

**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

Subseries C: Willis Howes, Sr.

Subseries D: 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