

Thetford Historical Society  
M 5  
A 57  
OM 13

CHUBB FAMILY  
PAPERS, 1882-1964  
2 manuscript boxes, artifacts

Provenance: F. Manning Chubb, Post Mills, VT, ca. 1964

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Chubbs of Post Mills, founders of the fishing rod factory in the village, are traced back to a Thomas Chubb (1) born in Somerset, England, in 1609, who came to Massachusetts and was the first of a long line of Thomas Chubbs. Thomas Chubb (5) was a hairdresser who fought in the War of Independence; Thomas Chubb (6), who died in 1849, fought in the War of 1812/ Commodore Thomas Chubb (7) was born in Charlestown in 1811 and married Phoebe Briggs from Cape Cod, born 1816. He served with the Navy in the Mediterranean in 1827 in the war against pirates, and in 1838 he went to Texas to help in the fight for independence. His family followed in 1839, and they settled in Galveston. During the Civil War, Commodore Chubb commanded the Royal Yacht until it was captured by Union forces, and after the war he was Harbor-Master of Galveston. He died in Post Mills where his son had settled.

Captain Thomas Henry Chubb (8), son of the Commodore, was born in Charlestown, MA in 1836, had his schooling in Galveston and at Baylor University, and married Isabel Mason of Baltimore in 1859. It was a romantic elopement. Captain Chubb succeeded to the command of the Royal Yacht, but after the war he and his wife, suffering from yellow fever and its after-effects, went north for the health. A Cambridge doctor advised them to go to Vermont. In West Fairlee, the Eagle Hotel would not take them in because they were southerners. After a time they settled in Post Mills, and here Captain Chubb began the fishing rod business. With a partner, Marston, he had bought the Hinckley linseed oil mill and was making rake and pitchfork handles, both on a trip to Cambridge he saw a carpenter making fishing rods with a round plane and reasoned that there would be a market for good rods in the post-war society. The factory was washed out in the 1869 flood, and burnt in 1875, but Chubb bought out Marston's share and continued in the manufacturing of rods until a fire in 1891, when he in turn sold out to Montague who continued the business. By 1920, the factory was selling 24,000 rods a year. Captain Chubb helped to build the school in Post Mills, and served in the State legislature and as Postmaster in the village. He moved to Allston, MA in 1893 and died in 1910. His father the Commodore ran the inn called the Commodore House in Post Mills for a time.

Children of Captain Chubb: Abby Eliza (1860-1860), Isabel (1861-1865), Thomas Briggs (1863-1931), Phoebe (1865-1925), William Mason (1868/1869), William Mason (1870-1943, born in Post Mills), Isabel (1873-1917, born in Post Mills), Frank Manning (1874-1966, born in Post Mills). Thomas, Isabel, and Frank went to Thetford Academy.

Frank Manning Chubb, son of Captain Thomas Henry Chubb, was born in Post Mills and married Emma Grafflin in 1901 (she died in 1949). He was a founder of Camp Lochearn. The memorabilia are chiefly his. His son was Frank Mason Chubb, born 1904. Phoebe

Chubb, his sister, married Clinton Adams, and their daughter, Isabel Adams Condict, was the mother of Chubb Condict of Post Mills. Ella Grafflin's mother was Rose Alba Mason, daughter of Captain William Mason of Powhatan, MD, and her father was Charles Grafflin who was with the Patapsco Guano Co.

Biographical material from a genealogy assembled by Thomas H. Chubb, in 1907, and from notes by Mrs. Slade.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling two manuscript boxes and including two artifacts, contains correspondence, photographs and snapshots, clippings, catalogs, and bound volumes from the period 1882-1964.

Box 1 contains mainly material regarding the donor, Frank Manning Chubb, and his wife's family (Mason-Grafflin) in Baltimore. There are photographs of several generations of the Chubb family, in addition to framed portraits in the lower vault.

Box 2 contains material about the Chubb fish rod factory in Post Mills. In Folder 1 is a letter from the White House in 1888 acknowledging receipt of a Chubb catalog. Folders 2-12 contain catalogs 1882-1891, and in Folder 13 are plates of drawing of fishing flies from later catalogs.

A 25 contains two Chubb rods, one in a canvas case, one in an elegant velvet and leather case.

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### BOX 1: Chubb Family

#### Folder

1. 1928 deed-- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Vermont
2. Correspondence of F.M. Chubb re: Texas memorabilia 1953
3. Baltimore papers re. R. E. Lee and Confederate veterans n.d.
4. Photographs
5. Family photographs
6. Rose Grafflin-- Civil War reminiscences-- typescript
7. Family snapshots
8. Cards, badges, clippings, 1882 steamboat ticket
9. Obituaries and clippings
10. Emma Grafflin-- daybook 1882 on
11. F. M. Chubb-- Episcopal prayer book
12. Baby bonnet of Frank Manning Chubb ca. 1873
13. Scurrilous pamphlet about Commodore Chubb by C. W. Saladee, 1875
14. Handwritten price list for Arthur Rice n.d
15. Article from *Wildwood's Magazine* February 1889, pp. 161-164.

### Box 2: Chubb Fish Rod Factory

#### Folder

1. Letter from White House 1888
2. Catalog --1882
3. -- 1884-1885
4. -- 1885
5. -- 1886
6. -- 1887
7. -- 1888 hard cover
8. -- 1888 paper
9. -- 1889
10. -- 1890 hard cover
11. -- 1890 paper
12. -- 1891
13. -- plates of fishing flies from catalogs

OM 13 is a pencil sketch of the Chubb factory

A 57 contains three Chubb fishing rods:

1. Packrod in leather case, 1886-1890-- all sections full length-- bamboo. Chubb logo on reelset, which has cherry wood inset
2. Packrod in cloth case, ca 1890-- bamboo-- full-length sections.
3. Longod i n tube, ca 1890-- green heart wood-- German silver ferrules--1 butt, 1 mid-section, 2 short tips.