

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 350
Daughters of the American Revolution Collection
By Betsy Pfau and Keith Gorman**

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: DAR Collection

Creator: various

Quantity: 1.25 cubic feet

Abstract: This collection spans about 200 years of documents, pamphlets, organizational papers, essays, letters, news clippings and photographs. The focus of the records pertains to the DAR. However, the DAR collected historical documents of general Vineyard interest and these are also included.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information:

Processing Information: Betsy Pfau and Keith Gorman

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation for Publications: Martha's Vineyard Museum, DAR, Record Unit 350.

Index Terms

- DAR
- Genealogy
- Martha's Vineyard
- Nathan Mayhew
- Sea Coast Defense

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: DAR Administrative Records

 Subseries A: Organizational Reports

 Subseries B: Publications

 Subseries C: Lectures/Presentations

 Subseries D: Sea Coast Defence Papers

 Subseries E: Essays, Contests & Poetry

 Subseries F: Correspondence

 Subseries G: Register Records

Series II: Island Genealogy

Subseries A: Documents
Subseries B: Personal Accounts
Series III: DAR Pamphlet Collection
Series IV: Newspaper Clippings
 Subseries A: Island Newspapers
 Subseries B: DAR-related news clippings
Series V: Photograph
Series VI: Historical Documents

Historical Note:

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1890, is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. As the most inclusive lineal society in the country, DAR boasts 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. The Martha's Vineyard DAR chapter, the Sea Coast Defense Chapter, was a result of a merger between the Martha's Vineyard Chapter from Edgartown and the Sea Coast Defense Chapter from Vineyard Haven in 1992. Each of the original chapters was formed in the late 1890s.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection spans over 200 years of material of historic and artistic interest. While it does deal with documents pertaining to the DAR, particularly early 20th century, it also covers a wide range of documents, many hand-written, relating to, but not limited to, land deeds, church records and genealogy of Martha's Vineyard. It was a gift to the Museum from the DAR, and was collected by that group over a long period of time. Of particular note is a letter from 1775 by James Athearn to John Hancock, as well as some deeds of church pews from the mid 1700s with seals intact. The earliest document is a Chilmark church pamphlet from 1732.

Series Descriptions

Series I: DAR Administrative Records

Subseries A: Organizational Reports

Box 1 of 3

Folder 1: Reports of National Society of DAR, 1911

Folder 2: Reports of National Society of DAR, 1934, 1935

Subseries B: Publications

Box 1 of 3

Folder 3: 20th Anniversary of Vineyard Haven DAR Chapter – Historian's Report, 1926. By-laws, 190. 20th Anniversary Programme

Subseries C: Lectures/Presentations

Box 1 of 3

Folder 4: Papers written by members 1909-1939. Farewell statement on retiring regent Clara d'Auville Chase.

Subseries D: Sea Coast Defence Papers

Box 1 of 3

Folder 5: Report on Winter Outing of 9th Continental Congress of DAR by Mary Bliss Whittemore, March 14, 1900. Report of Continental Congress, 1901. Report of Historian of the Sea Coast Defense Chapter, DAR by Susie Jernegan, Sept., 1918. Registrar's & Historian's Record Aug, 1896- April, 1901

Subseries E: Essays, Contests & Poetry

Box 1 of 3

Folder 6: DAR Prize Essays, 1940 - "The Part Martha's Vineyard Played in the Revolutionary War"

Folder 7: Poems: "To the Daughters of the American Revolution"
"Washington Crossing the Delaware" by Mrs. Abbie Howland

Subseries F: Correspondence

Box 1 of 3

Folder 8: Letter to Miss Norton from Mass. Chapter Regent, 1939. Letter to Mrs. Mary Norton from Mrs. Edwin King, New Bedford, 1926.

Subseries G: Register Records

Box 1 of 3

Folder 9: Gifts Book I

Folder 10: Gift Books II

Folder 11: "Lerans" Book I

Folder 12: "Lerans" Book II

Box 2 of 3

Folder 1: "Lerans" Book III

Folder 2: "Lerans" Book IV

Folder 3: DAR Loan Forms

Series II: Island Genealogy

Subseries A: Documents

Box 2 of 3

Folder 4: Chase Family Lots by M. L. Norton

Subseries B: Personal Accounts

Box 2 of 3

Folder 5: Sketches of Old Homes in Our Village, DAR – Vineyard Haven

Folder 6: “Josie’s Pig” poem by Rose Terry Cooke – account of Patience Dunham

Folder 7: Genealogy, Personal Accounts

Series III: DAR Pamphlet Collection

Box 2 of 3

Folder 8: Pamphlet by William Homes, Chilmark Minister, 1732

Folder 9: Officers & Students of Dukes County Academy at West Tisbury, 1841

Folder 10: Wreck & Loss of the Whaling Brig “William & Joseph” of MV, 1848

Folder 11: Financial Records of Nathan Mayhew’s school, 1849, 50

Folder 12: Establish Boundary Line Between Gay Head & Chilmark, May 9, 1855

Folder 13: Lillian Nordica (Lilly Norton), Concert Programme, March 2, 1876

Folder 14: First Pilgrimage of the Sons of MV, July 4, 1888

Series IV: Newspaper Clippings

Subseries A: Island Newspapers

Box 2 of 3

Folder 15: Cottage City Star, May 22, 1879

Folder 16: Chicks Vineyard Haven News, Various Copies: Oct 27, 1887- Jan 11, 1887

Folder 17: Vineyard Gazette, July 6, 1860; April 26, 1861

Subseries B: DAR-related news clippings

Box 2 of 3

Folder 18: copies of DAR-related news clippings

Folder 19: various DAR-related news clippings (undated)

Series V: Photographs

Box 2 of 3

Folder 20: Photo of tablet marking spot of worship by Thomas Mayhew & the Indians, 1910

Series VI: Historical Documents

Box 2 of 3

Folder 21: Will of Simeon Butler, 1756; Letter, J. Lyons to Rev. Kingbury, 1774

Folder 22: Letter from James Athearn to John Hancock, Philadelphia, 1775

Folder 23: John Norton – Enoch Coffin 1776-7

Folder 24: Prayer by Rev Joseph Thaxter 1700s; receipt, 1777

Folder 25: Luce/West Letter 1792, ‘93, ‘96

Folder 26: George West Letter 1792, Jonathan Mayhew Memorial Plaque, 1766

Folder 27: Deed, Eliakiam Norton – Shirbal Dunham, 1789; Deed, Deliverance Chase – Wm. Smith, 1789

Folder 28: Ship Document, 1802; Deed, Abraham Chase, 1803

Folder 29: Luce Letter, 1812; Nathan Mayhew: Massachusetts Militia, 1819

Box 3 of 3

Folder 1: Luce Letter, May 1823; Marriage Bann, July, 1833 (witnessed by N. Mayhew, town clerk)

Folder 2: Nathan Mayhew School Supplies, 1833; General Worth History, 1849

Folder 3: Certificate of American Citizenship – John Norton to Presbury Smith, 1835; Cottle receipts 1835, '46, '51

Folder 4: Baptist Church Illustration, 1837; Cottle Receipts 1832, '39

Folder 5: Cottle Receipts, 1833, '36, '39, '40; Mayhew Receipts, 1838-40

Folder 6: Deed of Pew to Joe Luce, 1845; Cottle/Smith receipt, 1847

Folder 7: March 18, 1849, meeting re: need for new doctor

Folder 8: Commonwealth of MA to Seth Daggett – Pilot Appointment, 1850

Folder 9: David Smith Letter, 1851; Cottle receipts, 1802, '41, '54

Folder 10: Character reference for Nathan Mayhew by R.L. Pease, H. Vincent & C. Norton, 1853; Seth Daggett Letter re: trouble with Steamship Eagle Wing, 1854

Folder 11: Appointment of Vinson, Nye & Holms as commissioners to establish the boundary between Gay Head Indians & white settlers of Chilmark, 1855

Folder 12: Ledger books by Nathan Mayhew 1833, '45, & telegram, 1856;

Deed of Pews, Congregational Church, Holmes Hole, 1862

Folder 13: 1853, Davis Cottle receipt; 1861, Davis Cottle receipt; 1884, Partial letter to WB Rochester from ___ Hancock

Folder 14: News Muster Roll from "Vineyard Gazette", 1896

Folder 15: Broadsides/Posters, Yacht Races, Vineyard Haven, 1902, '03'03; Edgartown, 1904; Regatta Scoreboard, 1903