INVENTORY OF THE

WILLIAM LEWIS BUSINESS RECORDS

IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Ship's papers, including crew accounts and outfitting books, of a New Bedford, Mass. and San Francisco, Calif. whaling agent, 1875-1886.

Volume: 5 inches.

Provenance: Gifts of George F. Bartlett in 1903, Edgar R. Lewis on 19 August 1932, and Anna Jarvis on 28 April 1979.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Judith Downey.

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INTRODUCTION

Material in this collection was donated to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by George F. Bartlett in 1903, Edgar R. Lewis on 19 August 1932, and Anna Jarvis on 28 April 1979.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Lewis was born in Woolwich, Maine in 1834. In 1857, he began his career as a captain in New Bedford, Mass., and served in that capacity for several whalers. He then became involved in real estate speculations on Martha's Vineyard before returning to the whaling industry as an agent in 1872. Lewis introduced the use of steam vessels for whaling, especially in the Arctic. He built six such vessels and expanded his base of operations to San Francisco, Calif. There he became a partner in Lewis, Andersen, Foard & Company, who were outfitters and ship chandlers with headquarters in San Francisco and Seattle, Wash. Lewis also formed a company in San Francisco with his son, Edgar R. Lewis (1862-1932), known as William Lewis & Son. Lewis' other son William J. Lewis (fl. 1865-1932) was also involved in the business and represented his father's interests at Seattle. The sons continued in the whaling industry after their father's death in 1904.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials in this collection reflect the activities of William Lewis in the whaling industry at New Bedford, Mass., and San Francisco, Calif., from 1875-1886. These records consist of ship's papers, 1875-1886, of vessels for which Lewis served as agent, containing outfitting books, bills of sale, crew accounts and sea letters, namely for the brigs ABBOTT LAWRENCE and ALEXANDER and barks ATTLEBORO, HADLEY, JANET, LACONIA, LANCER, LINDA STEWART, LUCRETIA, MABEL, SAPPHO, and TROPIC BIRD.

DESCRIPTION

Series A. ABBOTT LAWRENCE (Brig) Records, 1875

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1875

Series B. ALEXANDER (Brig) Records, 1886

Folder 1. Bill of sale, 1886
" 2. Bill and receipt, 1886

Series C. ATTLEBORO (Bark) Records, 1877-1880

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1877
Folder 1. Sea letter, 1877 o/s drawer 2
" 2. Sketch of vessel, ca. 1877 o/s drawer 6
" 3. Report on survey of vessel, 1880

Series D. HADLEY (Bark) Records, 1874-1877

Volume 1-2. Outfitting books, 1874, 1877.

Series E. JANET (Bark) Records, 1875

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1875

Series F. LACONIA (Bark) Records, 1876

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1876

Series G. LANCER (Bark) Records, 1875-1881

Volume 1-2. Outfitting books, 1875, 1877
" 3. Crew accounts, 1877-1881
Folder 1. Item removed from Volume 3
" 2. Bill of sale, 1875

Series H. LINDA STEWART (Bark) Records, 1875-1877

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1875
Folder 1. Sea letter, 1877 o/s drawer 2

Series I. LUCRETIA (Bark) Records, 1877

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1877
Folder 1. Bill of sale, 1877
" 2. Sketch of vessel, ca. 1877. See Series C, Folder 2

Series J. MABEL (Bark) Records, 1877

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1877
Folder 1. Sea letter, 1877 o/s drawer 2
" 2. Bill of sale, 1877
" 3. Sketch of vessel, ca. 1877. See Series C, Folder 2

Series K. SAPPHO (Bark) Records, 1875

Volume 1. Outfitting book, 1875
Folder 1. Bill of sale, 1875

Series L. TROPIC BIRD (Bark) Records, 1876

Folder 1. Bill of sale, 1876

ADDED ENTRIES

Abbott Lawrence (Brig)
Account books--New Bedford, Mass.--1877-1881
Alexander (Brig)
Attleboro (Bark)
Business records--Mass.--New Bedford
Businessmen--Mass.--New Bedford
Hadley (Bark)
Janet (Bark)
Laconia (Bark)
Lancer (Bark)
Linda Stewart (Bark)
Lucretia (Bark)
Mabel (Bark)
Merchant seamen--Mass.--New Bedford--Salaries, pensions, etc.
Merchants--Mass.--New Bedford
New Bedford, Mass.--Commerce
Sappho (Bark)
Ship's papers
Tropic Bird (Bark)
Whalers
Whaling--Calif.--San Francisco
Whaling--Calif.--San Francisco--Agents
Whaling--Mass.--New Bedford
Whaling--Mass.--New Bedford--Agents