

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 242
Grafton Norton Collection

By Matthew Seklecki

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Grafton Norton Collection

Creator: various

Quantity: 1.5 cubic feet

Abstract: The Grafton Norton Collection contains both personal and business related materials with a strong focus on the latter. There are also documents relating to members of Grafton's family.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Grafton Norton Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in _____ by _____.

Processing Information: Matthew Seklecki

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation for Publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Grafton Norton Collection, Record Unit 242.

Index Terms

Grafton Norton

Bayes Norton

Thomas Nickerson

Joseph Mayhew

Ship *Meridian*

Ship *Vineyard*

Ship *Champion*

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Family Papers

Series II: Personal Correspondence

 Subseries A: Incoming

 Subseries B: Outgoing

Series III: Business Correspondence

 Subseries A: Incoming

 Subseries B: Outgoing

Series IV: Business Papers

Subseries A: Receipts

Subseries B: Ship Accounts

Subseries C: Insurance Papers

Subseries D: Financial Transactions

Series V: Legal Papers

Subseries A: Estate of Timothy Coffin

Subseries B: Court Case

Subseries C: Plot Map

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Historical Note:

Grafton Norton was born on February 11, 1777 and died on September 2, 1862. Grafton was the son of Bayes Norton and Dorcas Pease. He resided in Edgartown and was never married. Bayes Norton died in the famous shipwreck off Gay Head in 1782; Grafton was only five years old. Grafton lived most of his later years with his sister, Nancy. Grafton Norton was a wealthy entrepreneur in the shipping and boating business. In 1833, Grafton along with the help of his brother-in-law, Benjamin Worth, built the Commercial Wharf in Edgartown. It is the present day sight of the Edgartown Reading Room. Grafton owned stock and interest in numerous whaling vessels as well as several large companies on the mainland.

Scope and Content Note:

The Grafton Norton Collection contains mostly business related items such as receipts, correspondence, and ship accounts. There are a large number of receipts from daily financial transactions both to and from Grafton Norton. Also included in this collection are papers from other Norton family members. Mainly from Bayes Norton. They are primarily correspondence and business papers. The collection ranges in dates from 1774 to 1862, but mainly focuses on the period from 1830 to 1840. There are photographs of Grafton Norton and his sister, Nancy, in the MVM Photo Archive Index, number 757.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Family Papers

Box 1 of 3

Folder 1: Correspondence of Bayes Norton, 1774-1775

Folder 2: Business Receipts of Bayes Norton, 1767-1781

Folder 3: Receipts of Other Norton Family Members

Folder 4: Memorial to Sailors lost in Shipwreck, written by Elizabeth Norton, 1782

Folder 5: Deed of Pew in the N.E. Meeting House for Grafton Norton

Series II: Personal Correspondence

Subseries A: Incoming

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Folder 6: Letters, 1797-1824

Folder 7: Letters, 1826-1828

Folder 8: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, 1820-1826

Folder 9: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, 1831-1833

Folder 10: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, May-June 1834

Folder 11: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, Sept-Dec 1834

Folder 12: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, March-June 1836

Folder 13: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, July 1836

Folder 14: Letters from Thomas Nickerson, August-October 1836

Subseries B: Outgoing

Box 1 of 3

Folder 15: Letters, 1796-1799

Folder 16: Letters, 1802-1834

Series III: Business Correspondence

Subseries A: Incoming

Box 1 of 3

Folder 17: Business Incoming Letters, 1819-1820

Folder 18: Business Incoming Letters, 1821

Folder 19: Business Incoming Letters, 1823-1825

Folder 20: Business Incoming Letters, 1826

Folder 21: Business Incoming Letters, 1827

Folder 22: Business Incoming Letters, 1828

Folder 23: Business Incoming Letters, 1829

Folder 24: Business Incoming Letters, 1831

Folder 25: Business Incoming Letters, April-May 1832

Folder 26: Business Incoming Letters, June-July 1832

Folder 27: Business Incoming Letters, August-September 1832

Folder 28: Business Incoming Letters, 1833

Folder 29: Business Incoming Letters, 1834

Folder 30: Business Incoming Letters, 1835

Folder 31: Business Incoming Letters, 1836

Folder 32: Business Incoming Letters, 1837-1851

Subseries B: Outgoing

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Folder 1: Business Outgoing Letters, 1818-1820

Folder 2: Business Outgoing Letters, 1826
Folder 3: Business Outgoing Letters, 1827-1829
Folder 4: Business Outgoing Letters, 1831-1832
Folder 5: Business Outgoing Letters, May-June 1833
Folder 6: Business Outgoing Letters, July-August 1833
Folder 7: Business Outgoing Letters, September 1833
Folder 8: Business Outgoing Letters, October 1833
Folder 9: Business Outgoing Letters, November 1833
Folder 10: Business Outgoing Letters, December 1833
Folder 11: Business Outgoing Letters, January 1834
Folder 12: Business Outgoing Letters, February-April 1834
Folder 13: Business Outgoing Letters, May 1834
Folder 14: Business Outgoing Letters, June 1834
Folder 15: Business Outgoing Letters, August 1834
Folder 16: Business Outgoing Letters, September 1834
Folder 17: Business Outgoing Letters, October 1834
Folder 18: Business Outgoing Letters, November-December 1834
Folder 19: Business Outgoing Letters, 1835
Folder 20: Business Outgoing Letters, January-February 1836
Folder 21: Business Outgoing Letters, March 1836
Folder 22: Business Outgoing Letters, April 1836
Folder 23: Business Outgoing Letters, May 1836
Folder 24: Business Outgoing Letters, 1839
Folder 25: Business Outgoing Letters, 1840-1843
Folder 26: Business Outgoing Letters, 1848-1849
Folder 27: Business Outgoing Letters, No Date

Series IV: Business Papers

Subseries A: Receipts

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Folder 28: Business Receipts, 1803-1808
Folder 29: Business Receipts, 1813-1820
Folder 30: Business Receipts, 1821
Folder 31: Business Receipts, 1826
Folder 32: Business Receipts, 1827
Folder 33: Business Receipts, 1828-1829
Folder 34: Business Receipts, January-June 1831
Folder 35: Business Receipts, September 1831
Folder 36: Business Receipts, October-November 1831
Folder 37: Business Receipts, December 1831
Folder 38: Business Receipts, January 1832
Folder 39: Business Receipts, February-April 1832
Folder 40: Business Receipts, May 1832

Folder 41: Business Receipts, June 1832
Folder 42: Business Receipts, July 1832
Folder 43: Business Receipts, August 1832
Folder 44: Business Receipts, September 1832
Folder 45: Business Receipts, October 1832
Folder 46: Business Receipts, November 1832

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Folder 1: Business Receipts, December 1832
Folder 2: Business Receipts, January-February 1833
Folder 3: Business Receipts, April 1833
Folder 4: Business Receipts, May 1833
Folder 5: Business Receipts, June-July 1833
Folder 6: Business Receipts, August-September 1833
Folder 7: Business Receipts, October 1833
Folder 8: Business Receipts, November 1833
Folder 9: Business Receipts, December 1833
Folder 10: Business Receipts, January 1834
Folder 11: Business Receipts, March-April 1834
Folder 12: Business Receipts, May-June 1834
Folder 13: Business Receipts, September-November 1834
Folder 14: Business Receipts, December 1834
Folder 15: Business Receipts, 1835-1836
Folder 16: Business Receipts, 1840
Folder 17: Business Receipts, 1841-1845
Folder 18: Business Receipts, 1847-1851
Folder 19: Business Receipts, No Date

Subseries B: Ship Accounts

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Folder 20: Accounts of Ships *Meridian* (1831), Brig *Minerva*, and *Joan* (1832)
Folder 21: Accounts of Ship *Vineyard*, 1855-1856
Folder 22: Accounts of Ships *Champion* (1856), *Omega* (1858), and *Walter* (1862)
Folder 23: Accounts of other ships, 1805-1840

Subseries C: Insurance Papers

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Folder 24: Ship Insurance Papers, 1828-1831
Folder 25: Ship Insurance Papers, 1832-1837
Folder 26: Ship Insurance Papers, 1840-1841

Subseries D: Financial Transactions

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Folder 27: Collection of Financial Transactions, 1850-1854

Folder 28: Collection of Financial Transactions, 1855-1861

Series V: Legal Papers

Subseries A: Estate of Timothy Coffin

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Folder 29: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1827-1829

Folder 30: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1830-1831

Folder 31: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1833-1834

Folder 32: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1835

Folder 33: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1836

Folder 34: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1837

Folder 35: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1838

Folder 36: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1839

Folder 37: Estate of Timothy Coffin, 1840-1852

Folder 38: Estate of Timothy Coffin, No Date

Subseries B: Court Case

Box 3 of 3

Folder 39: Legal Case: Joseph Mayhew v. Grafton Norton, 1833-1834

Folder 40: Court Summons, 1841 and U.S. Citizenship proof

Subseries C: Plot Map

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Folder 41: Plot Map, nd.

Series VI: Miscellaneous

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Folder 42: Miscellaneous Letters, 1833

Folder 43: Miscellaneous Business Materials

Folder 44: Court Summons, August 20, 1845

Folder 45: Miscellaneous