

Guide to the Delano / Magoun Records

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Various

Title: Delano / Magoun Records

Dates: 1835- 1859 (bulk 1835 - 1844)

Quantity: 1 linear foot

Abstract: Correspondence, receipts, and lists of accounts from ship captains to Benjamin Delano and Son, and Magoun and Son shipbuilders.

Accession: 94- 09- 307 ; 307- 1994

Biographical Note:

The namesakes of Benjamin Delano and Son were shipbuilders who operated out of Kingston, Massachusetts. Thatcher Magoun (1775- ca. 1856), owner of Magoun and Son and one of the United States' most famous shipbuilders, was a native of Massachusetts. His family emigrated from Scotland in the mid- 17th century. Magoun began working in the shipbuilding industry at a young age and would work for several companies before opening his own business in 1802. During his career he constructed eighty - four vessels, fifteen of which were built exclusively for him and which he used to begin his company. Delano's ancestors emigrated to America from France in 1621. Delano (1809- 1882) was born in Massachusetts. Shipbuilding was in his blood as he was the grandson of a prominent shipbuilding also named Benjamin Delano, and he himself was known as a preeminent builder.

Scope and Contents :

Consists of twenty - four letters written by the captains of various ships to either Delano or Magoun. With the exception of one that was written by a captain from New Orleans, the letters were written from Mobile by captains seeking to either sell cargo or purchase cargo in Mobile, particular

discussions of the economic conditions in Mobile at the time, the trials of selling and purchasing, and sailing conditions during their voyages to Mobile. In addition to the correspondence, there are eight lists of accounts between the captains and the ship owners,

17. Alex Winsor, Mobile, to Magoun and Son, Boston, April 17, 1840. Winsor writes that he is attempting to obtain a charter for the ship *Timoleon* to return to Mobile, but as yet has not been successful since he could find "no one that would offer more than 1/8." He writes that he is having difficulty getting 1,600 bales of cotton on board his ship due to the high number of ships attempting to load cargo at that time.

18. Alex Winsor, Mobile, to Magoun and Son, Boston, April 29, 1840. Winsor writes that the *Timoleon* is loaded with 1,785 bales of cotton and is ready to go to sea.