

New York October 3<sup>d</sup> 1818

Capt<sup>n</sup> Abm<sup>l</sup> Jennings

Dear Sir,

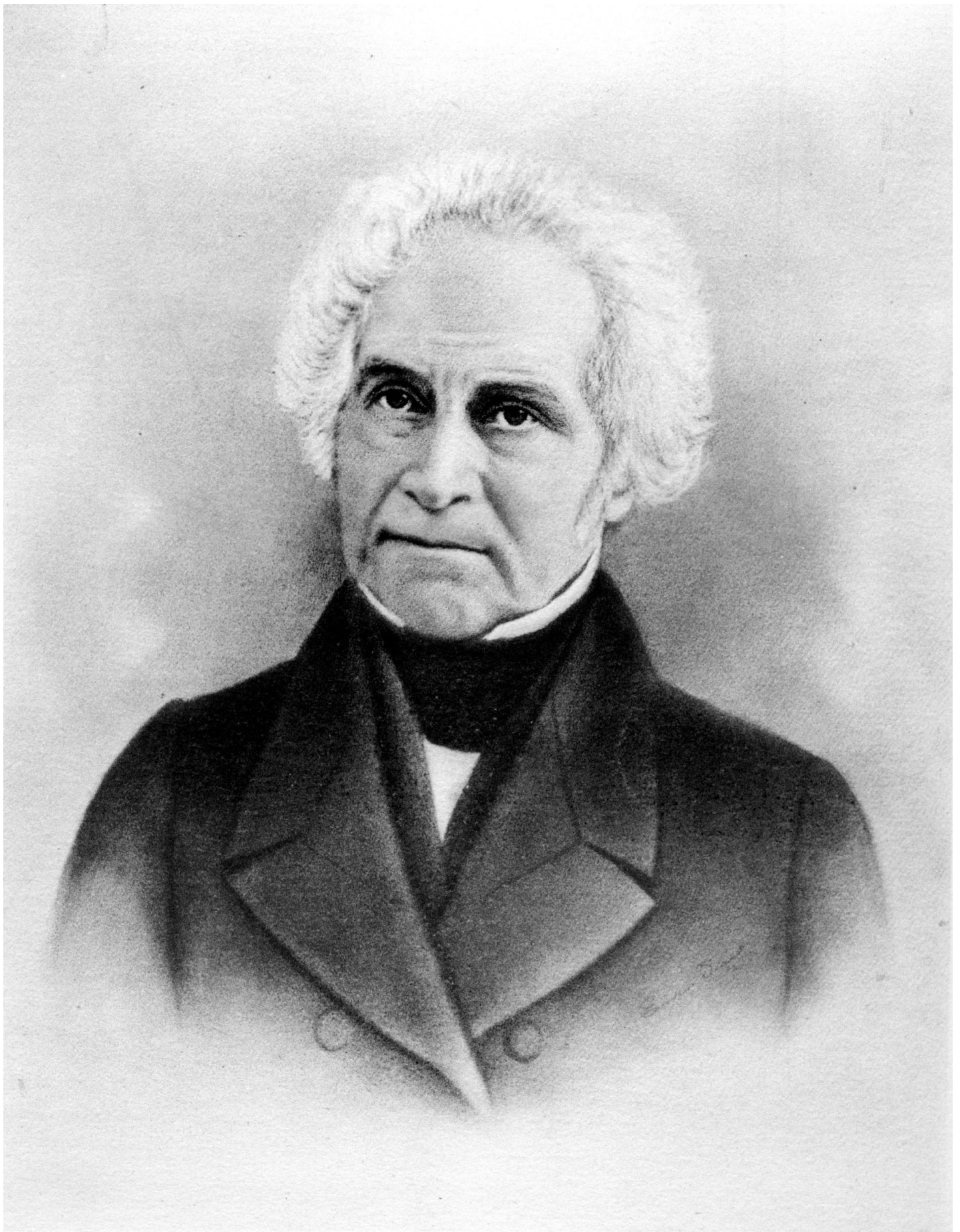
You, having command of the Ship Savannah of this Port, now ready for sea, will proceed with all possible dispatch to the Port of Canton in China and then deliver your Cargo agreeably to your Bills of Lading to Mr Seth H. Smith, and after overhauling your Ship you will receive such return Cargo as he may put on board conforming yourself in every thing relating to the voyage to such directions as he may give you and aiding him in every thing in your power. You will give your attention to advising him of such sized Packages, that the Ship may be stowed to best advantage and the Ship filled in every part - I herewith hand a Copy of Policy of Insurance, and you will not of course deviate upon any consideration, when at Canton you will reside at the Ship Factory free of expense with Mr Smith. For your compensation as Master of the Ship you are to have Fifty Dollars per month & Eight Tons privilege in any part of the Ship (understanding however that the Cabin &

When the ship *Savannah* was ready to sail for Canton, China, owner Thomas Smith sent this letter of instructions to Captain Abraham G. Jennings, the ship's master and commander. He stated that Jennings' salary would be \$50 per month in addition to eight tons privilege, cargo space that Jennings was allowed to use for his own profit.

Letter of Instructions and Terms, 1818

Thomas Smith of New York City to Abraham G. Jennings of Fairfield, Conn.

A. E. Jennings Collection, MSB 17, Box 8, Folder A



Captain Abraham G. Jennings



The *William Chamberlain*, Isaac Jennings, Captain

*Slavery in Connecticut: Set I*



Captain Isaac Jennings, who went to sea at the age of 15, son of Captain Abraham Gould Jennings.

About the *William Chamberlain*:

The *William Chamberlain* was built in 1854 during the era of clipper ships, when fierce competition in overseas commerce made speed imperative. Described as an "Extreme Clipper," the ship was 165 feet long and 35 feet wide. Construction of the ship in Philadelphia was overseen by Captain Isaac Jennings of Fairfield. He commanded the *William Chamberlain* on maiden voyage to Calcutta, India, leaving New York in late November and returning the following September. While at sea, Jennings painted this ship portrait.

Portrait of the *William Chamberlain*, 1855  
Painted by Isaac Jennings (Fairfield, Conn., 1823-1887)  
Gift of the Estate of A. E. Jennings

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