

Ship's Logbook - Gem of BeverlySC-1

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1851-1868 (bulk 1850s)

Title Statement

Ship's Logbook - Gem of BeverlySC-1

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-1

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/159

Unit Date

1851-1868 (bulk 1850s)

Language

English

Creator

Locke, Vernon Guyon, 1827-1890

Extent

1 Volumes

Repository

University of Richmond

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Biographical / Historical

The 1850s were considered the height of American whaling during the 19th century. This manuscript documents several different voyages during the 1850s, although the entries record varying levels of detail. Many are dated and often include the longitude and latitude of the vessel as well as information about the weather and when whales were sighted. Throughout the material, the name Vernon Locke appears in various forms. Vernon Guyon Locke (1827-1890) was from Nova Scotia but spent many years living in Fayetteville, NC. Locke commanded the Confederate privateer *Retribution* under his alias as Captain John Parker, but he was best known for his role in the Chesapeake Affair in December 1863, when Confederate sympathizers from Nova Scotia captured the *Chesapeake*.

Scope and Contents

This ship's log records the journeys of at least 3 ships and voyages during the 1850s, ostensibly all authored by Vernon Locke.

The *Gem of Beverly* was an American whaling brig and forms the bulk of information documented in this ship's log. Beginning on 7 April 1851, the log documents the location and activities of the brig almost continuously through 29 April 1853.

The *SS Sonora* (1853-1868) was an 82m long wood sidewheel steamer that was built for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The ship primarily sailed the San Francisco - Panama route through 1863, then made one additional voyage delivering troops to Panama in 1865. It was dismantled in 1868. The log tracks the *Sonora* from 9 December 1853 through 17 Feb 1857, but several pages were removed at some unknown time.

The log then picks up again with the Barque *Vernon*, listing Vernon Locke as master, on 13 March 1857 continuing through 30 July 1857.

Other materials in the logbook are recipes, budget and accounting calculations, song lyrics and poetry, correspondence, notes, and other miscellaneous writings. One notable addition in the last section of the book is an essay titled "My travels from the year 1846 to 1862."

Related Materials

Other ship logs are available in the collections.

Keywords

Logbook

Whaling

Locke, Vernon Guyon, 1827-1890

Existence and Location of Copies

The ship's log has been fully digitized and transcribed.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

While mainly intact, the log does have some loose pages throughout. Additionally, the handwriting is often dense and occasionally overwritten which causes challenges in reading the full text in some places.

Arrangement

This small collection consists of one item.

Description of Subordinate Components

Ship log

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/8603

Unit Date 1851-1868

Unit Date 1850s

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (volume)