



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Henry Cornelison diary kept aboard the "Hannah Sprague"

1849-1850

MssCol 675

Summary

Creator: Cornelison, John Henry

Title: John Henry Cornelison diary kept aboard the "Hannah Sprague"

Date: 1849-1850

Size: .21 linear feet (1 volume)

Abstract: John Henry Cornelison kept this diary during a trip from New York to San Francisco on board the bark "Hannah Sprague" as a member of the New York Commercial and Mining Association. Entries date from May 10, 1849 through January 14, 1850 and describe daily life on shipboard; amusements and other pastimes; other passengers; other ships passed en route; and stops at Rio de Janeiro, Talcahuano (Chile), and an inland trip to Concepción. Cornelison provides a vivid description of San Francisco, where he lived aboard the ship while awaiting return passage. The diary also contains information about the price of food (eggs, butter, and other staples); the cost of rent; descriptions of buildings; activities of inhabitants, and other specific details about San Francisco. Cornelison also includes some details about the management of the New York Commercial and Mining Association and its final dissolution. There are notes and a few sketches at the end of the diary

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: John Henry Cornelison diary kept aboard the "Hannah Sprague", Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Concepción (Chile) -- Description and travel
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) -- Description and travel
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Description and travel
Talcahuano (Chile) -- Description and travel

Subjects

Cost and standard of living -- California -- San Francisco

Gold mines and mining -- California
Material culture -- California -- History -- 19th century
Mining corporations -- United States
Seafaring life

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries
Travel sketches

Names

Cornelison, John Henry
Hannah Sprague (Bark)
New York Commercial and Mining Association