

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum Record Unit 352

Marcus Jernegan Papers, 1939-1949

By Julia Novakovic and Keith Gorman

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Marcus Jernegan Papers

Creator: Jernegan, Marcus, 1872-1949

Quantity: 2.75 cubic feet

Abstract: The Jernegan Papers, 1939-1949, document the research, correspondence, and professional writings of Professor Marcus Jernegan. The collection includes detailed research notes focuses on New England whaling ships and genealogical records of whaling captains. The rough drafts of several manuscripts are also included in this record.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Jernegan Papers were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in _____ by _____.

Processing Information: Julia Novakovic

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Marcus Jernegan Papers, 1939- 1949, Record Unit 352.

Index Terms

- Jernegan, Marcus
- Jernegan Family
- Martha's Vineyard
- Whaling
- Whale-ships
- Ship Captains
- Maritime History

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Personal Papers

Series II: Personal Correspondence

Series III: Research Notes

Subseries A: Jernegan Family Genealogy

Subseries B: Whaling Voyages

Subseries C: Ship Captains
Subseries D: Ship Registers
Subseries E: Edgartown and Whaling
Subseries F: Miscellaneous Notes
Series IV: Publications
Series V: Lecture Notes
Series VI: Research Note Cards

Biography:

Marcus Jernegan, 1873-1949, was a member of one of Martha's Vineyard's oldest families. The son of Captain Jared Jernegan and Helen McLellan Clark, he grew up in the port of Edgartown. Along with his parents, Marcus's household was made up of his older siblings Laura and Prescott. He received his B.A. in 1896 from Brown University; two years later, he received his A.M in history from the same institution. He returned to the Vineyard and was principal of the Edgartown High School for two years prior to moving to the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. in 1906. He married Imogene Cameron in 1913, and they had two daughters.

After conducting a number of research trips abroad, Jernegan was appointed as a professor of history at the University of Chicago. He authored several American history books, including *The American Colonies – 1492 to 1750* and volumes on the progress of nations. He also edited his sister's childhood journal entitled *A Child's Diary Aboard a Whale-ship*. Drawing from his family background, Jernegan researched the New England whaling trade. He moved back to Edgartown in 1937, where he set about writing *The History of the Whaling Industry*. Despite his retirement, he remained an active member of many professional and academic associations, including the Dukes County Historical Society (now Martha's Vineyard Museum). The island's historical society was the site of several of Professor Jernegan's lectures on maritime topics.

Scope and Content Note:

The Marcus Jernegan Papers are a collection of Professor Jernegan's extensive notes and data that he obtained from ship logbooks, whale-ship authorities, and other maritime records. These research materials were collected between the late 1930s up until his death in 1949. The 2.75 cubic feet of records in this collection are arranged by subject. Interestingly enough, Jernegan's relatives comprised many of the ship captains on his lists, including his own father. His writings on the Jernegan family genealogy are thorough; of note are typed copies of both personal and professional papers of William Jernegan (Justice of the Peace, late 18th century).

There are several different ways that Jernegan organized his maritime notes; some folders contain the same information under different subject headings. Many lists are thorough from the 1730s through the 1910s, using research from ship registers. Jernegan added many of his own annotations to these lists as well. The majority of the collection

(about 2.0 cubic foot) is typed or handwritten notes on ship data along with rough manuscripts for "Whales in Literature and History," "The Golden Age of New England Whaling," and lecture notes on the *Charles W. Morgan*.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Personal Papers

This Series contains a few of Jernegan's postcards, a commencement pamphlet from Edgartown High School's Class of 1900, a blank ship deed, and several other personal tokens.

Box 1 of 4

Folder 1: Personal Papers

Series II: Personal Correspondence

This Series contains personal correspondence between colleagues at the University of Chicago as well as letters sharing aspects of his research.

Box 1 of 4

Folder 2: Personal Correspondence

Series III: Research Notes

Subseries A: Jernegan Family Genealogy

This Subseries contains information collected from William Jernegan's personal and professional papers, other Jernegan family recollections, and copies of family trees.

Box 1 of 6

Folder 3: "An Account and estimate of the Number of Familyes that William Jernegan well Remembers that lived and Died in Edgartown," 1810. [Typed copy]

Folder 4: Miscellaneous papers of William Jernegan, Justice of the Peace, Edgartown, 1795-1811. [Typed copy]

Folder 5: Jernegan family genealogy; copy of M. Jernegan's obituary from *Standard-Times*, 21 Feb 1949.

Subseries B: Whaling Voyages

This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan pertaining to whaling voyages, which he later used to create lists of whale-ship data.

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Folder 6: List of Whaling Voyages, arranged by whaling ground

Folder 7: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Grounds

Folder 8: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Grounds

Folder 9: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Ground, 1794-1911

Folder 10: Notes on Pacific Whaling Fleet, 1868-1884

Folder 11: List of Whaling Ships Stopping in Honolulu, 1842

Folder 12: List of Whaling Voyages, arranged by captains from Chilmark, 1738-1890

Folder 13: Whaling Maps of Voyages

Folder 14: Clippings: *Newport Mercury*, January 1775-August 1776
Folder 15: Clippings: *Newport Mercury*, 1769-1771
Folder 16: Clippings: Assorted New Bedford Newspapers, 1849-1855
Folder 17: Clippings: *Boston Weekly News Letter*, February-April 1736
Folder 18: Clippings: *Mass. Gazette and Boston News Letter*, January 1764

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Folder 1: *State of the British Whale Fishery*, 1749
Folder 2: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 3: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 4: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 5: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 6: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages

Subseries C: Ship Captains

This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan pertaining to whale-ship captains, which he used to later create lists of whale-ship data.

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Folder 7: Notes of Ship Captains and Their Vessels, 1732-1782
Folder 8: Notes on Captains and Their Vessels, 1761-1898
Folder 9: Notes on Ship Captains and Their Vessels, 1791-1907
Folder 10: Notes on Captains and Their Vessels, 1836-1867
Folder 11: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1726-1921
Folder 12: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, c. 1726- 1869
Folder 13: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1726-1792

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Folder 1: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1730-1907
Folder 2: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1785-1835
Folder 3: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1793-1832
Folder 4: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1804-1903
Folder 5: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1816-1868
Folder 6: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1820-1876
Folder 7: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1820-1876
Folder 8: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1821-1876
Folder 9: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1833-1883
Folder 10: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1836-1878
Folder 11: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1845-1854
Folder 12: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1846-1910
Folder 13: Notes on Children/Survivors of Whaling Captains

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Folder 1: List of "Daguerreotypes of 110 Sea Captains of Edgartown"

Folder 2: 110 Edgartown Whaling Masters, 1820-1870

Folder 3: Notes on Ship Captains

Folder 4: Notes on Whaling Captains

Folder 5: Notes on Whaling Captains

Folder 6: List of Nantucket Whaling Captains

Folder 7: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Captains

Subseries D: Ship Registers

This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan from published ship registers as well as whale-ship logbooks.

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Folder 8: Notes on Shipping Lists, 1849-1855

Folder 9: Notes from *New Bedford Ships Register [1796-1850]*

Folder 10: Notes on *New Bedford Ships Register, 1796-1850*

Folder 11: Notes from *Starbuck's 1652-1736*

Folder 12: List of Logbooks and Whaling Records in the Pacific Bank and Whaling Museum, 1948

Folder 13: Transcriptions of *Vineyard Gazette, 1846-1857*

Subseries E: Edgartown and Whaling

This Subseries contains typed articles from 19th century Vineyard newspapers and other notes on whaling in conjunction with Edgartown and the rest of the island.

Box 5 of 6

Folder 1: Notes and excerpts from *Edgartown Records*

Folder 2: Edgartown Whaling Vessels, 1816-1876

Folder 3: Handwritten copies from 1850 Census of Martha's Vineyard

Subseries F: Miscellaneous Notes

This Subseries contains note cards that Jernegan used for referencing the sources he used when doing his research; also included is a section of notes that cannot be classified into another Subseries.

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Folder 4: List of Names From West Tisbury, MA.

Folder 5: 5x8 Note Cards, Bibliography of Publications on Whaling Voyages

Folder 6: Miscellaneous Notes

Series IV: Publications

This Series contains rough drafts, outlines, and/or finished drafts of several of Jernegan's publications pertaining to whaling and maritime history, as well as a typed list of sources for others to utilize.

Box 5 of 6

Folder 7: "Comparison of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard in Whaling Days," undated

Folder 8: "Whales in Literature and History" undated rough draft, outline, other excerpts

Folder 9: "The Golden Age of New England Whaling" undated rough draft, outlines

Folder 10: "Vineyard Captains Made at Least 1500 Voyages," article from *Vineyard Gazette*, 15 July 1941

Folder 11: "Statistics of Ships and Captains, 1846-1886" typed chart, date unknown; "Chart of Whaling Voyages of Lorenzo Fisher, 1830-1854," handwritten chart, date unknown

Folder 12: "Sources for Finding Names of Whaling Captains" and "Sources of Whaling History of Martha's Vineyard," handwritten manuscripts, date unknown. "Martha's on Martin's Vineyard and Nomans Land"

Series V: Lecture Notes

This Series contains lecture notes on the whale-ship the *Charles W. Morgan*, as well as a written draft on the topic.

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Folder 13: "Slavery and Conversion in the American Colonies," *AHR*, April 1916.

Series VI: Research Note Cards

This Series contains note cards found in a file box marked "Marcus Jernegan's File of Whaling Material Notes;" the information is mainly alphabetized by ship captain's last name.

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Folders 14: Note cards: "File of Whaling Material Notes"

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Folder 1: Note Cards: "File of Whaling Material Notes"

Folder 2: Note Cards: "File of Whaling Material Notes"

Folder 3: Note Cards: "File of Whaling Material Notes"

Folder 4: Notes on the *Charles W. Morgan* & "Remarks on Board the *Charles W. Morgan*"