

Night Watchman – The Bona Fides

Bona Fides

"I saw Captain Pollard" (1847)

Journal of Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Congratulate yourself if you have done something strange and extravagant, and broken the monotony of a decorous age."

Heroism by Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Since writing the foregoing I--sometime about 1850-3--saw Capt. Pollard on the island of Nantucket, and exchanged some words with him. To the islanders he was a nobody--to me, the most impressive man, tho' wholly unassuming even humble--that I ever encountered."

Longhand notes by Herman Melville in his copy of Owen Chases' *Narrative* used while writing *Moby Dick*

Moby Dick--References to the sinking of the *Essex* in the "Extracts" and "Chapter 45 The Affidavit"

"At this day Captain Pollard is a resident of Nantucket. I have seen Owen Chase, who was chief mate of the *Essex* at the time of the tragedy; I have read his plain and faithful narrative; I have conversed with his son; and all this within a few miles of the scene of the catastrophe."

Moby Dick Chapter 45 "The Affidavit"