

Woods Hole Historical Museum Archives
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
WHALING IN WOODS HOLE
AND WHALING

Box 1: General History
1609 - 2014

Box 2: Candle House, Woods Hole
1841 - 2015

**WHALING IN WOODS HOLE
AND WHALING
BOX 1: GENERAL HISTORY**

1-1. Whaling – Woods Hole and General

- a. Typewritten list: Woods Hole Whaling Ships at Bar Neck Wharf and their captains
- b. Newsclipping. “Woods Holl Whalers”, unknown newspaper, n.d. (before 1897). Xerox copy.
- c. Booklet. “Something About Whales”, published by Reynolds-Dewalt Printers, New Bedford, Mass., n.d.
- d. Typewritten letter and lists.
 1. Letter from Reginald B. Hagarty (Free Public Library, New Bedford – Melville Whaling Room) to Research Librarian, WHOI, March 31, 1972.
 2. List of Falmouth built ships
 3. List of Falmouth whalers
- e. Typewritten ms. “Woods Hole Goes Whaling” by Judy Stetson (draft of article for *Woods Hole Reflections*).
- f. Typewritten list: Logbooks and Maritime Records Held at Falmouth Historical Society (from FHS website).
- g. Typewritten ms. “Falmouth Massachusetts – In the Shadow of Nantucket.” Unknown author. Copy.
- h. Newsletter excerpt. :From The Archives: “The Old Stone House” Rejoins The Old Candle House – Or Why I Love Archivists” by Mark Foster. *Mainsheet*, Fall-Winter 2015, pp. 6-7.

1-2. Whaling, ships and maritime history information – New Bedford Whaling Museum (NBWM).

- a. Newsclipping. “Earliest American Whaleship Ambrotype”, from NBWM *The Bulletin*, n.d.
- b. Photo. Ship’s Boxes in NBWM collection. Xerox copies. Original in photo file (Digital file number 1770).
- c. Booklet. The Whaling Museum, Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, Mass., Whaling Exhibits of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Published 1924 (Reprinted 1926, 1930).
- d. Brochure. Whaling Museum, New Bedford, n.d.
- e. Photo. Photo of Bartholomew Gosnold figurehead, collection of NBWM. Photo by Fred Lux. Note attached.

- f. Handwritten note. Note about Bierstadt painting of Gosnold at Cuttyhunk, in collection of NBWM, accompanied by xerox copy of painting.

1-3. Whaling – Newsclippings.

- a. Newspaper excerpt. Mail-Away Edition, Section Two, Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 16, 1969, on local whaling captains. Original and xerox copy.

1-4. Whaling – Swift Ships and House Flags.

Swift ships, information:

- a. Printed ms. “Swift Family Whaling,” E. Kent Swift, Jr., *Spritsail*, Volume 12, Number 1, Xerox copy.
- b. Typewritten ms. *Awashonks*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- c. Typewritten ms. *Commodore Morris*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- d. Typewritten ms. *Hobomok*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- e. Typewritten ms. *Pocohontas*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- f. Typewritten ms. *Uncas*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- g. Typewritten lists. List of voyages of *Awashonks*, *Commodore Morris*, *Hobomok*, *Pocohontas*, *Uncas*. Xerox copy.
- h. Typewritten ms. Copy of text for “Awashonks”, a painting by Franklin L. Gifford in *Historic Woods Hole*, a catalog of paintings by F.L. Gifford. Xerox copy.
- i. Typewritten ms. Copy of text for “The Launching of the Elijah Swift”, a painting by Franklin L. Gifford in *Historic Woods Hole*, a catalog of paintings by F.L. Gifford. Xerox copies.

Swift house flags, information:

- a. Typewritten ms. Excerpts from letter written by Mr. Taber on August 19, 1948 about the Swift house flags. Xerox copy.
- b. Sketch and typed information. Flag for Ship *Hobomok* and *Awashonks*. Xerox copy.
- c. Sketch and typed information. Flag for Ship *Hobomok*. Xerox copy.

- d. Sketch and typed information. Flag for Ship *Commodore Morris*. Xerox copy.
- e. Sketch and typed information. Flag for signal "S". Xerox copy.

Photographs. 1940 carvings/paintings done by Lloyd Thomas, private collection, Woods Hole. Color photos (5 x 7 inches) by Paul F. Smith, and xerox copies.

- a. *Awashonks*.
- b. *Commodore Morris*.
- c. *Hobomok*.
- d. *Pocohontas*.
- e. *Uncas*.

1-5 Whaling Ships – *Awashonks*.

- a. Typewritten ms. Copy of text for "Awashonks", a painting by Franklin L. Gifford in *Historic Woods Hole*, a catalog of paintings by F.L. Gifford. Xerox copy.
- b. Typewritten lists. List of voyages of *Awashonks*, *Commodore Morris*, *Hobomok*, *Pocohontas*, *Uncas*. Xerox copy of the section on *Awashonks*.
- c. Typewritten ms. *Awashonks*, listing owners and voyages, compiled from Ship Registers, District of Barnstable, 1813-1914, compiled by National Archives Project, Works Progress Administrations. Xerox copy.
- d. Photograph. *Awashonks*, 1940 carving/painting done by Lloyd Thomas, private collection, Woods Hole. Color photos (5 x 7 inches) by Paul F. Smith. Xerox copy.
- e. Newsclipping. "Cape Cod Yesteryears" by Gustavus Swift Paine, *Falmouth Enterprise*, Spring 1985, on *Awashonks* and also *Hobomok*. Original and xerox copies.

1-6. Whaling Ships – *Commodore Morris*.

- a. Newsclipping. "Ship 'Commodore Morris' Whaler – Falmouth-Built and Falmouth-Manned", *Falmouth Enterprise*, April 5, 1928. Original and Xerox copies. *History of the ship*.
- b. Excerpt from book. Page 34, list of voyages and resulting oil cargo; photo, from *A Maritime Album* (1997), of whaler *Commodore Morris*. Xerox copies.
- c. Internet material. Charles Morris (naval officer). Brief biography of Commodore Morris (1784- 1856) from Wikipedia, with illustration of daguerreotype or ambrotype of Charles Morris by Southworth & Hawes, 1850.

1-7. Whaling Ships – Figureheads.

- a. Photograph. Figurehead of *Bartholomew Gosnold*, New Bedford Whaling Museum. Photo by Fred Lux. Xerox copy.
- b. Booklet. "Ships' Figureheads of Old Cape Cod". Cape Cod Advancement Plan,

Hyannis, Mass. Harry V. Lawrence, Falmouth, Chairman, 1936.
Photo of figurehead, *Commodore Morris*, p. 15; Photo of painting of
Commodore Morris on p. 25.

- 1-8. Whaling material of James Hain, assembled for article in *Woods Hole Reflections*.
- a. Handwritten notes. Notes to Paul and Mary Lou Smith about the photos for the article.
 - b. Xerox copies of 3 Gifford paintings and 1 Meinert drawing for article.
 - c. Typewritten ms. "Woods Hole Whaling", 19 pages. Xerox copy.
 - d. Galley pages for "Woods Hole Whaling".
 - e. Paste-up of newsletter cover. *The MBL Newsletter*, Fall/Winter 1981.
- 1-9. Whaling movies.
- Pamphlet. World Premier Elmer Clifton's "Down To The Sea In Ships", Olympia (Theater), New Bedford, Massachusetts, September 25th, 1922. *Booklet for the premier of the movie with background material on whaling and New Bedford*.
- 1-10. Whaling in New Bedford and transition to other industries
- Journal. *IA – The Journal of the Society of Industrial Archeology*, Volume 40, Numbers 1 and 2, 2014. Theme issue: New Bedford. See p. 55 for Woods Hole Candle House, article by Mark Foster: "New Bedford – Whale Oil Refining Capital."
- 1-11. Whaling in New Jersey (Long Island, Delaware Bay)
- Master's thesis. "America's First Whaling Industry and the Whaler Yeoman of Cape May, 1630-1830" by Richard M. Romm, May 2010.

**WHALING IN WOODS HOLE
WHALING HISTORY
BOX 2: CANDLE HOUSE**

BRIEF HISTORY

The papers in this collection cover one facet of the early days of Woods Hole when whaling was the main industry. The only remaining landmark from those days is the Candle House.

Whaling was carried out from the village of Woods Hole from 1828 to 1864 from the Bar Neck Wharf, built during the 1820s through 1827. From this wharf were launched --- whaling ships (names....). The Bar Neck Wharf Company was owned primarily by Elijah Swift, Oliver Cromwell Swift, Thomas Lawrence Swift, Ward Parker and other shareholders, most from Falmouth, which had no deep water port.

The Candle House was constructed in Woods Hole in 1841-1842 at the height of the whaling industry and was the site at which whale oil was made into spermaceti candles. The building was also use for a store and a supply house. With the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1858 and the Civil War creating havoc with Confederate commerce raiding on Northern ships, the whaling industry declined and this activity ceased until after the Civil War when it resumed in some places, mostly focused on Pacific whaling grounds. In 1862 the effects of Thomas L. Swift, a major shareholder in the Bar Neck Wharf Company, were auctioned off by his executor-administrator, Erasmus Gould, and the Candle House and adjoining properties were put up for auction (July 3, 1862, two years after the death of Thomas in 1860. The next owner is unknown at this point.

In 1903, the land and the Candle House were bought by the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) for \$7000 and is currently (2009 to date) used for the administrative offices of MBL.

SCOPE NOTE

The records in this collection touch very lightly on the history of the Candle House.

The chapter (written in 1856) on the manufacture of the spermaceti candles describes the method used to convert the whale oil into these highly valued candles.

The document by Ms. Josephine Fish, a local life-long resident of Woods Hole, describes the history of various houses and buildings in Woods Hole in 1918. Ms. Fish mentions many homes and their past and present owners. It does not include addresses or a map of the location of the buildings (there are quite a number of errors, as well, because of the continuation of inaccurate local lore).

A paper by Ms. Marise Fawsett features a description and history of the Candle House.

An important update to this collection is the paper written by Mark Foster for part of the discussion on New Bedford's oil refineries in an issue of *IA, The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, 2014*. Mr. Foster corrected the date which has been long assumed for the building of the Candle House, finding its construction was advertised in 1841 (not 1836) and that it was probably built in 1842. He gives many details on the manufacture of post-whaling products.

He then wrote a briefer article for the WHHM newsletter *Mainsheet*: "The Old Stone House" Rejoins The Old Candle House – or Why I Love Archivists," about the true history of both the Old Stone House (demolished for the construction of Crane Building (MBL) and the Candle House, including for the first time an accurate date for the building of the Candle House (1841-1842, not 1836, as it has been dated for many years).

WHALING IN WOODS HOLE BOX 2: CANDLE HOUSE

2-1. Book. Excerpt. Spermaceti Candles. Chapter XXX from *A Treatise on Chemistry Applied to the Manufacture of Soap and Candlemaking* by Campbell Morfit, pages 504 – 511, 1856. Xerox copies.

2-2. Typewritten ms. "Landmarks of Woods Hole" by Josephine W. Fish, 1918, 4 pages. Xerox copies. Her comments and accumulated information on Woods Hole contain many inaccuracies.

2-3. Typewritten ms. "The Old Spermaceti Candle House and Whaling in Woods Hole,"
Marise Fawsett, 1985. 15 page original and xerox copy.

2-4. Newsletter. *Mainsheet* (WHHM newsletter), Fall-Winter 2015. From the Archives:
"The Old Stone House" Rejoins The Old Candle House – or Why I Love
Archivists."