

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 235**

Civil War and Martha's Vineyard

By Marian Halperin

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Civil War Collection

Creator:

Quantity: 2 cubic feet

Abstract: The Civil War Collection (1861-1865) focuses on diaries, letters, service lists, and information related to individual local servicemen. A sizeable section is related to an attempt at correcting state records to reflect the home town of individual volunteers rather than the town where they were recruited, in an effort to establish a town's meeting of its quota of service men. The majority of letters (and three diaries housed elsewhere) were written by an Edgartown soldier, Charles M. Vincent.

Administration Information

Acquisition Information: The Civil War Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum from various sources over many years.

Processing Information: Marian Halperin

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Civil War Collection, Record Unit 235.

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Personal Papers

 Subseries A: Diaries

 Subseries B.: Letters

Series II: Recruitment and Enlistment Papers, Individual Servicemen's Records

 Subseries A: Army

 Subseries B. Navy

Series III: Lists of Volunteers; Papers Concerning Town Quota Records

 Subseries A: Edgartown

 Subseries B: Tisbury

 Subseries C: Other/All Island towns

 Subseries D: Navy

 Subseries E: Massachusetts Regiments

 Subseries F: Campaign for redress for quotas

Series IV: Official Government Forms and Directives

Series V: Martha's Vineyard and the Civil War

Subseries A: Reference

Subseries B: Organizations

Subseries C: Bounties

Subseries D: Draft

Series VI: Pamphlets and Books

Series VII: Miscellaneous

Historical Note

This collection was assembled from many sources. The material relates either to individual Martha's Vineyard servicemen or to the ways in which the towns of Martha's Vineyard responded to recruitment, quotas, bounties, and other problems associated with recruiting men for the war. The largest collection of diaries and letters was written by Charles M. Vincent (1843-1881), from his enlistment in August 1862 at age 18 to spring 1865. Material post -865 connected with the war and other related topics are also included.

Scope and Content Note

Series I contains original papers, diaries and letters, associated with individual servicemen. Series II contains official papers, separated where possible between Army and Navy, pertaining to individuals, most of whom were from Martha's Vineyard. Series III is comprised of papers and printed lists of servicemen produced in individual Island towns and concludes with letters and lists created in relation to attempts to obtain changes in assignment of individual servicemen from their place of enlistment to their home town in order to meet assigned quotas. Series IV contains official government forms and directives. Series V contains material related to Martha's Vineyard in the war, including histories of local participation; organizations, both national and local, that aided service men; the development of bounties by individual towns to attract recruits; and the draft that was established to fill quotas. Series VI Pamphlets and Books, contains such items as are not located under pertinent subject matter. Series VII, Miscellaneous, contains Civil War material not specific to Martha's Vineyard such as Confederate papers, a Negro passport issued in Richmond, Civil War music, papers related to specific battles, and newspaper and magazine articles.

Series Description

Series I: Personal Papers

Subseries A: Diaries

Box 1 of 4

Folder 1: John Wesley Mayhew, 1863

Folder 2: Francis P. Vincent (2), 1863

Folder 3: Charles M. Vincent, transcripts of three diaries, 1862, 1863, 1863-1864

Folder 4: Sidney O. Brown, photocopy and transcription, 1862

Subseries B: Letters

Box 1 of 4

Folder 5: Wife of Frederick Crocker requesting release from prison

Folder 6: John L. McCollum, 1862

Folder 7: Hattie W. Taber to Eleanor, 1862

Folder 8: Capt. Thomas W. Williams (2) re: exemption as mariner, 1862

Folder 9: Charles M. Vincent, April 31, 1862 - January 23, 1863

Folder 10: Charles M. Vincent, January 25, 1863 - November 1, 1863

Folder 11: Charles M. Vincent, November 7, 1863 - January 19, 1864

Folder 12: Charles M. Vincent, January 21, 1864-March 3, 1864

Box 2 of 4

Folder 1: Charles M. Vincent, March 1864-May 22, 1864

Folder 2: Charles M. Vincent, May 27, 1864 - July 30, 1864

Folder 3: Charles M. Vincent, August 9, 1864 - April 5, 1865

Folder 4: Envelopes address to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. Vincent

Folder 5: Envelopes addressed to members of Charles M. Vincent's family

Folder 6: Envelopes addressed to Mrs. Frank P. Vincent

Series II: Recruitment/Enlistment Papers

Subseries A: Army

Box 2 of 4

Folder 7: Henry Bradley

Folder 8: Captain Welcome A. Crafts and Barzella Crowell

Folder 9: James W. Curtis

Folder 10: Peleg B. Davenport and James Diamond

Folder 11: Cyrus B. Fisher and Frank H. Sanders, Benjamin Norton Luce

Folder 12: James Wilbur, Jr.

Folder 13: Louis Brie and John Brown, Philip Brown, Frank L. Budlong, Elihu M. Bunker, John Carr (3)

Folder 14: A.L. Cleveland, John M. Coffee, David E. Cook, Patrick Devine, Benjamin Dowling, Michael Farley, John O'Brien, Timothy Laffert, Peter McCauly

Folder 15: Charles C. Filley, Abraham Fisher, Thomas Gahergin, Richard Gibson, James Gorman, George Gray and Isaiah Coombs, David Gracy and James Gorman, John Hall, William Harrington

Folder 16: John Heft, Capt. G.R. Hurlburt, Robert Leitch and James O'Connell, John L. Luce, Thomas Matthews and James O'Shaughnessy and John Barnes and William H. Ellis and John Hathern, Thomas F. McKenna,

Charles Milligan

Folder 17: Thomas Mc_____, John Milbank, E.B. Morse, Damon Y. Norton, Francis Norton and William Howe, Shubael N. Norton, Francis Pease, Jr., Samuel Pent, Alonzo Ripley

Folder 18: Joseph Scatchard, Richard Shute, John Simons, Benjamin Smith, Christopher Smith, James Smith, Marcus Smith and W.W. Smith and Chauncey Smith and Leonard Clark and William Totten and Enoch Cornell and John Dindy and Carl Dart

Folder 19: William Sniffle, William Thompson, James M. Tilton and John Fisher and James Smith and Jethro Worth and Joseph A. Ripley and Joseph H. Wilbur and Edward E. Beetle, Samuel Todd, Charles B. Wilson

Subseries B: Navy

Box 3 of 4

Folder 1: Edwin Coffin

Folder 2: Thomas W. Cook

Folder 3: Thomas M. Peakes

Folder 4: W. Picket, John Bell Smith

Folder 5: Daniel Stark

Series III: Lists of Volunteers, Town Quota Records

Subseries A: Edgartown

Box 3 of 4

Folder 6: Edgartown, 1862

Folder 7: Edgartown, 1863-1864

Folder 8: Edgartown, Army and Navy

Subseries B: Tisbury

Box 3 of 4

Folder 9: Tisbury

Folder 10: Tisbury, Citizens' Committee, Recruits and Substitutes

Subseries C: Other/All Island Towns, Army and Navy

Box 3 of 4

Folder 11: Vineyard Recruits, 1862. Vineyard officers. Muster list, Co. F., 3rd Regiment of Mass. Militia, 1862. Banks list (photocopy from book)

Subseries D: Navy

Box 3 of 4

Folder 12: Navy

Subseries E: Massachusetts Regiments

Box 3 of 4

Folder 13: 40th Regiment, First Regiment Infantry, Gazette Report, re: Lieut. Macy of 20th Regiment, 1861

Subseries F: Campaign for Redress for Quotas

Box 3 of 4

Folder 14: Committee to send agents to Washington
Letter re: whalers and the draft
Letter to Gov. Andrew re: naval credit
Circular re: redress
Newspaper clipping re: Convention June 22, 1864 for redress

Series IV: Official Government Forms and Directives

Box 4 of 4

Folder 1: U.S. Conscription Law, 1863
Mass. General Orders #12, Plan of Organization
Mass. General Orders #43, announcing draft
Mass. General Orders #49, Division of Mass. into military districts
Regulations for line officers in the U.S. Navy, 1862 (photocopy)
U.S. Sanitary Commission #77, Sick and Invalid Soldiers (photocopy)
U.S. Christian Commission, Information for Army Meetings, 1864
Mass. First Committee on Taxation and Finances, Chilmark
Tisbury, request for expenses for arms, 1861

Series V: Martha's Vineyard in the War

Subseries A: Reference

Box 4 of 4

Folder 2: Martha's Vineyard in the War by Emily Steere, 1960
Martha's Vineyard in the Civil War by Mrs. Andrews

Subseries B: Organizations

Box 4 of 4

Folder 3: Patriotic Fair
Ladies of the Soldiers' Relief Society, 1863
Program list of events, n.d.

Subseries C: Bounties

Box 4 of 4

Folder 4: Letter to Provost Marshal re: Bounties
Mass. Executive orders and lists of bounty payments, 1863

Subseries D: Draft

Box 4 of 4

Folder 5: Martha's Vineyard Town Draft Lists, May 13, 1864
Martha's Vineyard Town Draft Lists, June 11, 1864
Martha's Vineyard Eligibility List, n.d.
Newspaper Clipping re: May 13, 1864 draft

Series VI: Pamphlets and Books

Box 4 of 4

Folder 6: Am. Tract Society, #115, Friendly Conversation
Atlantic Monthly, March 1865, "A Call to my Country Women,"

Series VII. Miscellaneous

Box 4 of 4

Folder 7: Civil War Battles, Gettysburg
Tourist Guide to the Battlefield of Gettysburg
Three weeks at Gettysburg, New York, 1863 (2 copies)

Folder 8: Civil War Music
War Songs, published Boston, n.d.
17 sheets of Civil War songs, words only

Folder 9: Confederate material
Negro passport issued in Richmond
Century Illustrated Monthly, August 1898, "Confederate
Commerce-Destroyers" by James Morris Morgan
Note from Jefferson Davis to U.S. Congress, Jan. 7, 1864
Confederate Bond, \$500

Folder 10: Naval Battles
Article on Alabama, no source (photocopy). Pamphlet, "The
Merrimac and Monitor Naval Engagement," New York, 1886

Folder 11: Newspaper clippings, magazine articles
The Sunday Enterprise, Brockton, Ma., Feb. 6, 1994, "Witness to
War" re: discovery of Civil War sketchbooks
Clipping, Henry Ward Beecher on the Flag, n.d.

Folder 12: New Zealand material
October 15, 2000 letter from Joan Druett re: Fernadina, Florida,
August 6, 1861 U.S. Vincennes in Florida harbor
Australian National Maritime Museum, Newsletter #7, 1988
"Linked by the Sea," U.S. contribution to Museum

Folder 13: U.S. Bark Ethan Allen

Station Bill for U.S. Bark Ethan Allen

Notebook, handwritten directions for discharging various amunition aboard ship

Letter from U.S. Ethan Allen, September 10, 1863 to J.A. Pennell, USN, Acting Master, report on damage following collision on Sept. 9

Folder 14: Support for Vineyard Servicemen

Letter from Richard L. Pease, Chairman of Arrangements to Co. F, 3rd Regt. to attend welcome home party given by Ladies of Edgartown (Frank mentioned in the letter is RLP's nephew, Francis Vincent) (See Series V, Subseries B for Gazette report of the event)

List of supplies furnished by Edgartown Ladies for soldiers, 1861-1864

Certificate of Edgartown Selectmen agreeing to settlement of compensation for Joseph B. Mayhew, veteran, for ill health

Same form as above, no reason given

Mass. Commissioners of State Aide, May 10, 1883, \$13,000 passed to assist Mass. Soldiers' Home

Newspaper clipping, June 26, n.y., Red Cross Campaign report

Newspaper clipping, report of the Edgartown Soldiers' Relief Society