

Mahone Bay Museum
Fonds Description (MBMS-73)

Henry Emanuel Ham fonds

1852-1876

5 cm of Textual Records

Henry Emanuel Ham was born 18 Feb 1821 and died 26 Jan 1905. His parents were John Philip Ham and Dorothy Bruhm. He married Caroline Matilda Veinot on April 4, 1846. He was a blacksmith in Mahone Bay according to the 1871 census, when he was 50 years old, so he was probably working as a blacksmith long before then. His son Richard Emmanuel Ham was working as a blacksmith at Blockhouse from at least 1891 until at least 1896, when he married Martha Maud Boyd in Shelburne where he eventually moved. Henry was still working as a blacksmith in 1901, just four years before his death.

The fonds consists of one ledger book for Henry Emanuel Ham's blacksmith business with lists of customers, their purchases, and payments. The binding is in poor condition and is to be handled by staff with care. The pages are stained and the first page is loose.

The ledger provides insight into Ham's services, such as "oxen shod" and "horse shod" also known as shoeing or nailing a "horseshoe" to the hooves. It also lists types of products Ham made and sold, such as hinges, chains, cant hooks, and more. However, most of his work listed appears to be repairs rather than sales of new items. He repaired many items such as pot handles, kettles, bolts, chains, hay forks, hoes, hammers, scythes, ploughs, cant hooks, yokes, firedogs, sleighs, wagons and wheels. His ledger lists the prices at the time for his products and services and the types of payments he accepted, which included coal, wood, potatoes, nails, and cash.

This ledger was found among a backlog of archival items and was already accessioned number 13.004.02. Although other donations of 2013 have gift agreements, no paperwork for this donation has been found. There may also be another unknown item in the backlog labeled 13.004.01 that was donated with this ledger.

Finding Aid:

This ledger is located in MBMS-73 Volume 1