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McCrillis (William H.) Papers

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University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

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Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections
Creator:	McCrillis, William H., 1813-1889
Title:	William H. McCrillis Papers
ID:	SpC MS 0332
Date [inclusive]:	1830-1982
Date [bulk]:	1840-1912 (bulk)
Physical Description:	4 linear feet (4 boxes)
Physical Description:	4 ledgers
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The William McCrillis papers deal primarily with his activities as an owner of large amounts of timberland in northern Maine. The collection also includes materials of his sister, Harriet Griswold and of members of her family.

Preferred Citation

William H. McCrillis Papers, SpC MS 0332, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

William McCrillis, the son of Dr. John McCrillis, was born on November 4, 1813, in Georgetown, Maine. He studied law in Bangor and began his own practice there in 1834. He soon established a large and profitable law business and was appointed County Attorney for Penobscot County in 1838. In that same year he was elected to the Maine House of Representatives; he also served in the House in 1859 and 1860. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860. He was the owner of many timberlands in Maine and at the time of his death in 1889 was probably the largest individual landowner of this type of property in the state. With others, he was also an incorporator of several dam companies

in Maine, including the Katahdin Dam Company, the East Branch of Pleasant River Dam Company, the Godfrey Falls Dam Company, and the Heron Lake Dam Company.

At his death, McCrillis's entire estate passed to his sister, Harriet S. Griswold, also of Bangor. By 1923, the land holdings were owned by her grandchildren, Margaret Griswold Locke, Merrill Griswold, Roger Griswold, and Anna Griswold, and organized into the McCrillis Land Association, a privately held Massachusetts business trust with the primary purpose of investing in Maine timberland. George T. Carlisle and Henry Prentiss and their successors, Prentiss and Carlisle Company, managed its operations. The Land Association now has two wholly owned subsidiaries, McCrillis Timberlands, Inc., which holds timberland, and McCrillis Corporation, which holds recreational land.

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Scope and Contents

The William McCrillis papers deal primarily with his activities as an owner of large amounts of timberland in northern Maine. The collection also includes materials of his sister, Harriet Griswold and of members of her family. The papers were arranged and re-folded by staff in Special Collections at an earlier date and much of that arrangement and many folder titles have been retained. The papers are arranged in two series:

Series I : Papers of William H. McCrillis and Series II : Papers of heirs of William H. McCrillis. Series I has six sub-series: Correspondence, etc.; Papers from law practice; Personal finances and miscellaneous personal material; Records of various business ventures; Deeds; and McCrillis lumber business. Series II has two sub-series: Business records and Papers of Harriet Griswold.

Series I begins with several folders of correspondence of William McCrillis, 1840s-1870s, especially with the Hinckley and Egery Iron Company of Bangor. This is followed by materials from McCrillis's law practice, 1863-1875, and information about his personal finances, especially the amounts of taxes paid, 1874-1890. Several folders of records of directors of various dam companies reflect his activities as an incorporator of these companies.

The two largest sub-series in Series I contain information about McCrillis's extensive land holdings in Maine. The sub-series containing deeds is arranged chronologically and includes information on his holdings in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington and Hancock Counties. The last sub-series, McCrillis lumber business, is arranged alphabetically by county, then by township and range. This sub-series contains information about McCrillis land holdings in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Somerset Counties. Material includes deeds, maps, reports, surveys, financial information, correspondence, etc., about each township and its lumber. Many of these folders also contain documents dating after William McCrillis's death; they are included in his papers because they were started during his tenure.

Series II contains miscellaneous business records of the timberland business after McCrillis's death and includes correspondence, deeds and papers of Henry Prentiss, manager of McCrillis land holdings, as

well as materials of the Griswold family. The collection ends with papers of Harriet Griswold, especially information about her estate.

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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

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

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Restrictions on Access

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

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Forest landowners -- Maine
- Lumbering -- Maine

- Bangor (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Reports
- Deeds
- Mortgage deeds
- Land surveys
- Griswold, Harriet S.
- Prentiss, Henry Mellen
- Hinckley & Egery Iron Co. (Bangor, Me.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Papers of William H. McCrillis

Sub-series 1 : Correspondence, etc.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, notes, balance sheets, 1866-1875, 1906	Box 1	Folder 1
Notes, 1871	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence and accounts with Hinckley and Egery and Thomas D. Egery, 1840s-1870s	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence and accounts with Hinckley and Egery and Thomas D. Egery, 1850s-1870s	Box 1	Folder 4

Sub-series 2 : Papers from law practice

Title/Description	Instances	
Legal notes and memoranda, 1860s	Box 1	Folder 5
Court transcripts, 1863	Box 1	Folder 6
Correspondence, schedule, map, spruce and pine account, 1863-1878	Box 1	Folder 7
Jewett bankruptcy, 1872-1875	Box 1	Folder 8

Sub-series 3 : Personal finances and miscellaneous personal material

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal cashbook, 1860-1868	Box 1	Folder 9
Journal (with copy of McCrillis's will, 1887, and information about his personal property), 1881-1887	Box 1	Folder Ledger
Taxes, 1874-187	Box 1	Folder 10

McCrillis (William H.) Papers

Taxes due, Wm. McCrillis and estate of Wm. McCrillis, 1873-1890	Box 1	Folder 11
Taxes paid on townships by late W.H. McCrillis, 1889	Box 1	Folder 12
Deeds to church pews and Mt. Hope Cemetery lot, 1838-1891	Box 1	Folder 13
William McCrillis's daily journal, 1883	Box 1	Folder 14

Sub-series 4 : Records of various business ventures

Title/Description	Instances	
Godfrey Falls Dam Co.: records of meetings of stockholders, etc., 1879-1912	Box 1	Folder 15
Heron Lake Dam Co., 1868-1910	Box 1	Folder 16
Katahdin Dam Co.: act of incorporation, etc., 1871-1885	Box 1	Folder 17
Katahdin Dam Co.: accounts, etc., 1880-1887	Box 1	Folder 18
Nickatous Dam Co. and Penobscot Steam Navigation Co., 1846, 1848	Box 1	Folder 19
Pleasant River Dam Co.-East Branch: acts of incorporation, etc., 1872-1885	Box 1	Folder 20
Pleasant River Dam Co.-East Branch: stockholder information and estimates for improvements, 1885-1890, undated	Box 1	Folder 21
Pleasant River Dam Co.-East Branch: accounts, agreement for improvements, 1879-1880, 1891	Box 1	Folder 22
Pleasant River Dam Co.-East Branch: corporate documents, 1880-1913	Box 1	Folder 23
Pleasant River Dam and Improvement Co.: Copies of Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, September 24-October 3, 1853	Box 1	Folder 24
Sheer Boom Improvement Co.: correspondence, corporate documents, 1880-1899	Box 1	Folder 25

Sub-series 5 : Deeds

Title/Description	Instances	
Maine lands, Vol. 1 [Abstracts of titles ... in counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset, Hancock, Washington and Penobscot]	Box 1	Folder Ledger
Index to Vol. 1, Maine lands and loose materials from volume	Box 1	Folder 26
Records: McCrillis: Piscataquis County [copies of deeds]	Box 1	Folder Ledger
Deeds, 1830-1839	Box 1	Folder 27
Penobscot County, Bangor, deeds, 1836-1875	Box 1	Folder 28
Penobscot County, T8, R3, deeds and agreements, 1840, 1844		

McCrillis (William H.) Papers

	Box 1	Folder 29
Miscellaneous deeds, 1840-1875	Box 1	Folder 30
Penobscot County, Orrington, William Kendall, deed, 1841	Box 1	Folder 31
Penobscot County, Hermon, deeds, 1841, 1843	Box 1	Folder 32
Piscataquis County, Kilmarnock, deeds, 1841, 1850	Box 1	Folder 33
Penobscot County, misc. deeds, 1844-1877	Box 1	Folder 34
Penobscot County, Orono, deed, 1845	Box 1	Folder 35
Miscellaneous deeds, mortgages, etc., 1845-1883	Box 1	Folder 36
Aroostook County, misc. deeds, etc., 1850-1859	Box 1	Folder 37
Aroostook County, T13, R15, deed, 1851	Box 1	Folder 38
Penobscot County, T10, R13, deed, 1851	Box 1	Folder 39
Penobscot County, T7, R6, deed, 1852	Box 1	Folder 40
Penobscot County, T10, R9, deed, 1852	Box 1	Folder 41
Penobscot County, T12, R8, deed, 1852	Box 1	Folder 42
Aroostook County, T2, R4, deeds, 1852, 1859	Box 1	Folder 43
Penobscot County, Old Town, deeds, 1852-1880	Box 1	Folder 44
Aroostook County, T14, R15, deed, 1853	Box 1	Folder 45
Penobscot County, T1, R7, deed, 1853	Box 1	Folder 46
McCrillis and Griswold, deeds, etc., 1854-1915	Box 1	Folder 47
Deeds, etc., 1860s-1870s	Box 1	Folder 48
Washington County, Danforth, deed, 1860	Box 1	Folder 49
Penobscot County, Veazie, deeds, 1861, 1881-1882	Box 1	Folder 50
Penobscot County, T16, R3, deed, 1863	Box 1	Folder 51
Penobscot County, Eddington, deed, 1865	Box 1	Folder 52
Chambers Farm, deeds and other records, 1866	Box 1	Folder 53
Penobscot County, T4, R8, deed, 1867	Box 1	Folder 54
Nova Scotia, deeds, 1867, 1869	Box 1	Folder 55
Miscellaneous deeds, 1867-1880	Box 1	Folder 56
Piscataquis County, T4, R10, deed, 1868	Box 1	Folder 57
Old Town, Moore lot, Lake lot no. 4, 1869-1928	Box 1	Folder 58
Deeds, etc., 1870-1879	Box 1	Folder 59
Penobscot County, Winn, deed, 1870	Box 1	Folder 60

McCrillis (William H.) Papers

Deeds, etc., 1870-1879, 1893	Box 1	Folder 61
Peleg Jones and J.H. Butler, deeds and papers, 1872-1878	Box 1	Folder 62
Hancock County, Dedham, deed, 1874	Box 1	Folder 63
Piscataquis County, Williamsburg, abstract of title, 1883	Box 1	Folder 64
Deeds and papers from C.H. and R.W. Sawyer to F.A. Wilson, 1889	Box 1	Folder 65

Sub-series 6 : McCrillis timberlands business

Title/Description	Instances	
Lumber book: Account of lumber run by Taylor and Ayer, 1839-1845	Box 2	Folder 1
Report and survey, Lapomkeag Stream, 1848, 1851	Box 2	Folder 2
Journal re timberlands, 1852-1853	Box 2	Folder 3
Annual report of the land agent, state of Maine, 1872	Box 2	Folder 4
Schoodic Lake: water and right to build dam, 1882, 1916	Box 2	Folder 5
Field notes: N line, B R 11; S line, A R 12, October 1889	Box 2	Folder 6
Land schedules for Aroostook County, undated	Box 2	Folder 7
Maps	Box 2	Folder 8
Aroostook County, T8, R4	Box 2	Folder 9
Aroostook County, T9, R4	Box 2	Folder 10
Aroostook County, T9, R4	Box 2	Folder 11
Aroostook County, T9, R4, Survey and exploration by R. E. Mullaney, 1909	Box 2	Folder 12
Aroostook County, T12, R8	Box 2	Folder 13
Aroostook County, T12, R13	Box 2	Folder 14
Aroostook County, T12, R14, E 1/2	Box 2	Folder 15
Aroostook County, T12, R14, W 1/2	Box 2	Folder 16
Aroostook County, T13, R8	Box 2	Folder 17
Aroostook County, T15, R9	Box 2	Folder 18
Aroostook County, T15, R9	Box 2	Folder 19
Aroostook County, T16, R8	Box 2	Folder 20
Aroostook County, T17, R4	Box 2	Folder 21
Aroostook County, T18, R10	Box 2	Folder 22
Aroostook County, T18, R10, Eli Thibodeau	Box 2	Folder 23

McCrillis (William H.) Papers

Aroostook County, T18, R10, Eli Thibodeau	Box 2	Folder 24
Franklin County, T2, R7	Box 2	Folder 25
Penobscot County, T2, R8, N 1/2	Box 2	Folder 26-29
Penobscot County, T3, R1	Box 2	Folder 30
Penobscot County, T5, R6, Mount Chase	Box 2	Folder 31-33
Penobscot County, T5, R7, S 1/2, W.E.L.S.	Box 2	Folder 34-35
Penobscot County, T5, R7, S 1/2, W.E.L.S.	Box 3	Folder 1
Penobscot County, T7, R7	Box 3	Folder 2-6
Penobscot County, T8, R6, S 1/2	Box 3	Folder 7
Penobscot County, T8, R7, N 1/2, Sec. No. 9	Box 3	Folder 8
Penobscot County, T8, R8	Box 3	Folder 9-10
Piscataquis County, T4, R8, Lake View public lots	Box 3	Folder 11-17
Waldo County, Codlead March	Box 3	Folder 18
Piscataquis County, T5, R9; T6, R9; T7, R9	Box 3	Folder 19-20
Piscataquis County, T5, R15	Box 3	Folder 21
Piscataquis County, T9, T10	Box 3	Folder 22
Piscataquis County, TA, R11; TB, R11	Box 3	Folder 23-25
Piscataquis County, TA, R12, S 1/2	Box 3	Folder 26
Piscataquis County, TA, R12, S 1/2, public lots	Box 3	Folder 27
Piscataquis County, TA2, R13; TA2, R14, Baker Mt. tract	Box 3	Folder 28
Piscataquis County, TA2, R13, TA2, R14, public lots	Box 3	Folder 29
Piscataquis, T2, R9, public lot	Box 3	Folder 30
Piscataquis County, TB, R11	Box 3	Folder 31-33
Somerset County, NW 1/4, T3, R3, N.B.K.P.	Box 3	Folder 34
Somerset County, T5, R4	Box 3	Folder 35
Somerset County, T7, R16	Box 3	Folder 36-37
Somerset County, T10, R16	Box 3	Folder 38

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Series II: Papers of heirs of William H. McCrillis

Sub-series 1 : Business Records

McCrillis (William H.) Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Cuts for the season, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis Counties	Box 4	Folder 1
Records relating to Mrs. Sarah J. Baker's claim, N 1/2, T2, R8, 1899-1903	Box 4	Folder 2
Road repair tax: Aroostook County [printed pamphlet], 1904	Box 4	Folder 3
Amounts of wood cut in various townships, 1905-1917	Box 4	Folder Ledger
Agreement, Wabash, Pittsburgh Terminal Railway Company, 1908	Box 4	Folder 4
Letter to J.H. McGowan, 1910	Box 4	Folder 5
Correspondence, legal documents, etc., of Henry Prentiss, 1900-1912	Box 4	Folder 6
Business papers of Henry Prentiss, 1916-1931	Box 4	Folder 7
Deeds of Henry Prentiss	Box 4	Folder 8
Deeds and papers of Henry Prentiss	Box 4	Folder 9-10
Deeds, E.E. Ring Land Co., 1914-1932	Box 4	Folder 11-12
McCrillis Timberlands records, 1982-1983	Box 4	Folder 13

Sub-series 2 : Papers of Harriet Griswold

Title/Description	Instances	
Deed, 1859	Box 4	Folder 14
Schedules of land owned by Mrs. Harriet S. Griswold, 1891, 1903	Box 4	Folder 15
Account records, re estate of Harriet Griswold, 1912-1918	Box 4	Folder 16
Journal, income and expenses, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1911-1918	Box 4	Folder 16a
Bonds, estate of Harriet Griswold	Box 4	Folder 17-18
Deeds, plans, notes, Penobscot, Aroostook, Piscataquis Counties	Box 4	Folder 19
Griswold estate income figures, May 16, 1932	Box 4	Folder 20
Income tax returns, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1913-1916	Box 4	Folder 21-23
Income tax return; stumpage since 1900, 1917	Box 4	Folder 24
Letter from Merrill Griswold to Robert Sawyer (re estate of Harriet Griswold), 1917	Box 4	Folder 25
Income tax returns, estate of Harriet Griswold, 1817-1918	Box 4	Folder 26

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