



Circa 1889



Circa 2016

## Research Collections

The museum's collections number more than 5,000 objects, and continue to grow. Our collections include United States Lifesaving Service and Massachusetts Humane Society artifacts, including a rare 1903 Fourth Order Fresnel lens, ship and lighthouse models, ship fittings, shipwreck fragments, aids to navigation and historical charts. Prints and photographs represent the history of organized lifesaving and the maritime heritage of Boston Harbor through engravings, lithographs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, magic lantern slides, journal articles, rare books, and an extensive collection of historic postcards.

Small craft in the museum collection include dories and tenders, an Alden ocean shell, and a gunning dory built and owned by John Gardner, the progenitor of the 20<sup>th</sup> century wooden boat revival. The museum's "floating stock," the working boats used in the Maritime Program's experiential education programs, includes a 38-foot Bantry Bay gig, six 32-foot 6-oared Pilot Gigs, four 24-foot 4-oared Whitehall gigs, as well as barges, currachs and a variety of livery and workboats.