

FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-16)

George Alfred Westhaver fonds

c. 1895, 2006

2 photographs

2 photocopies

George Alfred Westhaver was born at Mahone Bay in 1834 and served for a time as a lightkeeper on Westhaver's Island. In 1854, he founded the Nova Scotia Oar and Block Works (later the Nova Scotia Oar and Block Works, G.A. Westhaver & Son). In 1859, Westhaver married Hannah Borgel, with whom he had six children. He had three more children with his second wife, Louisa Silver, whom he married in 1872. Westhaver was the inventor of the "Housewife's Friend" washing machine, which was patented in 1878. Later, his son Robert invented the "Perfect Spraying and Dusting Machine." George Alfred Westhaver died at Mahone Bay in 1925.

Fonds consists of two original photographs and two photocopies of related photographs. One original photograph is a portrait of George Alfred Westhaver. The second is an interior scene of workers making oars in Westhaver's Oar and Block Works. The photocopies are of two c. 1895 images: a portrait of George Alfred Westhaver's son William and another interior scene of workers making blocks in the Oar and Block Works. Among the workers in the latter image are Westhaver's sons William and Robert.

The photographs were found in the Mahone Bay Museum photographic backlog. The photocopies were made by the Museum in 2006 (accession number 06.1.13.2).