

1145-01-1965      **Deborah Kent\***, Collier-Scripps Hall, 2702 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311. *The Nautical Almanac Office harbors mathematical editors, 1849-1866*. Preliminary report.

An 1849 Naval Appropriations Act authorized an official United States national almanac so American scientists and navigators would no longer need to depend on foreign sources for astronomical data. The U.S. Nautical Almanac Office was established not at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C, but in Cambridge, MA, specifically to have access to Benjamin Peirce's expertise and oversight for the calculating staff. The Nautical Almanac Office functioned as a crucial source of income and training for individuals who became centrally involved as editors and contributors to American mathematical periodicals. (Received September 24, 2018)