

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 233
Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Papers 1858-1983
By Margot S. Weston

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No:

Title: Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Papers

Creator: Anonymous

Quantity: 1 cubic foot

Abstract: The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Papers consist of organizational documents, minutes of meetings, financial reports, annual reports, Fair programs and awards including comments on the effect of weather on agriculture.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: Unknown

Processing Information: Margot S. Weston

Access Restrictions: None

Use Restrictions: None

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Papers 1858-2006, Record Unit 233.

Index Terms

- Martha's Vineyard
- Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society
- Agricultural Society
- Fair Programs

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Organizational Records 1858-1859

Series II: Correspondence, 1858-59, 19958-59

Series III: Publications, 1859 - 2006

Series IV: Newspaper Clippings, 1859, 1896, 1990

Series V: Account Book, 1983-1932

Historical Note:

In the March 26, 1858 issue of the Vineyard Gazette, a call was issued for a meeting to be held in West Tisbury on April 3, 1858. The subject of the meeting was to be Island farming. The attendees at the meeting resolved "that the attainment and diffusion of scientific and practical knowledge in the cultivation of the soil, is a subject of such importance as to demand the associated effort of the farmers of Dukes County." A committee was established to draw up a constitution. Membership fees were set; ladies were admitted. Most of the other counties in the Commonwealth had well and long established Agricultural Societies. Martha's Vineyard was better known to seafarers and fishermen. The 1865 publication states that the object of the Society is "To improve the agricultural interests in our county."

The collection of records in Record Unit # has been "artificially" created. There is no original order to these documents. Rather, it is assumed that the organization's librarians, interns, and volunteers have brought these records together at some point. The institution's own records do not shed any light on when and why the collection was originally formed. What is known is that the MVM was founded in 1922. And, the organization began to collect documents in 1923. Thus, the formation of this record unit can only be dated to sometime between 1923 and the present day. The processing of this collection in 2006 has largely kept this artificial collection together.

Scope and Content Note:

The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society collection consists of documents that include personal donations, the first meeting to organize the Society, personal correspondence, Society correspondence, annual and financial reports, account books, and Fair programs, entries, and prizes awarded. The Annual Reports appear in the Fair Programs through 1906. Of special note is an account book that covers the period of time from 1893 to 1932.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Organizational Records

Subseries A: Minutes of Meetings

Box 1 of 3

Folder 1: Organizational Records, 1858-1859

Subseries B: Constitution and Charter

Box 1 of 3

Folder 2: Constitution of the MV Agricultural Society, N.D.

Folder 3: Business Papers

Series II: Correspondence

Box 1 of 3

Folder 4: Business Correspondence 1858, 1859, 1860

Folder 5: Correspondence 1959, Fair 1958, Incorporation

Series III: Publications

Box 1 of 3

Folder 6: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1865(contains a short history of the Society), 1866

Folder 7: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1867, 1868

Folder 8: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1869, 1870

Folder 9: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1871, 1873

Folder 10: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1874, 1875

Folder 11: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1876, 1877

Folder 12: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, 1878, 1879

Folder 13: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1883

Folder 14: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1880, 1881

Folder 15: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1882, 1883

Folder 16: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1884, 1885

Folder 17: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1886, 1887

Folder 18: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1888, 1889

Box 2 of 3

Folder 1: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1890, 1891

Folder 2: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1892, 1893

Folder 3: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1894, 1895

Folder 4: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1896, 1897

Folder 5: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1898, 1899

Folder 6: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1900, 1901

Folder 7: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1902, 1903

Folder 8: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1904, 1905

Folder 9: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1906, 1907

Folder 10: Transactions of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society 1913, 1917

Folder 11: Premium List 1918, 1941

Folder 12: Program and List of Premiums 1947 (short history), 1951, 1952

Folder 13: Program and List of Premiums 1965, 1966, 1967

Folder 14: Program and List of Premiums 1972, 1973, 1974

Folder 15: Program and List of Premiums 1982, 1983

Folder 16: Program and List of Premiums 1992 (W.T. Centennial) 1994, 2006

Folder 17: Report - Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, n.d.

Folder 18: Newspaper Clippings 1859, 1896, 1919

Folder 19: Newspaper Clippings 1990, 1994, 1995

Series V: Account Book, 1893-1932

Box 3 of 3

Folder 1: Agricultural Society, Account Book, 1893-1932