

2015

# Penobscot Lumbering Association Records, 1854-1953

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# Penobscot Lumbering Association Records

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University of Maine

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	5
Conservation Note .....	6
Administrative Information .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	7
Series I: Organization and Administration .....	7
Series II: Financial .....	7
Series III: Purchasing .....	8
Series IV: Labor .....	8
Series V: Lumbering Operations .....	9
Series VI: Miscellaneous .....	11
Series VII: Ancillary Companies .....	12

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Penobscot Lumbering Association
<b>Title:</b>	Penobscot Lumbering Association Records
<b>ID:</b>	SpC MS 0398
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1854-1953
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1874-1912 (bulk)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 cubic feet (6 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	18 linear feet (ledgers)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Penobscot Lumbering Association records consist primarily of legal, financial, and lumbering records maintained by the Association from the time of its incorporation in 1854 through the early 20th century. The collection is arranged in seven series: Organization and Administration, Financial, Purchasing, Labor, Lumbering Operations, Miscellaneous, and Ancillary Companies.

### Preferred Citation

Penobscot Lumbering Association Records, SpC MS 0398, [Box No.], [Folder No.], or [Ledger No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Historical Note

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The Penobscot Lumbering Association, incorporated by an act of the Maine Legislature on April 5, 1854, with headquarters in Bangor, Maine, was an association of log owners. At its incorporation, the Association was authorized to take a fifteen-year lease on the piers, booms, shores, buildings, land and appurtenances of the Penobscot Boom Corporation. The Association had the duty to make all needed repairs to the boom and its connected structures, to take charge of all lumber which came into the boom, to raft it, and to make full and accurate scalings and surveys to ascertain the quantity of lumber rafted

from the boom. The Association also had to guard the passageways or open spaces in the boom so no lumber could escape. The Association's Board of Trustees consisted of 74 members; any owner of lumber in the Penobscot River or intended to come into the Penobscot Boom could become a member, with each member allowed one vote for every hundred thousand feet of lumber belonging to him.

Details from the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Penobscot Lumbering Association (1856) give insight into the reasons for forming the Association. This report states that during the 21 years that the Penobscot Boom was carried on by the Corporation there was generally a state of war existing between it and the lumbermen, with constant complaint that it was a soulless corporation, managed only with a view to making money out of lumbermen, and not for their interest, it did not raft fast enough, or too fast, or at the wrong time, etc. The report further indicates that in 1854 most of principal lumbermen on the river signed a petition to the Legislature urging it to take the boom out of the hands of the Corporation and organize an "Association of Lumbermen" to carry it on and to give the lumbermen management of their own property. The report concludes that with the formation of the Association, there was no longer any occasion for boom fights before the Legislature, costing thousands of dollars to lumbermen and putting the state to great expense.

In its initial contract in 1854, the Association was to pay the Penobscot Boom Corporation ten cents for each thousand feet of logs and other lumber passing through the boom. The trustees of the Association were also obligated to David Pingree and David A. Neal of Salem, Massachusetts, trustees of the Corporation, for \$300,000 to take lease of the Corporation's boom. The lumbermen also had the opportunity to buy two-thirds of the stock in the Boom Corporation for \$90,000.

The Penobscot Boom Corporation had been chartered in 1832 by Rufus Dwinel and others to maintain a boom across the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River to stop and secure logs, masts, spars and other lumber floating on the river. Its charter was amended at the incorporation of the Penobscot Lumbering Association to "relieve it from the duty of hanging the Boom or rafting the lumber therefrom or to secure it in or below the booms and from the duty of hereafter making any repairs upon the boom or any of its structures and from all liabilities arising from the escape of lumber during the period of the lease ..."

At the time of the Penobscot Lumbering Association's charter, provisions were also made for the governor and council to appoint annually three commissioners to examine all booms, piers and structures and to determine what should be done by the Association for the security and preservation of corporate property. The Commissioners were paid by the Association, with the provision that if five members wanted them to visit the boom to make sure that wood was rafted and secured, or that trips and passageways were properly guarded and the boom safe and secure, the Commissioners must do so. The Commissioners also appointed log agents paid by the Association to be at the booms during the season for running lumber; the duties of the agents were to superintend and assist in delivery of logs from the boom, to ensure that logs were properly secured in the eddies below and to keep a record of the number and marks of the logs and the delivery to respective owners.

The Association maintained several booms on the river including the Argyle, Lower Boom, Nebraska and Pea Cove Booms. As reflected in the collection, its leases extended through 1953.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The Penobscot Lumbering Association records consist primarily of legal, financial, and lumbering records maintained by the Association from the time of its incorporation in 1854 through the early 20th century. The collection is arranged in seven series: Organization and Administration, Financial, Purchasing, Labor, Lumbering Operations, Miscellaneous, and Ancillary Companies.

The first series, Organization and Administration, contains primarily charters and leases, 1854-1953, with the Penobscot Boom Corporation, as well as contracts, 1929-1953, with I.W. Bussell and Co. of Bangor to raft all logs and later pulpwood and to take care of all four foot wood that came into the Penobscot Boom during the contract years. Also included is correspondence, 1896-1913, to and from Charles H. Adams, Treasurer of the Association.

The second series, Financial, contains trial balances, cashbooks, and journals, as well as a large group of ledgers, 1854-1912, of the Association. Ledgers for the Argyle, Pea Cove and Nebraska Booms are also included. Check registers, 1897-1909, and cancelled checks, 1901-1914, complete this series.

The third series, Purchasing, contains bills, receipts and accounts, 1905-1913, both for the Association and for supplies at various lumber camps.

The fourth series, Labor, contains time books and payroll information for loggers, 1879-1912.

The fifth and largest series, Lumbering Operations, gives detailed information on lumber handled at the booms. It opens with a memorandum book of the Penobscot Boom, 1854, of someone who went from boom to boom, recording work being done at each, logs being rafted, levels of water, etc. It continues with scalers' books, 1866-1918; volumes, 1888-1916, labelled "Lumber," which give date, raft, mark, mill and saw, kind, size, total, by whom sold, purchaser and vessel for logs coming through the booms; and a group of log agents' books, 1855-1893, which record the date, mark, logger's name, and total for logs at the various booms. This series also contains memo books detailing logs delivered and rafted at the boom, 1849-1911. Information about the wangans serving the lumber camps can also be found here.

The sixth series, Miscellaneous, contains various unidentified documents, a ledger possibly of a dentist, and minutes of meetings, 1896-1916, of the Mount Moriah Chapter, R.A. M. (Royal Arch Masons?), possibly belonging to Charles H. Adams, the Association Treasurer. The series ends with letter books of outgoing correspondence, 1901-1904, most from A.S. Buzzell, general agent and district manager for the Prudential Insurance Company in the eastern half of the state of Maine.

The seventh series, Ancillary Companies, contains records from companies that did business with the Association. It includes charters and other legal documents, dividend books, financial information, and reports of the Penobscot Boom Corporation. It also includes records of the Penobscot Log Driving Company, which had been incorporated in 1846 to drive all logs and other timber in the West branch of Penobscot River between the Chesuncook Dam and the East Branch to any place at or above the Penobscot Boom. Records include the company's charter and bylaws and financial information, 1860-1912, about its operation. The series ends with financial information, 1908-1909, and time books, 1909-1910, of I.W. Bussell and Co.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Conservation Note

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The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folder and boxes. Documents have been surface cleaned as needed and metal fasteners removed.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

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

### 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Lumbering -- Maine

- Lumber -- Transportation
- Log brands -- Maine
- Lumbermen
- Lumber trade
- Log driving
- Argyle (Me.)
- Bangor (Me.)
- Penobscot County (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Ledgers (Account books)
- Business records
- Invoices
- Payroll records
- Penobscot Boom Corporation
- Penobscot Log Driving Company
- I. W. Bussell & Co.

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Organization and Administration

Title/Description	Instances	
Charters, leases, etc., 1854-1953	Box 1	Folder 1
Proceedings of annual meeting, 1856	Box 1	Folder 2
Contracts with I.W. Bussell Co., 1929-1953	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence, incoming to Chas. H. Adams, 1896-1897	Box 1	Folder 4
Correspondence, incoming, 1897-1900	Box 1	Folder 5-6
Correspondence, incoming to Chas. H. Adams, 1904, 1907-1910	Box 1	Folder 7
Correspondence from W.E. Hellenbrand, 1909	Box 1	Folder 8
Correspondence of Summit Lumber Co. and Merrill Mill Co. to E.H. Bunker, surveyor's office, 1910-1913	Box 1	Folder 9
Correspondence, incoming, 1911-1913	Box 1	Folder 10
Correspondence, outgoing from Chas. H. Adams, 1896-1907	volume Ledger	
Map of Penobscot River showing booms, undated	Box 1	Folder 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Financial



<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Trial balances, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1916	volume	
	Ledger	
Cashbooks, 1876-1880, 1891-1907, 1903-1907	volume	
	Ledger	
Daybook, 1912	volume	
	Ledger	
Journal, Argyle, April - May 1910 [of wangan?]	volume	
	Ledger	
Ledgers, P.L.A. treasurer, 1854-1912 [44 vols.]	volume	
	Ledger	
Ledgers, Argyle, 1910, 1905	volume	
	Ledger	
Ledgers, Pea Cove, 1913	volume	
	Ledger	
Ledgers, Pea Cove and Nebraska, 1908, 1909	volume	
	Ledger	
Bills payable and receivable, 1891-1901	volume	
	Ledger	
Check register, 1897-1909	Box 1	Folder 12
Cancelled checks, 1901, 1914	Box 1	Folder 13
Cancelled checks, 1908	Box 1	Folder 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series III: Purchasing

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Bills, etc., 1905-1910	Box 1	Folder 15
Accounts with John Cassidy Co., wholesale grocers, 1909	Box 1	Folder 16
Bills, receipts, etc., 1911-1912	Box 1	Folder 17
Bills, 1911-1913	Box 1	Folder 18-19

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series IV: Labor

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Time book, 1879, 1883, 1886	Box 1	Folder 20
Workmen's time books, 1901, 1908, 1912		

	Box 1	Folder 21
Monthly time books, Argyle, Nebraska, Pea Cove, 1907-1915 [8 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Payroll, 1906, 1907, 1909	Box 1	Folder 22-23
Payroll vouchers, 1908, 1912	Box 1	Folder 24-27
Payroll vouchers, 1911-1912	Box 2	Folder 1-3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series V: Lumbering Operations

Title/Description	Instances	
Memorandum, Penobscot Boom, 1854	Box 2	Folder 4
Marks of unclaimed logs, 1854	Box 2	Folder 5
Marks, 1894-1908	Box 2	Folder 6
Scalers' books, P.L.A., 1854, 1868	volume Ledger	
Scalers' books, Argyle, P.L.A., 1867, 1902-1908	volume Ledger	
Scalers' books, Lower Boom, P.L.A., 1866, 1867 [2 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Scalers' books, Pea Cove and Nebraska, 1901-1903, 1905, 1908	volume Ledger	
Scale bills, poplar and spruce pulpwood, 1913-1918	volume Ledger	
Lumber, 1888-1916 [31 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, P.L.A., 1856, 1865-1893 [27 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, Argyle Boom, 1856-1856, 1862-1916 [24 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, Lower Boom, 1855, 1858	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, Lower Boom, 1859	Box 2	Folder 7
Log agent's book, Lower Boom, 1860, 1864?	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, Mexico, Boom Brook and Nebraska, 1872, 1873	volume Ledger	
Log agent's book, Nebraska, P.L.A., 1881-1910, 1915 [16 vols.]		

	volume Ledger	
Nebraska Boom, 1906 [Ledger of logs]	Box 2	Folder 8
Log agent's book, Pea Cove, P.L.A., 1872, 1875-1913 [21 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Record [of lumber cut], 1888-1891	volume Ledger	
Boomage, 1889-1892	Box 2	Folder 9
Memo book: Log turned by Argyle and Nebraska Boom, 1894; scale of West Branch logs; logs scaled to Kimball, Adams and Co., J.H. Walker and Co	Box 2	Folder 10
Accounts of logs rafted, Penobscot Boom, 1854 and 1855	Box 2	Folder 11
Ledger of rafting at both booms in, 1858	volume Ledger	
Account of logs rafted at the Argyle Boom during, 1862 [and 1863]	volume Ledger	
B.E. Preble, 1901, 1902, 1903 [Memo book of logs run]	Box 2	Folder 12
E.N. Tracy, 1909 [Memo book of logs run]	Box 2	Folder 13
Logs rafted, 1909	Box 2	Folder 14
Fred A. Tibbetts, Argyle Boom, 1912 [Memo of logs run]	Box 2	Folder 15
[Unidentified memo book of logs run], undated	Box 2	Folder 16
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, 1849-1862	Box 2	Folder 17
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, June 1870 - April 1871	Box 2	Folder 18
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May - October 1872	Box 2	Folder 19
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May 1873 - August 1875	Box 2	Folder 20
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May - August, 1876	Box 3	Folder 1
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May, June 1877, May 1880	Box 3	Folder 2
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, June, July 1880; May 1881	Box 3	Folder 3
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, June, September, 1881; June, 1882	Box 3	Folder 4
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, July - September, 1882	Box 3	Folder 5
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May - July, 1883	Box 4	Folder 1
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, August 1883; May, July, 1884	Box 4	Folder 2
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May - August 1885	Box 4	Folder 3
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, June - September 1886	Box 4	Folder 4
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, July - September 1887	Box 4	Folder 5

Logs delivered, rafted at boom, June - September, 1888	Box 5	Folder 1
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May, June, 1890, September 1902 - May 1904	Box 5	Folder 2
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, May, 1904 - August, 1907	Box 5	Folder 3
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, September, 1907 - August, 1908, May, June, 1911	Box 5	Folder 4
Logs delivered, rafted at boom, July - October, 1911	Box 5	Folder 5
Stray logs, Pea Cove, 1893	Box 6	Folder 1
Journal, Millinocket, ME, 1905 [Prize and stray logs]	Box 6	Folder 2
Wangan memo books, 1895-1913	Box 6	Folder 3
Wangan book, A.F. Coogan, Old Town, ME, 1908	Box 6	Folder 4
Penobscot Development Co., Great Works, Maine, monthly wangin [sic] report, 1922	volume Ledger	
Logs taken from river by Katahdin P. and P. Co. at Lincoln, ME, 1897-1902	volume Ledger	
Kimball, Adams, and Co., Stillwater, May - October, 1894	Box 6	Folder Journal
Account book, Millinocket Dam, 1909-1910	volume Ledger	
Ledgers, Passadumkeag Log Driving Co., 1908, 1910	Box 6	Folder 5
Cash, Chas. M. White boom acct., 1903-1906	volume Ledger	
Checkbook, Charles M. White boom account, Old Town, 1904	Box 6	Folder 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series VI: Miscellaneous

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous documents	Box 6	Folder 7
Unidentified memorandum book, undated	Box 6	Folder 8
Index to unidentified document, 1860	Box 6	Folder 9
Ledger, 1898-1901 [of a dentist?]	Box 6	Folder 10
Mount Moriah Chapter No. 6, R.A.M. [Royal Arch Masons]: minutes of meetings, 1896-1901	Box 6	Folder 11
Mount Moriah Chapter: minutes of meetings, 1901-1905	Box 6	Folder 12
Mount Moriah Chapter: minutes of meetings, 1910-1916	Box 6	Folder 13

Checkbook: Charles H. Babb and Co. Plumbing and Heating, Bangor, 1921	Box 6	Folder 14
Letter books of A.S. Buzzell, Prudential Insurance Co., 1901-1904 [5 vols.]	volume Ledger	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series VII: Ancillary Companies

Title/Description	Instances	
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Acts to extend charter and other legal documents, 1868-1927	Box 6	Folder 15
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Dividend book no. 2, 1879-1928	Box 6	Folder 16-17
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Correspondence, incoming, 1896	Box 6	Folder 18
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Bankbook, 1906-1916	Box 6	Folder 19
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Checkbook, Second National Bank, August 1, 1903 - June 25, 1914	Box 6	Folder 20-21
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Cancelled checks, L.J. Freedman, 1928	Box 6	Folder 22
Penobscot Boom Corp.: Andrew Hammond's exploring notes of Penobscot Boom Corp. lots, May 19, 1903	Box 6	Folder 23
Penobscot Boom Corp.: [Logs run by R. and M. Woodman], undated	Box 6	Folder 24
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Charter and bylaws, 1864, 1880, 1904	Box 6	Folder 25
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Miscellaneous documents, 1906, 1908	Box 6	Folder 26
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Court summons, 1910	Box 6	Folder 27
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Cashbooks, 1860-1869, 1861 [2 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Ledgers, 1860, 1874-1889, 1910, 1911 [4 vols.]	volume Ledger	
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Ledger A, 1906	Box 6	Folder 28
Penobscot Log Driving Co.: Monthly time book, 1910-1912	volume Ledger	
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Account information, 1909	Box 6	Folder 29
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Journal, 1908	volume Ledger	
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Ledgers, 1908-1909		

	volume Ledger	
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Bills, 1909	Box 6	Folder 30
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Weekly time book, 1909; summer, 1910	volume Ledger	
I.W. Bussell and Co.: Two week time book, 1909	Box 6	Folder 31

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)