

Grieve and Bremner fonds. - 1832 - 1902 (inclusive); 1863 - 1902 (predominant) - 7.5 m textual records

Administrative history

The firm of Grieve and Bremner was formed by Walter Grieve (1809 - 1887) and Alexander Warren Bremner (-1886), establishing at Trinity circa 1863. Grieve had been a partner in Baine, Johnston & Company, but withdrew in 1855 to form Walter Grieve and Company. He subsequently entered into the partnership with Bremner. The firm purchased the Slade property at Trinity, and in 1869 leased the Garland premises from John Bingley Garland, making them the major merchant in Trinity at that time. During the 1860s Walter Grieve lived primarily in Scotland while Alexander W. Bremner managed the firm at Trinity. The firm engaged in all aspects of the trade and maintained a huge inventory of goods at Trinity. Sealing was an important aspect of the firms business and each year vessels were sent to the ice, under such well known Captains as Richard Ash. The firm maintained close ties with Walter Grieve and Company in St. John's and Walter Grieve of Greenock, who shipped many of the supplies sold at Grieve and Bremner's shop and store. Alexander Bremner died in 1886, followed by W. R. Grieve in 1887, bringing an end to the business. Bremner bequeathed his Catalina premises and property to his sons, Robert S. and Alexander Hugh. With his father's share of the Trinity estate, Robert Sweetland Bremner purchased the Grieve and Bremner premises at Trinity from Grieve's trustees and continued to operate the business until becoming insolvent in 1900.

Source: Administrative History taken from the Guide to the Mercantile Records held at the Maritime History Archive, MUN

Custodial history

This fonds remained in the old Garland premises which was taken over by Ryan Brothers in 1906. The material was rescued by Walter G. C. White and S. Rupert Morris of the Trinity Historical Society in the 1960s, it was stored in the Museum before being transferred to the archives.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of the business records of the firm of Grieve and Bremner, for the period of its operation at Trinity, 1863 - 1902. It includes financial records, correspondence, diaries, shipping records and accounts. The financial records consist of complete sets of ledgers, journals, day books and store books, produce books, account books, stock books etc. from 1863-1902, which provide an account of the firm's business transaction, as well as information on the individual fishermen and planters throughout Trinity and Bonavista Bays, with whom the firm carried on their business. The correspondence includes letters mainly between the firm of Walter Grieve and Co. in St. John's and Grieve and Bremner at Trinity, and invoices of goods shipped by Walter Grieve from Scotland to Trinity. Shipping records include charter parties, sealing agreements, vessel accounts, and other papers relating to sealing and to individual vessels. A small series of accounts includes advances of pay to vessel crews and sealing crews. The fonds provides extensive information on the operation of the business, the sealing operation and the makeup of the crews of the sealing vessels, as well as the individuals who produced fish and produce for the firm.

The records are arranged in six series: Series 1: Diaries, 1875 - 1886; Series 2: Correspondence, 1863 - 1890; Series 3: Shipping Records, 1855 - 1881; Series 4: Accounts, 1865 - 1899; Series 5: Miscellaneous, 1832 - 1875; Series 6: Financial records, 1863 - 1902.

Notes

Supplied title based on provenance.

Related material is at the Maritime History Archive, Grieve and Bremner fonds, and at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL), A. W. Bremner fonds.

Mrs. Nina Silk donated to the archives in September 2005: Journal, 1887; Petty Ledger, 1877 and Store Book, 1874

Series 1: Diaries. - 1875 - 1886. - 6.5 cm

The series consists of photocopies of the daily diaries from 1875 - 1886 and an original dairy from 1875 - 1879. They provide information on vessels entering and clearing, the fishery, observations on the weather, sealing and some information on the day to day operation of the business.

- 1.01 May 20, 1875 - December 31, 1875
- 1.02 January 1, 1876 - January 6, 1877
- 1.03 January 7, 1877 - January 4, 1878
- 1.04 January 5, 1878 - February 4, 1879
- 1.05 April 10, 1883 - January 1, 1884
- 1.06 January 2, 1884 - January 7, 1885
- 1.07 January 8, 1885 - January 4, 1886
- 1.08 January 5, 1886 - September 12, 1886
- 1.09 May 20, 1875 - January 4, 1879

Location: Mercantile Records Box 6.

Series 2: Correspondence. - 1863 - 1890 (inclusive); 1863 - 1882 (predominant). - 9 cm

The series includes correspondence, telegrams and invoices. The correspondence is mostly letters from Walter Grieve at St. John's to Grieve and Bremner at Trinity, 1863 - 1882. The invoices include invoices and orders for goods sent from Walter Grieve of Greenock, 1865 - 1880 and invoices of Grieve and Bremner in account with Walter Grieve of St. John's, 1865 - 1878. The telegrams are for the years 1879 - 1880 and some specific telegrams re the loss of the SS Lion in 1882. The correspondence and invoices illustrate the relationship among the three firms, and indicate the nature of their business.

- 2.01 Correspondence, 1863 - 1882

Correspondence between Walter Grieve at St. John's to Grieve & Bremner at Trinity concerning various issues such as prices.

- 2.02 Invoices of Grieve & Bremner in account with Walter Grieve of St. John's, 1869 - 1878.
- 2.03 Accounts and orders of good imported from Walter Grieve of Greenock, 1865 - 1880.
- 2.04 Telegrams, 1879 - 1880.
- 2.05 Notes written on the back of envelopes, 1879
- 2.06 Telegrams re: the loss of the SS Lion, 1882.
- 2.07 Invoices, 1890.

Location: Mercantile Records Box 6.

Series 3: Shipping records. - 1855 - 1881. - 6 cm

The shipping records include charter parties, 1855 - 1879; vessels accounts for the vessels Isabella, Dart and Gem, 1863 - 1878; crew agreements for the Dart, 1869 - 1872, the Lion, 1875, 1879, 1880 and the Bear, 1879; statements of seals taken by individual vessel, 1873; papers relating to insurance claims for the brig Gem, 1877 - 1889; an account of the sealing fleet, 1879 - 1881; crew subscriptions to church properties, 1879 and papers relating to the Dart, missing at sea, 1879.

- 3.01 Charter parties, 1855 - 1879
- 3.02 Vessel accounts, 1863 - 1878
 - 3.02.001 Brig. Gem, 1863, 1870, 1877
 - 3.02.002 Brig. Isabella, 1871 - 1872
 - 3.02.003 Brig. Dart, 1873 - 1878
- 3.03 Crew lists 1869 - 1880
 - 3.03.001 Brig. Dart, 1869, 1871, 1872, 1875
 - 3.03.002 Brig. Lion, 1875, 1879, 1880
 - 3.03.003 Brig. Bear, 1879
- 3.04 Statements of seals taken by individual vessels, 1873
- 3.05 Papers relating to insurance claims from damages to Brig. Gem, 1877 - 1880
- 3.06 Sealing fleet, 1879 - 1881

A list of vessels that have been cleared to participate in the seal fishery.

- 3.07 Papers relating to the schooner Dart missing at sea, 1879
- 3.08 Crew subscriptions to church properties, 1879

Location: Mercantile Records Box 7.

Series 4: Accounts. - 1865 - 1899. - 6 cm

This series contains all the unbound material having to do with accounts. It includes loose journal accounts, 1865; James Gent in account with Grieve and Bremner, Trinity 1872 - 1899; accounts of advances of cash to sealing crews, 1874 - 1882; a photocopy of a barter book for 1874 - 1875; miscellaneous accounts, 1875 - 1894; advances to crews per Walter Grieve of St. John's, 1876 - 1882 and Issues on Credit, 1877.

- 4.01 Loose journal accounts, December 1865
- 4.02 James Gent in account with Grieve & Bremner, 1870 - 1899
- 4.03 Account of cash advances to sealing crews, 1874 - 1882
- 4.04 Barter book, 1874 - 1875
- 4.05 Miscellaneous accounts, 1875 - 1877, 1894
- 4.06 Advances to crews per Walter Grieve Ltd. in St. John's, 1876 - 1882
- 4.07 Issues on Credit, 1877

Location: Mercantile Records Box 7.

Series 5: Miscellaneous files. - 1832 - 1875. - 1.5 cm

This series contains a sermon by Rev. William Bullock, information on repairs to the Garland House, and a Census and Return book for 1869.

- 5.01 A copy of a sermon given by Rev. William Bullock in 1832.
- 5.02 A detailed account of repairs carried out to the Garland House and other premises rented by Grieve & Bremner, 1875.
- 5.03 Marriage certificate of Alexander Warren Bremner to Tryphena Eliza Spencer Sweetland, 1860.
- 5.04 Census and Return, 1869.
- 5.05 Ship Records, 1894

Location: Mercantile Records Box 7 and on shelf (5.04).

Series 6: Financial records (bound volumes). - 1863 - 1902. - 9.75 m

The financial records which make up this series provide an almost complete account of the firm's financial transactions for the period that they were in operation at Trinity. They include 27 volumes of ledgers, 1863 - 1902; 24 volumes of journals, 1863 - 1900; 15

volumes of petty ledgers, 1870 - 1901; store books, 1863 - 1901 (54 volumes); store/cash books, 1869 - 1902 (19 volumes); day books, 1863 - 1895 (7 volumes); cash collecting books, 1896 - 1902 (2 volumes); produce books, 1871 - 1900 (14 volumes); account books, 1870 - 1896 (3 volumes); inventory books, 1878 - 1902 (2 volumes); barter books, 1880 - 1895 (3 volumes); order book, 1864 - 1871; salt book, 1896 - 1897; price book, 1893; shipment book, 1896; cooperage accounts, 1875 - 1901; profit and loss book, 1887 - 1902; in account with Walter Grieve and Bremner, 1866 - 1883; coal and salt book, 1877 - 1884; debt book, 1879 - 1881.

This series is arranged in sub-series following the form and function of the records.

- 6.01 Ledgers and Ledger Indexes
- 6.02 Journals
- 6.03 Petty Ledgers
- 6.04 Store Books
- 6.05 Store Cash Books
- 6.06 Day Books
- 6.07 Cash Collecting Books
- 6.08 Produce Books
- 6.09 Account Books
- 6.10 Inventory Books
- 6.11 Barter Book
- 6.12 Order Book
- 6.13 Salt Book
- 6.14 Price Book
- 6.15 Shipping Book
- 6.16 Cooperage Sales
- 6.17 Profit and Loss Book
- 6.18 In account with Walter Grieve
- 6.19 Coal and Salt
- 6.20 Debt book

Location: Shelved in chronological order according to form and function.

- 6.01 Ledgers and Ledger Indexes.- 1863 - 1902. - 140 cm (27 volumes)

The ledgers contain individual accounts of persons doing business with the firm. The accounts records debit and credit on each account. The ledgers provide insight into the value of goods.

- 6.01.001 Ledger, 1863
- 6.01.002 Ledger, 1864 - 1865
- 6.01.003 Ledger, 1866 - 1867
- 6.01.004 Ledger, 1867 - 1868
- 6.01.005 Ledger, 1869 - 1870
- 6.01.006 Ledger, 1872 - 1873

6.01.007 Index to Sealing Ledger, 1873
6.01.008 Ledger, 1873 - 1874
6.01.009 Ledger, 1874 - 1875
6.01.010 Ledger, 1875 - 1876
6.01.011 Ledger, 1876 - 1877
6.01.012 Sealing Ledger, 1879
6.01.013 Sealing Ledger, 1880
6.01.014 Ledger, 1880 - 1881
6.01.015 Ledger, 1881 - 1882
6.01.016 Index to Sealing Ledger, 1881 - 1882
6.01.017 Ledger, 1882 - 1883
6.01.018 Ledger, 1886 - 1887
6.01.019 Ledger, 1888
6.01.020 Ledger, 1888 - 1889
6.01.021 Ledger, 1894
6.01.022 Ledger, 1894 - 1897
6.01.023 Ledger, 1895
6.01.024 Ledger, 1896
6.01.025 Ledger, 1897
6.01.026 Ledger, 1897 - 1898
6.01.027 Ledger, 1898 - 1902

6.02 Journals. - 1863 - 1900. - 126 cm (24 volumes)

Sub-series consists of journals which record the daily accounts of the firm which are posted from the day books. Journals are cross referenced to ledgers.

6.02.001 Journal, 1863 - 1865
6.02.002 Journal, 1864 - 1865
6.02.003 Journal, 1865 - 1866
6.02.004 Journal, 1869 - 1870
6.02.005 Journal, 1870 - 1871
6.02.006 Journal, 1871 - 1872
6.02.007 Journal, 1873
6.02.008 Journal, 1874
6.02.009 Journal, 1874 - 1875
6.02.010 Journal, 1875 - 1876
6.02.011 Journal, 1876 - 1877
6.02.012 Journal, 1877 - 1878
6.02.013 Journal, 1879 - 1880
6.02.014 Journal, 1880 - 1881
6.02.015 Journal, 1882 - 1883
6.02.016 Journal, 1883 - 1884
6.02.017 Journal, 1884 - 1885
6.02.018 Journal, 1885 - 1886
6.02.019 Journal, 1888

- 6.02.020 Journal, 1891
- 6.02.021 Journal, 1892
- 6.02.022 Journal, 1893
- 6.02.023 Journal, 1898 - 1900
- 6.02.024 Journal, 1887

6.03 Petty Ledgers. - 1870 - 1901. - 5 cm (15 volumes)

Petty ledgers contain individual accounts of persons and are similar in nature to ledgers.

- 6.03.001 Petty ledger, 1870 - 1871
- 6.03.002 Petty ledger, 1879 - 1880
- 6.03.003 Petty ledger index, 1882
- 6.03.004 Petty ledger, 1882 - 1883
- 6.03.005 Petty ledger, 1883 - 1884
- 6.03.006 Petty ledger, 1885 - 1886
- 6.03.007 Petty ledger, 1889
- 6.03.008 Petty ledger, 1890
- 6.03.009 Petty ledger, 1891
- 6.03.010 Petty ledger, 1895
- 6.03.011 Petty ledger, 1896
- 6.03.012 Petty ledger, 1898
- 6.03.013 Petty ledger, 1900
- 6.03.014 Petty ledger, 1901
- 6.03.015 Petty ledger, 1877

6.04 Store Books. - 1863 - 1901. - 154 cm (54 volumes)

Store books were kept by the store clerk and recorded the purchases made each day at the store by customers. Store books are cross-referenced with ledgers.

- 6.04.001 Store book, 1863
- 6.04.002 Store book, 1864 - 1865
- 6.04.003 Store book, 1866
- 6.04.004 Store book, 1867
- 6.04.005 Store book, 1869 - 1870
- 6.04.006 Store book, 1870 - 1871
- 6.04.007 Store book, 1871
- 6.04.008 Store book, 1871 - 1872
- 6.04.009 Store book, 1871 - 1872
- 6.04.010 Store book, 1872 - 1873
- 6.04.011 Store book, 1873 - 1876
- 6.04.012 Store book, 1874 - 1875
- 6.04.013 Store book, 1875 - 1876
- 6.04.014 Store book, 1876 - 1877

6.04.015	Store book, 1876 - 1877
6.04.016	Store book, 1877 - 1878
6.04.017	Store book, 1877 - 1878
6.04.018	Store book, 1878 - 1879
6.04.019	Store book, 1878 - 1879
6.04.020	Store book, 1879
6.04.021	Store book, 1880 - 1881
6.04.022	Store book, 1880 - 1881
6.04.023	Store book, 1880 - 1881
6.04.024	Store book, 1880 - 1882
6.04.025	Store book, 1881
6.04.026	Store book, 1881 - 1882
6.04.027	Store book, 1881 - 1884
6.04.028	Store book, 1882
6.04.029	Store book, 1882 - 1883
6.04.030	Store book, 1883
6.04.031	Store book, 1883 - 1884
6.04.032	Store book, 1883 - 1884
6.04.033	Store book, 1884 - 1885
6.04.034	Store book, 1884 - 1885
6.04.035	Store book, 1885 - 1886
6.04.036	Store book, 1885 - 1886
6.04.037	Store book, 1886 - 1887
6.04.038	Store book, 1886 - 1887
6.04.039	Store book, 1887 - 1891
6.04.040	Store book, 1888 - 1889
6.04.041	Store book, 1888 - 1890
6.04.042	Store book, 1888 - 1891
6.04.043	Store book, 1888- 1892
6.04.044	Store book, 1889 - 1891
6.04.045	Store book, 1890 - 1891
6.04.046	Store book, 1891 - 1892
6.04.047	Store book, 1891, 1893 - 1894
6.04.048	Store book, 1892 - 1893
6.04.049	Store book, 1892 - 1896
6.04.050	Store book, 1894 - 1895
6.04.051	Store book, 1895 - 1896
6.04.052	Store book, 1896 - 1901
6.04.053	Store book, 1897 - 1899
6.04.054	Store book, 1874

6.05 Store/Cash Books. - 1869 - 1902. - 45 cm (19 volumes)

A day to day record of the amount of goods that had been sold with profits being brought forward each day.

6.05.001	Store/Cash book, 1859 - 1871
6.05.002	Store/Cash book, 1869 - 1872
6.05.003	Store/Cash book, 1872 - 1873
6.05.004	Store/Cash book, 1873 - 1885
6.05.005	Store/Cash book, 1875 - 1877
6.05.006	Store/Cash book, 1875 - 1877
6.05.007	Store/Cash book, 1876 - 1879
6.05.008	Store/Cash book, 1877 - 1879
6.05.009	Store/Cash book, 1879 - 1881
6.05.010	Store/Cash book, 1880 - 1883
6.05.011	Store/Cash book, 1881 - 1883
6.05.012	Store/Cash book, 1882
6.05.013	Store/Cash book, 1883 - 1884
6.05.014	Store/Cash book, 1884 - 1889
6.05.015	Store/Cash book, 1885 - 1886, 1901
6.05.016	Store/Cash book, 1886 - 1887
6.05.017	Store/Cash book, 1891 - 1894
6.05.018	Store/Cash book, 1896 - 1903
6.05.019	Store/Cash book, 1897 - 1900

6.06 Day Books. - 1863 - 1895. - 16 cm (7 volumes)

Day books keep a record of the sales to each customer, listing name, what was purchased and how much it cost.

6.06.001	Day book, 1863 - 1864
6.06.002	Day book, 1863 - 1869
6.06.003	Day book, 1871 - 1872
6.06.004	Day book, 1882 - 1886
6.06.005	Day book, 1884 - 1887
6.06.006	Day book, 1894
6.06.007	Day book, 1894 - 1895

6.07 Cash collecting books. - 1896 - 1902. - 7 cm (2 volumes)

A record of cash collected during that day as well as expenses, then an overall total which is carried forward the next day.

6.07.001	Cash collecting book, 1896 - 1899
6.07.002	Cash collecting book, 1899 - 1902

6.08 Produce books. - 1871 - 1900. - 32 cm (14 volumes)

Lists the produce that is brought to the business, by whom, amount paid for it and any additional remarks. The types of produce are cod fish, cod oil, cod blubber, salmon, herring, hides, casks, hoops, board and plank, lumber, furs and seals.

6.08.001	Produce book, 1871
6.08.002	Produce book, 1874
6.08.003	Produce book, 1875
6.08.004	Produce book, 1876
6.08.005	Produce book, 1878
6.08.006	Produce book, 1882
6.08.007	Produce book, 1883
6.08.008	Produce book, 1884
6.08.009	Produce book, 1885
6.08.010	Produce book, 1894
6.08.011	Produce book, 1895 -1896
6.08.012	Produce book, 1897
6.08.013	Produce book, 1898
6.08.014	Produce book, 1899 - 1900

6.09 Account books. - 1870 - 1896. - 3 cm (3 volumes)

Sub-series consists of account books, which record the expenses and income of the business. The first account book is filed with Robert Slade under 1.07 Cash book, 1861, as Grieve and Bremner used the book afterwards for an account book.

6.09.001	Account book, 1870 - 1871
6.09.002	Account book, 1889 - 1890
6.09.003	Account book, 1895 - 1896

6.10 Inventory books. - 1878 - 1902. - 8 cm (2 volumes)

An inventory of merchandise that was completed each November and the amount it was worth.

6.10.001	Inventory book, 1878 - 1881
6.10.002	Inventory book, 1897 - 1902

6.11 Barter books. - 1880 - 1895. - 8.5 cm (3 volumes)

A record of items bartered and the amount of cash given to the individual for the item's worth.

6.11.001	Barter book, 1880 - 1882
6.11.002	Barter book, 1887 - 1890
6.11.003	Barter book, 1891 - 1895

6.12 Order book. - 1864 - 1871. - 2 cm

Sub-series consists of an order book, which lists the orders that were placed with

various companies in the spring and fall of the year for supplies.

- 6.13 Salt book. - 1896 - 1897. - 2 cm

A list of people who purchased salt.

- 6.14 Price book. - 1893. - 1.5 cm

Prices of goods and merchandise sold at the business during 1893.

- 6.15 Shipment book. - 1896. - 1.5 cm

List of items shipped on vessels.

- 6.16 Cooperage account book. - 1875 - 1901. - 4 cm (2 volumes)

Cooperage sales of casks and hoops. The 1875 - 1884 book can be found with Robert Slade, Balances Due book, 1858 (1.06).

6.16.001 Cooperage account book, 1875 - 1884

6.16.002 Cooperage account book, 1885 - 1901

- 6.17 Profit and Loss book. - 1887 - 1902. - 4.5 cm

Names of people and whether or not they have a profit or loss with the business.

- 6.18 In account with Walter Grieve. - 1866 - 1883. - 2.5 cm (4 volumes)

A list of items that have been purchased from Walter Grieve and Co. for the Grieve and Bremner Co.

6.18.001 In account with Walter Grieve, 1866

6.18.002 In account with Walter Grieve, 1868

6.18.003 In account with Walter Grieve, 1882

6.18.004 In account with Walter Grieve, 1883

- 6.19 Coal and Salt book. 1877 - 1884. - 2 cm

A list of purchases of coal and salt.

To be found with Robert Slade, Balance Due, 1858 (1.06).

- 6.20 Debt book. 1879 - 1881. - 2 cm.

Debts that are owed by people to the business.

This book can be found with Robert Slade, Day Book, 1856 (1.05.001).