

The recent loss of the bark "William Hales" by being sunk by the steamer "Niagara" recalls the tragedy enacted on the former vessel about three years ago, while on a voyage from New York to Cape Town, the victims being Captain Buckley and his wife from this State, who were murdered in their sleep by the Chinese steward who, immediately after the deed, leaped into the sea and was drowned. Capt. G. F. Hollis of Arlington, well known in this city, was at the time U. S. consul at Cape Town. From representations made to us we some two years ago published an article stating that Captain Hollis had lost his consulate on account of negligence in his office and lack of care of the property of the captain and his wife after arrival of the vessel at Cape Town. We have recently made a thorough investigation of the charges then brought against Captain Hollis and have carefully examined the testimony and evidence of those familiar with the circumstances of the case which show conclusively that Captain Hollis was unjustly treated, and that he was at his post when the vessel arrived and performed his difficult duties in the case with ability and discretion, as the records of the state department conclusively show.

Boston Evening Record Dec. 18, 1895

To the
Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:-

On February 3rd, 1893, I addressed you a communication about Captain George F. Hollis, making serious charges concerning his conduct as Consul at Cape Town, Africa.

I beg to state that a more thorough investigation of the circumstances and careful examination of Captain Hollis' testimony and evidence have convinced me that my said communication to you of February 3rd, 1893, was hasty and unjust to Captain Hollis. I am now convinced that I was misinformed and that the charges I made against him were unfounded.

Hoping that this letter may be placed on record, and may in some measure atone for any injury done to Captain Hollis by my previous letter, I am

Yours very respectfully,

Melville B. Buckley.

Boston Dec 17, 1895.

a True Copy,

*Attest: James Chumhille
Justice of the Peace.*

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

MSS.0471

Box: 1 Folder: 26

**CAPE TOWN CONSULSHIP - Captain Buckley
Affair - Letter from Melville Buckley to the
US Department of State, 1895 December 17**



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