William Wilcox letter: San Francisco, California, to Mary, East Hartford, Connecticut

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William Wilcox letter: San Francisco, California, to Mary, East Hartford, Connecticut

Descriptive Summary
Title: William Wilcox letter: San Francisco, California, to Mary, East Hartford, Connecticut
Dates: January 13, 1858
Collection Number: SFH 610
Creator/Collector: Wilcox, William, d. 1862
Extent: 1 folder
Repository: San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center
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Abstract: Letter from a 19th century ship’s captain to his wife
Language of Material: English
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
William Wilcox letter: San Francisco, California, to Mary, East Hartford, Connecticut. San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center
Acquisition Information
Purchase, 2019
Biography/Administrative History
William Wilcox was a native of East Hartford, Connecticut and worked as a ship's captain for his adult life. He married Mary Hills in 1849; they had at least three children, William G., Fanny, and Ella. Wilcox died March 4, 1862 in Baltimore, Maryland.
Scope and Content of Collection
The folder includes letter (1 leaf, folded) from William Wilcox, San Francisco, to his wife Mary, in East Hartford, Connecticut. Wilcox describes searching for, and locating, his brother-in-law Gilbert Hill's grave in Yerba Buena Cemetery, about two miles from where Wilcox's schooner is anchored. Records of cemetery burials burned in a fire in 1854, and many markers had deteriorated or bore no inscriptions. Wilcox has included a hand-drawn diagram of the location of Hill's grave in the letter. Wilcox mentions being in the company of Mr. Sanders, of Deep River, Connecticut. On January 13, he writes that he "is about to sail tomorrow" and it will be "some 3 months before our return."
Indexing Terms
Cemeteries -- California -- San Francisco
Gravestones -- California -- San Francisco
Ship captains -- Connecticut
Hills, Gilbert, d. 1850
Wilcox family
Hills family
Yerba Buena Cemetery (San Francisco, Calif.)
San Francisco (California) -- Description and travel.