

**Reference Number:** MC-32

**Title:** Captain Richard Lowerison fonds.

**Dates:** 1809, 1860-1865, 1868-1875.

**Extent:** 6.6 cm of textual records.

**Biographical History:** Captain Richard Lowerison was born in Aulac, Westmorland County on April 22, 1822. At age 35 on December 29, 1857, he married Mary Keillor, daughter of Thomas Coates Keillor (1788-?) and Mary Jones (1799-?). Richard and Mary had 4 children between 1859 and 1868: Alice Bertha Lowerison, Elmore Harold Lowerison (MD), Mabel Mary Aravessa (Horace Ellsworth Fawcett), and Ethel Ellen Lowerison. Census and ship records confirm that the Captain worked as a Master Mariner and ship owner from 1839 to some time between the last ship record (1873) and the first census report where his occupation is listed as retired (1881). Throughout his time as a Master Mariner, he owned shares in many locally built ships, and frequently did business with close friend and notable Dorchester, New Brunswick ship builder, Gideon Palmer. He moved to Amherst in 1872 and spent several years in retirement then took up the position of Registrar or Probate in Amherst, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia in approximately 1892. Captain Lowerison died January 29, 1904 in Cumberland County.

**Custodial history:** These records came to the Trust from Maurice (Jake) Fisher who had inherited these items from his father, Charles Maurice Parkin (C.M.P.) Fisher, whose mother Mabel Mary Aravessa Lowerison was the daughter of Capt. Lowerison and Mary Keillor. The first donation came from Maurice Fisher's daughter, Susan Fisher, in 2012 after her father's death in 2011. The second accrual originally came to the Trust as a long-term loan in 2006 from Maurice Fisher for a permanent exhibit (which also included artefacts) and was changed to a donation by his children Susan and Ian Fisher in 2020.

**Scope and content:** Fonds reflects Captain Richard Lowerison's career as a Master Mariner, including his education, certificates, 1860-1862 voyage from Virginia to Jamaica on the Prince of Wales, and business interactions with Gideon Palmer of Dorchester, New Brunswick. These records consist of a financial diary, voyage logbook, victualling bill, seamanship textbook, Masters certificates, access pass, and a pocket card.

**Source of supplied title:** Title is based on the provenance of the records.

**Physical description:** There is some damage to the covers of the logbook and diary and the pages of the logbook are slightly fragile. The folded certificates required flattening and are in some cases fragile with the vellum certificate needing conservation.

**Arrangement:** Fonds was described and arranged in chronological order by Annika Williams in 2020.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Container List:**

Box/File	Description	Dates
13/4	Book entitled "Varie's Seamanship and Navigation".	1806
13/3	Diary used by Lowerison to record financial transactions, including several with R. A. Chapman, many with shipbuilder Gideon Palmer of Dorchester, New Brunswick and lists of barques and how many shares Lowerison owned in 1879. The second half of the diary has been used by somebody else.	1868-1875; 1879
13/8	Pass for Captain Lowerison to freely travel to an unspecified destination; two of Lowerison's Master Mariner's certificates originally stored in the metal case in his collection; pocket card with the names of the Prince of Wales' Master, Searcher, Comptroller and date of clearance; and a victualling bill documenting the contents of the Prince of Wales.	1862-1865
19/13	Lowerison's logbook with nearly daily entries for the sailing from Norfolk, Virginia to Falmouth, Jamaica on the Prince of Wales which includes weather and events.	December 1860- August 1861