

2015

Wakefield Family Papers, 1868-1962

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Wakefield Family Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

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Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator:	Wakefield family
Title:	Wakefield Family Papers
ID:	SpC MS 0609
Date [inclusive]:	1868-1962
Date [bulk]:	1884-1940 (bulk)
Physical Description:	1.4 linear feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	2 ledgers
Physical Location:	
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Business records of Orick (O.H.) Wakefield and his son, Ralph J. Wakefield. The Wakefields were residents of Lowell, Maine.

Preferred Citation

Wakefield Family Papers, SpC MS 0609, [Box No.], [Folder 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 of Orick (O.H.) Wakefield and his son, Ralph J. Wakefield. The Wakefields were residents of Lowell, Maine.

O.H. Wakefield was a son of Elbridge G. Wakefield, who came to Lowell from Steuben, Maine, in 1855 and a few years later purchased a mill and mill site on the Passadumkeag River in Lowell. The Wakefields milled grain and corn meal and manufactured lumber, shingles, lath, spools and spool bars. O.H. Wakefield's letterhead later lists him as a dealer in long and short lumber. O.H. Wakefield operated this mill until approximately 1910. He also owned a grocery store in Lowell.

O.H. Wakefield married Helen E. Douglas of Lincoln and had two children: Ralph J. and Harrison P. He served on the Board of Selectmen in Lowell in 1881 and 1882 and was postmaster at East Lowell. He was also a master of Horeb Lodge F. and A.M. and a master of Eskutassis Grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

O.H. Wakefield died in 1917.

Ralph J. Wakefield, born in Kingman, Maine, came to Lowell with his father as a child and lived there for the rest of his life. He was educated at Beal Business School in Bangor. He and his father operated sawmills together, and Ralph continued to saw lumber and shingles until the 1940's. He was also involved in cutting and selling pulpwood. In 1919, he bought a rafting wedge business in Lowell. A letterhead from 1923 lists him as a manufacturer of Penobscot rafting wedges, long lumber, shingles and spool stock. He held many public offices in Lowell, including First and Second Selectman, Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, and Superintendent of Schools; his service extended through six decades, from 1892 to 1952. He also served as chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee for Lowell in 1918.

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Scope and Contents

The Wakefield family papers contain primarily the business records of O.H. Wakefield and his son, Ralph J. Wakefield, and reflect their involvement in the lumber business in Lowell, Maine.

The papers are arranged in two series: Papers of O.H. Wakefield and Papers of Ralph J. Wakefield. There are no sub-series.

The papers of O.H. Wakefield consist mainly of financial records, especially daybooks, 1884-1917, of activities in the general store and the lumber business. Ledgers, 1878-1890; a lumber book, 1879-1899, of lumber cut and sawed; and a memo book of spool bar accounts reflect Wakefield's primary occupation.

The papers of Ralph J. Wakefield are more extensive and focus primarily on his activities in buying lumber and selling lumber products. The series opens with information about Wakefield's assets and accounts, tax information, and leases and legal documents, 1920-1947. A section of correspondence, 1920-1945, follows. Correspondents include N.C. Fogg, Bangor, dealers in lumber, box shooks and pulpwood; Penobscot Snow Shoe Co., Milford, Maine; Johnson Lumber Co., Manchester, N.H.; and Old Town Canoe Co., Old Town, Maine. The letters discuss the needs of the companies for various wood products, the availability of these products, prices, etc.

A group of invoices, 1917-1949, contains bills to Wakefield for groceries, dry-goods, mill and lumbering supplies, machinery and equipment. Files of equipment catalogs contain information on a variety of mill and lumbering machinery and supplies. Daybooks and ledgers, 1904-1912, provide financial information about both the general store and the lumbering business. Files of lumber accounts and scalers' reports contain primarily Wakefield's notes about his lumber business.

The series ends with miscellaneous printed material belonging to Ralph Wakefield, most concerning the lumber business.

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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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Lumber trade -- Maine -- Lowell (Town)
- General stores -- Maine -- Lowell (Town)
- Lowell (Me. : Town)
- Correspondence
- Daybooks
- Ledgers (Account books)
- Account books
- Invoices
- Wakefield family
- Wakefield, O. H. (Orick H.), -1917
- Wakefield, Ralph J.

Collection Inventory

Contents of Boxes

Series I: Papers of Orick (O.H.) Wakefield

Title/Description	Instances
Goods and cash received; account of time sawing spool wood; account of spool timber sent to mill; accounts of shingles sent to Enfield Station, 1868-1878	Box 1
	Folder 1
Daybook (general store and labor), 1884	Box 1
	Folder 2
Daybook of general store purchases, 1898-1901	Box 1
	Folder 3
Daybook (general store and lumber), 1898-1907	Box 1
	Folder 4
Daybook of purchases (general store and lumber), 1901-1905	Box 1

	Folder 5
Memo and daybook, 1909-1917	Box 1
	Folder 6
Grocer's books, H.P. Wakefield in account with O.H. Wakefield, 1902-1908, 1912-1915	Box 1
	Folder 7
Invoices, H.P. Wakefield, 1910	Box 1
	Folder 8
Ledger (general store and lumber), 1878-1890	Box 1
	Folder 9
Lumber book (ledger of lumber cut and sawed), 1879-1899	Box 1
	Folder 10
Account book, lumber, 1892-1912	Box 1
	Folder Ledger
Memo book of spool bar accounts, 1893	Box 1
	Folder 11

Series II: Papers of Ralph J. Wakefield

Title/Description	Instances
Legal documents, leases, etc., 1920-1947	Box 1
	Folder 12
Statements of assets, 1922-1923	Box 1
	Folder 13
Tax receipts, 1921-1928, 1950	Box 1
	Folder 14
Account information, 1931-1942	Box 1
	Folder Ledger
Correspondence, incoming, at Orono Pulp and Paper Co., 1920, 1921	Box 1
	Folder 15
Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1922-1923	Box 1
	Folder 16
Correspondence, incoming: Lane Manufacturing Co., specifications proposal, 1922	Box 1
	Folder 17
Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1924-1945	Box 1

	Folder 18-19
Invoices, correspondence, etc., 1917-1920	Box 1
	Folder 20
Invoices, 1920-1949	Box 1
	Folder 21-25
Equipment catalogs, etc.	Box 1
	Folder 26-27
Memo book, 1899-1920	Box 1
	Folder 28
Grand Falls Dam Co. ledger for merchandise and labor, daybook of general store purchases, 1904-1905, 1926-1928	Box 1
	Folder 29
Daybook for orders at general store, ledger of spool bars shipped, record of Liberty Bond subscribers, 1904-1906, 1909-1912, 1917-1918	Box 2
	Folder 1
Lumber accounts, 1924-1940	Box 2
	Folder 2-3
Scaler's reports, logging notes, etc., 1924-1938	Box 2
	Folder 4
Time books, 1903, 1916, 1938-1939	Box 2
	Folder 5
Miscellaneous materials of town clerk	Box 2
	Folder 6
Merchant's guide for the practical departments of Bangor Business College, 1891	Box 2
	Folder 7
The Wood-worker, Vol. XXVI, no. 12, February 1908	Box 2
	Folder 8
The Disston crucible: a magazine for the millman, 1913-1927	Box 2
	Folder 9
Newspaper clippings: South Paris village by Earle R. Clifford, 1961-1962	Box 2
	Folder 10

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