

1 Box (3 linear inches)

Biographical sketch: Charles Herbert Drew was born in Kingston on May 20, 1853, son of Seth D. and Emily (Robbins) Drew. He married Harriet Holmes of Kingston on July 7, 1879; their children were Clarence R. Drew and Emily F. Drew, the latter being a locally famous historian. He died on May 19, 1937.

According to an obituary in the May 20, 1937 issue of the *Old Colony Memorial*, "He attended the Kingston schools, and when a lad, on account of ill health, made two voyages to sea, one to the Mediterranean and one to South America. He was always interested in yachting, and owned the racing boat 'Major D.' Mr. Drew had always been active in town [Kingston] affairs, and was one of the first members of the Board of Trustees of the Frederic C. Adams Public Library, and for many years was a member of the Board of Water Commissioners of the town. He was a member of the First Parish church, and for years, chairman of the Parish committee, treasurer, and clerk. In 1872 he entered the family firm of C. Drew and Co. retiring in 1925, after more than fifty years of active service in the firm, at which time he was the senior member of the senior firm in Kingston."

Norma Neal, a granddaughter of Charles H. Drew, writes: ". . . Due to being very sickly, the family doctor felt he should take a sea trip in hopes of keeping him alive. The Dr. was Dr. Holmes, a Kingston physician. He started on March 5, 1870, weighing 97 lbs., with all his clothes (heavy winter ones). When he came back on Oct. 6, he weighed still only 115 lbs."

Scope and Content Note: Pair of diaries chronicling the events of two sea voyages; the first to the Mediterranean between March and October, 1870, the second to South America between January and August, 1871. NOTE: the collection consists of photocopies of the diaries rather than the originals.

Ships mentioned in diaries: *Bacchus* (3-22-70), *Beethoven* (9-24-70), *Como* (8-6-70), *Excel* (3-20-70), *Joshua Loring* (9-20-70), *Volunteer* (7-6-70), and *William Bowen* (9-24-70)

Box and Folder List

1. Diary, March – October, 1870
2. Diary, January – August, 1871

Acquisition: Original diaries lent by Howard Neal for photocopying in 1998.

Access: Unrestricted.

Copyright: Public domain

Processor: Volunteer Dot Ellis processed this Collection, while Archivist Andrew Pollock created the finding aid. Archivist Carrie Elliott updated the finding aid in 2004.