INVENTORY OF THE

WILLIAM GIFFORD BUSINESS RECORDS

IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Chiefly agent/owner accounts, crew accounts, and other ships' papers of a New Bedford, Mass., whaling agent and merchant, 1832-1879.

Volume: 7½ inches.

Provenance: Portion of this collection was a gift of Frank H. Gifford, 27 December 1933.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Barbara E. Austen.

Funds for processing this collection were provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

INTRODUCTION

The deeds in this collection were given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Frank H. Gifford, 27 December 1933. Existing records reveal neither the source nor the accession date for the remainder of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Gifford was born in Dartmouth, Mass., in 1798. He acted as agent for numerous whaling vessels that sailed from New Bedford, Mass., including the CHARLES DREW (Ship), MINERVA (Ship), and WILLIAM GIFFORD (Bark). He later took his son, Charles H. Gifford (1833-1908), as a partner and called the firm William Gifford & Son. Charles H. Gifford continued the business for several years after his father's death in 1866.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials in this collection chiefly reflect the business activities of William Gifford at New Bedford, Mass., between 1842-1866. Ships' papers, 1842-1879, primarily consist of crew and agent/owner accounts for such whaling vessels as the CHARLES DREW (Ship), NIMROD (Ship/Bark), and RAINBOW (Ship/Bark), and include accounts kept by William Gifford's son, Charles Henry Gifford, after the elder Gifford's death. Records for three of the vessels, the GENERAL PIKE (Ship), NIMROD (Bark), and WILLIAM GIFFORD (Bark), include settlements with crew members and owners for the Alabama Claims. Also included in the collection are deeds of William Gifford for property and buildings in New Bedford, 1832-1855, ca. 1866.

Series A. Ships' papers, 1842-1879. Agent/owner and crew accounts. 7½ inches.

Series B. Deeds, 1832-1855, ca. 1866. 5 items.

DESCRIPTION

Series A. Ships' Papers, 1842-1879

Folder 1. CAROLINE (Ship), 1846, 1856
" 2. CHARLES DREW (Ship), 1842
Volume 1. " " " , 1842-1851
" 2. GENERAL PIKE (Ship), 1853-1876 SEE Volume 1
Folder 3-4. MINERVA (Ship), 1846, 1856. Includes Sea Letter
Volume 3. NIMROD (Ship/Bark), 1851-1877
Folder 5. Items removed from Volume 3
" 6. NIMROD (Ship/Bark), 1861, 1863
Volume 4. RAINBOW (Ship/Bark), 1852-1876
Folder 7. " (Ship), ca. 1865
Volume 5. WILLIAM GIFFORD (Bark), 1858-1879

Series B. Deeds, 1832-1855, ca. 1866

Folder 1. 1832, 1845, 1854-1855, ca. 1866. Includes plat of William Gifford's estate.

ADDED ENTRIES

Account books--New Bedford, Mass.--1842-1879
Alabama claims
Business records--Mass.--New Bedford
Charles Drew (Ship)
Deeds--Mass.--New Bedford
General Pike (Ship)
Gifford, Charles Henry, 1833-1908
Merchant seamen--Mass.--New Bedford
Merchant seamen--Mass.--New Bedford--Salaries, pensions, etc.
Merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
Minerva (Ship)
New Bedford, Mass.--Commerce
Nimrod (Bark)
Nimrod (Ship)
Rainbow (Bark)
Rainbow (Ship)
Ship's papers
Whalers
Whaling--Mass.--New Bedford
Whaling--Mass.--New Bedford--Agents
William Gifford (Bark)
Caroline (Ship)