Sturgis Library Archives  
Town and Local History Collection  

Cape Cod Sea Captain Letters  
MS. 143  

Extent:  1 box  

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of 17 letters written to Benjamin Delano, merchant and wharf owner from Kingston, Massachusetts. Most of the letters deal with the fishing industry and salt.  

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

Acquisition: Purchased from Dave Crocker, 2015.  


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Contents:

BOX 1  
Fldr 1A  Letter from Capt. Jabez Higgins, Orleans, 1823
Fldr 1B  Letter from Capt. John B. Snow, Harwich, 1827
Fldr 1C  Letter from Capt. James Needham, North Truro, 1830 or 1836
  • Note: According to Shebannah Rich, author of Cape Cod, Or Land Marks and Sea Marks, wrote: “In the fall of 1836 James Needham, age 25, master of the schooner Coral Rock and others were lost on their homeward passage from the Grand Banks.”
Fldr 1D  4 Letters from Capt. Elijah Knowles, Orleans, 1831-1837 and excerpt from Wikipedia about the ship White Swallow.
  • Note: Capt. Knowles was master of the Clipper Ship White Swallow. During a voyage in the 186-s his crew mutinied and took command of the ship. At the court trial of the mutineers, Knowles was accused of being unusually cruel and harsh to his crew. The entire crew was exonerated and found innocent.
Fldr 1E  Letter from Nathaniel Freeman, Orleans, 1847
Fldr 2A  Letter from Capt. Judah Chase, Harwich Port, 1858
Fldr 2B  Letter from Capt. Alex Bacon, Osterville, 1859
Fldr 2C  Letter from Capt. Oren Eldridge, Harwich, 1859
Fldr 2D  Letter from Capt. William Baker, Hyannis, 1860 (Cotton trade)
Fldr 2E  4 letters from Capt. Luther G. Northup, 1860-1861
  • Note: Includes printout of finding aid for the Kinston public Library’s Arthur Beane Collection, which also includes letters from Northrup to Delano.
Fldr 2F  3 letters from Capt. John Ireland, East Harwich, 1880