

**Inventory of the  
John H. Ricketson Papers  
In The New Bedford Whaling Museum  
Research Library**

**Title:** John H. Ricketson papers  
**Date Span:** 1827-1899  
**Mss Number:** Mss 187  
**Provenance:** Gift of Mrs. William R. Bullard Jr., 12 November 1999  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot  
**Abstract:** Correspondence, accounting information, and speeches related to John H. Ricketson of New Bedford (Massachusetts).  
**Processed by:** Cecelia Tavares, 2020  
**Repository:** New Bedford Whaling Museum Research Library

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## Introduction

Materials in this collection were donated by Mrs. William R. Bullard Jr. to the New Bedford Whaling Museum on November 12, 1999 as part of accession B99-20.

## Historical Note

Benjamin Tucker Ricketson was born on February 14, 1811 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. He attended school in Dartmouth until 1828 when he and his brother Asa were sent to Wesleyan Academy at Willbraham, Massachusetts for one year. Ricketson married Eliza C. Warneck on November 18, 1835. Ricketson settled in New Bedford and held a position as a clerk for several years and then formed a partnership with Frank Tobey under the name Tobey and Ricketson and conducted a wholesale grocery business and were whaling agents for several whaling vessels. When the partnership dissolved, Mr. Ricketson went in to insurance and had an extensive business in marine insurance with whaling. He was a trustee of the New Bedford Institution for Savings, Director of the Bristol County Mutual Insurance Company and one of the Directors of the Merchants Bank. Benjamin T. Ricketson died on March 1, 1890.

John Howland Ricketson was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts on September 21, 1837. He graduated from Harvard College in 1859. After graduation, Ricketson studied law for a short while in Boston, and then in 1860 moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he completed his law studies. Ricketson practice law for a brief time. In 1862, he married Clementine Garrison and shortly after went to work for his father-in-law Abram Garrison at A. Garrison Foundry. Ricketson became president at the foundry about the death of his father-in-law. Ricketson served as the director of the Bank of Pittsburgh and vice-president of the Safe Deposit & Trust Co. He took a deep interest in politics and was an ardent Republican. Ricketson had a deep interest in literature and enjoyed considerable fame as an orator. He was a founding member of the Duquesne Club where he served as president for several years. Ricketson died at his home in Nonquit, Massachusetts after a brief illness on July 20, 1900.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Papers of Benjamin Ricketson consist of correspondence from 1827 to 1883. These letters are primarily with his wife, Eliza discussing family matters and communications with his daughter Sarah and his brother Asa regarding his time in St. Louis.

John H. Ricketson's papers consist of correspondence from 1850 to 1895. Letters from friends comment on the social happenings in both Boston and New Bedford and provide some discussion on secession during the time leading up to the Civil War. Letters from his mother and sister (Sarah) contain information about family matters as well as information regarding their friends and social circles.

School related materials from his time at New Bedford High School, West Newton Lyceum, and Harvard span the years 1853 to 1859 and include composition and Latin notebooks, addresses, Harvard announcements lists, and regulations. Financial papers include bills and receipts in addition to account books dated 1860 to 1862. Ricketson was a prolific speaker and copies of speeches given during the years of 1870 to 1900 to the Institute of Mining Engineers, Press Association, Yale University Alumni, Republican Committee, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and to his fellow classmates who attended at the Harvard class of 1859's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ricketson's papers also include 1890 specifications for a house built in Nonquitt (Dartmouth, Massachusetts).

## **Arrangement of Collection**

Sub-Group 1: Benjamin T. Ricketson Papers, 1827-1883

Sub-Group 2: John H. Ricketson Papers, 1850-1899

## Collection Inventory

### **Box 1**

#### **Sub-group 1: Benjamin T. Ricketson, 1827-1883**

##### **Series A: Correspondence, 1827-1883**

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1827-1883

#### **Sub-group 2: John Howland Ricketson, 1850-1900**

##### **Series A: Correspondence, 1850-1895**

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1850

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1851

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1852

Folder 4: Journal entry in the form of a letter to Katherine Gibbs, 1852

Folder 5: Correspondence, 1853

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1854

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1855

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1856

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1857

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1858

Folder 11: Correspondence, 1859

Folder 12: Correspondence, 1860

Folder 13: Correspondence, 1861

Folder 14: Correspondence, 1862

Folder 15: Correspondence, 1863-1895

Folder 16: Correspondence, undated

Folder 17: Correspondence, undated

Folder 18: Correspondence, undated

Folder 19: Correspondence, undated

Folder 20: Correspondence, undated

Folder 21: Correspondence, undated

## **Box 2**

### **Sub-group 2: John Howland Ricketson, 1850-1900**

#### **Series B: School Work Materials, 1853-1859**

- Folder 1: New Bedford High School Composition Book, 1853
- Folder 2: West Newton Lyceum Addresses, circa 1854
- Folder 3: Harvard Themes, 1856-1859
- Folder 4: Harvard Latin Notebooks, circa 1857-1858
- Folder 5: Harvard Addresses, circa 1859
- Folder 6: Harvard Announcements, Lists, Regulations, 1854-1859

#### **Series C: Ephemera, 1847-1864**

- Folder 1: Invitations, Social notices and Announcements, 1847-1864
- Folder 2: Memoir of Cyrus Peirce, 1857
- Folder 3: Speech of Hon. Charles Sumner, 1860

#### **Series D: Financial Papers, 1830-1862**

- Folder 1: Bills and Receipts, 1830-1860
- Folder 2: Account Books, 1860-1862

#### **Series E: House Specifications, 1890**

- Folder 1: House Specifications (Nonquit, Mass), circa 1890

#### **Series F: Speeches, Public Letters and Minutes, circa 1870-1900**

- Folder 1: Minutes of the Duquesne Club, 1873
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous speeches and newspaper articles, circa 1873
- Folder 3: Address before Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, 1878
- Folder 4: Speech at the Institute of Mining Engineers (Washington, D.C.), 1882
- Folder 5: Speech at the Institute of Mining Engineers (Boston, Mass.), 1883
- Folder 6: Speech at the Republican Committee Meeting (Allegheny County, Pa.), circa 1888
- Folder 7: Speech to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Meeting, circa 1890
- Folder 8: Speech to Yale University Alumni, circa 1890
- Folder 9: Speech to the Mechanics Institute (Pittsburgh, Pa.), circa 1890
- Folder 10: Speech to the Harvard Class of 1859 (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), 1899
- Folder 11: Speech to the Press Association (Pittsburgh, Pa.), undated
- Folder 12: Report to Chamber of Commerce (Pittsburgh, Pa.), undated
- Folder 13: Speech to the Mechanics Institute (Pittsburgh, Pa.), undated

## Subject Headings

Account books – 1860-1862  
Architecture, Domestic – Designs and plans – Massachusetts  
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company  
Boston (Mass.) – History – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Boston (Mass.) – Social life and customs – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Duquesne Club  
Mechanics Institute (Pittsburgh, Pa.)  
New Bedford (Mass.) – History – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
New Bedford (Mass.) – Social life and customs – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Pittsburgh (Pa.) – History – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Pittsburgh (Pa.) – Social life and customs – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Ricketson, Asa  
Ricketson, Benjamin T.  
Ricketson, Clementine  
Ricketson, Eliza  
Ricketson, John H.  
Ricketson, Sarah  
West Newton Lyceum (West Newton, Mass.)