



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Diary kept on board fishing smack William A. Wilbur**

1857

MssCol 4696

## Summary

**Creator:** Fitch, William

**Title:** Diary kept on board fishing smack William A. Wilbur

**Date:** 1857

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 volume)

**Abstract:** This diary was kept on board the fishing smack "William A. Wilbur" from July 11-30, 1857 by its captain, William Fitch. Entries describe a cruise in the vicinity of Nantucket, relating incidents on board; fish taken; whales sighted; being lost in fog; methods of preserving fish alive, or packed in ice; hospitality of grandson of Alexander Hamilton when boat ran ashore on Long Island; only coffee and tea being drunk on board and no profane language being used; and eventual berth at Fulton Market. The diary was written in "The American Diary," 1852

**Preferred citation:** Diary kept on board fishing smack William A. Wilbur, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries

### Subjects

Fishers -- Diaries

Fishing -- Atlantic Coast (U.S.)

Fishing boats

Food -- Preservation -- History

Seafaring life

### Geographic Names

Nantucket Island (Mass.)

### Names

Fitch, William