

Pickett Coal Company records, 1817-1910

MSS: #014

Processed by: Caitlin Lampman, July 2013

Volume: 34 ledgers (1 box, 30 ledgers)

Language of materials: English

Creator of the collection: Pickett Coal Company

Abstract: Records of the Pickett Coal Company. Collection contains the business ledgers from the founding of the company by Richard Pickett and Abraham Edwards in the first part of the 19th century until the company was sold in 1910. The ledgers cover all goods and operations run by the company which in addition to coal includes fishing operations, sail manufacturing, sales of small house hold goods, and wood.

Provenance: This collection was donated to the Beverly Historical Society

Access: Collection is open to researchers. Appointment recommended as materials are not located at the Cabot house research facility.

Conservation: Smaller ledges were placed in archival box to protect them. All the ledgers are in fair condition. The bindings on many are breaking. Front and back covers have separated. Leather volumes have extensive red rot. Some volumes have suffered water damage.

Copyright: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections in the Cabot House of the Beverly Historical Society & Museum.

Historical Note:

Pickett Coal Company was founded as Pickett & Edwards by Richard Pickett (1780-1864) and Abraham Edwards (1782-1872). The company originally produced sails, simple clothing items, and sold wood and other goods to Beverly and surrounding areas. In addition the sales of goods, Pickett & Edwards operated fishing vessels. The company was located at 15 Water Street and had an office at 164 Cabot Street. In 1844, Edwards sold out of the company and John Pickett (1807-1887) joined his uncle, Richard, and the company was renamed R. & J. Pickett Co.. As the demand for coal grew in the first half of the 19th century, Pickett Coal Company increasingly imported and sold coal. The company never ceased its fishing operations and sales of goods that were imported on the sailing vessels. After Richard Pickett's death in 1864, John maintained the business by himself until his death in 1887. At this time, Horace W. Woodberry and Jesse G. Trask took over and the company was known as the Pickett Coal Company. The company ceased making sails as the demand lessened and steam powered ships became more prevalent. The company was sold to Sprague, Breed, & Brown Company, another coal company, in 1910.

Vessels owned Pickett & Co: Schooner Beverly, 1835; Ship Magnolia; Palladium, 1835; Paragon, 1835; Bark Susan Clark (Named after John Pickett's second wife); Schooner Syren.

Scope and Content Note:

The bulk of the collection is business ledgers for the Pickett Coal Company. The ledgers cover the full history of the business from its founding in 1817 by Richard Pickett and Abraham Edwards to 1910 when the company was sold to Sprague, Breed, and Brown Co. The ledgers document the customers and transactions of the business. In the early years Pickett & Edwards separated their fishing records from their sail and other goods sales records. Later volumes encompass all business transactions.

The volumes are labeled by the name of the business and the years covered in each volume. The volumes are in chronological order. Within a volume transactions are grouped by customer. Customers are not listed alphabetically, each customer whether a person, business or town was given a section of the ledger and all transactions are listed for that customer over the time period allotted for the whole ledger. Most volumes span a number of years.

A log for the Schooner Charles S. Ruben is included in this collection. The Ruben was a fishing vessel operated by Pickett Coal Co.. The ship was owned by John Morgan and the log covers a 10 year period.

Also included in the collection are business records pertaining to the lumber business of George Roundy (1824-1891). Roundy was a prominent businessman in Beverly and originally established himself with his father in shoe manufacturing but later switched to

lumber. After his death his estate was administered by Horace Woodberry who was also charged with maintaining the lumber business. Because of the connection between Roundy and Woodberry, the lumber business records ended up with the records of Pickett Coal Company.

Related Materials:

Schooner Charles S. Ruben insurance policies.

Series List:

Series 1: Business Ledgers

Container List:

Series1: Business Ledgers

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
HF	1		House & Sail Loft	1817-1843
HF			Sail Loft; Cash Book	1843-1868; 1866-1868
HF	1		Fishing Account Ledger	1828-1847
HF	1		Charles S. Ruben, Schooner Log,	1853-1863
HF	1		Pickett & Edwards	1827-1828
HF			Vol. 4, Pickett & Edwards	1833-1837
HF			Vol. 5, Pickett & Edwards	1837-1840
HF			Vol. 6, Pickett & Edwards	1841-1844
HF			Vol. 7, Pickett & Edwards, and R. & J. Pickett	1844-1845
HF			Vol. 8, R. & J. Pickett	1845-1849
HF			Vol. 9, R. & J. Pickett	1850-1854
HF			Vol. 10, R. & J. Pickett	1854-1858
HF			Vol. 11, R. & J. Pickett	1858-1860
HF			Vol. 12, R. & J. Pickett	1861-1865
HF			Vol. 13, J. Pickett	1865-1866
HF			Vol. 14, J. Pickett	1867-1870
HF			Vol. 15, J. Pickett	1870-1873
HF			Vol. 16, J. Pickett	1873-1875
HF			Vol. 17, J. Pickett	1875-1879
HF			Vol. 18, J. Pickett	1879-1881
HF			Vol. 19, J. Pickett	1882-1884
HF			Vol. 20, J. Pickett	1885-1888
HF			Vol. 21, Woodberry & Trask	1888-1889

HF	Vol. 22, Woodberry & Trask	1890-1891
HF	Vol. 23, Woodberry & Trask	1892
HF	Vol. 24, Woodberry & Trask	1893-1894
HF	Vol. 25, Woodberry & Trask;	1895; 1895-
	Vol. 26, Woodberry	1897
HF	Vol. 27, Woodberry	1898-1899
HF	Vol. 28, Woodberry	1899-1901
HF	Vol. 29, Woodberry	1902-1906
HF	Vol. 30, Woodberry	1906-1910
HF	George Roundy, Vol. 1	1890-1891
HF	George Roundy, Vol. 2	1891-1892
HF	Cash Book for the Estate of George Roundy, Administered by Horace Woodberry	1892-1919

Bibliography:

The Beverly Citizen, Souvenir Edition, 1892.

Pickett Family Genealogy, Item # 984.38.23, Beverly Historical Society and Museum.