INVENTORY OF THE

JOHN HAM WILLIAMS PAGE PAPERS

IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Business and personal correspondence of a New Bedford and Boston, Mass., lawyer and businessman, 1852-1862.

Volume: 2½ inches.

Provenance: Gift of Mary Louise Grinnell, 31 December 1982.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By; Judith Downey.

INTRODUCTION

This entire collection was donated to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Mary Louise Grinnell in 1982.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Ham Williams Page was born in Gilmanton, N.H., in 1802, and after graduating from Harvard in 1826, he came to New Bedford, Mass. He served as the principal of Friends Academy for three years and then studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1832. He returned to New Bedford to practice law for the next twenty years. He served as a Representative in the legislature and on the Governor's Council. He later removed himself to Boston, Mass., where he became Treasurer of the Lawrence Machine Shop and an investor in several railroads.

In 1834, he married Mary Brayton (d. 1848) and again in 1850, to Susan Congdon Greene (1822-1902). Page met his untimely death by drowning off Winthrop, Mass., on 17 June 1865.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers in this collection reflect the activities of John Ham Williams Page as a businessman at New Bedford and Boston, Mass., between 1852-1862. His correspondence concerns his property in Pocasset, Mass.; his property on Fish Island and his involvement in the Acushnet Iron Foundry; and also his involvement in court cases, in the Lawrence Machine Shop, investments in railroads; and overseeing an individual's financial matters.

There are a series of letters regarding the attitudes and feelings occurring in the South immediately prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Noted individuals amongst Page's correspondents are Lucy Bakewell (Mrs. John James) Audubon; John Chipman Hoadley, Herman Melville's brother-in-law; and William Butler Ogden, first mayor of Chicago and railroad executive.

These papers have been arranged into series by type of document. The correspondence has been organized in chronological order.

DESCRIPTION

Series A. Correspondence, 1852-1862

Folder 1. 1852, 1856
" 2. 1857-1858
" 3-7. 1859
" 8. 1860
" 9. 1861-1862
" 10. Index to "letter book", ca. 1857-1862

Series B. Financial Records, ca. 1859

Folder 1. Account page, ca. 1859

ADDED ENTRIES

Actions and defenses--Mass.--Boston
Audubon, Lucy Bakewell, ca. 1786-1874
Businessmen--Mass.--Boston
Businessmen--Mass.--New Bedford
Capitalists and financiers--Mass.--Boston
Foundries---Mass.--New Bedford--Equipment and supplies
Foundries---Mass.--Pocasset--Equipment and supplies
Greene, David Russell, 1794-1879
Hoadley, John Chipman, 1818-1886
Iron-founding
Lawyers--Mass.--Boston
Lawyers--Mass.--Boston--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc
Lawyers--Mass.--New Bedford
Lawyers--Mass.--New Bedford--Correspondences, reminiscences, etc.
Machine shops
Ogden, William Butler, 1805-1877
Railroads--Finance
Real property--Mass.--New Bedford
Real property--Mass.--Pocasset
Southern States--History
Southern States--Social life and customs, 1775-1865
Tropic Bird (Bark)