

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum

Record Unit 302

Warner Foote Gookin Papers, 1944-1953

By Kathryn Harcourt

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Warner F. Gookin Collection

Creator: Gookin, Warner Foote, 1882-1953

Quantity: 4 cubic feet

Abstract: The Gookin Papers, c. 1940s -1953, document the research, correspondence, and professional writings of Warner F. Gookin. The collection focuses primarily on Bartholomew Gosnold's voyage to America in 1602, Gosnold's genealogy, the Native Americans of Cape Cod and the Islands, Indian languages, deeds, conversion to Christianity, artifacts, and naming of various land areas. It concludes with WFG's manuscript, "Bartholomew Gosnold."

Administrative Information

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

Processing Information: Kathryn Harcourt

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

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Index Terms

- Gookin, Warner Foote
- Martha's Vineyard Historical Society
- Martha's Vineyard Museum
- Gosnold, Bartholomew
- Gosnold's Voyage
- Martha's Vineyard
- Cape Cod
- Native Americans
- Indian Languages

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Research Record

Subseries A: Gosnold Voyage

Subseries B: Gosnold Genealogy

Subseries C: Indian Languages

Subseries D: Deeds/Legal Papers

Subseries E: European Settlement

Series II: Professional and Personal Correspondence

Subseries A: Research Correspondence, 1944-1953

Subseries B: Personal Papers, 1940-1953

Series III: Publications

Subseries A: Scholarly Publications

Subseries B: Book Manuscript of "Bartholomew Gosnold"

Subseries C: Newspaper Clippings

Series IV: Maps

Series V: Photographs

Series VI: Postcards, Photographs, Illustrations

Series VII: Research Notes and Notecards

Historical Note:

Warner Foote Gookin (WFG), 1882-1953, was a retired clergyman and Martha's Vineyard (formerly Dukes County) Historical Society historian. WFG graduated from Columbia University in 1902 and then attended the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA. For the next two years he lived in Europe and studied German. In 1908 he was ordained and became the canon of Trinity Church in Pittsburgh. He was appointed Vicar of the Church of Accession. His teaching career began in 1928 at the Avon Old Farm School for Boys where he taught English and German until he retired in 1944 because of a heart condition.

A life-long summer resident on East Chop, WFG spent his last years on Martha's Vineyard, 1944-1953, researching the life of Bartholomew Gosnold. He took on the task of clearing up misconceptions about Gosnold's voyage in 1602. WFG engaged academics and non-academics about the history of Martha's Vineyard by means of several letters, editorials and articles. A sailor himself, WFG deciphered readings and by careful induction was able to lead us day by day, league by league, from Gosnold's ship *Concord's* first landfall on the upper arm of the Cape, round the end of the Cape, circling Nantucket, and back up through Muskeget Channel (between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard). He died before he could complete his final manuscript on Gosnold. Ten years after WFG's death in 1953, Philip L. Barbour, who co-authored *Bartholomew Gosnold: Discoverer and Planter* with WFG, took on the task of editing Gookin's manuscript and put it into publishable form under the sponsorship of The Duke's County Historical Society.

Scope and Content Note:

The Warner F. Gookin (WFG) Papers are the result of WFG's research as an historian during his retirement on Martha's Vineyard from 1944 until his death in early 1953. His records include extraordinarily detailed research on Bartholomew Gosnold's voyage from England to America in 1602, Gosnold genealogy, deeds, journals and maps of that era, and interaction with the Island natives, (which also subsequently covered Thomas Mayhew's role in converting many Native Americans to Christianity in that same period). Large portions of the collection are dedicated to Gosnold's genealogy and Gosnold's voyage from England and route around Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and the Elizabeth Islands. There are also extensive notes on Indian vocabulary and translations of photostatted deeds from the 1600s.

WFG's primary ambition or goal seemed to be to clear up "misconceptions" about Gosnold's voyage. In many of his letters, articles, and research notes he points out what he views as inaccuracies, prejudices, and other such "blunders" in earlier historians' (primarily Banks') points of view, lack of documentation, and statements on the history of Gosnold's voyage and Martha's Vineyard. His extensive research on Gosnold was put into manuscript form entitled "Bartholomew Gosnold: A Founder of America," but was not published until after his death. WFG also conducted detailed analysis of Native American [Indian] languages of New England and of Cape Cod and the Island particularly, creating vocabulary lists and identifying place names of the area. This also tied in with the study of Gosnold's voyage in helping to establish where precisely Gosnold and his crew traveled.

Series Description:

Series I: Research Records 1944-1953

Subseries A: Gosnold Voyage

Scope and Content: Subseries A includes notes by WFG as well as researchers Belknap and Davy, and accounts from Brereton and Archer on Gosnold's voyage, WFG's "Critique of Dr. Banks' Account of Bartholomew Gosnold," notes from Jacques Cartier's Second Voyage 1535, references to Verrazano's letter, latitude and longitudinal orientations to location of Martha's Vineyard and other islands, review of part of WFG's manuscript by D. B. Quinn. *Arrangement:* Arranged alphabetically by topic

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Folder 1: Gosnold's Voyage, 1602

Folder 2: Notes from Archer and Brereton Accounts

Folder 3: Hayes, Capt. Edward

Subseries B: Gosnold Genealogy

Scope and Content: Subseries B contains extensive notes, wills, biographies, and family charts of Bartholomew Gosnold's ancestry. *Arrangement:* Arranged alphabetically by topic.

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Folder 4: Golding Family Branch

Folder 5: Gosnold, Bartholomew – Genealogy notes (Gosnold and allied families)

Folder 6: Gosnold, Bartholomew – Genealogy notes

Folder 7: Manors of Suffolk – notes

Folder 8: Newspaper Articles from *East Anglican Daily Times* – Gosnold Genealogy, mostly written by Charles Partridge, 1923 - 1950.

Folder 9: Proceedings in Chancery, Fines and Fees regarding the Gosnold Family

Subseries C: Indian Languages

Scope and Content: Subseries C contains extensive handwritten and typed notes on Indian languages, place names, and culture of the Nantucket, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard regions. WFG attempts to identify parts of these regions with references to past research by Roger William, C. S. Banks, J. P. Baxter, and court records.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by topic.

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Folder 1: Indian Languages – Abstract Etymology

Folder 2: Indian Languages – Etymology Notes

Subseries D: Land Development

Scope and Content: Subseries D contains copies of deeds and deed transcriptions of various parcels of land on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds and the Nantucket Registry of Deeds. Many deeds in Indian languages were translated by Experience Mayhew. *Arrangement:* Arranged alphabetically by topic

Box 2 of 8

Folder 3: Deed Notes of Martha's Vineyard (some to Thomas Mayhew, 1641)

Folder 4: Indian Deeds and Transcriptions

Folder 5: Photostats of Deeds

Subseries E: Early European Settlement

Scope and Content: Subseries E contains research notes, deeds, and theories on the early development of New England and Martha's Vineyard including minerals found in the area, conversion of Native Americans to Christianity, and the naming of Martha's Vineyard. *Arrangement:* Arranged alphabetically by topic.

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Folder 6: Search for Metals in New England

Folder 7: Early New England, copies of maps of Narragansett Bay area

Folder 8: "The Life and Raigne of King James"

Folder 9: Early Settlement, including Deed to Brenton from Womsett, 1670.

Folder 10: Naming of Martha's Vineyard
Folder 11: Mayhew, Thomas
Folder 12: Noman's Land
Folder 13: Pring, Martin – Voyage of 1604

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Folder 1: Folio of Research Notes and photostats

Series II: Professional Correspondence and Personal Papers

Subseries A: Professional Correspondence, 1944-1953

Scope and Content: Subseries A contains correspondence with many research associates, professional organizations and journals focusing on specific aspects of Gosnold's genealogy or journey, Indian languages, and other academic interests of WFG's.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

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Folder 1: Bennstt, Harry L., 1950
Folder 2: Besse, Alden, 1948
Folder 3: Bowen, Richard LeBaron, 1951
Folder 4: Brand, C.W., 1951
Folder 5: Brooks, Edward, 1946
Folder 6: Brown, Alexander C., 1949
Folder 7: Burchard, Peter, 1951-1952
Folder 8: Clark, Eugene S., Jr., 1950
Folder 9: Clark, Russell C., Jr., 1946-1947
Folder 10: Dallas, L.M., 1952
Folder 11: Dodge, Ernest S., 1948-1949
Folder 12: Foster, Francis A., 1947-1949
Folder 13: Ganz, Robert N., Jr., 19??
Folder 14: Gardner, William E., 1948-1950
Folder 15: Godfrey, Walter H., 1952
Folder 16: Goodspeed, George T., 1949
Folder 17: Gray, Irvine, 1948
Folder 18: Gulick, A. Casey, 1952
Folder 19: Hoar, Roger Sherman, 1949
Folder 20: Holdcamper, Forrest R., (National Archives), 1947
Folder 21: Holmes, John, 1952
Folder 22: Hough, Henry B., (*Vineyard Gazette*) 1946-1949
Folder 23: Houser, Halford R., (*Cape Cod Standard Times*), 1947
Folder 24: Jacobsen, Edna L., (Univ. of the State of NY, NY State Library), 1946
Folder 25: Jernegan, Prof. ?, 1946
Folder 26: Johnston, Rebecca, (Virginia Historical Society), 1946-1947
Folder 27: Lambert, Frederick W., 1947
Folder 28: MacLysaght, Dr., 1953

Folder 29: Mayhew, Eleanor R.
 Folder 30: McLoughlin, Arthur J, 1946
 Folder 31: Merrill, Donald G., 1947-1950
 Folder 32: Metcalf, Eleanor Melville, 1948
 Folder 33: Mood, Fulmer, 1956
 Folder 34: Norton, (Dukes County Registry of Deeds), 1946
 Folder 35: Norton, H. Franklin, (Dukes County Historical Society), 1950
 Folder 36: O'Rourke, William T., (New Bedford Free Public Library), 1948
 Folder 37: Partridge, Charles, 1949
 Folder 38: Quinn, Dr. David B., 1948-1952
 Folder 39: Redstone, Lilian J., 1950
 Folder 40: Reed, Marion C., 1947
 Folder 41: Riley, Stephen T., (Massachusetts Historical Society), 1946
 Folder 42: Ryan, Rachael (?), 1951
 Folder 43: Shepard, Marshall, (Dukes County Historical Society), 1946-1949)
 Folder 44: Sherman, Stuart, (Providence Public Library), 1948
 Folder 45: , 1947-1949
 Folder 46: Steele, Bill, (The New Bedford *Standard Times*), 1952
 Folder 47: Thomas, Ruth Easterbrook, 1950-1952
 Folder 48: Toole, Edward W., 1948-1950
 Folder 49: Tupper, George W., (Goodspeed's Book Store), 1949
 Folder 50: Vietor, Alexander O., 1941 (with H. Hough), 1946-1952
 Folder 51: Whitehead, L. H. Haydon, 1949
 Folder 52: Williamson, Ruth, 1946
 Folder 53: Wittemann, H. L., (The Albertype Company), 1952
 Folder 54: Unidentifiable Correspondence, 1947-1952

Subseries B: Personal Correspondence and Papers, 1940-1953

Scope and Content: Subseries B contains personal correspondence and papers of WFG. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Folder 56: East Chop Association, 1949-1952

Folder 57: Gookin Coat of Arms

Folder 58: Highland Property Trust

Series III: Publications

Scope and Content: A listing of books, articles, and journals published by WFG or those which printed his work.

Subseries A: Scholarly Articles

Scope and Content: Subseries A contains published articles by WFG.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

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Folder 1: "The Ancestry of Bartholomew Gosnold: The Gosnolds of Otley, Suffolk," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, (Jan. 1951), pp. 5-22.

Folder 2: "The First Leaders at Jamestown," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 58, No. 2, Apr. 1950.

Folder 3: "Notes on the Gosnold Family," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 57, No. 4, Oct. 1949.

Folder 4: "Who was Bartholomew Gosnold?" *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., Vol. 6, No. 3 (Jul., 1949), pp. 398-415.

Subseries B: Book Manuscript of Bartholomew Gosnold

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Folder 5: Final "Gosnold" Manuscript

Folder 6: Partial Manuscript of Gosnold Voyage

Folder 6: Bibliographic References cited by WFG

Subseries C: Newspaper Clippings

Scope and Content: Subseries C contains newspaper clippings written by WFG.

Arrangement: Folders arranged alphabetically by topic. Articles within folders are arranged chronologically when available, then alphabetically by title.

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Folder 1: Geology of Martha's Vineyard, Indian Guardianship of Gay Head, 1948-49.

"Lagoon Area Yields Rich Variety of Indian Relics," Aug. 20, 1948. "Poignant Overtones in An Indian Petition," Nov. 19, 1948. "He Stemmed from Howwasswee Clan," May 5, 1949. "Dogs Like Foxes But Tame, Indians' Pets". "Glacier Brought Varieties of Rock". "Herring for a Great Increase". "Swiftly Moving Beach". "What Glisters is Not Gold on Island, Alas". Obituary of Mrs. Louise M. Meras

Folder 2: Gosnold and His Voyage, 1947-1949. Draft of "Bartholomew Gosnold and Marthas Vineyard: An Arrangement of the Narratives that Tell of His Landings," 1946. "Island's Baptismal Font, James Pond Area, Should Be Fitting Place for Memorial to Gosnold, Discoverer," July 18, 1947. "Gosnold is One of the Forgotten Men of History," Oct. 10, 1947. "Martha's Gosnold Had Wealthy Ancestors," Dec. 12, 1947. "Gosnold No Adventurer; High Standing Revealed," Feb. 20, 1948. "To Gosnold Goes Most Credit for Founding Jamestown Colony with Which History of the United States Begins," July 9, 1948. "Island's Discoverer Was Deeply Religious," Aug. 13, 1948. "Gookin Scouts Belief Gosnold Passed Island By," Oct. 1, 1948. "Gookin Describes 'Regrettable Error' In Island History," Oct. 8, 1948. "Gilbert Expedition Helped Guide Gosnold,". "The Gosnolds of Otley". "When Historians Disagree". "Why Did Gosnold Set Out on Momentous Voyage?"

Folder 3: Indians of Martha's Vineyard and Indian Languages, 1947-1949.

"Takemmeth's Lament, Indian Document with Sheer Beauty of Poetry, Translated After 246 Years," July 8, 1947. "It Went Further Than Scalping," Aug. 29, 1947. "Did Indians Eat Scallops?" Oct. 31, 1947. "Corrects Indian Census," Dec. 5, 1947. "Corn Was Staff of Life," Dec. 12, 1947. "A Disdainful Sachem," Feb. 6, 1948. "Affirms Powwows' Power,"

Feb. 27, 1948 . "Adult 'Christian Indians' Once Numbered 1500," May 7, 1948. "Deer Hunting Common Way Back in 1658," May 7, 1948. "Island Indians Converted Mainland Compatriots," May 7, 1948. "Relation of Island Princes to Great Sachem," May 7, 1948. "Sachem is Incorrect Title for an Indian Chief," May 7, 1948. "Claims Nope is Correct Form," June 25, 1948. "Evidence That Wolves Once Roamed Island," June 25, 1948. "Land Rights Simpler in Days of Wingless Auks," June 25, 1948. "Indian Words Loom Large in Our Language," July 16, 1948. "A Lesson in Indian, on Formidable Word," May 6, 1949. "He Stemmed From Howwesswee Clan," May 6, 1949. "Indians Are Exact in Their Vocabulary," May 6, 1949. "Setting of Indian Life Here Remains Largely Unchanged," May 6, 1949. "Dartmouth to Start Excavations to Find Date of Indian Advent". "First Hand Report on Date of White Settlement". "Had Vocabulary of their Own". "Herring for a 'Great Increase'". "Indian Princes Lived a Truly Royal Life". "The Indian Welcome," July 16. "Lagoon Area Yields Rich Variety of Indian Relics". "Lo, the Poor Indian, Was Really a Duke". "Setting of Indian Life Here Remains Largely Unchanged". "Southwesters Come From Home of the Gods". "Vineyard Indian Study Shows All Was Well"

Folder 4: Mayhews and Christiantown, Post Office and Nomans, 1942-1948. "Amity of Mayhews and the Indians Retold At Service," Aug. 25, 1942. "A Scottish Earl's Amazing Part in Colonization," Sept. 20, 1946. "'Drift' Whales Were a Source of Wealth," Dec. 13, 1946. "Revives Memories of Long Forgotten Governor," Dec. 20, 1946. "Has Cancelled Nope Stamp," Oct. 24, 1947. "Vineyard Had a Post Office Called Nope, Within Memory of Living Men; Its Location Here Divulged," Oct. 24, 1947. "Thinks Noman's Land Name Means What It Says," Jan. 16, 1948. "Defends Theory Anent Martha and Martin," Jan. 23, 1948. "More About Noman's Land," Jan. 30, 1948. "'Says Death of Thomas Mayhew Jr. Sacrificial," April 9, 1948. "Religious Element in Rivalry Concerning Island Name," May 7, 1948. "Long Owned By the Indians," June 25, 1948. "Mayhew Was Hard Put to It to Find Political Security," June 25, 1948.

Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings (not by WFG) – many VG – Indians, MV Geology, History , Water Supply, Cuttyhunk, 1947 - 1952. "More Attention to Earth. Less to Atom, Would Help," Dec. 19, 1947. "'Rolling Beach' Demonstrated," *Vineyard Gazette*, May 7, 1948. "Cuttyhunk History and First English Inhabitants Set Up Here 350 Years Ago," *New Bedford Sunday Standard Times*, March 2, 1952. "Bartholomew Gosnold 'Real Founder of This Country,'" by Earl Banner, *Boston Daily Globe*, July 24, 1952. "Forester Tells Why Heavy Cape Stand Vanished."

Folder 6: Naming of Martha's Vineyard; Suffolk, 1947-1948.

Folder 7: Shipwrecks Near Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard; Fishing 1950-1952.

Series IV: Maps

Scope and Content: Subseries IV contains one map with WFG's handwritten notes.

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Folder 8: Map of Gosnold's Route

Series V: Photographs

Scope and Content: Subseries V contains two photographs of James Pond on Martha's Vineyard.
Box 6 of 8
Folder 9: Photographs — James Pond

Series VI: Postcards, Photographs, Illustrations

Scope and Content: Subseries VI contains a portrait of Gosnold, a map of Gosnold's route around Martha's Vineyard, and miscellaneous postcards.
Box 6 of 8
Folder 10: Ephemera: Postcards, Photographs, Illustrations, Gosnold.

Series VII: Research Notes and Note Cards

Scope and Content: Collection of Typed and Handwritten Notecards.
Box 7 of 7
Folder: Indian Etymology and Indian Files.

Box 8 of 8
Folder: Indian Files.