

## Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 158

### Journal of the Barque E. H. Yarrington, Captain Oliver Gorham, Master, 1858.

**Extent:** 1 journal in multi-folder box.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of a manuscript journal with 19 pages of entries relating to the Barque E. H. Yarrington in 1858. There are notations and text on additional pages throughout the journal, including daybook entries, a poem, draft letters to a Thacher cousin, etc. On the final pages of the journal are multiple whale stamps. In a ship's log the stamps are used to indicate the number of whales caught during a voyage, but in this instance, the stamps are purely decorative.

**Historical and Biographical Information:** *From Stories of Yarmouth Shipmasters:* "Captain Oliver Gorham, son of Hezekiah and Phebe Thacher Gorham, was born in 1813, dying November 15, 1878. He was one of six Gorham sons that went to sea. He owned and occupied, for his residence, the house nearly opposite to the Friday Club building in Yarmouth Port, now occupied by his grandchildren. The only command of his of which we have definite information is the bark Alice Campbell, of which the following experience was related in a New Orleans newspaper: "Captain Oliver Gorham of bark Alice Campbell, from Boston, arrived at New Orleans, March 1, 1874, having on board the captain, mate and four men of the lumber-loaded schooner, Thomas B. Barkalow, storm-wrecked about February 8 and the vessel directly breaking up, the crew hurriedly constructed a raft of her spars, but were unable to provide anything in way of sustenance or other accessories of comfort. Helplessly they drifted about at the mercy of the wind and the waves, for eleven days, without either food or drink and being reduced to the verge of death, were discovered, February 23, by bark Alice Campbell and taken on board in a condition of such fearful privation and helplessness as to be utterly unable to stand."

As this journal states, Gorham also commanded the E.H. Yarrington in 1858.

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

**Acquisition:** Purchased on eBay from Sally's Diaries, 2013.

**Processed by:** Lucy Loomis, December 2019.

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