Wenham Lake Ice Company Box

£875



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REF: 84280

Christopher Clarke Antiques
The Fosseway, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1JS
clarkeltd@btconnect.com • 01451 830 476 • www.campaignfurniture.com

Height: 43.16 cm (17")

Width: 34.28 cm (13.5")

Depth: 34.28 cm (13.5")

Description

A Wenham Ice Company Box made of wood painted to imitate mahogany used for the transportation and storage of ice

The box is lined in tin with a layer of charcoal in between to insulate it and so extend the life of the ice before melting. The lid has a brass push button sprung catch and a handle to the top. There are also carrying handles to the sides and a hole to the front for a tap to release any melted water.

Wenham Lake in Massachusetts was known for the purity of its water and in 1844 its first cargo of ice arrived in England. The Wenham Ice Company exported throughout the world and received the patronage of Queen Victoria, who it was said wouldn't dream of giving her guests anything else. The company had premises at 140 Strand in London by 1865 and they described themselves as 'ice merchants, manufactures of the patent refrigerators, ice cream machines, freezing powders, wine freezing pails &c.' The 1880 London directory shows that they had moved to 125 Strand by this date and by the time of the 1899 directory they had gone.

The trade in ice from Lake Wenham eventually stopped in 1913, when the lake was taken over by the Salem and Beverley Water Supply Board. As can be seen, the lid interior bears a brass plaque with the British Coat of Arms and American Eagle, surrounded by the name 'Wenham Lake Ice Company' and '125 Strand, London'. An interesting box that can still be used as a wine cooler today. Third Quarter 19th century.

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