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