixon Palmer, 1848-1929--Correspondence.
Loper, Richard Fanning, 1850-1914--Correspondence.
Palmer family--Correspondence.
Palmer family.
Palmer, Louis Lambert, 1845-1887--Correspondence.
Palmer, Theodore Dwight, 1816-1865--Correspondence.
Pendleton, Benjamin, 1787-1857--Correspondence.
Smith, Francis Hopkinson, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
Stanton, Charles T.--Correspondence.
Stanton, Joseph W. (Joseph Warren)--Correspondence.
Stanton, Thomas P.--Correspondence.

Organizations
A.A. Low & Bros.--Correspondence.
Annawan (Sealing ship)
Baldwin and Spooner--Correspondence.
Charles Adams (Ship)
G. Woodhull and Minturns--Correspondence.
Garrick (Ship)
Hero (Sloop)
Lawrence Giles Company--Correspondence.
Loper, Dorman, and Company.
Madgie (Yacht)
Magic (Yacht)
Mary of London (Ship)
Olive Branch (Sloop)
Penguin (Schooner)
Russell & Company (Guangzhou, China)
Southerner (Ship)
United States. Army--Procurement.
Yale College (1718-1887)

Subjects
Business records--Connecticut--Stonington.
Clipper ships.
Packets.
Practice of law--Illinois--Chicago.
Sealing.
Ship's papers--19th century.
Shipbuilding.
Shipping.
Ships.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Cuba.
Universities and colleges--Connecticut--New Haven.
Voyages and travels.
Whaling.
Yachting.
Yachts.

Places
Antarctica--Discovery and exploration.
Chicago (Ill.)--Commerce.
China--Description and travel.
Connecticut--History.
France--Description and travel.
Italy--Description and travel.
New Orleans (La.)--Description and travel.
New York (State)--Description and travel.
Philippines--History--Philippine American War, 1899-1902.
Stonington (Conn.)--Census.
Stonington (Conn.)--Commerce.
Stonington (Conn.)--History.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History.
Provenance

The papers of Nathaniel Brown Palmer and his brother, Alexander Smith Palmer, sea captains and merchants of Stonington, Connecticut, and other members of the Palmer family, together with the papers of Richard Fanning Loper, sea captain, shipbuilder, merchant, and inventor of Stonington, Connecticut, and Philadelphia, were deposited in the Library of Congress in several installments between 1927 and 1937 by Elizabeth Dixon (Mrs. Richard Fanning) Loper, Alexander Palmer Loper, and other members of the Loper family. These deposits were later converted to gifts and purchases. Additional papers were given to the Library by Alexander P. Loper in 1938-1939, and by Harriet B. Brown, Malcolm F. Brown, and Mark Palmer between 1992 and 2000.

Processing History

Part I of the Palmer-Loper Papers was arranged and described in 1983. Material received between 1992 and 1994 was processed as Part II in 1995. Material received between 1996 and 2000 was organized as an addition to Part II in 2003.

Additional Guides


Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some pamphlets and books have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. One nautical chart has been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Palmer-Loper Family Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyrights possessed by Harriet B. Brown and Malcolm F. Brown in the papers of the Palmer-Loper Family have been dedicated to the public. The status of other copyrights in the unpublished writings in the papers of the Palmer-Loper Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Palmer-Loper family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

Microfilm editions of part of these papers are available on eleven reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container or reel number, Palmer-Loper Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
## Biographical Notes

### Nathaniel Brown Palmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1799, Aug. 8</td>
<td>Born, Stonington, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813</td>
<td>Shipped on coasters trading between New York and New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Second mate, brig <em>Hersilia</em>; commanded coasting schooner <em>Gleaner</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820-1821</td>
<td>Master, sloop <em>Hero</em>; discovered Antarctic continent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Master, sloop <em>James Monroe</em>, sealing and exploring in Antarctic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823-1828</td>
<td>Master, brigs <em>Cadet</em> and <em>Tampico</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Married Eliza Thompson Babcock (died 1872)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1829-1833</td>
<td>Master, brig <em>Annawan</em>, sealing and exploring in South Seas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833-1840</td>
<td>Commanded packet ships out of New York, N.Y., to New Orleans, La., and Liverpool, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840s</td>
<td>Master, ships <em>Houqua</em>, <em>Samuel Russell</em>, <em>Oriental</em>, and <em>Paul Jones</em>; engaged in the China trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Retired from active sea duty; engaged in shipping business and pursued yachting interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Superintended the rebuilding of the ship <em>Great Republic</em>, which had burned on the eve of her maiden voyage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Retired and traveled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877, June 21</td>
<td>Died, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Alexander Smith Palmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1806, Jan. 26</td>
<td>Born, Stonington, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Sailed on brig <em>Alabama</em>, part of sealing fleet to Antarctic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824-1826</td>
<td>Mate on brigs <em>Tampico</em> and <em>Cadet</em>, master of <em>Tampico</em> on two voyages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827-1830</td>
<td>Commanded schooner <em>Penguin</em>, sealing in South Seas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831-1833</td>
<td>Commanded ship <em>Charles Adams</em> on whaling and sealing expedition to South Shetland and Falkland islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834-1838</td>
<td>Master, packet ships <em>Louisville</em> and <em>Shakespeare</em> sailing between New York, N.Y., and New Orleans, La.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Married Priscilla D. Dixon (died 1851)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839-1845</td>
<td>Master, packet ships <em>Garrick</em> and <em>Southerner</em> in Liverpool trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844-1846</td>
<td>Master, clipper <em>Houqua</em>, New York, N.Y., to Canton, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>Master, the <em>Southerner</em>, New York, N.Y., to Liverpool, England (last voyage); entered shipping business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854-1857</td>
<td>Operated fleet of tugs and barges on Mississippi River from New Orleans, La.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858-1877</td>
<td>Active in politics; elected town selectman, state representative, and state senator in Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894, Oct. 22</td>
<td>Died, Stonington, Conn.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Richard Fanning Loper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800, Feb. 3</td>
<td>Born, Stonington, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Sailed on coasting trips and became master at age fifteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817-1819</td>
<td>Commanded schooner <em>Nancy Cobb</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820-1821</td>
<td>Second mate on board sloop <em>Hero</em> during voyage of discovery in Antarctic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Settled in Philadelphia, Pa.; started packet ship trade between that city and Hartford, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Married Margaret Mercer Baird (died 1898)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826-1831</td>
<td>Master, schooners <em>Alonzo</em> and <em>Maid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Retired from active sea duty; began career in Philadelphia, Pa., as shipbuilder; continued to operate several coastwise shipping lines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1843  Agent, Delaware and Raritan Canal Co.
1844  Developed composite iron and wood shipbuilding methods; invented blade screw propeller
1846  Satisfied contract to build and deliver 150 surf type boats in thirty days for General Winfield Scott's Mexican campaign at Vera Cruz, Mexico
1848-1877 President, Philadelphia Steam Propeller Co. and Swiftsure Transportation Co.
1849-1867 President, Philadelphia and Hartford line of steamers
1855-1870 Active, New York Yacht Club; built and raced several yachts
1856-1865 President, Gloster Ferry Co.
1861-1862 Outfitted and chartered ships for the War Department
1870  Returned to Stonington, Conn.
       First successful defender of the America's Cup in yacht Magic (formerly Madgie), New York Harbor, N.Y.
1880, Nov. 8  Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

Part I

Part I of the papers of the Palmer-Loper Family covers the years 1767 to 1930, with the bulk of the papers falling within the years 1840-1880. The collection reflects the close association between the Palmer and Loper families brought about by shared sailing and mercantile interests and the marriage of Alexander Smith Palmer's daughter, Elizabeth, to Richard Fanning Loper's son, Richard, in 1873. The papers include correspondence, logs and journals, financial and business records, miscellany, and printed matter.

The most prominent figure in Part I of the collection is Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), a sea captain known for his discovery of the Antarctic archipelago and peninsula bearing his name. The Miscellany series contains several descriptions of his discoveries, including the version Palmer related to Frederick T. Bush, former United States consul in China, and an extract from the logbook of the Frederick, whose captain, Benjamin Pendleton, had directed Palmer to investigate the area for additional seal rookeries. The logbook of the sloop Hero, which Palmer commanded during this cruise, is also included among the group of ships' papers in the collection. Palmer's papers also contain documents touching on most phases of his career, from his years aboard sealing and whaling vessels, trans-Atlantic packet ships, and China clippers, to his mercantile and shipping interests pursued ashore following his retirement from active sea duty.

The papers of the younger brother, Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), also a sea captain, who had sailed in his earlier years with Nathaniel and who later commanded packet ships in the Liverpool trade and shared commands of clippers in the China trade with his brothers, Nathaniel and Theodore, relate in part to his career at sea. However, most of Alexander's papers are concerned with his life after he gave up the sea and center on his family and on financial investments in shipping, particularly his ownership of various vessels. Little material in the collection pertains to his involvement in Connecticut politics.

Papers of Richard Fanning Loper (1800-1880) form the largest segment of Part I of the collection. Loper, who had sailed as second mate on the Hero with Nathaniel B. Palmer in 1820, enjoyed a varied career as sea captain, shipbuilder, owner and operator of shipping lines, and transport agent for the United States War Department. He also achieved recognition for his invention of a screw propeller which was tested for use by the United States Navy along with one designed by John Ericsson. His papers relate mainly to business and financial matters. Loper's contracts with the army and navy during the Civil War were later the subject of an investigation which ultimately exonerated him of charges of profiteering. Copies of documents relating to these charges are attached to the biography of Loper located in the Miscellany series.

Early correspondence in the General Correspondence series in the collection belongs to members of the Palmer family and includes both family and business letters. Family correspondence, mainly between Nathaniel, Alexander, and Theodore Dwight Palmer, with some letters from in-laws, contains descriptive details of voyages as well as family news. Business letters follow the careers of Alexander and Nathaniel Palmer from their sealing and whaling expeditions to the South Shetland Islands in 1822 to their voyages to China in the 1840s. Several letters contain comments on the clipper ship Houqua. References to the sailing of packet ships between England and the United States found mainly in the correspondence of Alexander and Theodore Palmer discuss business arrangements for voyages, cargo consignments,
market conditions, and the arrival and departure of ships. After 1849, when both Nathaniel and Alexander Palmer had quit the sea, their correspondence centers on investments in cargoes and ownership of shares in ships.

Richard F. Loper's correspondence in Part I, which becomes predominant around 1874, focuses on his business interests in the years subsequent to his life at sea. A few letters concern his role in chartering vessels during the Civil War, but most relate to his shipbuilding activities and to the operation of his company, Loper and Dorman.


Financial and business records constitute the largest series in Part I. Within this series, the group of ships' papers relating mainly to the vessels of the Palmer brothers is both noteworthy and voluminous. It includes letters of instruction, registration and ownership records, journals, logbooks and abstracts of logbooks, financial records, passenger lists, and miscellaneous nautical calculations. Among the more significant logbooks are those of the Annawan, a sealing ship captured off the island of Juan Fernandez and forced to sail to Chile; the sloop Hero; and the Southerner, a packet ship engaged in the Liverpool trade. Some logbooks contain entries for more than one ship. The logbook of the Garrick, for example, contains entries for the Southerner and an unidentified vessel. The logbook of the Mary of London was also used for the Olive Branch, and journals of voyages of the whaling ship Charles Adams are bound with journal of the schooner Penguin. Also contained within the series are files from Richard F. Loper's service as United States War Department transport agent and miscellaneous legal and real estate records of Louis L. Palmer, who had a law practice in Chicago.

Part II

Part II of the papers of the Palmer-Loper Family spans the years 1667-1986 with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1790 and 1930. The material supplements Part I of the collection, providing expanded insight into the personal and business affairs of two prominent New England maritime families. The papers include correspondence, subject files, financial and legal documents, genealogical notes, photographs, diaries, and printed matter.

The major series in Part II is the Correspondence file, which contains letters exchanged principally between family members over several generations. The correspondence generally pertains to family news but often includes discussions of business affairs, information on sailing vessels, and observations on local and national events. Prominent family correspondents include Nathaniel Brown Palmer, his brother, Alexander Smith Palmer, and Richard Fanning Loper. The letters of Nathaniel B. Palmer relate mainly to business and shipping matters. Letters between Alexander S. Palmer and his wife, Priscilla Dixon Palmer, daughter of Rhode Island Senator Nathan Fellows Dixon, and their children are numerous including an exchange of correspondence in early 1861 between Alexander Smith Palmer and his son Nathaniel (“Natty”) B. Palmer II, who was employed in a mercantile house in New Orleans. As the secession crisis intensified and hostilities appeared imminent, Nathaniel Palmer described the heightened tensions in the city and efforts to recruit him for its defense. Although there is little material pertaining to Richard F. Loper, there are numerous letters relating to the family of his son Richard F. Loper, Jr. (1850-1914), and his wife, Elizabeth (“Libby”) Dixon Palmer Loper.

Correspondence of other family members includes letters of Louis Lambert Palmer to his father Alexander S. Palmer pertaining to his attendance at preparatory school and Yale University and to his business activities and law practice in Chicago. William H. Loper, a career sergeant in the army engineers, wrote several letters describing his activities in Cuba during the Spanish-American War and experiences during two tours of duty in the Philippine Islands. The latter letters contain information on the forces of Emilio Aguinaldo and guerilla warfare in the Philippines at the turn of the century.

Also included are letters written primarily during the 1830s by naval officer Francis H. Gregory to Nathaniel B. and Eliza Palmer. Gregory, whose long naval career culminated in the rank of rear admiral, met the Palmers in 1832 at Callao, Peru, shortly after their ship had been commandeered and released by convicts escaping Chile's Juan Fernandez Islands. Letters of Joseph W. Stanton, brother-in-law of Nathaniel B. and Alexander S. Palmer and plantation owner and merchant in New Orleans with close ties to the Connecticut maritime families, express Stanton's business and political concerns. In a letter dated November 9, 1864, to Nathaniel B. Palmer II, Stanton stated his disappointment at Lincoln's reelection, but then goes on to assert that "New England was the cause of this war and she has controuled [sic] its course and management...."
But it will end in our [New England] loosing our monopoly in navigation and the commerce connected with it." He then reminded Palmer that his father, Alexander S. Palmer, held the same views. Other correspondents include Nathan Fellows Dixon (1812-1881), Nathan Fellows Dixon (1847-1897), Edmund Fanning, William Grant, Alexander Smith Palmer, Jr. (1843-1891), Theodore Dwight Palmer, and John Randolph Spears, the biographer of the elder Nathaniel Brown Palmer.

The **Subject File** in Part II contains printed matter, notes, correspondence, and other material relating to such topics as Antarctica, Stonington, Connecticut, and yachting. Noteworthy items include a census of Long Point, Stonington, conducted in 1776, and several receipts and other documents relating to the yacht *Madgie*, later renamed *Magic*, which Richard F. Loper piloted in the first successful defense of the America's Cup in 1870. Also contained in this file are copious genealogical notes and other documents concerning the Palmers, Lopers, and several related families.

Financial and legal records constitute the **Miscellany** series in Part II. Financial material includes balance sheets, receipts, and canceled checks; deeds, wills, patents, and other items comprise the legal records. Other notable items include brief diaries of journeys to New York and New Orleans by Priscilla Dixon Palmer, late eighteenth century sermon notes by Ira Hart, photographs and prints, and printed matter, including clippings pertaining to the Palmers and Lopers.

The **Addition** series includes correspondence, diaries, account books, deeds, financial records, and printed matter. Personal and business letters received by family members comprise the bulk of the correspondence. An exception is a draft letter apparently penned by Elizabeth Dixon Palmer Loper describing in detail the fatal voyage to China in 1877 of her uncle Nathaniel B. Palmer with her brother Nathaniel ("Natty") B. Palmer II, a nephew of the elder Palmer and a victim of tuberculosis. Undertaken as a remedy, the journey so weakened Natty that he died at sea on May 16 on the return trip. Exhausted emotionally and physically, Nathaniel B. Palmer died also on June 21, only days after he returned with Natty's body to San Francisco. A letter from Robert Bennet Forbes, China merchant and shipowner, to Richard F. Loper in 1862 discussed supplying ships outfitted with Loper's patented propeller to the United States Navy. Other correspondents include Frederick Albert Cook, Francis H. Gregory, and William Herbert Hobbs. Elizabeth Dixon Palmer Loper's diary records her journeys with other family members through France and Italy in 1871-1872 and includes descriptions of major cities and attractions. Nathaniel ("Natty") B. Palmer's journal from early 1861 documents his brief employment in New Orleans and describes the mounting war fever there. On his return trip to Stonington in May, he noted while passing through the upper South that "many planters are plowing up the cotton which is about two inches high, and putting in corn and wheat in preparation for the war." Deeds and other legal and financial records further document family land transactions and fiscal matters in Stonington.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in two parts and nine series:

**Part I:**
- **Diary, 1862-1864**
- **General Correspondence, 1822-1900**
- **Financial and Business Records, 1767-1892**
- **Miscellany, 1813-1930**

**Part II:**
- **Correspondence, 1762-1972**
- **Subject File, 1776-1986**
- **Miscellany, 1667-1979**
- **Addition, 1716-1994**

**Oversize, 1767-1949**
Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX I:1 REEL 1 | **Part I: Diary, 1862-1864**  
Diary of Nathaniel Brown Palmer II (1840-1877); financial notes and accounts are included at the end of the diary. |
| BOX I:1-2 REEL 1-2 | **Part I: General Correspondence, 1822-1900**  
Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX I:3-12 REEL 2-8 | **Part I: Financial and Business Records, 1767-1892**  
Accounts, bank books, bills and receipts, canceled checks and check stubs, insurance and legal records, logs, journals, and other ships' papers.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material, by subject therein, and chronologically within folders.  
| BOX I:12-13 REEL 8-9 | **Part I: Miscellany, 1813-1930**  
Biographical data, certificates, clippings, design drawings, notes, and school papers.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and subject and chronologically therein. |
| BOX II:1-6 not filmed | **Part II: Correspondence, 1762-1972**  
Letters sent and received.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein. Files of frequent correspondents are subdivided further by letters sent and received. |
| BOX II:6-10 not filmed | **Part II: Subject File, 1776-1986**  
Printed matter, writings, notes, correspondence, financial records, and other material.  
Arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically therein. |
| BOX II:10-13 not filmed | **Part II: Miscellany, 1667-1979**  
Autograph book, diaries, drawings, financial and legal records, photographs, postcards, printed matter, school papers, and sermon notes.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX II:14-21 not filmed | **Part II: Addition, 1716-1994**  
Correspondence, diaries, deeds, bills, receipts, account books, financial records, photographs, maps, genealogical notes, surveys, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person, type of material, or subject and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX OV 1-3 | **Oversize, 1767-1949**  
Logbooks, genealogical charts, maps, certificates, and other oversize material.  
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
Logbooks available on microfilm shelf nos. 18,965 and 18,965.1.
# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,965

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I: Diary, 1862-1864</strong>&lt;br&gt;Diary of Nathaniel Brown Palmer II (1840-1877); financial notes and accounts are included at the end of the diary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Palmer, Nathaniel (“Natty”) Brown II (1840-1877), 1863, July 8-Dec. 7 (includes financial notes and accounts, 1862-1864)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:1-2 REEL 1-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I: General Correspondence, 1822-1900</strong>&lt;br&gt;Letters sent and received.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>1822-1854&lt;br&gt;(10 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:1 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>1855-1900, undated&lt;br&gt;(3 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>1860-1900, undated&lt;br&gt;(15 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:3-12 REEL 2-8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Part I: Financial and Business Records, 1767-1892</strong>&lt;br&gt;Accounts, bank books, bills and receipts, canceled checks and check stubs, insurance and legal records, logs, journals, and other ships' papers.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by type of material, by subject therein, and chronologically within folders.&lt;br&gt;Volume I of the brig <em>Annawan</em> logbook available on separate microfilm edition shelf no. 18,965.1. Vol. II of logbook of the sloop <em>Hero</em> available on separate microfilm edition shelf no. 17,105.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:3 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Accounts&lt;br&gt;Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880)&lt;br&gt;Accounts, 1852-1873&lt;br&gt;Index to an account book&lt;br&gt;Register of bills and notes, 1850-1863&lt;br&gt;Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894)&lt;br&gt;Accounts, 1827-1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX I:3 REEL 3</strong></td>
<td>Account books, 1831-1858&lt;br&gt;(7 vols.)&lt;br&gt;Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877)&lt;br&gt;Accounts, 1837-1868&lt;br&gt;Account books, 1866-1873&lt;br&gt;(2 vols.)&lt;br&gt;Palmer, Priscilla Dixon&lt;br&gt;Account books, 1835-1850&lt;br&gt;(3 vols.)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Part I: Financial and Business Records, 1767-1892

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<td>BOX 1:7 REEL 5</td>
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<td><em>Annawan</em> (brig), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master, logbooks</td>
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<td><em>Anonymous</em> (yacht), 1874</td>
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<td><em>Augusta</em> (steamer), logbook, including accounts and passenger and crew lists, 1840-1841</td>
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<td><em>Brenda</em> (schooner), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master, 1853</td>
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| BOX I:8 REEL 5 | Contest (ship), 1853-1876  
David Brown (ship), George Brewster, master, abstract of log, 1853-1861  
Delvan Peck (steamer-tug), 1875-1876  
Garrick (ship), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), master  
Papers, 1837-1841  
Logbook, 1840  
General Burnside (steamer), David L. Wilcox, master, Richard Fanning Loper (1800-1880), owner, 1862-1863  
Gleaner (schooner), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master and owner, 1815-1818  
Granite State (steamship), 1852-1856  
Great Republic (ship), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), owner, 1853-1865 |
| BOX I:9 REEL 5 | Heron (sloop), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master  
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Vol. I, 1820, July 31-1821, May 7  
Vol. II, 1821, July 24-1823, June 16 Available on separate microfilm edition, shelf no. 17,105  
Herselia (brigg), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), second mate, 1820  
Hibernia (ship), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master, 1840-1841  
Horatio (ship), William Howland, master, abstract of log, 1842-1843  
Houqua (ship), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877) and Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), masters, 1842-1851  
James M. Hicks (barque), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1852-1862  
James Monroe (sloop), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master, 1821  
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Josie (yacht), 1871-1876  
Jubilee (schooner), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), master, 1857  
Louisville (ship), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), master, undated  
Madge (yacht), 1858-1873  
Mary of London (ship), Daniel Brown, master, logbook, includes log and accounts of the sloop Olive Branch, 1791,1801-1802  
N. B. Palmer (ship), 1851-1862  
Newark (ship), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1841  
Newburyport (barque), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1844-1847  
Northerner (steamer), 1861-1862  
Olive Branch (sloop) See Container I:8, Mary of London  
Oriental (ship), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877) and Theodore Dwight Palmer, masters, includes abstracts of ship's logs, 1849-1852  
Palmer (yacht), 1865  
Penguin (barque), 1854-1867  
Penguin (schooner), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), master  
Journal, includes journal of Charles Adams, 1829-1833  
BOX I:9 REEL 6 | Papers, 1827-1839  
Penobscot (steamer), 1856  
Pioneer (propeller), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), owner, 1863  
Prudent (barque), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1844-1848 |
Robert Carnley (ship), Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877) and Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owners, 1854-1858

Romance of the Sea (ship), P. Dumar, master, 1853-1854, 1860

S. H. Waterman (barque), 1851

Samuel Russell (ship), 1849-1861

Southerner (ship), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), master and owner

Logbooks, 1841-1847, 2 vols. For additional material see Container I:7, Garrick (ship)

BOX I:10 REEL 6

Accounts, 1839-1854
(3 folders)
Account book, 1842-1851
Passenger lists, 1847-1851
(3 vols.)

Surprise (ship), 1858-1862

Tampico (brig), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), master, 1826-1827

Uxor (brig), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1832 For additional material see I:7, Charles Adams

Vicksburg (ship), Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), owner, 1838-1868
(4 folders)

Ville de Paris (steamer), abstract of log, 1872

W. P. Clyde (steamer), 1861-1862

Warrior (steamer), 1864-1865

BOX I:10 REEL 7

Yarmouth (schooner), Peleg Brown, master, logbook, 1767-1768 See Oversize

Miscellaneous, 1842-1875, undated

BOX I:11 REEL 7

Other business records

Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880)

Register of shipments to and from the port of New York on behalf of the United States Army by Loper and Kirkpatrick, 1861-1862

United States War Department transport agent papers

Abstracts of disbursements, 1847

Accounts, 1847-1854

Agreements and charters, 1847-1851

Bills and receipts, 1847-1854
(4 folders)

Correspondence, 1847-1853

Lists of ships chartered, 1847, undated

Muster roll of Trumbull (steam propeller), 1847

BOX I:12 REEL 8

Returns of supplies purchased, issued, transported, or consumed, 1846-1847

Miscellany, 1846-1882, undated

Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894), 1852-1888

Palmer, Louis Lambert (1845-1887)

Legal cases, 1873-1886, undated
(2 folders)

Real estate, Chicago, Ill., 1873-1882, undated

Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1811, 1865-1877, undated
Part I: Financial and Business Records, 1767-1892

Miscellany, 1857-1877, undated

BOX I:12-13 REEL 8-9 Part I: Miscellany, 1813-1930
Biographical data, certificates, clippings, design drawings, notes, and school papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and subject and chronologically therein.

BOX I:12 REEL 8
Biographical data
- Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), undated
- Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894), 1881, undated
- Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1881, 1905, undated
- Other Palmer family members, undated

BOX I:13 REEL 9
Estate papers, 1856-1881, undated
- Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), 1859
- Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894), 1871-1885
- Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1851-1873, undated
- Other Palmer family members
  - School papers and grades, 1852-1860, 1887, undated
  - Miscellaneous, 1813-1881
- New York Yacht Club, New York, N.Y., 1850-1895, undated
- Politics, 1841-1888
- Shipbuilding
  - Designs and specifications, 1857, 1868, undated
  - Equipment circulars, 1854-1862, undated
- Weather reports, 1872-1876
- Printed matter, 1830-1890
- Miscellany, 1835-1930

BOX II:1-6 not filmed Part II: Correspondence, 1762-1972
Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein. Files of frequent correspondents are subdivided further by letters sent and received.

BOX II:1
"A" miscellaneous, 1846, 1890
- Brown, Peleg, 1785-1816, undated
- Bruff, Richard P. See Container II:5, Palmer, Nathaniel Brown, II (1840-1877)
"B" miscellaneous, 1782-1954
"C" miscellaneous, 1840-1952, undated
- Dixon, Nathan Fellows (1812-1881), 1850
- Dixon, Nathan Fellows (1847-1897), 1890
"D" miscellaneous, 1822-1927
"E" miscellaneous, 1857-1959, undated
- Fanning, Edmund, 1829-1832
- Fanning, Juliet, 1824, 1840-1842
- Fanning, Sarah, 1845-1891
  (2 folders)
"F" miscellaneous, 1865-1875
- Gabriel, Prudence, 1812-1813
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<td>Grant, Alexander William, 1799-1820</td>
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<td>Gregory, E. P., to Eliza Babcock Palmer, 1836</td>
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<td>Gregory, Francis Hoyt</td>
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<td>To Others, 1833-1836</td>
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<td>Palmer, Eliza Babcock and Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1832-1863, undated</td>
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<td>&quot;G-I&quot; miscellaneous, 1775-1947, undated</td>
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<td>Jenkins, Jeremiah F. <em>See same container</em> G, Gabriel, Prudence</td>
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<td>Jones, John C., 1801-1821</td>
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<td><strong>BOX II:2</strong></td>
<td>To Loper, Alexander Palmer, 1894, undated</td>
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<td>Loper, Richard Fanning (1850-1914) (husband), 1894, undated</td>
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<td>Others, 1859-1914, undated</td>
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<td>Palmer, Louis Lambert (1845-1887), 1871-1877, undated</td>
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<td>Palmer, Nathaniel (&quot;Natty&quot;) Brown, II (1840-1877), 1860-1864</td>
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<td>General, 1854-1880, undated</td>
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Palmer, Alexander Smith (1843-1891), 1873
Palmer, Louis Lambert (1845-1887), 1863-1877
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  To
  Others, 1827-1850, undated
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  Stanton, Joseph Warren and Grace, 1839-1846
Palmer, Theodore Dwight, 1843-1855
Palmer, William Lord, 1852-1884
Phelps, Erskine M. See Container II:5, Palmer, Nathaniel (“Natty”) Brown, II (1840-1877)
"P" miscellaneous, 1857-1944
"R" miscellaneous, 1792-1972, undated
Spears, John R., biographer of Nathaniel Brown Palmer (1799-1877), 1921-1929
Stanton, Charles T., Nancy L., and Charles T., Jr., 1846-1896
Stanton, Joseph Warren, 1827-1879
"S" miscellaneous, 1781-1888, undated
Tucker, Eliza D. and Fannie, 1856-1861, undated
"T-V" miscellaneous, 1768, 1936, undated
Wildey, Anna C., 1897-1901, undated
Wood, William W. See Container II:1, Gregory, Francis Hoyt
"W" miscellaneous, 1852-1930, undated
Unidentified and fragmentary, 1809-1892, undated
(2 folders)

**BOX II:6-10 not filmed**

**Part II: Subject File, 1776-1986**

Printed matter, writings, notes, correspondence, financial records, and other material.
Arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically therein.

**BOX II:6**

Antarctica, 1881-1969, undated
(1 folder)

**BOX II:7**

Calvary Church, Stonington, Conn., 1864-1972, undated

Genealogy
  Babcock, 1936-1972, undated
  Brown, 1816-1922, undated
  Charts, undated See *Oversize*
  Chesebrough, 1849-1903, undated
  Collateral lines, 1922-1939, undated
  Denison, 1930-1971, undated
  Dixon, 1849-1927, undated
  Fanning, 1835-1948, undated
  Ingraham, undated
  Loper, 1951, undated
  Miscellaneous, 1895, 1925, undated
  Palmer
Part II: Subject File, 1776-1986

Container  Contents

Amos, 1894, undated
David, 1880-1881, undated
Gershom, 1986, undated
Miscellany, 1880-1882, undated
(2 folders)
Phelps, 1892, undated
Sanford, 1894-1897
Unrelated lines, 1890, 1965, undated
*Great Republic* (ship), 1855, 1976, undated
Groton Heights centennial, Groton, Conn., 1881 *See also Oversize*

**BOX II:8**
Loper, Priscilla Dixon, 1920-1966, undated
Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), claims against United States government, 1878-1881, undated
Loper Fire Alarm Co., 1895-1952, undated
Miscellany, 1847-1912, undated
Nominations for Congress from Connecticut, undated
Palmer, Nathaniel ("Natty") Brown, II (1840-1877), death, 1877
Palmer family reunion
  Correspondence, 1881, undated
  Miscellany, 1880-1889
  *Palmer Records*, proceedings of the first Palmer family reunion, 1881-1882
  (2 folders)

**BOX II:9**
*Palmer Vidette*, newspapers, 1881-1882

**BOX II:10**
Pine Point house, Stonington, Conn., 1801-1989, undated
Railroads, 1857-1965, undated
Researchers, 1900-1949, undated
Stonington, Conn.
  Breakwater, 1873-1876
  Census, Long Point, 1776
  Miscellany, 1788-1914

Yachting
  *Madgie* (yacht), 1861-1875, undated
  Miscellany, 1852-1873, undated

**BOX II:10-13 not filmed**

**Part II: Miscellany, 1667-1979**

Autograph book, diaries, drawings, financial and legal records, photographs, postcards, printed matter, school papers, and sermon notes.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereafter.

**BOX II:10**
Autograph book, 1891-1900
Cards, 1829-1930, undated
Diaries
  Palmer, Priscilla Dixon, 1845, undated
  "Uncle Alex," 1880
Certificates, 1851-1894 *See Oversize*
Part II: Miscellany, 1667-1979

Container  Contents

Drawings and maps, 1789, undated See also Oversize
Financial records
  Balance sheets, 1807-1871, undated
  Canceled checks
    Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), 1856-1876
    Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1867-1872

BOX II:11
  Notebooks, 1861-1886
  Receipts
    Brenda (schooner), 1850-1856, undated
    Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), 1851-1880, undated
  Miscellaneous, 1775-1948, undated
    Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894), 1839-1894, undated
    Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1824, 1840-1877, undated
    (2 folders)
  Stock certificates, 1839-1951
Legal records
  Deeds and leases
    1743-1816
    (3 folders)

BOX II:12
  1817-1956, undated
    (2 folders)
  Miscellaneous, 1750-1932, undated
  Patents, 1898-1925, undated
  Wills and estates, 1667-1903, undated
  Writs of execution, 1811
  Photographs and prints, 1864-1976, undated
    (3 folders)
  Postcards, 1907, undated
Printed matter
  Clippings, 1833-1979, undated
    (2 folders)
  Miscellaneous, 1854-1901, undated

BOX II:13
  Pamphlets, 1858-1927, undated
    (2 folders)
  School papers, 1861-1864, undated
  Sermon notes by Ira Hart, 1799-180[?]
  Ships' passes and other documents, 1836-1876, undated
  Specifications for home of Robert Paterman, Bridgeport, Conn., undated

BOX II:14-21 not filmed

Part II: Addition, 1716-1994

  Correspondence, diaries, deeds, bills, receipts, account books, financial records, photographs, maps, genealogical notes, surveys, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.
  Arranged alphabetically by name of person, type of material, or subject and chronologically thereunder.

BOX II:14
  Correspondence
Cook, Frederick Albert, 1900
Gregory, Francis Hoyt, 1833-1838
Hobbs, William Herbert, 1937-1938
Jones, John C., 1794-1822
Loper, Elizabeth (“Libby”) Dixon Palmer, 1872-1927
Loper, Priscilla Dixon, 1921-1944, undated
Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880), 1823, 1854-1884
Miscellaneous, 1828-1976, undated
(2 folders)
Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894), 1834-1890
Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1851-1873, undated
Palmer, Nathaniel (“Natty”) Brown, II (1840-1877), 1861-1873, undated
Stanton, Joseph W., 1873-1875
Other family papers
Loper, Alexander Palmer, 1886-1959, undated See also Oversize
(2 folders)
Loper, Elizabeth (“Libby”) Dixon Palmer
Diary, 1871-1872
Miscellany, 1836, 1853-1922, undated
(2 folders)
Loper, Priscilla Dixon, 1895-1961, undated
(2 folders)
Loper, Richard Fanning (1800-1880)
Account book for guardianship, 1865-1873
Bank books, 1867-1874
Bills and receipts, 1855, 1861-1880, undated
(3 folders)
Checks and notes, 1850, 1861-1898
(3 folders)
BOX II:15
Deeds, 1805-1879, undated
Miscellany, 1859-1910, undated
Loper, Richard Fanning (1850-1914), 1873-1918, undated
(2 folders)
Miscellaneous
Account books, 1791-1795, 1819-1829, 1856-1864
(2 folders)
Deeds
Others, 1716-1836, 1875, undated
(2 folders)
BOX II:16
Wamphassuck Farm, Stonington, Conn., 1795-1889, undated
(2 folders)
Financial and shipping records, 1806-1933, undated
Greeting cards, 1880, 1893-1894, undated
Invitations, 1881-1964, undated
Legal records, 1778-1871, undated
School papers, 1828, 1866, 1892-1896, undated
Writings, 1929, 1950, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|           | Palmer, Alexander Smith (1806-1894)  
|           | Account books, 1854-1864  
| BOX II:18 | Bills and receipts, 1842-1884, 1895, undated  
|           | (2 folders)  
|           | Deeds and leases, 1825-1888, undated  
|           | Estate records, 1897-1932  
|           | Legal records, 1827-1882  
|           | Miscellany, 1828-1956, undated  
|           | Will, 1891  
|           | Palmer, Alexander Smith (1843-1891), 1863-1893  
|           | Palmer, Louis Lambert (1845-1887), 1853-1857, 1872-1886, undated  
|           | (2 folders)  
|           | Palmer, Nathaniel (1740-1819), 1771-1819  
|           | Palmer, Nathaniel (1768-1819), and Mercy Brown (wife), 1798-1829, undated  
|           | (2 folders)  
| BOX II:19 | Palmer, Nathaniel Brown (1799-1877), 1845-1877, undated  
|           | Palmer, Nathaniel (“Natty”) Brown II (1840-1877)  
|           | Diary and account book, 1861-1865  
|           | Miscellany, 1848-1878, undated  
|           | Stanton, Charles T.  
|           | Account books, 1852-1872  
|           | Miscellany, 1830-1831, 1861-1883, 1915  
|           | Subject file  
|           | Antarctica, 1885, 1929-1970, undated  
|           | (2 folders)  
|           | Ephemera  
|           | 1856-1921  
|           | (2 folders)  
| BOX II:20 | 1922-1966, undated  
|           | (3 folders)  
|           | Groton Monument Association, Groton, Conn., 1880-1881, undated  
|           | Magic (yacht), undated  
|           | Maps and surveys, 1857-1976, undated See also Oversize  
|           | Memorials  
|           | Collins, Gilbert, 1920  
|           | Dixon, Courtlandt P., circa 1883  
|           | Fanning, William A., 1826  
|           | Forbes, Robert Bennet, 1891  
|           | Phelps, Erskine M., circa 1910  
|           | Military conscription bill, circa 1863  
|           | Miniature boats, 1891, undated  
|           | New York, Providence and Boston Railroad Co., 1867-1885  
|           | New York Yacht Club, New York, N.Y., 1867, 1901, 1930-1936, undated  
| BOX II:21 | Newspaper clippings, 1835, 1870-1988, undated See Oversize |
## Part II: Addition, 1716-1994

### Container | Contents
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Palmer family
- Houses, undated
- Notes, undated
- Writings about, 1912-1994, undated
  (2 folders)
Photographs, prints, and drawings, undated
Printed matter, 1860, 1877
Stonington, Conn.
- Churches, 1835, 1874-1972, undated
- Miscellany, 1776, 1867-1968, undated
  (2 folders)

### BOX OV 1-3

**Oversize, 1767-1949**

Logbooks, genealogical charts, maps, certificates, and other oversize material.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
Logbooks available on microfilm shelf nos. 18,965 and 18,965.1.

### BOX OV 1

**Part I: Financial and Business Records**

- Ships' papers

### BOX OV 2

- *Yarmouth* (schooner), Peleg Brown, master, logbook, 1767-1768 (Container I:10, Reel 7)

### BOX OV 3

**Part II: Subject File**

- Genealogy
  - Charts, undated (Container II:7)
  - Groton Heights Centennial, Groton, Conn., 1881 (Container II:7)
- Part II: Miscellany
  - Certificates, 1851-1894 (Container II:10)
  - Drawings and maps, 1857-1914, undated (Container II:10)
- Part II: Addition
  - Other family papers
    - Loper, Alexander Palmer, blueprint, 1928 (Container II:14)
  - Subject file
    - Maps and surveys, 1837-1949 (Container II:20)
    - Newspaper clippings, 1835 (Container II:21)