Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection

Chace Family Photo Collection
MS. 141

Extent: 2 photo albums.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of cabinet card photographs of Captain Charles A. Chace of Westport, Massachusetts as well as accompanying documents and an audio CD of Capt. Chace relating tales of his voyages. The CD is part of the Smithsonian's American Storyteller's series.

Historical and Biographical Information: Charles A. Chace was a whaling ship captain from Westport, Massachusetts, born in 1865. He began his seafaring life as a cabin boy, whaling with his father, Captain Jonathan Chace, aboard the bark *President.* His uncle Charles W. Chace was first mate on the Charles W. Morgan.

Charles A. Chace married Rachel Almy Tripp and they had three children – Emily, Marion, and Albert.

He had a prolific maritime career on numerous ships. He captained the ships *A. M. Nicholson, Andrew Hicks, Sunbeam*, and *Platina*. He was a respected Master of the J. & W. R. Wing fleet.

Chace died in 1956, at the age of 91, in Westport, and is buried in the Beech Grove Cemetery there.

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

Acquisition: Purchased at Sandwich Auction House, February 2015.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, January, 2017.

Contents: Special note -- The original photo album that housed these photos was badly deteriorated and acidic. The images were removed and any names or photo identification from the album have been penciled on to the back of the images. From the text we can discern that the unnamed owner of the album was the son of George R. Brownell and Sara Chace Brownell, sister of Charles A. Chace (no photos). Since they only had one son, the owner has to be Lester Brownell, pictured in Album 1. The owner also indicates that he was the grandson of Jonathan Chace, and the nephew of Charles Chace, Robert Chace, and Alvah Taylor.

ALBUM 1

Documents

- Listings related to Capt. Charles Chace in *Ship Registers of New Bedford, Massachusetts, Volume III, 1866-1939.* 5 pages
- Excerpts from the archive listings on the Westport Historical Society's webpage. Includes a photograph of Chace circa 1940s or 1950s. 6 pages.
- Notes on the photographs and history of the Chace family by Charlie Chace, the great grandson of Jonathan Chace and Hannah Anton Lawton Chace.
- Timeline History of Robert Lawton Chace and Jenny Skinner by Charles R. Chace.

ALBUM 1 (continued)

- Article on Charles Chace on page 2 of *The Whale Watch*, Fall 2008, a publication of the Descendants of Whaling Masters. 2 pages.
- Printout from the Find-a-Grave website showing Chace's gravestone at the Beech Grove Cemetery in Westport, MA. Also includes information on his parents, children and siblings. 1 page.
- Information on Chace and the Charles W. Morgan from Mystic Seaport's website. 1 page.
- Documentation and Audio CD – American Storytellers Volume 3, Of Whaling and Shipwreck. [sic] A Smithsonian Folkways Archival project. Includes interviews with Charles A. Chace and Matthew Richards. 1 CD and 1 page.
- Wikipedia article on the J. & W. R. Wing Company, the largest whaling firm in the United States. Chace was master of the Andrew Hicks, which as the last whaling voyage of J. & W. R. Wing Company. 1 page.
- Information on the logbook of bark Andrew Hicks 1914-1916, mastered by Charles Chace. The logbook is part of the New Bedford Whaling Museum archives. 1 page.
- Find-a-Grave page for Ezekiel J. Brownell of Westport, MA. (Photos of him and his family in Album 2.

Photographs (numbers indicate page #)

1. Captain Jonathan Chace (2 identical images)
2. Hannah Lawton Chace, wife of Jonathan (2 identical images)
3. Captain Jonathan Chace, one image of him alone and with another unidentified gentleman
4. Charles A. Chace (2 different images)
5. Charles A. Chace (2 different images)
6. Charles A. Chace (2 identical images)
7. Charles A. Chace (1 image)
8. Rachel Chace, Charles's wife (2 similar images)
9. Lydia M. Chace, Charles's sister (2 different images) (note that there was another sister Lydia P. who died in childhood (1859-1865). Lydia M. was born in 1874.
10. Lydia M. Chace (2 identical images)

11. Kate W. Chace Tallman (Charles's sister) (2 identical images)
12. Robert L. Chace (Charles's brother) (2 different images)
13. Robert L. Chace (2 identical images)
14. Robert L. Chace (1 image of him alone and one with wife Jennie on their wedding day)

14.1 Florence E. Chace, 16 years old

15. Emily Chace (Charles and Rachel's daughter) and unidentified child (2 images)
16. Emily Chace (Brightman) (2 different images)
17. Emily Chace (Brightman) (2 identical photos of her with unidentified child, possibly sister Marion)
18. Lester (2 different images)
19. Lester (1 image) and Alvah Taylor (1 image in christening gown)
20. Aunt Eliza Chace Lawton Macomber (1 image) and her husband (1 image)
21. Jessie Macomber Whitcomb, Aunt Eliza Macomber's daughter (2 images, but they do not look like the same person.)

ALBUM 2

1. Mabel Pierce (2 identical images)
2. Mabel Pierce (1 images) and Charles Kirby, Aunt Hattie Brownell Kirby's son (1 image)
3. Ed Potter (1 image) and Belle Potter, wife of Ed Potter (1 image)
4. Children of Ed and Belle Potter (1 image) and Louisa Taylor (1 image)
5. Ezekiel Brownell (1 image) and possibly his wife or mother (not identified) (1 image)
6. Unidentified man and woman (2 images) possibly related to Ezekiel Brownell.
7. Stella (Brownell?) (2 different images). See note on #8. It is possible that this is "Ella" Brownell.
8. Uncle Ezekiel Brownell's daughter(s) (2 different images) Old album stated that there were 3 daughters, two named Grace and Viola. Find-a-Grave website lists the Brownell's children as Grace, Ella, Viola, and Frederick.
9. Edward Kirby (1 image) and Aunt Hattie, possibly Edward's wife (1 image)
10. Captain Ed King (1 image) and possibly his wife Emily? (not identified) (1 image)
11. Captain Ed King (1 image) and Emily, possibly his wife (1 image)
12. Muriel Pierce (Hunt) (2 identical images)
13. Remembrance card for Frank L. Brownell (died May 1, 1889) (1 card) and unidentified man (1 image)

Pages 14-25 contain 24 images of unidentified people, taken at photography studios in New Bedford, Fall River, and Bristol, R.I.