

INVENTORY OF THE  
TALLMAN FAMILY PAPERS  
IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Business and personal papers of a New Bedford, Mass.,  
family, 1768-1883.

Volume: 5 inches.

Provenance: Gift of Nathalie Tallman on 6 October 1983,  
7 November 1984 and 3 January 1985.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Judith M. Downey.

## INTRODUCTION

This entire collection was donated to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Nathalie Tallman in October 1983, November 1984 and January 1985.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

William Tallman (1730-1802) began his career as a trader and by 1765, he invested in several whaling vessels. He owned a large farm, warehouse and counting-rooms and later a town-house in New Bedford, Mass. He served as selectman for Dartmouth, 1773-1777 and for New Bedford from 1787-1801. His son, William Tallman (1761-1853) was a merchant in New Bedford continuing his father's business. His son, William Tallman, Jr. (1809-1888), began his career at sea in 1827 and served on whaling vessels eventually becoming a master in 1841. By 1849 he retired from the sea to become a merchant taking over the family business. During the Civil War he served in the Navy in the Pacific Squadron and was involved in a confrontation with Japan aboard the U.S.S. WYOMING in 1863. He received compensation from the Japanese Indemnity Fund in 1883. After his service in the Navy, he served as city assessor until 1885.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers in this collection reflect the activities of members of the Tallman family of New Bedford, Mass., between 1768-1883. The material concentrates on William Tallman (1730-1802), his son William Tallman (1761-1853) and his grandson, William Tallman, Jr. (1809-1888). Papers for William Tallman (1730-1802) consist of correspondence, accounts current, promissory notes, deeds, and his will, 1715, 1768-1801. Papers for his son William Tallman (1761-1853) include ledgers, 1794-1833 and wills of his father-in-law James Howland, 1825 and of Abraham Smith, 1828. The ledgers reflect business activities as a merchant with various members of the Tallman family, Gilbert Russell and for rental of properties. The second volume also contains accounts for his brother Charles Tallman (1767-1795) prior to his death.

William Tallman, Jr. (1809-1888) is represented by correspondence, legal documents including the will of his father-in-law, Asa Kent, records for his service in the U. S. Navy, and bills, essays, poetry and an autograph book, 1823-1883. His naval records, 1861-1883, reflect his service in the Pacific Squadron and the S. Atlantic Blockade Squadron

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont.)

during the Civil War. Also included in these records are claims against the Japanese for damages relating to an attack while he served aboard the U.S.S. WYOMING for which he was finally awarded a settlement from the Japanese Indemnity Fund in 1883.

There are also papers for Elkanah Tallman (1763-1846), brother of William (1761-1853), which consists of an agreement regarding the purchasing of a house and lot, 1807.

- Sub-group 1. William Tallman (1730-1802) Papers, 1768-1801. Correspondence, financial records, and legal documents, and selectmen's records. 17 items.
- Sub-group 2. William Tallman (1761-1853) Papers, 1794-1833. Financial records and legal documents. 5 items.
- Sub-group 3. William Tallman, Jr. Papers, 1823-1883. Correspondence, legal documents, naval service records and bills, autograph book and essay. 49 items.
- Sub-group 4. Elkanah Tallman Papers, 1807. Agreement. 1 item.

DESCRIPTION

Sub-group 1. William Tallman (1730-1802) Papers, 1768-1801

Series A. Correspondence, 1775-1796

Folder 1. 1775, 1796

Series B. Financial Records, 1768-1771, 1793, 1795

Folder 1. Accounts current, 1795

" 2. Promissory notes, 1768-1771, 1793

Series C. Legal Documents, 1774-1801

Folder 1. Deeds, 1774, 1777, 1791, 1797

" 2. Will, 1801

Series D. Selectmen's Records, 1790

Folder 1. Notice of committee to settle accounts due to the separation of the towns of Dartmouth, Westport and New Bedford, 1790

Sub-group 2. William Tallman (1761-1853) Papers, 1794-1833

Series A. Financial Records, 1794-1833

Volume 1. Ledger, 1794-1824

" 2. " , 1794-1833

Series B. Legal Documents, 1825-1828

Folder 1. Wills of James Howland and Abraham Smith, 1825, 1828

Sub-group 3. William Tallman, Jr., Papers, 1823-1883

Series A. Correspondence, 1830

Folder 1. 1830

Series B. Legal Documents, 1827, 1850-1859

Folder 1. Seaman Protection Paper, 1827

" 2. Deed with and will of Asa Kent, his father-in-law, 1854-1859

" 3. Power of attorney certificate, 1850

Series C. Naval Service Records, 1861-1883

Folder 1-5. Correspondence including orders, 1861-1865, 1870-1875, 1883

" 6. Congressional material on claim by officers and crew of the U.S.S. WYOMING, 1870, 1871, 1878

" 7. Newspaper articles on attack and on claim, 1863, 1870

Sub-group 3 (cont.)

Series D. Bills, Autograph Book and Essay, 1823-1875

- Volume 1. Autograph book, 1823
- Folder 1. Poetry, 1850
- " 2. "Joseph Hoag's Vision," copied 1859
- " 3. Bill and receipt, 1875

Sub-group 4. Elkanah Tallman Papers, 1807

Series A. Agreement, 1807

- Folder 1. Agreement regarding purchase of house and lot, 1807

ADDED ENTRIES

Account books--New Bedford, Mass.--1794-1833  
Businessmen--Mass.--New Bedford  
Decedents' estates--Mass.--New Bedford  
Merchants--Mass.--New Bedford  
Russell, Gilbert, 1760-1829  
Tallman, Charles, 1767-1795  
Tallman, Elkanah, 1763-1846  
Tallman, William, 1730-1802  
Tallman, William, 1761-1853  
Tallman, William, Jr., 1809-1888  
Japanese Indemnity Fund  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Claims  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations  
U.S.S. Wyoming (Screw Sloop-of-war)