

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

Walter E. Babbitt Research Collection 1745-1977

MS 8

Extent: 2 boxes

Historical and Biographical Information:

By profession, Walter E. Babbitt was a fine antique dealer in Brewster, coming to Cape Cod in 1948 to form a partnership with Clifford Harrington. Their business was named Walclif. By avocation, Mr. Babbitt was a collector of historical manuscripts and a dedicated genealogist. The Town Clerk and Board of Selectmen of Brewster appointed him Archivist to the Commission for the Preservation of Town Records. He was instrumental for ten years in preserving the records of the town.

Scope and Content Note:

Series 1 contains Babbitt's research materials relating to Brewster Sea Captains. Babbitt compiled details regarding Brewster sea captains, particularly on their homes. He shared his research with the Town of Brewster DPW for a project in naming cartways.

Series 2 contains papers relating to the Winslow Family of Boston & Brewster; accounts, deeds, and correspondence related to Obediah Dickinson of Hatfield, Massachusetts and the Cobb Family Papers.

Series 3 contains miscellaneous documents.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library archives for publication.

Acquisition: Gift of Walter E. Babbitt

Processed by: Pamela Narbeth, January 1998; collection & finding aid revised by Marcella M. Curry, June 2010

Contents:

There are 3 series in this collection:

- Series 1 Brewster Sea Captains
- Series 2 Papers of the Winslow Family & Obediah Dickinson
- Series 3 Miscellaneous Documents.

Series 1: Brewster Sea Captains

Box 1 Folder 1 Typescript entries of Brewster sea captains; arranged in alphabetical order, includes brief biographical details, descriptions of their service at sea and the location of their homes in Brewster along with names of subsequent owners.

Box 1 Folder 2 Correspondence relating to Babbitt's sea captain research.; 1953, 1977

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Box 1 Folder 3 Research Notes
Hand drawn map of location of captain's homes
Handwritten & typescript notes on sea captain details including ship ownership

Box 1 Folder 4 Speeches, 1954, 1958, typescript copies of speeches titled "Brewster Sea Captains" written by Walter Babbitt.

Box 1 Folder 5 Photographs. Selection of photographs relating to Babbitt's sea captain research.

Box 2 Signatures. Photocopies of sea captain signatures taped to index cards, arranged alphabetically. Biographical notes included on some cards.

Ships of Brewster. Index cards arranged alphabetically by ship name & type, additional notes include name of the ship master, owner of ship, type of trade and destinations.

Series 2 **Papers**

Box 1 Folder 6 **Winslow Family Papers, 1827, 1830, 1831**
Correspondence. Letters written to Elisha D. Winslow in Boston from his siblings residing in Brewster.

Box 1 Folder 7 **Obediah Dickinson Papers, 1760-1774**
Accounts

Box 1 Folder 8 **Obediah Dickinson Papers, 1745 -1771**
Business correspondence and deeds

Series 3

Box 1 Folder 9 **Miscellaneous Documents**

Letter to Captain Silvenus Crowell, Yarmouth, 1809 from Isaac Clark.
Partial deeds from Isaac Clark to Isaiah Clark 1817 & 1829.

Petition to Brewster Parish Meeting 1827 from Baptist Society in Brewster asking that taxes be refunded to members of the society who were wrongly billed.

Seamen's Protection Certificate for Loring Sears of Brewster, 1826.

Typescript letter sent to area congregations from First Parish Church Brewster promoting lecture fund raiser.

Letter to Walter Babbitt from C A Moldstad of Lutheran Church, Brewster.

1796 documents referring to Old North Church, Brewster. Sale of pews records, diagrams of seating.