

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
Collection 003-03-01
Nicholson Collection of Whaling Photographs
circa 1890-1925

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 003-03-01

Title: Nicholson Collection of Whaling Photographs

Creator: Nicholson, Paul C. (Paul Coe), 1888-1956, collector

Dates: circa 1890-1925

Quantity: 3 boxes (2 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: The glass plate negatives are believed to have been part of the original donation of whaling materials by Paul C. Nicholson in 1958.

PPL purchased additional photographic prints from 1958-1960 from various dealers. Acquisitions records show that attempts were made to clarify the ownership of the original negatives from which the prints were made, but it remained undetermined.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Glass plate negatives and prints were acquired by Providence Public Library.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Kate Wells in 2021.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item number], [item title], Nicholson Collection of Whaling Photographs, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material Not applicable.

Published description Not applicable.

Location of originals Unknown.

Location of copies Digital reproductions of the images are available on the Providence Public Library digital repository. Digitization was completed with support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Publication note Not applicable.

Subject headings
Ships--History
Whaling--History
Whaling ships--History
Wharves
Ships--History
New Bedford (Mass.)

SEE ALSO

003-02-01, Nicholson Collection of Whaling Logbooks

003-04, Nicholson Collection of Whaling Ephemera

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the mid to late 19th century, New Bedford Massachusetts was the center of the global whaling industry. At its zenith in 1857, ships from New Bedford and surrounding towns represented half of all the world's whaling catch. The industry supported both the whale fishing industry as well as a vast shore economy that resulted in massive wealth. In subsequent decades, the industry suffered a gradual decline as overfishing and technological changes resulted in less demand for whale products. This collection includes photographic images that document the latter period of the New Bedford whaling industry.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection includes glass plate negatives and photographic prints of various whaling ships as well as streets, wharves and other buildings in New Bedford, Massachusetts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is organized by format and size. Included are glass and film negatives of various sizes, but the bulk are 5x7 and 8x10. Prints are housed together and are organized to correspond with associated negatives. Prints for which PPL does own the original negatives are organized at the end.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Item	Title	Date	Folder
SGN-1	Bark A.R. Tucker at Sea		1
SGN-2	Bark A.R. Tucker with tugboat		1
SGN-3	Bark A.R. Tucker. The last of the Tucker at Merrill's Wharf in New Bedford, Mass.		1
SGN-4	Bark Bertha. Nelson's Boat Bazaar		1
SGN-5	Schooner Blossom at Mystic, Conn.	circa 1926	1
SGN-6	Bark Charles W. Morgan at Round Hill, South Dartmouth, Mass.		NO PRINT
SGN-7	Schooner John R. Manta at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		1
SGN-8	Schooner John R. Manta at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		1
SGN-9	Schooner John. R. Manta at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		1
SGN-10	Schooner John. R. Manta at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		1
SGN-11	Schooner John R. Manta, deck view		NO PRINT
SGN-12	Schooner John R. Manta, deck view looking forward		NO PRINT
SGN-13	Schooner John R. Manta & Lina (or Coriolina?) at P & R Wharf		1
SGN-14	Brig Leonora discharging oil at wharf		1
SGN-15	Bark Palmetto		1
SGN-16	Fairhaven, Mass shipyard		1
SGN-17	Fairhaven, Mass shipyard. Pollock Lightship on the ways		1

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SGN-18	Fairhaven Bridge		NO PRINT
SGN-19	Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford, Mass.		1
SGN-20	Old stone building, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford, Mass.		1
SGN-21	Sail loft, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		2
SGN-22	Fire Island Lightship at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		2
SGN-23	Unidentified whaler at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		2
SGN-24	Nye's Oil Works, New Bedford	circa 1900	2
SGN-25	Pier 3 in New Bedford showing Fairhaven shipyard across the river		2
SGN-26	Seamen's Bethel, New Bedford		2
SGN-27	Finback whale on beach		2
SGN-28	Scrimshaw. Engraved whale teeth		2
SGN-29	Whale half models: Right, Bowhead, Humpback		2
SGN-30	Whale half models: Sperm, Finback, Sulphurbottom		2
SGN-31	Clay bust		2
SGN-32	Carved scroll		2
SGN-33	Attacking the Right Whale and cutting in. Photo of English colored aquatint.		2
SGN-34	Attacking the Right Whale. Photo of English colored aquatint.		2
SGN-35	Pecche du Cachalot; Cacholot fishery.		2
SGN-36	Montigny, C W de. Drawing of figurehead, ship Bartholomew Gosnold		2
SGN-37	Montigny, C W de. Drawing of figurehead, Charles W. Morgan		2
SGN-38	Montigny, C W de. Drawing of figurehead, Commodore Morris		2
SGN-39	Montigny, C W de. Drawing of figurehead, Bark Wanderer		2

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SGN-40	Painting of unidentified whaleship		2
SGN-41	Bark A.R. Tucker drying sails		3
SGN-42	Bark A.R. Tucker drying sails		3
SGN-43	Bark A.R. Tucker & Bark Bertha drying sails		3
SGN-44	Bark Bertha drying sails		3
SGN-45	Bark Bertha unloading oil at Pier 3, New Bedford		3
SGN-46	Schooner Bertha D. Nickerson and Bark Morning Star at wharf		3
SGN-47	Bark Charles W. Morgan at Pier 3		NO PRINT
SGN-48	Bark Charles W. Morgan tied up at wharf		3
SGN-49	Bark Charles W. Morgan at Round Hill		NO PRINT
SGN-50	Brig Daisy at wharf		NO PRINT
SGN-51	Bark Desdemona at wharf	1894 May	3
SGN-52	Schooner John R. Manta tied up at wharf		3
SGN-53	Fairhaven shipyard. Savola on ways		3
SGN-54	New Bedford Mariner's Home		3
SGN-55	Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		3
SGN-56	Old Stone Building, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford. Antone Perry, Rigger		3
SGN-57	Tow-boat office and tugboat, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		3
SGN-58	Sperm Candle Works, New Bedford		3
SGN-59	New Bedford waterfront with horse-drawn vehicle in foreground		3
LGN-1	House moving, New Bedford	1910 October 4	4
LGN-2	Ox cart with passengers		4

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LGN-3	Horse-drawn cart with load of peanuts, New Bedford		4
LGN-4	Court House, County St, New Bedford		4
LGN-5	Customs House, corner William and Second Streets, New Bedford		4
LGN-6	New Bedford Free Public Library under construction	1907 November 8	4
LGN-7	View of New Bedford with the back of the library		4
LGN-8	New Bedford Free Public Library with newly planted trees		4
LGN-9	Odd Fellows Hall, New Bedford		4
LGN-10	Old Stone Building, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		4
LGN-11	Old Stone Church & White Church, Purchase Street		4
LGN-12	Old Stone Church, New Bedford		4
LGN-13	Taking down the tower of the Old Stone Church, New Bedford	1914 January 15	4
LGN-14	Taking down the tower of the Old Stone Church, New Bedford	1914 January 30	4
LGN-15	New facade of Old Stone Church, New Bedford	1914 October 23	4
LGN-16	Barker Lane, New Bedford		5
LGN-17	Center Street, New Bedford		5
LGN-18	Looking down Center Street to the water. New Bedford		5
LGN-19	Fourth and Spring Streets, New Bedford		5
LGN-20	Northeast corner of Purchase and Union Streets, New Bedford		5
LGN-21	Union and Purchase Streets looking northwest, New Bedford.		5
LGN-22	Northwest corner of Purchase & Union Streets, New Bedford		5
LGN-23	Purchase and Williams Streets, New Bedford		5
LGN-24	Sears Court, New Bedford		5
LGN-25	Union Street, New Bedford		5

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LGN-26	Lower Union Street, New Bedford		5
LGN-27	Water Street, New Bedford		5
LGN-28	Unidentified street near waterfront		5
LGN-29	Waterfront, New Bedford		5
LGN-30	Brigantine B.A. Brayton. South side of Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		5
LGN-31	Bark Canton and Schooner Lottie Beard. New Bedford		6
LGN-32	Charles W. Morgan. Cabin		6
LGN-33	Charles W. Morgan. View into cabin.		6
LGN-34	Bark Desdemona and Bark Rousseau.		6
LGN-35	Bark Desdemona and Bark Rousseau.		6
LGN-36	Green & Wood Lumber Schooner, Wharf, New Bedford		6
LGN-37	Bark Kathleen at wharf		6
LGN-38	Ship Niger drying sails		6
LGN-39	Bark Wanderer hauled out on railway	1918	6
LGN-40	Unidentified whaling bark at wharf		6
LGN-41	Unidentified bark at wharf		6
LGN-42	Unidentified ship at sea		6
LGN-43	Manuscript notes	1893 June 1 - 1897 July 10	6
LGN-44	Painting of the Ship Commodore Morris		6
LGN-45	Painting of Rotch Square		6
LGN-46	Fairhaven Shipyard. Workmen with Bark Wanderer on the ways		6
SFN-1	Unidentified vessel hove down		7
SFN-2	Jesse H. Freeman		NO PRINT

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SFN-3	Nicholson scrimshaw (Tom Borden No. 1)		NO PRINT
SFN-4	Nicholson scrimshaw (Tom Borden No. 2)		NO PRINT
SFN-5	Nicholson scrimshaw (Tom Borden No. 3)		NO PRINT
SFN-8	Deck of Charles W. Morgan		NO PRINT
SFN-9	Cabin in Charles W. Morgan		NO PRINT
SFN-10	not used or missing negative		
SFN-11	Laura Jernegan (child), portrait		NO PRINT
SFN-12	manuscript pages of the logbook of the General Jackson, 3 negatives		NO PRINTS
SFN-13	manuscript page from logbook of the Ship Courier. Drawing of Ship Galen from Warren, R.I.>		NO PRINT
SFN-14	image of slave ship plans.		NO PRINT
SFN-15	Manuscript page from logbook of the Mathilde Sears.		NO PRINT
LFN-1	Bark A.R. Tucker		7
LFN-2	Bark Andrew Hicks hove down at Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		7
LFN-3	Schooner Bertha Nickerson and Bark Morning Star		7
LFN-4	Cross Rip 5		7
LFN-5	Bark Morning Star from stern		7
LFN-6	Bark Sunbeam at wharf		7
LFN-7	Bark Wanderer wrecked at Cuttyhunk		7
LP-1	Whaling schooner Adelia Chase		8

LP-2	Bark Alice Knowles, deck plan.		8
LP-3	Bark Bertha of New Bedford and Norwich Line's "City of Lawrence" at wharf		8
LP-4	Lumber & coal schooner Burkeland		8
LP-5	Bark California at sea		8
LP-6	Bark Canton of New Bedford	189-	8
LP-7	Ship Charles W Morgan at Round Hills		8
LP-8	Ship Charles W. Morgan at Round Hills		8
LP-9	Ship Charles W. Morgan at Round Hills		8
LP-10	Ship Charles W. Morgan, deck view with sailor		8
LP-11	Charles W. Morgan, stern view		8
LP-12	Coriolanus at wharf		8
LP-13	Coriolanus figurehead		8
LP-14	Bark Desdemona		8
LP-15	Bark Desdemona		8
LP-16	Bark Desdemona and Rousseau		8
LP-17	Desdemona with woman's figurehead and Rousseau near wharf		8
LP-18	Frances A. Barstow		8
LP-19	Frances A. Barstow		8
LP-20	Bark Hercules in left foreground		8
LP-21	Bark Horatio		9
LP-22	Bark Horatio at sea		9
LP-23	Ship James Arnold		9
LP-24	Ship John R. Manta flag		9

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LP-25	Bark Josephine at wharf		9
LP-26	Bark Josephine		9
LP-27	Bark Josephine		9
LP-28	Bark Kathleen, deck		9
LP-29	Ship Lagoda, plan #1		9
LP-30	Ship Lagoda, plan #2		9
LP-31	Ship Lagoda, plan #3		9
LP-32	Brig Leonora, drying sails		9
LP-33	Ship Lenora & Canton on far right		9
LP-34	Unknown rotting hulk at wharf alongside Schooner Maggie Bell of Camden, Maine		9
LP-35	Bark Massachusetts		9
LP-36	Bark Niger		9
LP-37	Bark Norman		9
LP-38	Palmetto at left		9
LP-39	Bark Progress of New Bedford		9
LP-40	Rousseau		9
LP-41	Bark Sunbeam at wharf		10
LP-42	Bark Sunbeam of New Bedford with Captain Higgins on the stern. At wharf repairing the quarter timbers		10
LP-43	Bark Sunbeam		10
LP-44	Steam whaler "Thrasher" of New Bedford		10
LP-45	[#4 V.V.], Men aboard deck of unidentified ship		10
LP-46	Unidentified foreign vessel		10
LP-47	Unidentified English sailing vessel		10

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LP-48	Unidentified vessel #7 at anchor		10
LP-49	Unidentified vessel #8 drying sails at wharf		10
LP-50	Unidentified vessel #9 with deck under water		10
LP-51	Unidentified vessel #10 at wharf with anchors in foreground		10
LP-52	Unidentified vessel #11		10
LP-53	Unidentified vessel #12		10
LP-54	Unidentified vessel #13		10
LP-55	Unidentified vessel #14 on ways		10
LP-56	Unidentified vessel #15, ship at sea. Possibly the Canton		10
LP-57	Unidentified vessel #16, deck view		10
LP-58	Unidentified vessel #17, hauled out with workmen in foreground		10
LP-59	Unidentified vessel #18, with sails drying and casks in foreground		10
LP-60	Unidentified vessel - 19		10
LP-61	Unidentified vessel #20 with crew at rail		11
LP-62	Unidentified vessel #21 mast & rigging		11
LP-63	Unidentified vessel #22 - bark at wharf		11
LP-64	Brig Varnum H. Hill		11
LP-65	Bark Wanderer of New Bedford at wharf at right with Brig Sullivan in middle		11
LP-66	Bark Wanderer, stern view		11
LP-67	Bark Wanderer wrecked at Cuttyhunk Island	1924 August	11
LP-68	Carpenter shop		11
LP-69	Fairhaven shipyard		11
LP-70	Nantucket Lightship at wharf with whaleboat in foreground		11

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LP-71	C.E. Peters, shipsmith & whalecraft manufacturer. Harpoon maker in New Bedford. Building now at Mystic, Conn.		11
LP-72	Merrill Wharf, New Bedford		11
LP-73	Mast & spar yard, Merrill's Wharf, New Bedford		11
LP-74	Montigney shop in Rotch Building in New Bedford		11
LP-75	Montigney shop in New Bedford, interior		11
LP-76	Montigney shop in New Bedford, interior		11
LP-77	New Bedford waterfront		11
LP-78	Boys standing in front of barrels		11
LP-79	New Bedford waterfront		11
LP-80	New Bedford waterfront		11
LP-81	New Bedford waterfront		12
LP-82	New Bedford waterfront		12
LP-83	New Bedford waterfront		12
LP-84	New Bedford waterfront, from the water		12
LP-85	New Bedford waterfront, merchant schooner		12
LP-86	New Bedford waterfront, with fish market		12
LP-87	Whaling, coopers at work		12
LP-88	Cutting in		12
LP-89	Whaling, hauling in baleen		12
LP-90	PRINT MISSING		
LP-91	Scrimshaw		12
LP-92	Scrimshaw		12
LP-93	Scrimshaw		12

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LP-94	Painting of unidentified vessel at sea		12
LP-95	Painting of unidentified vessel at sea		12
LP-96	Unidentified painting of vessels near ice flows		12
LP-97	Unidentified painting of whale hunt		12
LP-98	Painting by C.W. Ashley of New Bedford, Mass. Owned by Mr. E. D. Pouch, Greenwich Conn.		12
LP-99	Illustration of beached whale from the collection of Jan Hohn, Woods Hole, Mass		12
LP-100	Illustration of beached whale from the collection of Jan Hohn, Woods Hole, Mass		12
LP-101	Frances A. Barstow (brig)		12