

**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