

**Finding Aids to the Martha's Vineyard Museum**  
**Record Unit 15**

**Almanacs and Broadsides, 1799-1942**

By Chris Manning

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum

**Call No:**

**Title:** Almanacs and Broadsides, 1799-1942

**Creator:**

**Quantity:** 1.5 cubic feet

**Abstract:** The Almanacs and Broadsides Collection, 1799-1942, contains various almanacs and broadsides from the Boston, New Bedford, and West Tisbury areas.

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** The almanacs and broadsides in this collection were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Processing Information:** Chris Manning

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Use Restrictions:** None

**Preferred Citation for Publication:** Martha's Vineyard Museum, Almanacs and Broadsides, 1799-1942, Record Unit 15.

**Index Terms**

--Almanacs

--Broadsides

**Series and Subseries Arrangement**

Series I: Almanacs and Broadsides

**Historical Note**

Almanacs, by definition, record and predict astronomically and meteorologically relevant events. Dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., one of the earliest recorded 'almanacs' was published by Ptolemy: his *Phaseis*, which included in it the *Parapegma*, or star chart.

Almanacs, as we know them, started to become popular around 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century in Europe.

In the dates that span our collection, almanacs were very popular among the many lower- and middle-class Europeans and Americans, with several titles being published each year. One of the most prominent almanacs, the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, was first published in 1792 in America, under the watchful eye of Robert Thomas, and makes up the bulk of our collection. Almanacs were taken quite seriously as a meteorological forecast used by farmers and mariners. In addition to predicting the weather, Almanacs served to inform readers about household and farming work, personal health care, local laws, and important calendar dates. They also served as a form of entertainment, since they contained such things as: poems, riddles, and games. Almanacs have since then lost their widespread popularity, but continue to be published.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The contents of the collection "Record Unit 115" consist of 1.5 cubic feet of almanacs (mostly consisting of the *Old Farmer's Almanac*) ranging from 1799-1942, and are arranged chronologically in their series. Most of the almanacs cater to the New England area, mostly Boston, New Bedford, or West Tisbury. These almanacs contain information on various topics such as solar, lunar, planetary, and other astrological cycles, a number of tips of sorts for every month of the year, and even contains such things as games and poetry.

### **Series Description**

#### **Series I: Almanacs**

Box 1 of 3:

- Folder 1: Almanacs: 1799, 1800, 1814
- Folder 2: Almanacs: 1831, 1832, 1835
- Folder 3: Almanacs: 1836, 1838, 1839
- Folder 4: Almanacs: 1841, 1842, 1843
- Folder 5: Almanacs: 1845, 1846
- Folder 6: Almanacs: 1846, 1847
- Folder 7: Almanacs: 1848, 1849
- Folder 8: Almanacs: 1849, 1850, 1851
- Folder 9: Almanacs: 1851, 1853, 1854
- Folder 10: Almanacs: 1855, 1857, 1859

Box 2 of 3:

- Folder 1: Almanacs: 1860, 1862, 1863
- Folder 2: Almanacs: 1864, 1865, 1866
- Folder 3: Almanacs: 1867, 1868, 1869
- Folder 4: Almanacs: 1870, 1871, 1872

Folder 5: Almanacs: 1873, 1874  
Folder 6: Almanacs: 1875, 1876  
Folder 7: Almanacs: 1876, 1877  
Folder 8: Almanacs: 1878, 1879, 1880  
Folder 9: Almanacs: 1881, 1882, 1883  
Folder 10: Almanacs: 1884, 1885, 1886

Box 3 of 3:

Folder 1: Almanacs: 1887, 1888, 1889  
Folder 2: Almanacs: 1890, 1891, 1892  
Folder 3: Almanacs: 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899  
Folder 4: Almanacs: 1900, 1901, 1902  
Folder 5: Almanacs: 1903, 1904, 1905  
Folder 6: Almanacs: 1906, 1907, 1908  
Folder 7: Almanacs: 1909, 1910, 1911  
Folder 8: Almanacs: 1912, 1913, 1914  
Folder 9: Almanacs: 1915, 1916, 1917  
Folder 10: Almanacs: 1918, 1919, 1920  
Folder 11: Almanacs: 1921, 1922, 1923  
Folder 12: Almanacs: 1924, 1925, 1926  
Folder 13: Almanacs: 1927, 1928, 1929  
Folder 14: Almanacs: 1930, 1934, 1942