Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection

Ship Captains, Crew, and Families Photo Albums
MS. 120

Extent: 2 albums

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of two albums of primarily carte de visite photographs of ship captains, their wives, their children, relatives, ship crew members, and some unconnected and unidentified people, most originally from Cape Cod. The majority of the photographs are dated 1870 and 1871. A number of them are taken in San Francisco, California and Liverpool, England. Most of the identified people lived in Harwich, Dennis, Chatham and Yarmouth.

It is unclear who owned the original album. The photographs were received already removed from the original album, though in many cases the captions were saved and accompany the photos. In some cases there is information on the back of the photo, in many cases not. Whoever wrote the captions appears to have known the people in the photos and the captions often supply information that is not on the back of the photo. Handwriting is sometimes a challenge and some names are spelled differently on the photo and the caption. We have retained as much information about the photo as possible and noted questions where handwriting is unclear or information provided is conflicting.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Purchased at Eldred's Auction House, Dennis, MA, 2012. Five additional photographs donated by John Canedy of Freeport Maine, a former Barnstable resident.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, January 2014. Five additional photographs added 2026.

Contents: See following pages for contents. Photos are placed in albums in alphabetical order, and pages are numbered.

Album 1	Page 1	• Capt. Anderson, Ship U. L. or H.L. Richardson • Cyrus Baker
	Page 2	• Capt. Jos [Joseph] Gorham Baker, So. Dennis & W. Harwich, Married Mary D. Kelley • Benj [Benjamin] Baker, Dorch. [Dorchester], David Baker's son
	Page 3	• Susie Thacher Baker, West Dennis • Byron Baxter, W. Harwich and Prov. [Provincetown?]
	Page 4	• Captain Isaac Bearse and wife Kate Kelley Bearse, West Harwich • Capt. Isaac Bearse's Ship 1865
	Page 5	• Miss Ellie Bigley, San Francisco 1871
	Page 6	• Gen. [General] W. C. Blaisdell, So. Boston, killed in the Civil War • Mrs. W. C. Blaisdell, his wife
	Page 7	• Captain and Mrs. Bliffin, Ship Columbus • Master Bliffin
	Page 8	• Capt. B. Bray, San Francisco, 1870, Ship Comet, So. Yarmouth • Frank Chase, West Harwich
	Page 9	• Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Chase, Ship Radiant, San Francisco 1870 • Erastus Chase, W. Harwich
	Page 10	• Mrs. Caleb Chase, W. Harwich & Boston • Aberdeen Childs, W. Dennis
	Page 11	• Luther Childs, W. Dennis • Evelyn Childs, Married Wes Evans
	Page 12	• Mr. Coffin • John Crocker, So. Yarmouth

Album 1	Page 13	• Mr. J. Crocker of San Francisco, Liverpool Eng., 1871 • [Mrs. J. Crocker] 1871
	Page 14	• Lincoln Crowell, Capt. Levi Crowell's son, W. Dennis • Howes Crowell, Publisher, Capt. Levi Crowell's son, W. Dennis
	Page 15	• Susie Crowell, W. Dennis • Capt. Peter Henry Crowell
	Page 16	• Priscilla Doane, Capt. Abather Doane's daughter • Capt. Dumphey, Ship H. F. Sanford
	Page 17	• Capt. Thos. [Thomas] Ellis, West Harwichport • Albert Bradley Freeman
	Page 18	• Capt. Joh Frost, Ships Conqueror and Agenor (?)
	Page 19	• Capt. Gapley, Ship E. H. Gapley • Capt. Givers, Ship Oracle, San Francisco, 1870
	Page 20	• Maud Harris or [Harrison] Age 12 • Ada Harrison, Age 10
	Page 21	• Charlie Hayward
	Page 22	• Grace Heutz • Annie Kelley Heutz, W. Harwich
	Page 23	• Cyrus P. Howes, North Dennis & San Francisco
	Page 24	• Capt. Charles T. Husans (?), Ship J. B. Lincoln • Mrs. M. Husans (?), Ship J. B. Lincoln
	Page 25	• Abbie Jones • Emma Kelley Jones, W. Harwich
	Page 26	• Capt. Johnson, Ship Richard Bersleed, San Francisco, Cal. 1871
	Page 27	• Anthony Kelley, W. Harwich and Winchester • Fred Kelley, Eng. On Rev. Boat Chandler

Album 1	Page 28	• Gershom Kelley, Dennisport • Robt. W. Kelley, W. Harwich and Newtown
	Page 29	• Mrs. Capt. Lord, Ship E. Harriman (?)
	Page 30	• Capt. Mitchel, Ship L. Rich • Mrs. Capt. Mitchel
	Page 31	• Shoemaker Mombury(?)
	Page 32	• Lieut. Mudt and/or W. B. Mullett
Album 2	Page 33	• John Nickerson, Nancy Thayer's brother, W. Dennis, So. Yarmouth
	Page 34	• Thos. Thacher Nickerson, Nancy Thayer's brother, So. Dennis • Thos. Thacher Nickerson
	Page 35	• Pitman "Stevedore", San Francisco • Mrs. H. C. Pitman, San Francisco, 1870
	Page 36	• Freeman Conant Rogers, So. Dennis
	Page 37	• Capt. Scott, San Francisco, Dec. 1870 • Mrs. Capt. Scott, San Francisco, Dec. 1870
	Page 38	• Capt. D. A. Scribner, Liverpool, England, of Ship St. Charles (also S. D. Lueir (?), Topsham, ME, June 1, 1871.
	Page 39	• Capt. Davis Small • Mrs. Davis Small • Master Johnnie Small • No. 26 3rd Street, San Francisco, California 1870
	Page 40	• Mrs. Capt. T. Smith, Barque "Admiral", San Francisco, California, Oct. 28, 1871 • Miss Almena Modesta Sparrow, Chatham, Mass., Rec'd at San Francisco, California 1871

Album 2

Page 41
- Lowell Spencer, San Francisco, 1870
- Will Stetson, We. Harwich

Page 42
- Ella Baker Taylor, Dennisport

Page 43
- Mrs. John Taylor "To my dear niece – Aunt Lizzie, Age 67, Nov 1865."
- Capt. John Taylor

Page 44
- Thos. Thacher, W. Dennis. Eleazer Thacher [his] brother drowned off Jersey Coast
- Mrs. Thos. Thacher (Hannah)

Page 45
- Harry Thacher, Dorchester. Sad (?) Shepard Drug
- Henry [Harry] Thacher

Page 46
- Willis Thacher, Cobb Aldrich Co.
- Mrs. Fred K. Wellington, East Boston

The officers and crew members pictured on pages 47-49 appear to be members of the United States Revenue Cutter Service, which had ships stationed in the Atlantic and Pacific in the late 1800s. In 1915 the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the United States Life-Saving Service to become the United States Coast Guard.

Page 47
- Lieut Howe, Rev. Officer
- Rev. Cutter Officer, Mr. Jefferson, Leicester, England June 1871

Page 48
- Rev. Officer
- Stemshorn Proprietor, ____ Hotel, Elbe Hotel, Rev. Cutter Officer

Page 49
- Lieutenants of the Rev. Cutter
- 1st and 2nd mates of Capt. David Kelley, on Ship Ericson

Page 50
- Miss Middleton
- No Name, Boston, Sept. 16th, 1873

Page 51
- 4 photos, unnamed women and man

Album 2	Page 52	• Two girls, no names • Two babies, no names
	Page 53	• Four babies, no names
	Page 54	• No name. "With thanks for much kindness received, P.C.C." • No name
	Page 55	• 4 men, no names
	Page 56	• Four unmarked photos, no names
	Page 57	• Four unmarked photos, no names. One photo inscribed to "Uncle Lee & Aunt Dora"
	Page 58	• 4 travel photos (probably purchased in a shop) of native/local women and scenes in unknown locations
	Page 59	• 4 hand colored photos of people in native dress
	Page 60	• 3 unknown people and a photo/advertising card for the Coliseum, International Peace Jubilee, Boston
	Page 61	• Unidentified people in an Asian country (China?) • Edwin Booth • John Greenleaf Whittier
	Page 62	• Captain Herman Foster of Barnstable Village, Commander of the ships George E. Custa/Casta(?) and Rutland • Captain Bailey Foster, born September 9, 1809, died in Brewster at age 82, June 28, 1892. Commanded the ship "Santa Claus." Lived opposite the old Town Hall in Brewster.
	Page 63	• Captain David Bursley. Lived in West Barnstable on the old stage road near Great Marsh. He was master of the ships Osceola, Minnehaha, and Lotus. • Captain Ansel Lothrop was master of the ships Pilgrim, Agenor, Conqueror, and Edward O'Brion. He was an acting Lieutenant in the United States Navy during the Spanish War, and was then in the U.S. Transport Service.

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- Captain Edward Titcomb was master of the barques Jennie Cushman, Wheatland, and D. A. Brayton.