

MsSC 6

PLUM, Ida Arents, diaries, 1885-1889. 3 v.

Abstract: Ida Arents Plum (1854-1933) sailed with her husband, Capt. John A. Plum (1849-1913) on the three-masted bark, *J. H. Bowers*, from New York, via Batavia, Dutch East Indies, and Java, to Port Townsend, Washington territory. They later sailed to various Pacific ports before settling in Port Townsend.

Biography: Ida Arents was born in Tottenville, NY. She married Captain John A. Plum in 1885, and they set sail from New York, bound for Batavia, and Java. A diligent diarist, she recorded the daily events of life on the sea. When she became pregnant in 1888, she continued to accompany her husband to various ports on the Pacific. In 1889, Captain Plum retired and devoted himself to the real estate business in Pt. Townsend.

Scope and contents: The three volumes of diaries are extremely detailed, describing shipboard life, visits to ports, the weather, and the ordeal of pregnancy at sea, and are a wonderful record of the trials and tribulations of a captain's wife. In 1889, Mrs. Plum went by rail from Port Townsend to visit family in New York state, and that is included in volume three. In 1929 and 1932 she penned a few reflections on her life, the 1932 entry being of greatest length. There is a complete typescript accompanying the diaries.

Inclusive dates: 1885-1889, 1929, 1932

Restrictions: None

Volume: 3 v.

Accession number: 1990.80

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Typed transcription
1	2	Diary, November 1885-10 May 1887. New York to Batavia, Hong Kong, Honolulu. Located in MsSC 6 Oversize
1	3	Diary, 10 May 1887-19 February 1888. Hong Kong, Callao, and Port Townsend, W.T. Describes pregnancy and birth of their child.
1	4	Diary, 20 February 1888-5 July 1889. Port Townsend, Sidney (Australia), and train trip to New York. 1929 and 1932 reflections.