

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 354
Harris Family Diaries, 1908-1919
By Norma Hagen

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Harris Family Diaries, 1908-1919

Creator: Harris Family

Quantity: 2.0 cubic feet

Abstract:

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Harris Family Papers were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum from Nathaniel Harris.

Processing Information: Norma Hagen

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation For Publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Harris Family Diaries, 1908-1919, Record Unit 354.

Index Terms

Charles A. Harris

Olivia D. Harris

Nathaniel L. Harris

Catherine P. Harris

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Diaries

Series II: Photographs

Historical Note:

The collection consists primarily of daily "Logs" of Harris family activities during their annual summer visits to the Island between June 1908 to September 1919. The diaries serve as an important insight into middle-class visitors to the Island in the prewar years.

The diaries or logs contain the observations of the immediate members of the Harris family. Each of the contributors was assigned a pen name. For example, the "Captain" was Charles A. Harris, the "Mate" was Olivia Harris or ODH, and the "Crew" were the Harris children (Nathaniel and Catherine). It is a delightful account of the everyday activities and adventures of a family living in a tent in Menemsha near the Bight. This is a suburban family who reside near Boston during the winter and who, in the summer, live without conveniences. Their luxury is the beauty and abundance of nature. Each day some activity is described from sailing, swimming, lobstering and fishing, to hiking, and berry picking.

Scope and Content Note:

Photocopies of diaries kept by the Charles A. Harris family. The originals have been retained by the family. The diaries were bound volumes. The Museum only holds the photocopies of these diaries as well as photo reproductions of family photographs.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Diaries

Box 1 of 2

Document 1: Diary, June 23, 1908-August 4, 1908

Document 2: Diary, August 5, 1908-September 15, 1908

Document 3: Diary, July 3, 1909-August 23, 1909

Document 4: Diary, August 24, 1909-September 9, 1909; June 27, 1910-August 7, 1910

Document 5: Diary, August 8, 1910-September 10, 1910; June 20, 1911-July 19, 1911

Document 6: Diary, July 19, 1911 -September 8, 1911

Box 2 of 2

Document 1: Diary, June 25, 1912 - September 4, 1912

Document 2: Diary, June 26, 1913- September 5, 1913; June 30, 1914 -September 3, 1914

Folder 1: Pressed Flowers, June 26, 1913

Folder 2: Pressed Flowers, June 26, 1913

Document 3: Diary, May 25, 1858; August 11, 1860; July 2, 1919-September 9, 1919

Series II: Photographs

Box 2 of 2

Folder 3: Family Photographs