

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 112
Capt. Thomas W. Williams Papers, 1853-1868
By Jean R. Ross**

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Capt. Thomas W. Williams Papers, 1853-1868

Creator: various

Quantity: xx cubic feet

Abstract: The Captain W. Williams Collection contains personal and business correspondence between the years of 1853 and 1868 while the Captain was in the Pacific Ocean on various whaling vessels. The Collection contains mostly business receipts and incoming letters relating to his vessels.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Capt. Thomas W. Williams Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in _____ by _____.

Processing Information: Jean R. Ross

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation for Publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Capt. Thomas W. Williams Papers, 1853-1868, Record Unit 112.

Index Terms

Eliza Williams

Edgar R. Lewis

Mary Williams Lewis

Ship *Florida*

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Series II: Business Correspondence

Series III: Business Accounts

Series IV: Business Papers

Series V: Business Receipts/Bills

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Historical Note:

Captain Thomas W. Williams sailed out of the Fairhaven/New Bedford area. Little is known about his personal life other than he built a house in Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1859 and sailed with his wife Eliza and family for ten years in the Pacific. One of his children was educated in Boston and presumably lived with relatives while his parents were sailing in the Pacific. The Vineyard connection was through his daughter, Mary who was born at sea (no date) and who married Edgar R. Lewis from Chilmark. Edgar was the son of Captain William Lewis, another West Coast fishery family. Mary and Edgar moved to New Bedford after their marriage. There is no record of any further Vineyard connection.

Scope and Content Note:

The Capt. Thomas W. Williams Collection contains mostly business related items such as receipts, correspondence, and ship accounts. There are a large number of receipts from daily financial transactions. All are originals and many are in fragile condition.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Personal Letters dated 1853-1859, 1865

Series II: Business Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 2: 1854-1859

Folder 3: 1860-1863

Folder 4: 1864-1865

Series III: Business Accounts

Box 1 of 1

Folder 5: 1856-1861

Series IV: Business Papers

Box 1 of 1

Folder 6: 1854-1865

Series V: Business Receipts

Box 1 of 1

Folder 7: Miscellaneous

Folder 8: 1807-1854

Folder 9: 1855-1859

Folder 10: 1860

Folder 11: 1861

Folder 12: 1862

Folder 13: 1863-1865

Folder 14: 1866-1868

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Box 1 of 1

Folder 15: Reference