

Richard H. M. Settle Correspondence and Photograph

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Laura J. Kells



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
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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

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: 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.

Personal Names

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.

Locations

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard H. M. Settle is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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