

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum  
Record Unit 327**

**Richard L. Pease Papers, 1835-1887**

By Julia Novakovic

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum

**Call No.**

**Title:** Richard L. Pease Papers

**Creator:** Pease, Richard Luce, 1814-1888.

**Quantity:** 1.5 cubic feet

**Abstract:** The Richard L. Pease Papers are a mix of personal papers and copies of government papers. The collection of research notes is primarily transcriptions of town, church, and court documents. Also within this record are several manuscript journals kept by Pease on a variety of subjects, including daily life, poetry, observations on politics, and helpful "how-to" tips from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** The Richard L. Pease 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, Richard L. Pease Papers, 1835-1887, Record Unit 327.

**Index Terms**

- Pease, Richard Luce
- Pease Family
- Martha's Vineyard
- Town Records
- Indian Lands Deeds
- Colonial Records
- Manuscripts

**Series and Subseries Arrangement**

Series I: Personal Papers

Series II: Personal Correspondence

Series III: Research Correspondence

Series IV: Research Notes

    Subseries A: Church Records

Subseries B: Town Records  
Subseries C: Land Transactions  
Series V: Publications  
Series VI: Notes

### **Historical Note:**

Richard L. Pease, 1814-1888, was a member of one of the Vineyard's oldest and most prominent families. The *Vineyard Gazette* in 1888 described him as a young man who "showed not only a taste for literature of the better sort; but also a marked capacity for those kinds of business which required close thought and clear analysis." In 1836, Pease married a distant cousin, Mary West Pease, and they had two daughters. Pease served Martha's Vineyard not only as a schoolteacher, but also Marshall for the Federal Census of 1850, Registrar of Probate, State Representative, Commissioner of Indian lands, and Presidential Elector. He possessed excellent handwriting and an eye for detail. In addition, he was the Edgartown Postmaster from 1877-1885. He supported the Whig Party and was active in the government.

In his spare time, Pease transcribed many volumes of town records on Martha's Vineyard; he also collected information on Vineyard families with the intent of writing an inclusive history of Martha's Vineyard from its beginnings up through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, he died in 1888 while working on this book. Charles E. Banks later used much of his research to create his own version of the Island's history.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Richard L. Pease Papers are a mix of personal and public documents. His personal papers include family letters, receipts, and awards. The extensive collection of research notes is primarily transcriptions of town, church, and court documents. The 1.5 cubic feet of information was amassed from the 1850s up until his death in 1888. Also within this record are several journals kept by Pease on a variety of subjects, including daily life, poetry, observations on politics, and helpful "how-to" tips.

### **Series Descriptions:**

#### **Series I: Personal Papers**

This Series contains some of Richard L. Pease's personal papers, including a journal, manuscripts of various collected information, his poetry, some recipes, small note books, and receipts.

Box 1 of 3

Folder 1: Richard L. Pease, Journal, 1835.

Folder 2: Richard L. Pease, Journal, 1837-1848.

Folder 3: Richard L. Pease, Journal, 1840- 1847.

Folder 4: Richard L. Pease, Personal Papers, 1839-1886.

Folder 5: Richard L. Pease, Manuscript, Various Material, undated

## **Series II: Personal Correspondence**

This Series contains some personal correspondence of Richard L. Pease. Among the documents is an 1851 letter from his cousin who went to California for the Gold Rush. Other letters include notes to the editors of newspapers, letters to/from relatives, and other casual missives.

Box 1 of 3

Folder 6: Richard L. Pease, Personal Correspondence, 1835-1874.

## **Series III: Research Correspondence**

This Series contains a range of correspondence between Richard L. Pease and publishers regarding a biography of James Athearn Jones, as well as letters supporting a memorial of Edgartown schoolmaster Levitt Thaxter.

Box 1 of 3

Folder 7: Richard L. Pease, Research Correspondence, c. 1860-1885

## **Series IV: Research Notes**

### **Subseries A: Church Records**

This Subseries contains transcripts of church records and personal notes of Richard L. Pease on religion.

Box 2 of 3

Folder 1: Vineyard Church Record Transcripts, 1760-1784

Folder 2: Notes on Religion

### **Subseries B: Town Records**

This Subseries contains handwritten copies of Martha's Vineyard town records, with the most complete accounts from Tisbury, Edgartown, and Chilmark. The documents include information on wills, deeds, taxes, and town meeting minutes.

Box 2 of 3

Folder 3: Transcripts of Colonial Vineyard Records, 1649-1672.

Folder 4: "Extracts of the Records of Tisbury," 1670-1804, transcription.

Folder 5: Records of Town Officers in Tisbury & Chilmark, 1671-1849, transcription.

Folder 6: County Tax Records on Martha's Vineyard, 1730-1836, transcription.

Folder 7: County Tax Records on Martha's Vineyard, 1844-1860, transcription.

Folder 8: Manuscript of Assorted County Records, 1643-1886.

Folder 9: "Martha's Vineyard town documents: 1664-1699," transcription.

Folder 10: "Martha's Vineyard town documents: 1700- 1720," transcription.

Folder 11: "Martha's Vineyard town documents: 1733- 1783," transcription.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Town Records, 1703-1883, transcriptions.

Folder 13: "Copies of original papers collected by Richard L. Pease," transcriptions, 1775-1777

### **Subseries C: Land Transactions**

This Subseries contains transcriptions of land transactions from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; of note is the folder of deeds to Indian Lands.

Box 3 of 3

Folder 1: Land Grants to Mayhew Family, 17<sup>th</sup> Century, transcription.

Folder 2: Land Transactions, 1641- 1837, transcription.

Folder 3: Land Transactions and Miscellaneous Records, 1642- 1782, transcription.

Folder 4: "Deeds and Claims to Property at Quanaimes, Quansoo, Takemmy, Christiantown, Watcha, etc.," 1664-1804, transcriptions.

### **Series V: Publications**

This Subseries contains published works by Richard L. Pease, as well as a proposal for a complete history of Martha's Vineyard up to the 1890s.

Box 3 of 3

Folder 5: "Report on Streets and Highways in Edgartown," 1852.

Folder 6: "Report of the Commissioner Appointed to Complete the Examination and Determination of All Questions of Title to Land, And of All Boundary Lines Between the Individual Owners at Gay Head," 1871.

Folder 7: "Historical Sketches of Martha's Vineyard," *Vineyard Gazette*, 3 March 1876.

Folder 8: Proposal and Outline for *Martha's Vineyard: Its History & Its Annals, 1602-1887*.

Folder 9: "Kuh-Tash-Im-Moo," *Vineyard Gazette*, 7 July 1888

### **Series VI: Notes**

This Series contains various collected notes; some are transcribed into a manuscript books while others are on loose paper.

Box 3 of 3

Folder 10: Miscellaneous Notes, c.1870-1887.