

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Harrison, Alexander Medina, Papers, 1875-1876</p>  | <p>Location:</p> <p>Misc. mss. boxes "H"</p> |
| <p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 folder</p>   | <p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p>                    |
|  | <p>RLIN id:</p>                              |
| <p>Finding aids:</p> <p>none.</p> <p>See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.</p>   |  |
| <p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Purchased from William P. Wreden, Sept. 1, 1988. Harriette Merrifield Forbes Fund.</p>   |  |
| <p>Collection Description:</p> <p>Alexander Medina Harrison (1829- ) was born in New Haven, Conn. and worked as an engineer for the U. S. Coast Survey. In 1875, while he was stationed in Plymouth, Mass., Harrison was instructed to gather information about the origins of the inscriptions on Dighton Rock, located near Taunton, Mass.</p> <p>This collection consists of materials gathered by Harrison and by William B. French ( - ), another Coast Survey employee. There are 12 letters, 3 of which are incomplete. Correspondents include Rasmus Bjorn Anderson (1846-1936), a professor at the University of Wisconsin who believed the inscriptions were of Norse origin, and Samuel Foster Haven (1806-1881), librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. Also included are several pages of extracts from H. R. Schoolcraft's <u>Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge</u> (1860), an engraving apparently from C. C. Rafn's <u>The Discovery of America by the Northmen</u>, two photographs of Dighton Rock, and a drawing of the inscriptions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">December 3, 1991</p> |  |

American Antiquarian Society

Alexander Medina Harrison Papers, 1875-1876

Sources of biographical information or background material for this collection:

Report of the Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey...for the Fiscal Year Ending June, 1876. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1879, p. 18.

Trask, William B. "The Seaver Family." New-England Historical And Genealogical Register, 26 (1872), p. 318.