

Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 74
Henry Whiting Collection
By Margot Weston

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Henry Whiting Collection

Creator:

Quantity: 1.0 Cu. Ft.

Abstract: This collection of the personal and professional papers of Henry Whiting contains statistics about surveys, the operational methods of the Coast and Geodetic Commission, notes of the family farm and life in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The papers and records 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, Henry Whiting Collection, Record Unit 74.

Index Terms

Massachusetts Topographical Commission

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Commission

Farming

Series and Subseries Arrangement:

Series I: Family Papers

Series II: Personal Correspondence

 Subseries A: Incoming

 Subseries B: Outgoing

Series III: Professional Correspondence

 Subseries A: Incoming

 Subseries B: Outgoing

Series IV: Publications

Historical Note:

Henry L. Whiting was born in Albany, New York on February 5, 1821 and died in West Tisbury, Massachusetts, on February, 4 1897. He was a lineal descendant of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony. Mr. Whiting served almost 60 years in the Coast and Geodetic Survey. He developed and directed the topographical operations of the Survey, directed the triangulation of the Florida Coast, was a member of the Mississippi River Commission, directed the resurveys of Boston Harbor for 12 years, served in the Civil War, and was actively working until the time of his death. He also taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Naval Academy. Henry Whiting was also a member of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Commission and the Massachusetts Topographical Commission, serving as chairman for a time. His son, John, seems to have run the farm in West Tisbury; however, Henry handled all the correspondence as indicated by the papers in this collection.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection encompasses reports of geodetic surveys as far west as the Mississippi River, a chart of Edgartown Harbor, correspondence relative to the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commission, some personal correspondence, some correspondence relating to farm animals, pedigrees, and awards, tax receipts, dog licenses. The material mostly dates to the later half of the nineteenth century. Correspondence and receipts relate to shipping and breeding of pure-bred livestock. There is a small amount of personal family correspondence.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Family Papers

Box 1 of 2

Folder 1: Farming 1888--1896

Folder 2: Farming Correspondence 1891-1892

Folder 3: Farming Correspondence 1893-1894

Folder 4: Tax Receipts Tisbury 1872-1895

Folder 5: Tax Receipts Chilmark, Edgartown, West Tisbury 1872-1896

Folder 6: Clippings

Series II: Personal Correspondence

Box 1 of 2

Folder 7: Incoming Correspondence 1859-1896

Section III: Professional Correspondence

Subseries A: Incoming

Box 1 of 2

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1867-1874

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1880-1885

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1886
Folder 11: Correspondence, 1887-1888
Folder 12: Correspondence, 1889
Folder 13: Correspondence, 1890
Folder 14: Correspondence, 1891
Folder 15: Correspondence, 1892
Folder 16: Correspondence, 1893
Folder 17: Correspondence, 1894 & 1896

Subseries B: Outgoing

Box 2 of 2

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1881-1885
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1886
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1887-1888
Folder 4: Correspondence, 1889
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1890
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1891
Folder 7: Correspondence, 1892
Folder 8: Correspondence, 1893
Folder 9: Correspondence, 1894

Series IV: Publications

Box 2 of 2

Folder 10: Coast & Geodetic Survey Reports 1885-1892
Folder 11: Coast & Geodetic Survey Reports 1893
Folder 12: Federal & State Reports & Statistics