

**Finding Aid for the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 214**

City of Columbus and Other Marine Disasters

By Barbara Murphy

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: *City of Columbus* and Other Marine Disasters

Creator: various

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: *City of Columbus* and Other Marine Disasters is a compilation of published pamphlets, newspapers, and research notes

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The collection of records in Record Unit 14 has been "artificially" created. There is no original order to these documents. Rather, it is assumed that the organization's librarians, interns and volunteers have brought these records together at some point. The institution's own records do not shed any light on when and why the collection was originally formed. What is known is that the MVM was founded in 1922. And, the organization began to collect documents in 1923. Thus the formation of this record unit can only be dated to sometime between 1923 and the present day. The processing of this collection in 2006 has largely kept this artificial collection together.

Processing Information: Barbara Murphy

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citations: Martha's Vineyard Museum, *City of Columbus* and Other Marine Disasters, Record Unit 214

Index Terms

- *City of Columbus*
- Nantucket, Cape & Island Shipwrecks

Series Arrangement

Series I: *City of Columbus*

Series II: Shipwrecks: Cape & Islands

Historical Note:

City of Columbus ran aground on the On January 14, 1884; the steamship ran aground on the reef known as "Devil's Bridge." The 275 foot luxury vessel had sailed from Boston with 87 passengers and 45 crew members and was bound for Savannah. It was one of the most shipping disasters to befall Martha's Vineyard. 75 passengers and 28 crew members drowned. No women or children survived the freezing waters. Despite an official inquiry, investigators never determined why the ship was off course in clear weather.

Beyond the deadly disaster of the *City of Columbus*, the Vineyard did also suffered from other shipping disasters in the 19th and 20th centuries. Despite the coordinated efforts of the coastal lighthouses and the Humane Society, mariners did lose their lives in some of these wrecks.

Scope and Content Note:

This record unit consists of information and records pertaining to the *City of Columbus* and other shipwrecks. The majority of the records consist of newspaper clippings and pamphlets.

Series Description:

Series I: The *City of Columbus*

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Original newspaper articles re shipwreck of the *City of Columbus*, 1884.

Folder 2: Copies of newspaper clippings, 1884.

Folder 3: Original pamphlets and sermon, 1884.

Folder 4: Copies of newspaper clippings, 1927-1959.

Series II: Shipwrecks

Box 1 of 1

Folder 5: Pamphlets re Nantucket shipwrecks

Folder 6: Cape & Island wrecks; clippings, 1854-1898

Folder 7: Cape & Island wrecks; clippings, 1915-1945

Folder 8: Cape & Island wrecks; clippings, 1985-1994

Folder 9: List of shipwrecks and near-wrecks around Cape & Islands, 1842-1932