Finding Aid to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum  
Record Unit 271  
The Howes Family Collection  
By Margot Weston

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum  
Call No.  
Title: The Howes Family Collection  
Creator: Margot S. Weston  
Quantity: 1.0 Cu. Ft.  
Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, family papers, professional papers, business papers, maritime and whaling information.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: This collection was acquired by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum through two donations from Read A. McCaffey who was given the papers by Mrs. Howes Bodfish before her death. Mrs Bodfish was the daughter-in-law of Captain Hartson H. Bodfish and was living in Baltimore, Maryland.  
Processing Information: Margot Weston  
Access Restrictions: none  
Use Restrictions: none  
Preferred citation for publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, The Howes Family Collection, Record Unit 271.

Index Terms
Willis Howes Sr.  
Willis Howes Jr.  
Mary Diaz Howes  
Clara Diaz Howes Bodfish

Series and Subseries Arrangement
Series I: Correspondence  
Subseries A: General  
Subseries B: Mary Howes  
SubseriesC: Willis Howes, Sr.  
SubseriesD: Willis Howes, Jr.  
Series II: Family Papers  
Subseries A: Clara Howes  
Subseries B: Willis Howes, Jr.
Subseries C: Genealogy
Series III: Professional Papers
Subseries A: Maritime Papers
Series IV: Business Papers
Subseries A: Financial Records
Subseries B: Insurance Papers
Subseries C: Legal Papers

**Historical Note:** The collection contains personal papers, correspondence, legal documents and a brief genealogy. There are references to the Lorenzo Smith estate, the Diaz or Dias family, and Captain Hartson H. Bodfish and his family. Willis Howes, Sr. was a whaling captain as was his son-in-law, Captain Hartson H. Bodfish.

**Scope and Content Note:** There is considerable correspondence from and to various members of the family, papers relative to several life insurance policies, some legal papers, and reference to Captain Howes’ service in the Navy and his seafaring accomplishments. For additional information check references to the families in the Museum’s genealogy collections and Record Unit 272, the Captain Hartson H. Bodfish Collection.

**Series Descriptions:**
**Series I: Correspondence**
Box 1 of 2
Subseries A: General Correspondence
Folder 1: General
Subseries B: Mary Howes
Folder 2: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. 1845-1852
Folder 3: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. 1853
Folder 4: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. 1854
Folder 5: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. 1855
Folder 6: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. 1857-1860
Folder 7: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. Undated
Folder 8: Mary Howes to Willis Howes Sr. Undated
Subseries C: Willis Howes Sr.
Folder 9: Willis Howes Sr. to wife, Mary
Folder 10: Howes, Mary & Willis
Folder 11: Willis Howes Sr., Miscellaneous Correspondence
Subseries D: Willis Howes Jr.
Folder 12: Correspondence of Willis Howes Jr., 1874-1876
Folder 13: Correspondence of Willis Howes Jr., 1877
Folder 14: Correspondence of Willis Howes Jr., 1878
Folder 15: Correspondence of Willis Howes Jr., 1879-1882
Folder 16: Correspondence of Willis Howes Jr., Undated

**Series II: Family Papers**
Box 1 of 2
Subseries A: Clara Howes
Folder 17: Compositions. Clara Howes
Subseries B: Willis Howes Jr.
Folder 18: Compositions, Willis Howes, Jr.
Subseries C: Genealogy
Folder 19: Genealogy
Folder 20: Genealogy
Folder 21: Howes Family
Folder 22: Diaz Family

**Series III: Professional Papers**
Box 2 of 2
Subseries A: Maritime Papers
Folder 23: Willis Howes Sr., Navy
Folder 24: Willis Howes Sr., Pension 1865-67
Folder 25: Willis Howes Sr., Pension 1890-1904 & undated
Folder 26: Willis Howes Sr., Military Order of Loyal Legion of the United States
Folder 27: Willis Howes Sr., Whaling Voyages

**Series IV: Business Papers**
Box 2 of 2
Subseries A: Financial
Folder 28: Financial Papers
Subseries B: Insurance
Folder 29: New England Mutual Insurance
Folder 30: Provident Life Insurance 1867-74
Folder 31: Provident Life Insurance 1875-85
Subseries C: Legal
Folder 32: Lorenzo Smith Estate
Folder 33: Lorenzo Smith Estate
Folder 34: Dunham Estate
Folder 35: Willis Howes, Sr. Estate