

**Barnstable Historical Society Archives  
Captain George Sumner Collection  
MC. 2**



*Captain George Sumner*

**Extent:** One box

**Biographical Note:** George Sumner was born in 1830 aboard a ship sailing between Virginia and New York. He later became a seaman who went to sea at the age of sixteen. He commanded ships such as the *Continental*, *Mississippi*, *Pennsylvania*, *Indiana* and the *Adam M. Simpson*. He was renowned as a sailor which was proven by a daring sea rescue of an American ship, *Sevastopol* in 1868. During the Civil War the *Continental* was chartered to the federal government as a transport vessel. During his federal service he witnessed and wrote (to his wife) about the Draft Act Riots while his ship was docked in New York City. A relative of the Massachusetts Sumner family, he died in 1879.

**Scope and Content Note:** This collection consists mostly of George Sumner's correspondence. Of interest are the letters he wrote to his wife Anna during the Civil War. Also included in this collection are the many thank you notes from passengers, many of which were published in newspapers.

**Creator:** George Sumner (1830-1879)

**Date:** 1857 - 1877

**Access:** Unrestricted; advanced notice is required to study material. Please contact curatorial staff by mail or phone for access. Please credit the Barnstable Historical Society Archives for publication purposes.

**Language:** Material is entirely in English.

**Repository:** Barnstable Historical Society 3074 Main St. (POB 829), 6A, Barnstable,  
MA 02630 508-362-2982

**Processed by:** Stephen Robert Lovell Farrar

**Box# Folder#**

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 1  | George Sumner biographical information  |
|   | 2  | G. Sumner photograph  |
|   | 3  | Correspondence, 1856, 1857, 1860, 1862  |
|   | 4  | Correspondence, 1863 – 1864   |
|   | 5  | Correspondence, 1865 – 1867   |
| 1 | 6  | Correspondence, 1871 – 1873   |
|   | 7  | Correspondence, 1875  |
|   | 8  | Correspondence, 1876  |
|   | 9  | Correspondence, 1877  |
|   | 10 | Correspondence, 1878  |
| 1 | 11 | Correspondence, undated   |
|   | 12 | Ship Master certificates, 1872 – 1874   |
|   | 13 | Disbursement account receipts, 1861 – 1878, with gaps   |
|   | 14 | Note of thanks from passengers, 1866  |
|   | 15 | Note of thanks from passengers, 1872  |
| 1 | 16 | Note of thanks from passengers, 1873  |
|   | 17 | Note of thanks from passengers, 1874  |
|   | 18 | Photocopy of <i>Nautical Gazette</i> July 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1873<br>and article clippings, undated |
|   | 19 | Original copy of <i>Nautical Gazette</i> (same date as above)                                       |
|   | 20 | Article clippings, date unknown; source unknown   |

**Box# Folder#**

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|---|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 21 | Envelopes, undated                |
| 1 | 22 | Poem: "Three Cheers for the Ship" |