

**Finding Aids to the Martha's Vineyard Museum**  
**Record Unit 220**  
**The Bartholomew Gosnold Reference Collection**  
By Margot Weston

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum

**Call No:**

**Title:** The Bartholomew Gosnold Reference Collection

**Creator:**

**Quantity:** .5 cubic feet

**Abstract:** The Bartholomew Gosnold Reference Collection contains various documents including genealogical information, descriptions of his first and second voyages to Jamestown, Virginia, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard with notes on Cuttyhunk and Noman's Land islands.

**Administrative Information**

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

**Processing Information:** Margot Weston

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Use Restrictions:** None

**Preferred Citation for Publication:** Martha's Vineyard Museum, The Bartholomew Gosnold Reference Collection, Record Unit 220.

**Index Terms**

Bartholomew Gosnold

Exploration 1600's

Jamestown, VA

Martha's Vineyard

**Series and Subseries Arrangement**

Series I: Family Genealogy

Series II: First Atlantic Voyage – Cape, Martha's Vineyard, and Cuttyhunk

Series III: Second Atlantic Voyage--Jamestown

Series IV: Origin of the Name Martha's Vineyard

Series V: Martha's Vineyard and Shakespeare

Series VI: Research Notes and Publication

## **Historical Note**

Bartholomew Gosnold was both an explorer and entrepreneur. In 1602, Gosnold lead an expedition to North America on the ship *Concord*. After reading Giovanni da Verrazzano's 1524 description of Narragansett Bay, Gosnold set out to find this location to set up a trading post. Verrazzano described an idyllic place that was inhabited by friendly Indians.

In May 1602, Gosnold sailed around Cape Cod and dropped anchor off Cape Pogue. Coming ashore, Gosnold did not encounter any of the Island's Wampanoag community. He sailed on to the western side of the Island and meets a number of native inhabitants who appeared to have engaged in trade with other Europeans. The Island that Gosnold explored was covered in grape vines. In honor of his young daughter, Gosnold named this "most pleasant" Island Martha's Vineyard.

He continued to look for Verrazzano's wondrous bay. Instead of finding Narragansett Bay, Gosnold sailed to the Northeast and to Buzzard's Bay and the Elizabeth Islands. He established a trading post on the island of Cuttyhunk during the summer. After trading with local natives for furs, Gosnold and his company abandoned the trading fort and buildings and sailed back to England. Gosnold did embark on a second Atlantic crossing. He played a prominent role in the establishment of the settlement of Jamestown in Virginia.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The contents of the collection Record Unit 20 consists of .5 cubic feet of booklets, reprints of articles, and newspaper clippings. The clippings are arranged in chronological order.

While there are no original documents relating to Gosnold's voyage to the Cape and Islands, the collection does possess notes of scholars who handled original documents in their research of Gosnold.

## **Series Description**

### **Series I: Family History/Genealogy**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Genealogy

Folder 2: Family Homestead

### **Series II: First Atlantic Voyage—Cape, Martha's Vineyard, Cuttyhunk**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 3: First Voyage, Martha's Vineyard, Cuttyhunk

Folder 4: First Voyage, Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard

Folder 5: First Voyage, Cuttyhunk

**Series III: Second Atlantic Voyage, Jamestown**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 6: Jamestown

Folder 7: Godspeed

**Series IV: Origin of the Name Martha's Vineyard**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 8: Origin of Name

**Series V: Vineyard and Shakespeare**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 9: Vineyard and Shakespeare

**Series VI: Research Notes**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 10: Research Notes

Folder 11: Research Notes