Record Nr. UNINA9910791357903321 Autore Shockley Megan Taylor Titolo The captain's widow of Sandwich [[electronic resource]]: self-invention and the life of Hannah Rebecca Burgess, 1834-1917 / Megan Taylor Shockley New York,: New York University Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8147-8652-9 0-8147-4129-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (280 p.) Disciplina 910.4/5 В Ship captains' spouses - Massachusetts - Sandwich Soggetti Middle class women - Massachusetts - Sandwich Women - Massachusetts - Sandwich Seafaring life - Massachusetts - Sandwich - History - 19th century Women - Identity Autobiography - Women authors Sandwich (Mass.) Sandwich (Mass.) Social life and customs 19th century Sources Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Author's Note on the Journals -- Introduction -- 1. Rebecca's World -- 2. Becoming the Captain's Wife -- 3. Rebecca at Sea -- 4. Challenges and Transitions --5. A New Era, a New Narrative -- 6. Visible and Invisible -- 7. From Legacy to Legend -- Conclusion -- Appendix -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index -- About the Author Sommario/riassunto In 1852 Hannah Rebecca Crowell married sea captain William Burgess and set sail. Within three years, Rebecca Burgess had crossed the equator eleven times and learned to navigate a vessel. In 1856, 22year-old Rebecca saved the ship Challenger as her husband lay dying

from dysentery. The widow returned to her family's home in Sandwich, Massachusetts, where she refused all marriage proposals and died

wealthy in 1917. This is the way Burgess recorded her story in her prodigious journals and registers, which she donated to the local historical society upon her death, but there is no other evidence that this dramatic event occurred exactly this way. In The Captain's Widow of Sandwich, Megan Taylor Shockley examines how Burgess constructed her own legend and how the town of Sandwich embraced that history as its own. Through careful analysis of myriad primary sources, Shockley also addresses how Burgess dealt with the conflicting gender roles of her life, reconciling her traditionally masculine adventures at sea and her independent lifestyle with the accepted ideals of the period's "Victorian woman."