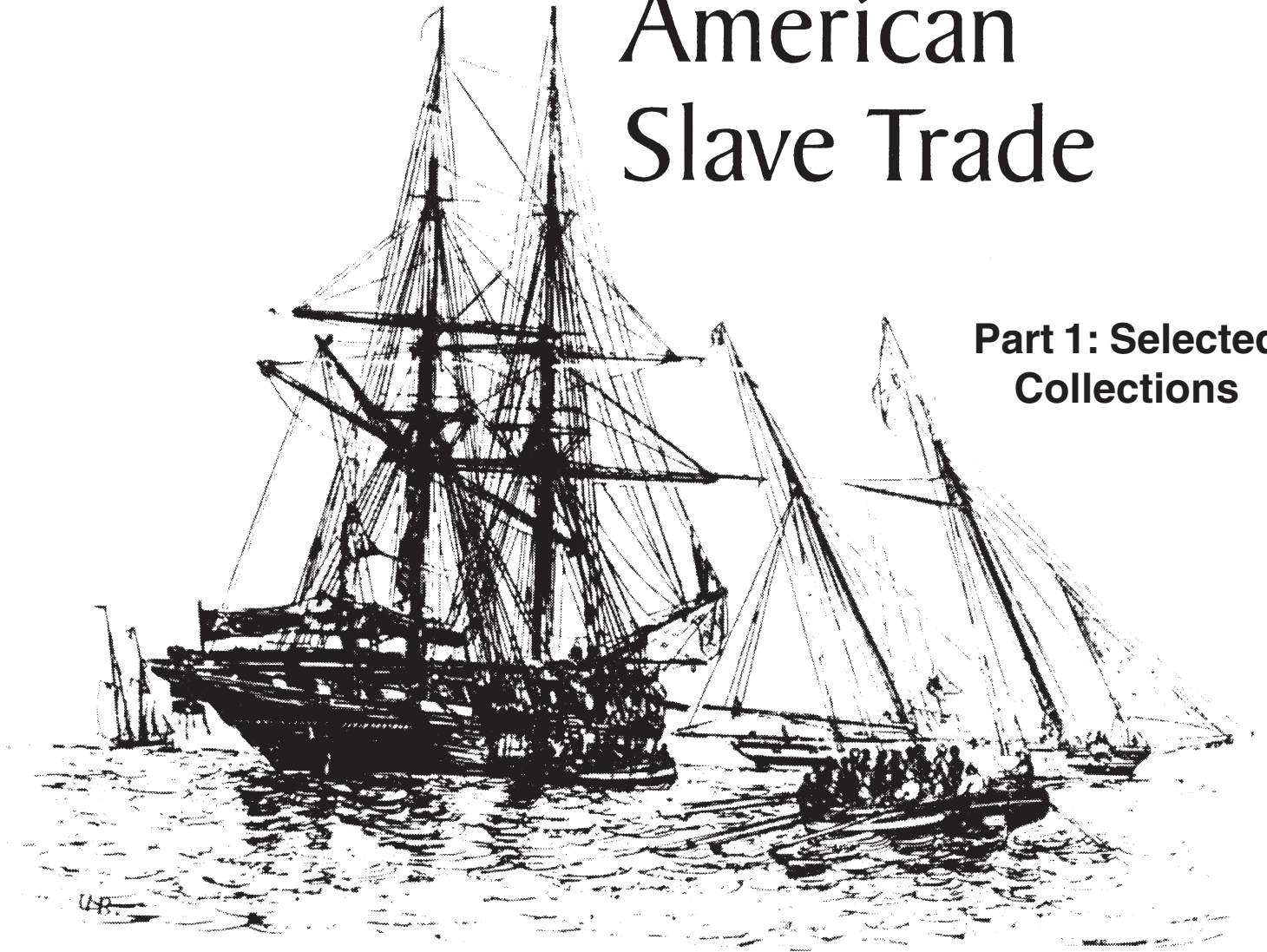


A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

Papers of the American Slave Trade

**Part 1: Selected
Collections**



**Series B: Selections from the
Newport Historical Society**

A UPA Collection

from



LexisNexis™

Cover: Slaver taking captives. Illustration from the Mary Evans Picture Library.

Papers of the American Slave Trade

Series B: Selections from the Newport Historical Society

Part 1: Selected Collections

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A UPA Collection from



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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This edition of *Papers of the American Slave Trade* consists of thirty-four manuscript collections from the holdings of the Newport Historical Society. The collections document Newport's position as one of the most important American seaports in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with a particular focus on Newport's role in the triangular trade. The trading practices of Rhode Island merchants in Africa, conditions on the middle passage, comparative prices of slaves throughout the Caribbean, and efforts to end the slave trade are some of the major aspects of the slave trade covered in these collections. Other topics covered include the American Revolution in Newport and the lives of African Americans in Newport. Documents include correspondence and financial records of leading Newport merchants, shipping manifests, cargo inventories, customs house documents, and insurance records.

As Jay Coughtry has shown in *The Notorious Triangle*, Rhode Island merchants played a central role in the slave trade between Africa and the Americas. He also shows that Rhode Island merchants had different methods than their European counterparts. While European slave traders tended to use larger vessels that could hold upwards of three hundred captives, Newport merchants favored smaller, faster ships. These ships held fewer slaves but generally spent less time in African ports in an attempt to prevent the outbreak of disease among the human cargo. Several collections in this edition include documentation on this style of Newport traders. Correspondence in the Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers (Reel 14, Frame 0577 through Reel 17, Frame 0470) mentions Peleg Clarke's plan during a 1772 journey to Africa to purchase approximately one hundred slaves and then to depart quickly. In the Captain William English collection (Reel 17, Frames 0733 through 0941) there are instructions from ship owner Aaron Lopez warning Captain English not to waste time on the coast of Africa because of the cost involved and the possibility of disease.

Correspondence and financial records in this edition also document conditions on the middle passage between Africa and the Americas. Maintaining the health of the slaves was essential to a profitable voyage, but correspondence and financial records reveal that Newport merchants were not always successful in preventing the outbreak of disease. In a transcript of grand jury testimony from 1791, one witness revealed that on a journey from Africa to the West Indies, a slave became sick with smallpox, and the captain of the ship ordered the slave to be thrown overboard (Reel 28, Frame 0258). Slaves who became sick, however, were not always handled in such a brutal manner. In a March 1769 account, Nathaniel Briggs, master of the brig *Hannah*, reported the sale of 113 slaves in Barbados and expenses for the treatment of a slave with smallpox (Reel 28, Frame 0401).

Another major problem for slave traders on the middle passage was the outbreak of insurrections. In the Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers, letters from Peleg Clarke describe a November 1776 insurrection on the ship *Thames* in which almost all of the 160 slaves on board tried to take over the ship (Reel 15, Frame 0911). In the ensuing chaos, many of these slaves jumped overboard, and while most were rescued from the waters, thirty-three drowned.

Ironically, the Clarke papers also include an October 1775 letter from John Fletcher warning Clarke to be vigilant to prevent such an insurrection.

A third aspect of the slave trade that can be studied via these collections is comparative prices of slaves in the Caribbean and in North America. There are records of sales of slaves in Trinidad; Havana; Antigua; Barbados; Jamaica; Grenada; West Indies; Charleston, South Carolina; and Norfolk, Virginia.

Newport residents not only traded in slaves, they were also among the leaders in the abolitionist movement. The collections in this edition include documentation on these activities. The Slaves Manuscripts collection (Reel 28, Frames 0243 through 0504) includes deeds of manumission and an 1820 petition signed by citizens of Newport opposed to the extension of slavery. An 1819 letter (Reel 38, Frame 0843) from William Wirt, U.S. attorney general, answers a question about the 1794 act prohibiting the slave trade between the United States and foreign countries. The Anti-Slavery Society of Newport collection (Reel 40, Frame 0133) includes the society's constitution and minutes of meetings. The constitution declared the society's mission to be to convince slaveholders voluntarily to emancipate their slaves. Two June 1799 letters in the Gibbs & Channing collection (Reel 10, Frame 0001) note that several vessels had been "libelled" for their participation in the slave trade. The Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport includes an April 8, 1790, letter from George Benson to George Champlin in which Benson wrote of his reasons for joining the abolitionist movement (see Reel 20, Frame 0375). Additional materials on abolitionist activities in Rhode Island can be found in *Papers of the American Slave Trade, Series A: Selections from the Rhode Island Historical Society, Part 1: Brown Family Collections*.

Another topic documented in this edition is the role of Newport merchants in the American Revolution and the effects of the revolution on the city. Several Newport merchants played prominent political roles during the American Revolution. William Ellery signed the Declaration of Independence and was a member of the Continental Congress. His correspondence in the Ellery papers discusses the war, and his letters from Philadelphia report on matters before the Continental Congress. British forces occupied Newport in 1776, and William Vernon, a strong supporter of the revolutionary cause, fled the city. A May 1777 letter in the Vernon Papers mentions his escape from Newport. Other correspondence in the Vernon Papers shows that during the war, William served on the Navy Board coordinating naval operations and shipbuilding for the Continental forces. The Vernon papers also include a letter that mentions British soldiers plundering the town. Other materials pertaining to Newport and the American Revolution can be found in the Colonial Newport Customs House Letters, the Business Letters of Joseph Clarke, the Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport, and the Clarence Stanhope Scrapbook.

Several collections contain material on the lives of African Americans in Newport. Newport Gardner, also known as Occramer Marycoo, came to Newport as a slave but later gained his freedom. This edition includes an 1826 letter from Gardner while in Boston. He later migrated to Liberia. In 1780 Gardner founded the African Union Society. Records of the African Union Society, as well as the African Humane Society and the African Benevolent Society, can be found in the Union Congregational Church collection (Reel 39 and Reel 40). In the Champlin Papers, there are records of wages paid to African Americans for unloading cargo from ships. The Dr. William Hunter Papers include medical records listing the treatment of African Americans. The Slaves Manuscripts collection (Reel 28, Frames 0243 through 0504) includes deeds of manumission, records of wages paid to African Americans, and a letter about a runaway slave who arrived in Newport from Virginia. The John Thurston Indenture collection (Reel 31, Frame 0279) consists of an agreement between Thurston and George Lawrence for Lawrence to train Thurston's slave named Pomp to work in the whaling industry.

Other topics covered in this edition include the insuring of Newport's vessels by the Newport Insurance Company; the activities of the Newport Marine Society, a mutual benefit organization formed by Newport merchants; and the involvement of Newport merchants in the whaling industry.

Related collections microfilmed by LexisNexis include *Papers of the American Slave Trade, Series A: Selections from the Rhode Island Historical Society, Part 1: Brown Family Collections* and *Part 2: Selected Collections*; and *Series B: Selections from the Newport Historical Society, Part 2: Aaron Lopez Collection*.

NOTE ON SOURCES

The manuscript collections reproduced for this edition were microfilmed from the holdings of the Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island. The descriptions of the collections provided in the Reel Index of this guide are adapted from the inventories compiled by the Newport Historical Society.

Maps courtesy of the Library of Congress Maps Division include

“L’Afrique,” Atlas General, by M. Brion, 1782;

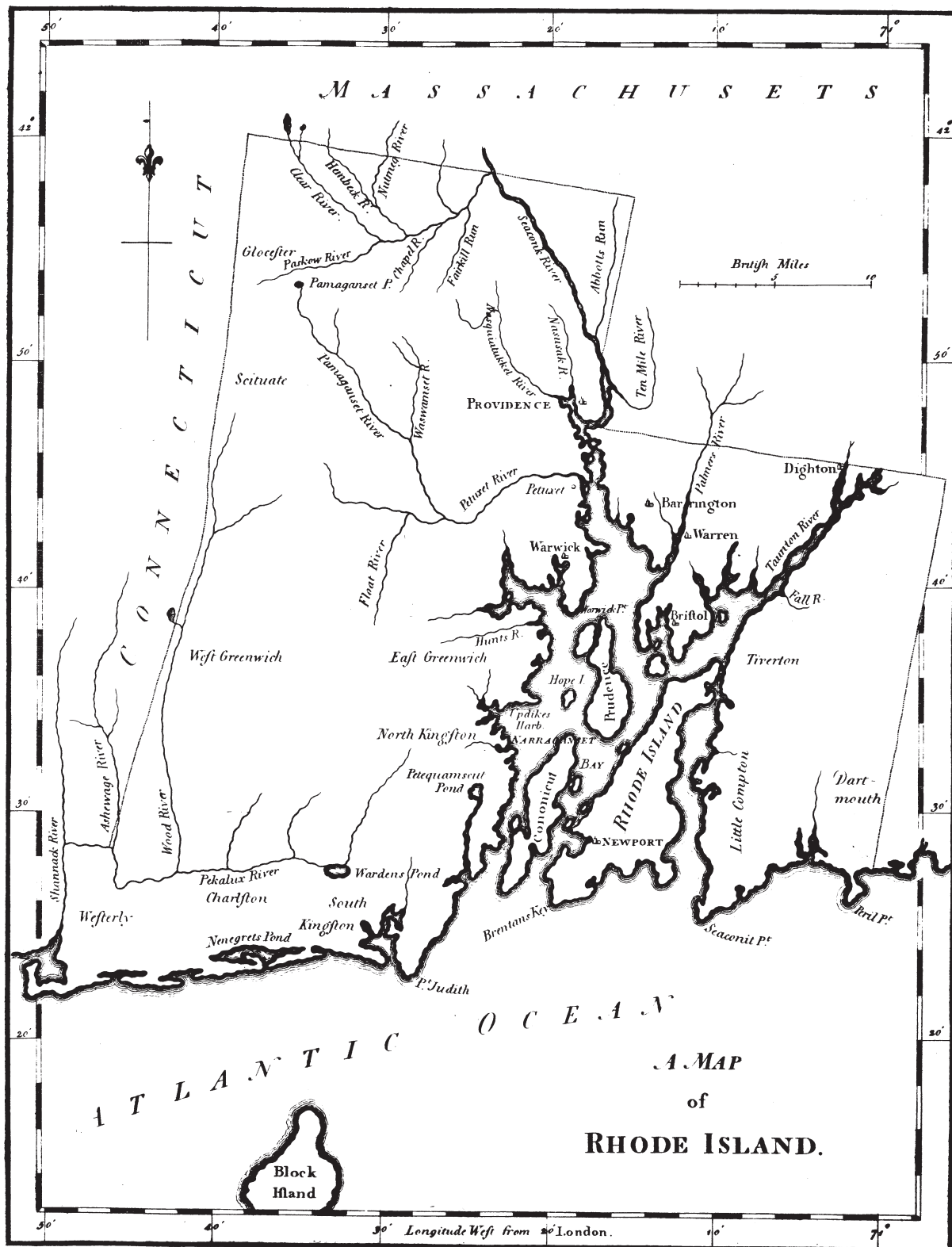
The Guinea Coast about the year 1700, Churchill’s *Collection of Voyages*, by R. W. Seale;

A Map of Rhode Island, by I. Stockdale, 1794;

West Indies, *The North American and West-Indian Gazetteer*, 1776.

EDITORIAL NOTE

All collections selected for this edition have been microfilmed in their entirety. Related collections microfilmed by LexisNexis can be found in *Papers of the American Slave Trade, Series A: Selections from the Rhode Island Historical Society*. LexisNexis has also filmed other collections from the holdings of the Newport Historical Society. These collections can be found in *New England Women and Their Families in the 18th and 19th Centuries: Personal Papers, Letters, and Diaries, Series B: Manuscript Collections from the Newport Historical Society*.





From: The North-American and the West-Indian
gazetteer... London, 1776. p.xxxv.



THE GUINEA COAST ABOUT THE YEAR 1700

From the map in Churchill's Collection of Voyages, engraved by R. W. Seale

REEL INDEX

The following is a listing of the folders and volumes that compose *Papers of the American Slave Trade, Series B: Selections from the Newport Historical Society, Part 1: Selected Collections*. This edition consists of thirty-four manuscript collections. Each of these collections is identified by its title, followed by the date span of the collection. Following the collection title is a brief description of the collection and a folder listing. The four-digit number on the far left is the frame number at which a particular file folder begins. This is followed by file title, the date(s) of the file, and the total number of frames.

Reel 1

Frame No.

Ayrault Papers, 1729–1775

This collection of Ayrault Papers consists of business correspondence and financial records of Newport trader Stephen Ayrault and his brother, Daniel Ayrault. The documents indicate that Ayrault traded in a variety of products including hardware items, pewter, copper, household furnishings, wine, sugar, and clothing. Ayrault dealt with merchants in places such as New York, Boston, Bristol, London, and Jamaica. Among the merchants mentioned in the collection are Aaron Lopez, Abraham Redwood, John Bannister, Vardon & Franklin, Thomas Plumsted & Son, Griffiths & Thomas, Collinson & Pottinger, Lane & Booth, and Peleg Clarke.

- 0002 **Stephen Ayrault's Letters to Friends and Business Associates, 1767–1778.** 57 frames.
- 0059 **Account Book, Stephen Ayrault, 1736–1743.** 165 frames.
- 0224 **Day Book, Stephen Ayrault, [1733–1734].** 53 frames.
- 0277 **Account Book, Stephen Ayrault, 1769–1773.** 122 frames.
- 0399 **Book No. 1, Index of Letters.** 8 frames.
- 0407 **Book No. 1, Vol. 1, Ayrault Letters, [1729–1751].** 162 frames.
- 0569 **Book No. 2, Index of Letters.** 7 frames.
- 0576 **Book No. 2, Vol. 2, Ayrault Letters, [1751–1768].** 177 frames.
- 0753 **Book No. 3, Index of Letters.** 7 frames.
- 0760 **Book No. 3, Vol. 3, Ayrault Letters, [1762–1769].** 163 frames.
- 0923 **Book No. 4, Index of Letters.** 8 frames.
- 0931 **Book No. 4, Vol. 4, Ayrault Letters, [1736–1775].** 136 frames.

Reel 2

Ayrault Papers, 1729–1775 cont.

- 0002 **Business Letters & Accounts, 1729–1775.** 219 frames.
0221 **Stephen Ayrault, Miscellaneous Documents, [1748–1773 and Undated].** 41 frames.
0262 **Oliver Warner, Sloop *Union* (Vernon Papers), 1754.** 6 frames.

Henry Bonnin Letter, 1736

This collection consists of one letter from Henry Bonnin in Antigua to the merchants Goulding & Scott. Bonnin mentions weather conditions in Antigua, sugar prices, and comments on the slow sales of slaves.

- 0268 **Henry Bonnin Letter, 1736.** 3 frames.

Brig [*Marygold*], 1733

This small collection consists of financial records between the owners of the Brig *Marygold* and Henry Bonnin. The ship was owned by George Goulding, Peter Bours, and George Scott, and its master was Thomas Teakle Taylor. One record includes the price for the sale of 127 slaves in Antigua. Other records indicate that the *Marygold* also carried rum and sugar cargos.

- 0271 **Brig *Marygold*, Thomas Teakle Taylor (Master), 1733.** 11 frames.

Bristol Ship Log, 1818–1825

This collection consists of financial accounts for ships departing from Bristol, Rhode Island. Records indicate voyages to Africa by the ship *Rolla* and a voyage to Trinidad by the ship *Merino*. Commodities mentioned include tobacco, molasses, and food. Other accounts cover repairs to ships and wages paid to seamen.

- 0282 **Bristol Ship Log, 1818–1825.** 70 frames.

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805

The Champlin Papers consist of correspondence and account books of Christopher Champlin, George Champlin, and Christopher Grant Champlin. Many letters document the Champlins' involvement in the slave trade. Several letters include detailed instructions to the masters of Champlin-owned ships about how and where to sell their slave cargos. Other letters mention the prices for slaves. Documents indicate that Champlin-owned vessels went to Africa, Jamaica, Suriname, Barbados, London, Copenhagen, Rotterdam, and Antwerp, as well as New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. In addition to slaves, the Champlins traded in tobacco, sugar, tea, rum, food, and clothing. A September 1776 letter from Samuel Sanford indicates that the Champlins were involved in privateering during the American Revolution (Reel 8, Frame 0001). There are also records of wages paid to seamen and to African American laborers for unloading cargo.

- 0352 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1788–1792. 135 frames.
- 0487 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1774–1781. 93 frames.
- 0580 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1804–1805. 44 frames.
- 0624 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1799–1804. 128 frames.

Reel 3

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0002 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1781–1785. 87 frames.
- 0089 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1786–1788. 99 frames.
- 0188 Letter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1792–1799. 179 frames.
- 0367 Champlin Ships Accounts, 1801–1804. 69 frames.
- 0436 Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1771–1774. 221 frames.
- 0657 Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1774–1781. 180 frames.

Reel 4

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1785–1787. 188 frames.
- 0189 Invoice Book, Christopher Champlin, [1756–1769]. 60 frames.
- 0249 Christopher Champlin, Journal B to Ledger A, 1786–1790. 317 frames.
- 0566 Christopher Champlin, Journal C to Ledger A, 1790–1803. 244 frames.

Reel 5

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 Waste Book, Christopher Champlin, 1764–1776. 243 frames.
- 0244 Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1774–1775. 45 frames.
- 0289 Memorandum Book, Christopher Champlin, 1773–1774. 138 frames.
- 0427 Invoice Book, 1733–1783. 83 frames.
- 0510 Receipt Book, Christopher Champlin, 1770–1775. 15 frames.
- 0525 Blotter Book, Christopher Champlin, 1772. 91 frames.
- 0616 Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1779–1783. 37 frames.
- 0653 Account Book, Christopher Champlin, 1792–1803. 268 frames.

Reel 6

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 **Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1789–1792.** 195 frames.
- 0196 **Memorandum Book, Christopher Champlin, 1756.** 21 frames.
- 0217 **Journal and Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1780–1786.** 142 frames.
- 0359 **Day Book, Christopher Champlin, 1780–1786.** 109 frames.
- 0468 **Account Book, Christopher Champlin, 1790–1799.** 72 frames.
- 0540 **Account Book, Christopher Champlin, 1769–1774.** 135 frames.

Reel 7

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 **Petty Ledger, Christopher Champlin, 1765–1769.** 137 frames.
- 0138 **Ledger, Christopher Champlin, 1803.** 30 frames.
- 0168 **Ledger, Christopher Champlin, 1781–1795.** 271 frames.
- 0439 **Invoice Book, Christopher Champlin, 1772.** 11 frames.
- 0450 **Champlin, Index, Ledger B.** 19 frames.
- 0469 **Account Book, Christopher Grant Champlin, 1803–1804.** 73 frames.
- 0542 **Account Book, George Champlin, 1772–1773.** 94 frames.
- 0636 **Invoice Book, Champlin, 1772–1773.** 10 frames.
- 0646 **Champlin Letters, 1758–1773.** 218 frames.

Reel 8

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 **Champlin Letters and Vernon Letters, 1743–1777.** 203 frames.
- 0204 **Champlin Letters and Papers, 1773–1775.** 213 frames.
- 0417 **Champlin Letters and Vernon Letters, 1778–1802.** 234 frames.
- 0651 **Champlin Letters and Papers, 1785–1791.** 195 frames.
- 0846 **Christopher Champlin, 1768–1794.** 26 frames.
- 0872 **Champlin Family, 1796–1829.** 169 frames.

Reel 9

Champlin Papers, 1733–1805 cont.

- 0001 **Champlin Family, 1795–1808.** 123 frames.

Gibbs & Channing Account Books and Letterbooks, 1742–1811

This collection consists of the financial records and correspondence of the mercantile firm Gibbs & Channing. Most of the materials cover the firm's involvement in the trade of molasses, tea, sugar, rice, and other commodities. Several documents pertain to the slave trade. Two letters, for example, dated June 29, 1799, from Gibbs & Channing to Captain James Perry and Captain Robert M. Ambrose advise these men that several vessels were recently "libelled" for their involvement in the slave trade and that these men should sell their vessels in Havana, Cuba (Reel 10, Frame 0001). Gibbs & Channing conducted business with Minturn & Champlin, Payson & Smith, John Cahoone, Audley Clarke, Peleg Clarke, Fleet Greene, Caleb Gardner, William Redwood, John Parker, Joseph Barker, John Thurston, Hugh Pollock, Brown & Ives, Samuel Vernon, and William Vernon.

- 0124 **Day Book, William Channing, 1770.** 31 frames.
- 0155 **Day Book, John Channing, 1742–1749.** 121 frames.
- 0276 **Ledger, John Channing, 1745–1749.** 166 frames.
- 0442 **Day Book, William Channing, 1791–1798.** 27 frames.
- 0469 **Lawyer Letters, William Channing, 1745–1792.** 88 frames.
- 0557 **Ledger, Channing Family and Henry Cruger, 1771–1806.** 100 frames.
- 0657 **Letter Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1796–1799.** 280 frames.

Reel 10

Gibbs & Channing Account Books and Letterbooks, 1742–1811 cont.

- 0001 **Letter Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1799–1801.** 300 frames.
- 0301 **Letter Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1801–1804.** 284 frames.
- 0585 **Letter Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1803–1811.** 190 frames.

Reel 11

Gibbs & Channing Account Books and Letterbooks, 1742–1811 cont.

- 0001 **Letter Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1804–1811.** 273 frames.
- 0274 **Account Book, George Gibbs, 1796–1806.** 37 frames.
- 0311 **Journal Day Book, George Gibbs "Baker," 1754–1759.** 166 frames.
- 0477 **Account Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1806.** 47 frames.
- 0524 **Account Book, Gibbs & Channing, 1800–1805.** 29 frames.
- 0553 **Channing Family, 1743–1793.** 269 frames.
- 0822 **Channing Family, [1790–1792].** 137 frames.

Reel 12

Gibbs & Channing Account Books and Letterbooks, 1742–1811 cont.

- 0001 **Estate of William Channing, 1784.** 51 frames.
- 0052 **Channing Family and Henry Cruger, Ledger Accounts, 1771–1806.** 95 frames.
- 0147 **Lawyer Letters of William Channing, 1745–1792.** 93 frames.
- 0240 **Shipping Papers, [1801–1810].** 33 frames.

John Collins Letter from Joseph Maria Chacon, 1787

This collection consists of a May 20, 1787, letter from Joseph Maria Chacon to John Collins regarding the sale of slaves in Trinidad.

- 0273 **Correspondence, 1787.** 4 frames.

Colonial Newport Customs House Letters, 1767–1775

The Colonial Newport Customs House Letters collection documents the administration of the Newport customs house between 1767 and 1794. Many of the letters mention attempts to smuggle sugar, molasses, tea, and other cargos without paying the appropriate customs duties. A November 1774 letter mentions popular opposition to customs duties (Reel 12, Frame 0277). A February 1775 letter includes a warning for customs house officers to be aware of attempts to smuggle in military supplies (Reel 12, Frame 0400). A July 1768 letter describes a ship trading slaves in the West Indies (Reel 12, Frame 0277).

- 0277 **Boston Office Letters, 1767–1775.** 123 frames.
- 0400 **Book Two, [1767–1794].** 139 frames.

Ellery Papers, 1700–1826

The major figure in the Ellery Papers is William Ellery, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Continental Congress, and, after the American Revolution, the first collector of customs for Newport. William Ellery's correspondence covers the progress of the American Revolution, and letters from Philadelphia report on matters before the Continental Congress. Other Ellery family members documented in the collection include Benjamin Ellery, George Ellery, Christopher Ellery, Mary Vernon Ellery, and Christopher Ellery Jr. The Ellery Papers include payment of wages to African American workers, and a 1732 document shows the purchase of a slave for two hundred dollars (Reel 13, Frame 0036).

- 0539 **Account Book, Captain Benjamin Ellery, 1708–1711.** 95 frames.
- 0634 **Day Book, Ellery Family, 1792–1793.** 19 frames.
- 0653 **Day Book, Benjamin Ellery, 1797.** 10 frames.

Reel 13

Ellery Papers, 1700–1826 cont.

- 0001 Letter Book, William Ellery, 1743–1759. 35 frames.
- 0036 Ledger Book, William Ellery, 1727–1763. 150 frames.
- 0186 Ledger Book, William Ellery, 1763–1767. 35 frames.
- 0221 Journal, William Ellery, 1754. 53 frames.
- 0274 Day Book, William Ellery, 1725–1728. 186 frames.
- 0460 Ellery Family, 1748–1820. 99 frames.
- 0559 Ellery Family, 1782–1813. 12 frames.
- 0571 Ellery Family, 1798–1827. 18 frames.
- 0589 Ellery Family, 1700–1812. 132 frames.
- 0721 Ellery Family, 1760–1826. 226 frames.
- 0947 Ellery Family, 1767–1868. 54 frames.

Reel 14

Ellery Papers, 1700–1826 cont.

- 0001 William Ellery and Samuel Huntington, 1777–1809. 31 frames.
- 0032 William Ellery Letters, [1780–1781]. 31 frames.
- 0063 Mary Gould Almy Letters, [Undated]. 28 frames.
- 0091 William Ellery, 1765 and 1810. 7 frames.
- 0098 William Redwood to William Ellery, 1773–1775. 32 frames.
- 0130 Benjamin Ellery (from Vernon Papers), 1778–1780. 15 frames.
- 0145 Ellery Family—Christopher Ellery Jr. (from Vernon Papers), 1783–1793. 51 frames.
- 0196 Christopher Ellery and Mary [Vernon] Ellery (from Vernon Papers), 1765–1789. 137 frames.
- 0333 William Ellery (from Vernon Papers), 1776–1785. 38 frames.
- 0371 Ellery Estate, 1791–1796. 200 frames.

Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers, 1771–1850

The correspondence and financial records of Audley Clarke and Peleg Clarke document many aspects of the Clarkes' shipping interests and their role in the transatlantic slave trade. Letters from 1776 and 1777 by Peleg Clarke, master of the ship *Thames*, describe a slave insurrection while the *Thames* was docked at Cape Coast Castle on the African coast. The correspondence relating to this insurrection actually began with an October 1775 letter from John Fletcher warning Clarke "to be very carefull in keeping a good look out and watchfull of your Negroes to prevent insurrections" (Reel 15, Frame 0911). In November and December 1776, however, Clarke wrote that he had been unable to prevent such an incident. According to Clarke's correspondence, on November 8, the 160 slaves on board the *Thames* were released from their deck chains so that they could be washed. At that time, some of the slaves attempted to take control of the ship. When the crew responded to the revolt, almost all of the slaves on

board jumped overboard. Many were rescued from the water, but thirty-three slaves drowned. Letters from Clarke after the incident discuss the financial repercussions of the insurrection (Reel 15, Frame 0911).

Other materials in this collection further document the Clarkes' participation in the slave trade. A list of provisions for a voyage to Africa, for example, offers an indication of conditions on the middle passage. The provisions included six swivel guns and 150 handcuffs, shackles, and chains (Reel 16, Frame 0001). In letters from Africa, Peleg Clarke wrote in October 1772 that, after a two-month journey, he had arrived in Africa and sold twenty hogsheads of rum and hoped to purchase approximately one hundred slaves quickly and then depart. By November, however, Clarke wrote that due to a scarcity of available slaves, he had collected only forty slaves but hoped to leave by the end of the month (Reel 16, Frame 0001).

Beyond the trade in slaves, documents in this collection show that the Clarkes also traded rum, tea, cotton, molasses, and sugar. In addition, records show the Clarkes' involvement in the whaling industry in the 1830s.

0571 **Day Book, Audley Clarke, 1805–1814.** 232 frames.

0803 **Day Book, Audley Clarke, 1814–1840.** 232 frames.

Reel 15

Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers, 1771–1850 cont.

0001 **Ledger Book, Audley Clarke, 1802–1817.** 183 frames.

0184 **Ledger Book, Audley Clarke and C. Fowler, 1808–1843.** 132 frames.

0316 **Ledger C, Audley Clarke, 1817–1843.** 205 frames.

0521 **Ledger Book, Audley Clarke and Caleb Fowler, 1808–1843.** 84 frames.

0605 **Account Book, Audley Clarke, 1844–1846 and Peleg Clarke, 1845–1847.** 84 frames.

0689 **Account Book, Peleg Clarke, 1794–1797 and 1839–1845.** 87 frames.

0776 **Account Book, Peleg Clarke, [1769 and Undated].** 135 frames.

0911 **Peleg Clarke Letters, 1774–1782.** 86 frames.

Reel 16

Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers, 1771–1850 cont.

0001 **Letter Book, Peleg Clarke, 1771–1774.** 38 frames.

0039 **Log Book, Ship *Audley Clarke*, 1840–1844.** 112 frames.

0151 **Accounts with the Crew of Whale Ship *Audley Clarke*, 1833.** 97 frames.

0248 **Audley Clarke, Ship Book, 1800–1808.** 46 frames.

0294 **Audley Clarke, Ship Book, 1800–1825.** 43 frames.

0337 **Account Book, Peleg Clarke, 1837–1840.** 49 frames.

0386 **Ship *Audley Clarke*, Henry Griswold, Master, 1840–1848.** 65 frames.

0451 **Account Book, Ship *Audley Clarke* by Peleg Clarke, 1833–1834.** 43 frames.

0494 **Log Book, Whaler *Audley Clarke*, 1834–1836.** 73 frames.

- 0567 **Log Book, Voyage of Ship *Audley Clarke* to the Gold Coast by John H. Cox, [1849].**
81 frames.
- 0648 **Log Book, Ship *John Coggeshall*, 1831–1839.** 172 frames.

Reel 17

Audley Clarke Ship Books and Peleg Clarke Papers, 1771–1850 cont.

- 0001 **Log Book, Ship *John Coggeshall* by Seth Macey, 1843–1847.** 102 frames.
- 0103 **Ship *John Coggeshall*, Account Book of Peleg Clarke, 1835–1839.** 39 frames.
- 0142 **Ship *John Coggeshall*, Account Book of Peleg Clarke, 1831–1839.** 72 frames.
- 0214 **Ship *John Coggeshall*, Account Book of Peleg Clarke, 1839–1847.** 72 frames.
- 0286 **Invoice Book, Peleg Clarke, 1783–1784.** 80 frames.
- 0366 **Captain Henry Griswold, Master of Ship *Audley Clarke*, 1849.** 105 frames.

William Eng, Journal of the Winds and Weather at Rhode Island, 1786–1800

This collection consists of two volumes listing the wind and weather conditions and the names of ships arriving in and leaving Rhode Island between 1786 and 1800.

- 0471 **1786–1789.** 59 frames.
- 0530 **1789–1800.** 203 frames.

Captain William English Sloop *Mary* and Brig *Ann*, ca. 1760–1780

William English captained the sloop *Mary* and the brig *Ann*, both owned by Aaron Lopez, on voyages to Africa to purchase slaves. In a November 1772 letter (Reel 17, Frame 0733), for a voyage to be made on the brig *Ann*, Lopez warned English not to waste time on the coast of Africa because of the cost involved and the possibility of disease spreading among the slaves. A May 1770 letter (Reel 17, Frame 0733) from Lopez to English contains instructions for a voyage to Africa by the sloop *Mary*. Following Lopez's letter is the bill of lading for this journey listing the cargo of the ship. Also included is a portage bill for wages to be paid to the crew of the *Ann* for a 1774 journey to Africa, the West Indies, and back to Rhode Island. Financial records for the *Ann* include an account of the sale of slaves in Kingston, Jamaica, in December 1773 (Reel 17, Frame 0733). Other documents cover conditions in the African port of Anomabu, sickness among slaves in Jamaica, and the market for slaves in Norfolk, Virginia.

- 0733 **Captain William English, Brig *Ann*, Voyage to Africa, [1760–1780].** 206 frames.
- 0939 **Captain William English Instructions, 1773.** 3 frames.

Newport Gardner Letter, 1826

This collection consists of an 1826 letter from Newport Gardner in Boston to Samuel W. Vinson in Newport. Newport Gardner, also known as Occramer Marycoo, came to Newport as a slave but later gained his freedom. In 1780 he founded the African Union Society, and in 1826 he migrated to Liberia. Other records pertaining to the African Union Society and Newport Gardner can be found in the Union Congregational Church collection on Reels 39 and 40. In addition, a reference to Newport Gardner

Frame No.

appears in the Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport (Reel 19, Frame 0001).

0942 **Newport Gardner Letter, 1826.** 3 frames.

[Quam Hall] Store Blotter, 1769

This records book from a Newport store contains accounts with customers and shows sales of products such as tea, chocolate, rum, molasses, other foods, and clothing.

0945 **[Quam Hall] Store Blotter, 1769.** 95 frames.

Reel 18

Dr. William Hunter Papers, 1761–1837

The Dr. William Hunter Papers consist of the correspondence, medical records, and financial records of William Hunter. Medical records include the treatment of African American patients and treatment for venereal disease. A January 1762 letter mentions that many merchants had made large sums of money in the slave trade.

0001 **Dr. William Hunter Papers, 1761–1837.** 42 frames.

George Lawton Account, [1808]

This collection consists of one item that records the sale of four slaves and sales of sugar in Havana, Cuba.

0043 **George Lawton Account, [1808].** 3 frames.

Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport, [1884 and 1901]

This collection consists of materials documenting the history of Newport, including the participation of Newport merchants in the slave trade. Among the topics covered are relations between Rhode Island colonists and the Narragansett Indians, the Sugar Act of 1765, military operations in Rhode Island during the American Revolution, early Newport newspapers and printers, and the quasi-war with France. Regarding the slave trade, there is a 1736 letter (Reel 18, Frame 0447) from John Cahoone in Anomabu, Africa, to Daniel Ayrault, reporting that he had purchased twenty-seven slaves but that slaves were in low supply due to the high amount of ships passing through. Cahoone also informed Ayrault that he had to bury his chief mate and that he lost two men overboard on the journey across the Atlantic. An August 1755 letter (Reel 18, Frame 0447) from Philip Wilkinson and Daniel Ayrault instructs David Lindsay, captain of the schooner *Sierra Leone*, to exchange his cargo in Africa for gold and slaves and then to proceed to the Caribbean to sell the slaves. In an April 8, 1790, letter (Reel 20, Frame 0375) from George Benson to George Champlin, Benson writes of his reasons for joining the abolitionist movement. Merchants covered in the collection include William Ellery, Aaron Lopez, Gibbs & Channing, William Vernon, Christopher Grant Champlin, and Christopher Champlin.

- 0046 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 1, [1884 and 1901].**
401 frames.
- 0447 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 2, [1884 and 1901].**
465 frames.

Reel 19

Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport, [1884 and 1901] cont.

- 0001 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 3, [1884 and 1901].**
373 frames.
- 0374 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 4, [1884 and 1901].**
414 frames.

Reel 20

Extra Illustrated Copy of George Mason's Reminiscences of Newport, [1884 and 1901] cont.

- 0001 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 5, [1884 and 1901].**
374 frames.
- 0375 **Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, Volume 6, [1884 and 1901].**
281 frames.

Newport Insurance Company Papers, 1788–1835

This collection consists of correspondence, insurance policies, and financial records of the Newport Insurance Company. The insurance policies record the name of the ship, the terms of the insurance agreement, and the destination of the ship. The collection includes policies for ships traveling to Africa, Bermuda, Havana, West Indies, New Orleans, Savannah, and North Carolina. Letters in the collection include a November 1801 letter (Reel 20, Frame 0656) to President Thomas Jefferson regarding spoliations ships flying the Spanish flag, and a December 1805 letter to Secretary of State James Madison on the capture of U.S. vessels by British ships (Reel 20, Frame 0656).

- 0656 **Newport Insurance Company [Correspondence], 1797–1833.** 129 frames.

Reel 21

Newport Insurance Company Papers, 1788–1835 cont.

- 0001 **Record of Policies from No. 473 to No. 661, 1820–1822.** 214 frames.
- 0215 **Ledger of the Newport Insurance Company, 1799.** 189 frames.
- 0404 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 828 to No. 1128, 1802–1804.** 162 frames.
- 0566 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 352 to No. 539, 1800–1801.** 96 frames.
- 0662 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 1129 to No. 1419, 1804–1805.** 152 frames.

Reel 22

Newport Insurance Company Papers, 1788–1835 cont.

- 0001 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 1420 to No. 1697, 1805–1807.** 141 frames.
- 0142 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 116 to No. 351, 1799–1800.** 122 frames.
- 0264 **Ledger of the Newport Insurance Company, 1809–1817.** 85 frames.
- 0349 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 1979 to No. 2228, 1810–1812.** 97 frames.
- 0446 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 1698 to No. 1976, 1807–1810.** 142 frames.
- 0588 **Newport Insurance Company Policies No. 540 to No. 827, 1801–1802.** 142 frames.

Reel 23

Newport Marine Society Papers, 1752–1891

Several of Newport's prominent merchants formed the Newport Marine Society, also known as the Fellowship Club, as a mutual benefit organization. The rules of the society stated that after returning from a voyage, members were to share their observations about conditions at sea with the other members of the society. Documents include minutes of meetings, financial records, votes taken at meetings, petitions from family members for financial relief, and lists of members. Members of the society included Henry Hudson, William Price, George Vaughn, Daniel Burdick, James Barker, William Taylor, Peleg Clarke, Robert Lawton, Caleb Gardner, Robert Robinson, Benjamin Hicks, Peleg Wood, George Champlin, William Eng, John Dennis, John Cahoon, Benjamin Cozzens, John Dennis, and Isaac Burdick.

- 0002 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1773–1775.** 75 frames.
- 0077 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1807–1886.** 127 frames.
- 0204 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1753–1773.** 182 frames.
- 0386 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1809–1820.** 22 frames.
- 0408 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1773–1807.** 203 frames.
- 0611 **Journal of the Newport Marine Society, 1772–1828.** 141 frames.
- 0752 **Journal of the Newport Marine Society, 1755–1771.** 68 frames.

Reel 24

Newport Marine Society Papers, 1752–1891 cont.

- 0001 **Minute Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1793–1808.** 87 frames.
- 0088 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1796–1847.** 65 frames.
- 0153 **Journal of the Newport Marine Society, 1799–1859.** 174 frames.
- 0327 **Journal of the Newport Marine Society, 1860–1891.** 89 frames.
- 0416 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1753–1805.** 59 frames.
- 0475 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1857–1887.** 55 frames.
- 0530 **Account Book of the Newport Marine Society, 1806–1850.** 90 frames.
- 0620 **Newport Marine Society Index of Names, [Undated].** 12 frames.

- 0632 **Newport Marine Society (Fellowship Club) Minutes, 1752–1754.** 11 frames.
- 0643 **Newport Marine Society Minutes, 1775–1778.** 31 frames.
- 0674 **Newport Marine Society Minutes, 1787–1792.** 29 frames.
- 0703 **Newport Marine Society Minutes, 1811–1824.** 46 frames.
- 0749 **Newport Marine Society, Miscellaneous Documents, 1787–1878 and Undated.** 11 frames.
- 0760 **Newport Marine Society, Miscellaneous Documents, [1796–1884].** 11 frames.
- 0771 **Newport Marine Society, Certificates, [1826–1859].** 6 frames.

Reel 25

[Newport Insurance Company Papers, 1788–1835 cont.]

- 0001 **Newport Insurance Company, Charter and Office Book, 1799–1800.** 15 frames.
- 0016 **Newport Insurance Company, Papers, [1806–1809].** 9 frames.
- 0025 **Newport Insurance Company, Miscellaneous Documents, [1802, 1826, and 1883].** 13 frames.
- 0038 **Brig *Rising Sun*, James R. Dockray, Master from Rotterdam to Newport, [1774–1824].**
68 frames.

Newport Marine Society Papers, 1752–1891 cont.

- 0106 **Newport Marine Society, Papers, 1791–1871.** 57 frames.

Redwood Papers and Miscellaneous Letter, 1723–1774

Newport merchant Abraham Redwood also owned a plantation on the Caribbean island of Antigua, and this collection of Redwood papers primarily consists of correspondence and financial records pertaining to the Antigua plantation. Letters from the managers of Redwood's plantation inform Redwood of the labor performed on the plantation, crop production, diseases striking the crops, and weather conditions. The managers of Redwood's plantation also wrote about their efforts to purchase additional slaves and the health of Redwood's labor force. The collection includes several lists of the slaves owned by Redwood.

- 0163 **Index of Letters to Abraham Redwood.** 8 frames.
- 0171 **Book No. 644, Vol. 1, 1723–1740.** 153 frames.
- 0324 **Book No. 645, Vol. 2, Index of Letters.** 8 frames.
- 0332 **Book No. 645, Vol. 2, 1740–1749.** 143 frames.
- 0475 **Book No. 646, Vol. 3, Index of Letters.** 6 frames.
- 0481 **Book No. 646, Vol. 3, 1749–1756.** 168 frames.
- 0649 **Book No. 647, Vol. 4, Index of Letters.** 8 frames.
- 0657 **Book No. 657, Vol. 4, 1757–1773.** 212 frames.
- 0869 **Abraham Redwood to Walter Nugent: Lease for Property in Antigua, 1732.** 4 frames.

Reel 26

Redwood Papers and Miscellaneous Letter, 1723–1774 cont.

- 0001 **William Redwood Letterbook, 1787–1812.** 84 frames.
- 0085 **Abraham Redwood, Letters Concerning the Plantation at Antigua, 1726–1755.** 156 frames.
- 0241 **Abraham Redwood, [Financial Records and Correspondence], 1755–1789.** 164 frames.
- 0405 **[Abraham Redwood and William Redwood], Business Letters, 1744–1781.** 35 frames.
- 0440 **Ship *Abraham & Jonah*, Abraham Redwood (owner), 1731–1733.** 7 frames.
- 0447 **Abraham Redwood, [Correspondence], 1730–1743.** 158 frames.
- 0605 **Abraham Redwood, Notes of David King, [1880].** 6 frames.
- 0611 **Abraham Redwood, [Financial Records and Correspondence], 1729–1760.** 63 frames.

Business Letters, Joseph Clarke, 1763–1779

The Business Letters of Joseph Clarke indicate Clarke's involvement in the settlement of loans and estates. In a 1775 letter from Bermuda, Clarke's cousin, Henry Bull, asks Clarke for help regarding his parents' estate. This collection includes a letter from Clarke to his children in which Clarke describes some of his philosophical and religious beliefs. A 1773 letter informs Clarke that the people of Philadelphia were "a little agitated" because of "the Tea" and that a meeting was scheduled for residents to voice their opinions. An October 1772 letter from Clarke's nephew, Lewis Latham Clarke, describes conditions at sea, including the death of several men after a boat collided with a whale.

- 0674 **Business Letters, Joseph Clarke, 1763–1779.** 20 frames.

Godfrey & John Malbone to Trecothick & Tomlinson, July 28, 1764

This collection consists of a July 1764 letter from Newport merchants Godfrey & John Malbone to London merchants Trecothick & Tomlinson. The Malbones inform Trecothick & Tomlinson that they plan to pay off their debt to Trecothick & Tomlinson by converting a molasses shipment into rum, shipping the rum to Africa and trading it for slaves, selling the slaves in the West Indies, and then remitting the profits from the sale of slaves to Trecothick & Tomlinson.

- 0694 **Godfrey & John Malbone to Trecothick & Tomlinson, July 28, 1764.** 4 frames.

Shipping Papers, 1740–1790

This miscellaneous collection contains customs house records, insurance papers, contracts for wages to be paid to seamen, and reports on damage to vessels.

- 0698 **Receipts, Promissory Notes, and Bills, 1723–1877.** 40 frames.
- 0738 **Shipping Insurance, 1753–1859.** 25 frames.
- 0763 **Custom House, Oaths, Manifests for Port Authority, 1738–1897.** 66 frames.
- 0829 **Proof of Citizenship, 1840–1850.** 4 frames.
- 0833 **Legal Papers, 1739–1897.** 65 frames.

Reel 27

Shipping Papers, 1740–1790 cont.

- 0001 **Correspondence and Memoranda, 1740–1909.** 45 frames.
- 0046 **[Protests, Warrants of Survey, and Surveyor's Reports of Damages to Ships, 1848–1862].** 555 frames.
- 0601 **Miscellaneous [Financial Records], 1740–1769.** 52 frames.
- 0653 **Bills of Lading, 1732–1830.** 23 frames.
- 0676 **Cargo Inventories, Invoices, and Sales Accounts, 1727–1800.** 120 frames.
- 0796 **Miscellaneous, 1770–1850.** 170 frames.

Reel 28

Ships Accounts, 1754–1764

This collection consists of brief financial records listing the names and cargos of many ships. Among the ships listed are *Amazoon*, *Dolphin*, *Pelican*, *Polly*, *Mary*, *Humbird*, *Defiance*, *Rising Sun*, *Venus*, *Endeavor*, *Othello*, *Nancy*, and *Pegasus*.

- 0001 **Ships Accounts, 1754–1764.** 40 frames.

Ships Papers, [1732–1769]

This brief collection contains contracts and portage bills for wages to be paid to seamen, as well as records of cargo carried by the ships. Among the destinations mentioned in the collection are Africa, Honduras, Newfoundland, Amsterdam, Jamaica, and Antigua.

- 0041 **Brig *Charlotte*, Thomas Brown, Master, 1766.** 12 frames.
- 0053 **Sloop *Betsy*, 1765.** 7 frames.
- 0060 **Ship *Cleopatra*, Portage Bill, 1768.** 6 frames.
- 0066 **Brig *Apollo*, 1765–1768.** 14 frames.
- 0080 **Sloop *Venus*, 1769.** 11 frames.
- 0091 **Brig *Polly*, 1763.** 5 frames.
- 0096 **Brig *Sally*, 1767.** 11 frames.
- 0107 **Brig [*Marygold*], Thomas Teackle Taylor, Master, 1733.** 6 frames.
- 0113 **Ship *Vernon Galley*, 1746.** 2 frames.
- 0115 **Sloop *Recruit*, Henry Taggart, Master, 1743.** 10 frames.
- 0125 **The Hylton Sloop *Lydia*, John Easton, Master, 1748.** 6 frames.
- 0131 **Leghorn Galley *Prince of Orange*, Clement Stanton, Master, 1739.** 7 frames.
- 0138 **Sloop *Humbird*, John Harper, Master, 1732 and 1754.** 9 frames.
- 0147 **Snow *Leghorn* and Snow *Phoenix*, Clement Stanton, Master, 1739.** 5 frames.
- 0152 **H.M.S. *Greyhound*, Robert Oliver, Master, 1749.** 3 frames.

Ships Folder, [1756–1769]

This small collection of miscellaneous documents consists of records of cargo, bills of lading, and contracts for wages to be paid to seamen. Destinations mentioned include Africa, Suriname, and Jamaica. Ships named in the collection are *Endeavor*, *Martha*, *Grand Sultan*, and *Black Snake*.

0155 **Ships, [1756–1769].** 88 frames.

Slaves Manuscripts, [1731–1820]

This collection focuses on the involvement of Newport merchants in the slave trade, African Americans in Rhode Island, and the abolition of slavery. Materials on the slave trade include reports on the health of slaves during the middle passage. In a transcript of grand jury testimony from 1791, for example, the witness stated that on a voyage to the West Indies from Africa, a slave became sick with smallpox and the captain of the ship ordered the slave to be thrown overboard (Reel 28, Frame 0258). In a March 1769 account, Nathaniel Briggs, master of the brig *Hannah*, reported the sale of 113 slaves in Barbados and the expenses for treatment of a slave with smallpox (Reel 28, Frame 0401).

Documents on the lives of African Americans in Rhode Island include deeds of manumission, records of wages paid to African American laborers, and a 1790 letter about a runaway slave who arrived in Newport from Virginia. Regarding the abolitionist movement, this collection contains a document signed by citizens of Newport opposed to the extension of slavery (Reel 28, Frame 0247).

Correspondents in this collection include Thomas Rogers, Henry Bonnin, Nathaniel Briggs, Jacob Rivera, Robert Champlin, Caleb Godfrey, Aaron Lopez, Godfrey Wainwood, William English, James DeWolf, and Gibbs & Channing.

0243 **Bill of Sale for Pompey, 1763.** 4 frames.

0247 **Missouri Compromise, 1820.** 11 frames.

0258 **[Sale of Slaves, Deeds of Manumission, Reports on Slave Trade in Africa], 1731–1820.**
143 frames.

0401 **Slaves Manuscripts, [1736–1783 and Undated].** 104 frames.

Clarence Stanhope Scrapbooks, [1855–1930]

The Clarence Stanhope Scrapbooks consist of newspaper clippings on Newport history collected by Clarence Stanhope from newspapers dating between 1855 and 1930. Topics covered in the clippings include the American Revolution and the War of 1812, slavery in Rhode Island, the participation of Newport and Rhode Island merchants in the transatlantic slave trade, privateering, religious institutions, and the whaling industry.

0505 **Book A, [1877–1889].** 70 frames.

0575 **Book B, [1875–1890].** 88 frames.

0663 **Book C, [1874–1893].** 89 frames.

0752 **Book D, [1874–1892].** 87 frames.

Reel 29

Clarence Stanhope Scrapbooks, [1855–1930] cont.

- 0001 **Book E, [1876–1888].** 82 frames.
- 0083 **Book F, [1877–1895].** 90 frames.
- 0173 **Book G, [1854–1861].** 88 frames.
- 0261 **Book H, [1855–1874].** 88 frames.
- 0349 **Book I, [1874–1896].** 87 frames.
- 0436 **Book J, [1895–1897].** 88 frames.
- 0524 **Book K, [1897–1899].** 88 frames.
- 0612 **Book L, [1899–1900].** 89 frames.

Reel 30

Clarence Stanhope Scrapbooks, [1855–1930] cont.

- 0001 **Book M, [1900–1901].** 91 frames.
- 0092 **Book N, [1897–1930 and Undated].** 88 frames.
- 0180 **Book O, [1901–1902].** 90 frames.
- 0270 **Book P, [1902].** 87 frames.
- 0357 **Book Q, [1901–1903].** 91 frames.
- 0448 **Book R, [1902–1903].** 96 frames.
- 0544 **Book S, [1903–1904].** 97 frames.
- 0641 **Book T, [1904].** 95 frames.
- 0736 **Book U, [1902–1905].** 99 frames.

Reel 31

Clarence Stanhope Scrapbooks, [1855–1930] cont.

- 0001 **Book V, [1905].** 96 frames.
- 0097 **Book W, [1905–1906].** 89 frames.
- 0186 **Book X, [1906].** 93 frames.

John Thurston Indenture, 1767

This collection consists of an agreement between John Thurston and George Lawrence that Lawrence would take on Thurston's slave named Pomp for a period of sixteen years and five months. Over the time of the indenture, Lawrence promised to teach Pomp the whaling industry and to provide Pomp with food, clothing, and board.

- 0279 **John Thurston Indenture, 1767.** 3 frames.

Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859]

The major figures in the Vernon Papers are Samuel Vernon and his brother, William Vernon. The two major themes in this collection are the American Revolution and the involvement of the Vernon family in the transatlantic slave trade. When the American colonies struck for independence, while much of Newport remained loyal to the British, William Vernon strongly supported the colonists. In 1776, when the British occupied Newport, William fled from the city and went to Massachusetts. A May 1777 letter mentions his escape from Newport. During the American Revolution, William served on the Navy Board, which coordinated naval operations and shipbuilding for the Continental forces, and the collection includes William's correspondence during his service on the board. There is also a letter that mentions British soldiers plundering from Newport residents, and an item written by the town clerk of Newport summarizing a town meeting at which there was a discussion of grievances against the British parliament (Reel 34, Frame 0657).

Samuel and William Vernon jointly owned the ship *Othello*, and the collection includes financial records and correspondence documenting the voyages to Africa made by this ship. Other locations mentioned in the collection include South Carolina, Virginia, Jamaica, West Indies, and Spain.

0282 **Day Book, 1767–1776.** 272 frames.

0554 **Journal B, 1767–1776.** 229 frames.

Reel 32

Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859] cont.

0001 **Day Book, 1740–1758.** 115 frames.

0116 **Ledger Book, 1738–1750.** 174 frames.

0290 **Ledger and Index, 1764–1776.** 268 frames.

0558 **Ledger and Index, William Vernon, 1740–1764.** 193 frames.

Reel 33

Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859] cont.

0001 **Ledger A, 1749–1769.** 139 frames.

0140 **Receipt Book of Samuel Vernon, 1786–1803.** 30 frames.

0170 **Ledger, Samuel Vernon, 1774–1800.** 18 frames.

0188 **Letter Book No. 2, Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, 1740–1748.** 47 frames.

0235 **Letter Book No. 1, Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, 1738–1750.** 53 frames.

0288 **Letter Book No. 3, Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, 1751–1776.** 163 frames.

0451 **Day Book, Thomas Vernon, 1739–1758.** 75 frames.

0526 **Day Book, William Vernon, 1740–1751.** 46 frames.

0572 **Day Book, William Vernon, 1751–1759.** 51 frames.

0623 **Day Book, William Vernon, 1759–1765.** 23 frames.

0646 **Ledger, Thomas Vernon, 1739–1772.** 157 frames.

- 0803 **Banister's Wharf Accounts, Samuel Vernon, 1821–1837.** 20 frames.
0823 **Account Book, Thomas Vernon, 1760–1782.** 26 frames.

Reel 34

Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859] cont.

- 0001 **[Correspondence, 1817–1820 and Undated].** 16 frames.
0017 **[Correspondence], 1830–1839.** 147 frames.
0164 **[Correspondence with Samuel] Hazard, 1844.** 14 frames.
0178 **William Vernon, [Correspondence, 1822–1826 and Undated].** 90 frames.
0268 **Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, [Correspondence], 1835–1839.** 20 frames.
0288 **William Vernon, [Correspondence], 1840–1843.** 120 frames.
0408 **[Correspondence], 1850–1855.** 14 frames.
0422 **[Correspondence with Samuel] Hazard, 1842.** 18 frames.
0440 **[William Vernon, Correspondence], 1844.** 73 frames.
0513 **William Vernon, [Correspondence], 1845–1849.** 36 frames.
0549 **[Correspondence with Samuel] Hazard, 1843.** 76 frames.
0625 **[William] Vernon, [Correspondence], 1858–1859.** 32 frames.
0657 **Fleet Greene Letter and Thomas Vernon Diary, [1775–1780 and Undated].** 82 frames.
0739 **Business Letters, 1771–1780.** 99 frames.
0838 **[Correspondence between James, Thomas, and Samuel Vinson and Thomas] Vernon, 1792–1823.** 10 frames.
0848 **[Business Letters], 1740–1744.** 144 frames.

Reel 35

Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859] cont.

- 0001 **Vernon Papers, [Business Letters], 1745–1747.** 45 frames.
0046 **Vernon Papers, Business Letters, 1745–1748.** 79 frames.
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0281 **Samuel Hall, Printer of Newport Mercury, 1864–1769.** 14 frames.
0295 **Vernon Papers, Business Letters, 1756–1765.** 74 frames.
0369 **[Correspondence], 1766–1769.** 40 frames.
0409 **Vernon Papers—[American] Revolution, 1775–1783.** 101 frames.
0510 **William Vernon Jr., 1773–1788 and 1795.** 301 frames.
0811 **George Charles Rome, 1776–1779.** 20 frames.
0831 **Vernon Papers, Business Letters, 1770–1786.** 68 frames.

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- 0001 Samuel Vernon, Cabinet and Chair Maker, 1789–1831. 10 frames.
- 0011 Thomas Vernon, Vice Admiralty Court, 1762–1773. 25 frames.
- 0036 Vernon Family Deeds, 1763 and 1797–1815. 32 frames.
- 0068 Vernon Family Ship Papers, [1770–1799]. 42 frames.
- 0110 Vernon Papers, Navy Board, 1777–1794. 28 frames.
- 0138 Wightman Family, 1766–1815. 75 frames.
- 0213 Thomas Vernon, 1752–1783. 38 frames.
- 0251 Vernon Family, 1744–1774 and 1799. 32 frames.
- 0283 Samuel Vernon [Son of William], 1777–1791. 69 frames.
- 0352 Sloop Hannah Accounts, 1794–1796. 34 frames.
- 0386 Theatre in Brick Market, 1798. 3 frames.
- 0389 Thomas Pollen, Trinity Church Rector, 1761. 3 frames.
- 0392 Samuel Sanford, 1758–1782. 22 frames.
- 0414 Ezra Stiles, 1777. 2 frames.
- 0416 Samuel King Jr., 1793–1795. 22 frames.
- 0438 Richelieu, 1638. 3 frames.
- 0441 John and Elnathan Hammond, 1732. 16 frames.
- 0457 Oliver Ring Warner, 1755. 4 frames.
- 0461 Samuel Brown, 1792–1804. 79 frames.
- 0540 Nicholas Roosevelt, Business Letters, 1770–1775. 31 frames.
- 0571 Benjamin Wickham, Business Letters, 1758. 16 frames.
- 0587 Samuel Vernon [Son of William], 1781. 24 frames.
- 0611 Insurance Policies—Samuel Sanford, 1784–1788. 54 frames.
- 0665 Capt. John Brown, 1747–1757. 11 frames.
- 0676 Josiah Hewes, Business Letters, 1770–1783. 22 frames.
- 0698 Josiah Hewes and J. Warren, Navy Board, [1777–1778]. 83 frames.
- 0781 Miscellaneous Business Letters, [1778–1787]. 35 frames.
- 0816 Shipping Papers Lady Washington, [1775–1780]. 21 frames.
- 0837 Miscellaneous Business Letters, Vernon, [1770–1781]. 168 frames.

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- 0001 Samuel Vernon [Brother of William], 1742–1779. 10 frames.
- 0011 Samuel Vernon (Silversmith), [Undated]. 2 frames.
- 0013 Samuel Vernon Jr., 1777[–1795]. 20 frames.
- 0033 French and Indian War, 1757. 3 frames.

- 0036 **Elizabeth Almy (née Ellery) Vernon, 1818–1843.** 50 frames.
- 0086 **Ship *Culloden* (built by Daniel Goddard), 1749.** 9 frames.
- 0095 **Samuel Chase, [1796–]1798.** 27 frames.
- 0122 **Samuel Tertius Vernon [Son of William, 1762–1784].** 17 frames.
- 0139 **William Vernon, Business Papers, 1746[–1790].** 44 frames.
- 0183 **William Vernon, 1747[–1779].** 10 frames.
- 0193 **Vernon Family, 1784[–1799].** 6 frames.
- 0199 **Vernon Family Legal Papers, [1802–1816].** 17 frames.
- 0216 **William Taggart, Brig *Recovery*, 1789.** 5 frames.
- 0221 **Nathaniel Hammond, Ship *America*, 1770–1775.** 4 frames.
- 0225 **Benjamin Allen, Brig *Venus*, 1773.** 7 frames.
- 0232 **Sumner Smith, Brig *Dolphin*, 1773.** 3 frames.
- 0235 **William Vernon and Philip Harwood Vernon, 1817–1834.** 38 frames.
- 0273 **Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, Business Letters, 1742–1800.** 231 frames.
- 0504 **Ohio Land Company, [1810–1867].** 101 frames.
- 0605 **Vernon Family, [1760–1876].** 81 frames.
- 0686 **Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, Shipping Papers, 1740–1775.** 150 frames.
- 0836 **Samuel Vernon and William Vernon, Business and Shipping Papers, 1737–1754.** 6 frames.

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Vernon Papers and Miscellaneous Letters, [1732–1859] cont.

- 0001 **Vernon Papers, Interest Notes on Loans to U.S. by William Vernon [and Correspondence of Thomas Vernon and Vernon Family, 1745–1901].** 130 frames.
- 0131 **Vernon Papers, [1776–1832].** 110 frames.
- 0241 **Vernon Family, [1879–1880].** 54 frames.
- 0295 **Vernon Family, [1786–1884 and Undated].** 148 frames.
- 0443 **Vernon Family, [1780–1815].** 80 frames.
- 0523 **[Vernon Papers, National Association of Letter Carriers, 1890–1916], and [Shipping Records, 1741–1797].** 146 frames.
- 0669 **Vernon Vessels, [1746–1803].** 91 frames.
- 0760 **Vernon Ledger Accounts, [1749–1782 and Undated].** 37 frames.
- 0797 **Vernon Ship's Papers, [1747–1774].** 43 frames.
- 0840 **Slave Sale by Benjamin Wickham to Jonathan Bowen, [1748].** 3 frames.

Legal Papers, William Wirt Letter, 1819

This collection consists of a letter from William Wirt, U.S. attorney general, answering a question about the 1794 act prohibiting the slave trade between the United States and foreign countries.

- 0843 **Legal Papers, [1819].** 9 frames.

Reel 39

Union Congregational Church, 1787–1899

African American residents of Newport formed the Union Congregational Church in 1824, but related predecessor institutions came into being in the 1780s. In 1780, Newport Gardner founded the African Union Society. Over the next several decades, organizations that grew out of the African Union Society included the African Humane Society, the African Benevolent Society, and the Female African Benevolent Society. The Union Congregational Church collection has records from all of these organizations. Correspondence, minutes of meetings, and financial records of the African Union Society indicate its participation in the abolitionist movement. Minutes of the African Benevolent Society show that that group formed a school for African Americans in Newport. The Union Congregational Church collection contains correspondence, financial records, minutes of meetings, and records of its women's auxiliary.

- 0001 **The African Church of Newport, 1824.** 8 frames.
- 0009 **Union Congregational Church [African Benevolent Society], 1772–1824.** 51 frames.
- 0060 **Union Congregational Church [African Union Society], 1790–1796.** 128 frames.
- 0188 **African Union Society and African Humane Society, 1793–1810.** 75 frames.
- 0263 **African Union Society and African Humane Society, 1812–1823.** 37 frames.
- 0300 **Union Congregational Church, Constitution and Minutes, 1823–1843.** 39 frames.
- 0339 **Union Congregational Church, Minutes, 1848–1859.** 18 frames.
- 0357 **Union Congregational Church, Minutes and Cash Book, 1844–1871.** 48 frames.
- 0405 **Union Congregational Church, Lectures and Cash Book, 1874–1896.** 48 frames.
- 0453 **Union Congregational Church, Trustees Ledger Book, 1875–1908.** 27 frames.
- 0480 **Union Congregational Church, Accounts and Bill Book, 1873–1899.** 123 frames.
- 0603 **Union Congregational Church, Cash Book, 1873–1890.** 126 frames.
- 0729 **Union Congregational Church, Fund Raiser Ticket Sales, Miscellaneous, 1871–1889.**
43 frames.
- 0772 **Union Congregational Church, Minutes, 1859–1890.** 82 frames.
- 0854 **Union Congregational Church Community Book, Minutes, 1866–1877.** 77 frames.

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Union Congregational Church, 1787–1899 cont.

- 0001 **Union Congregational Church, Minutes, 1878–1895.** 67 frames.
- 0068 **Union Congregational Church, Membership List, 1851.** 2 frames.
- 0070 **Union Congregational Church, Certificates of [Membership and] Dismission and Treasurer's Report, 1872–1881.** 15 frames.
- 0085 **Union Congregational Church, Loose Receipts, 1870–1918.** 8 frames.
- 0093 **Union Congregational Church, Correspondence, [1870–1890].** 10 frames.
- 0103 **Women's Auxiliary Mission Society, Constitution and Minutes, 1885–1944.** 17 frames.

0120 **Union Congregational Church, Memoranda, [1871].** 7 frames.

0127 **Union Congregational Society, Fire Insurance Policy, 1875.** 6 frames.

Anti-Slavery Society of Newport, [1836–1841]

This collection consists of the constitution and minutes of meetings of the Anti-Slavery Society of Newport. The society's constitution stated that its main mission was the "promulgation of doctrines of civil and religious freedom." The constitution also declared that the society sought to convince slaveholders to emancipate their slaves voluntarily. Among the resolutions voted at meetings of the society were expression of thanks to the judge in the *Amistad* case and to Lewis Tappan for his role in the case.

0133 **Anti-Slavery Society of Newport, [Constitution and Meeting Minutes, 1836–1841].**
34 frames.

Reel 41

George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce, 1706–1851

George P. Wetmore acquired this collection at several auctions in 1912. Wetmore donated the collection to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1915. The Massachusetts Historical Society microfilmed the collection and then transferred it to the Newport Historical Society in 1997. The collection concerns the shipping business in Newport from 1706 to 1835. There is one document from 1851. The collection contains correspondence to and from Rhode Island merchants Abraham Redwood, Stephen Ayrault, Aaron Lopez, Abraham Lopez, Christopher Champlin, and Gibbs & Channing. Correspondence and financial records document the trade of a variety of commodities including flour, rum, molasses, tobacco, rice, tea, salt, clothing, and spermaceti oil and candles. There are also portage bills and contracts for wages paid to seamen, bills of lading, and insurance documents. Locations in North America represented in the collection include Newport, Providence, Boston, Bristol, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, and Savannah. Other locations mentioned include Africa, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, London, Dublin, and St. Croix. Several different inventories from the 1912 auctions provide a detailed list of the items in the collection.

[NOTE: The George P. Wetmore Collection is arranged within reels by year without four-digit frame numbers. There are title targets to identify the year.]

Auction Lists, 1912.

Papers, Undated.

Papers, 1706–1760.

Papers, 1761–1768.

Reel 42

**George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce,
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Papers, 1769–1770.

Papers, 1771–1773.

Reel 43

**George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce,
1706–1851 cont.**

Papers, 1774–1779.

Papers, 1780–1783.

Reel 44

**George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce,
1706–1851 cont.**

Papers, 1784–1785.

Papers, 1786.

Reel 45

**George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce,
1706–1851 cont.**

Papers, 1787.

Papers, 1788–1789.

Frame No.

Reel 46

**George P. Wetmore Collection on Rhode Island Commerce,
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Papers, 1790–1796.

Papers, 1797–1835, 1851.

SUBJECT INDEX

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