Richard H. M. Settle Correspondence and Photograph

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009219

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084134

Prepared by Laura J. Kells
Collection Summary
Title: Richard H. M. Settle Correspondence and Photograph
Span Dates: 1871-1879
ID No.: MSS84134
Creator: Settle, Richard H. M.
Extent: 59 items ; 1 container ; 0.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Whaler. Letters and typewritten transcripts of letters written by Settle during three voyages aboard whaling ships from New Bedford, Mass.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Settle, Georgeanna--Correspondence.
Settle, Richard H. M.

Organizations
A.R. Tucker (Bark)
Bounding Billow (Bark)
Charles W. Morgan (Ship)

Subjects
Seafaring life.
Whaling--Atlantic Ocean.
Whaling--Indian Ocean.
Whaling--Pacific Ocean.

Places
New Bedford (Mass.)--History.
Whaling--Massachusetts--New Bedford.

Occupations
Whalers (Persons)

Administrative Information
Provenance
The correspondence and photograph of Richard H. M. Settle, whaler, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1997.

Processing History
The papers of Richard H. M. Settle were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard H. M. Settle is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Richard H. M. Settle are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Richard H. M. Settle Correspondence and Photograph, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Richard H. M. Settle span the years 1871-1879 and consist primarily of letters from Settle written during three voyages aboard whaling ships from New Bedford, Massachusetts: the Charles W. Morgan (Ship) to the Indian Ocean, the A. R. Tucker (Bark) to the Atlantic Ocean, and the Bounding Billow (Bark) to the Pacific Ocean. His letters are written to Georgeanna, or Georgia, in New Bedford, who became his wife after the first voyage. They discuss Settle's life at sea and provide details about whaling and the activities of crew members. Settle recounts his involvement in several altercations with crew members and others, including one in which he was shot twice. His letters also focus on the loneliness and homesickness felt on the long voyages. In letters from his third voyage, Settle writes of suffering because of long delays in communication from home as he anticipates the birth of a child, finally learns of the birth of his daughter, and, two years later, receives news of her death. The handwritten letters are accompanied by typed transcripts.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>First voyage, aboard <em>Charles W. Morgan</em> (Ship), 1871-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Second voyage, aboard <em>A. R. Tucker</em> (Bark), 1875-1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Third voyage, aboard <em>Bounding Billow</em> (Bark), 1876-1879 (2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Photograph, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>