Finding Aid to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 174
The Wampanoag and Martha’s Vineyard
By Kathryn Harcourt

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: The Wampanoag and Martha’s Vineyard
Creator: MVM (artificially created)
Quantity: 2.25 cubic feet
Abstract: The Finding Aid, The Wampanoag and Martha’s Vineyard is a compilation of articles, research notes, legal papers, pamphlets, maps, and newspaper clippings, pertaining to Native Americans. The collection focuses primarily on the Wampanoag Tribe on Martha’s Vineyard.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: The material for The Wampanoag and Martha’s Vineyard was acquired by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum in __________ by __________.
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Index Terms
Aquinnah
Chappaquiddick
Christiantown
Community Baptist Church
Gay Head
King Philips War
Martha’s Vineyard
Mayhew, Experience
Mayhew, Thomas
Native Americans
Wampanoag Culture
Sachems and Sagamores
Series and Subseries Arrangement
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   Subseries B: Island Place Names, Maps
   Subseries C: Folklore, Legends, Creation Stories
   Subseries D: Wampanoag Sachems, Sagamores
   Subseries E: Reference
Series II: First Contact and European Colonization
   Subseries A: Deeds
   Subseries B: Legal Documents, Deeds of Indenture, Notices
   Subseries C: Maps
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Series VII: Anthropological Studies
Series VIII: Historical Studies.
Series IX: Research Notes

Scope and Content
The Wampanoag and Martha’s Vineyard Finding Aid is a compilation of research documents, articles, photographs, essays, journals, maps, brochures,
and legal papers about the history, language, people, and culture of the Wampanoag Indians, predominantly on Martha’s Vineyard, and what their tribal status and customs are today. A large portion of this Finding Aid is made up of copies of newspaper articles. This clippings file encompasses the time period from the 1800s through the 1990s. Throughout the series descriptions, the following abbreviations may be used: DCRD = Dukes County Registry of Deeds; GH = Gay Head; MV = Martha’s Vineyard; VG = Vineyard Gazette. For additional information on the Wampanoag, refer to the following collections located at the MVM: RU 250, RU 227, RU 201.

Series Description
Series I: Wampanoag Culture
This series contains information on observations of Wampanoag culture at around the time of the first European settlement on Martha’s Vineyard. There are some short biographies on well-known Wampanoag spiritual leaders, such as Epenow, and tribal members.

Subseries A: Language
Box 1 of 5
Folder 1: Articles and Notes on Indian Language
Assorted notes

Subseries B: Island Place Names
Box 1 of 5
Folder 2: Notes and Articles on Martha’s Vineyard Place Names
Indian place names on Chappaquiddick, C.E. Banks and notes
Subseries C: Folklore, Legends, Creation Stories
Box 1 of 5
Folder 3: Notes, Newspaper Clippings, and Articles on Wampanoag Folklore

Subseries D: Wampanoag Sachems and Sagamores
Box 1 of 5
Folder 4: Wampanoag Sachems, Sagamores and other Individuals
“A Who’s Who of Indian Chiefs in Early Days,” VG, June 18, 1943. Attaquin, Helen, A Brief History of Gay Head or ’Aquinnih,” (p. 34 only, re: Epenow).
“Sir Ferdinando Gorges and His Province of Maine,” The Prince Society, Vol. 1, (re” Epenow)

Subseries E: Reference
Box 1 of 5

Series II: First Contact and European Colonization
This series contains information on the impact of European culture from the early 1600s – 1800s and its influence in legal dealings, deeds, and other interactions with the native Wampanoags. By the 1800s, the Wampanoag tribe of Martha’s Vineyard was primarily located in three areas of the island: Gay Head/Aquinnah, Chappaquiddick, and Christiantown.

Subseries A: Deeds
Box 1 of 5
Folder 6: Deeds, 1681-1860

Subseries B: Legal Documents, Special Laws, Deeds of Indenture
Box 1 of 5

Petition to the Council and House of Representatives re: Land Belonging to the Christiantown Indians having been taken away, Dec. 22, 1760. (photocopy)

Request for Rent due from Peter Norton to GH Indians, April 19, 1763.

Judgment against Chilmark Indians (orig. & transcription) Apr. 10, 1764.

Peter Norton to pay Rev. Zachary Mayhew for rent of Gay Head land, June 1768.

Notice to Peter Norton re: cattle trespass on Indian Land, Jun 15, 1775.

Notice of Town Meeting in Gay Head, Oct. 25, ’79 (1779 or 1879?)

Folder 8: Chappaquiddick

Various original documents re: death count, rent for land, petition, on Chappaquiddick, 1700s and 1800s. Letter urging the governor of Massachusetts and Council of the Commonwealth to petition for a church and school on Chappaquiddick, May 12, 1809.

Chappaquiddick Indians: papers, documents, agreements, 1732-

Boundaries of the Indian Common, Special Law, Jan. 26, 1789.

Map/Draft of Plan of Indian Common (next to David Norton Land), 1789.


Subseries C: Maps

Box 1 of 5
Folder 9: Maps


Subseries D: Families

Box 1 of 5
Folder 10: Families

“Catalog of Manuscripts of Massachusetts Historical Society” re: Mayhews
Subseries E: King Philip’s War
Box 1 of 5

Subseries F: Reference
Box 1 of 5
Folder 12: Reference

Series III. European Christianization Efforts
This series consists of information on the early European Christianization efforts of the Wampanoags on Martha’s Vineyard starting with the arrival of Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602, the Mayhew family in the 1640s and the establishment of Christiantown.

Subseries A: Christiantown
Box 2 of 5
Folder 1: Christiantown

Subseries B: Preachers and Sermons
Box 2 of 5
Folder 2: Preachers and Sermons
Folder 3: Religious Documents
Folder 4: Cotton Mather
Mather, Cotton. Experience Mayhew’s Translations/transcription from photostat of “A Discourse Concerning the Institution and Observation of the Lord’s Day,” 1703.

**Subseries C: Society for Propagating the Gospel**
This subseries is a collection of information about the Society for Propagating the Gospel which was a branch of the Church of England organized to send priests and school teachers to boost the church's ministry to the colonists in America and to take the gospel to slaves and native Americans.
Box 2 of 5
Folder 5: Society for Propagating the Gospel
Copies of letters re: Petitions to the Society for Propagating the Gospel re: Staten Island and North Carolina, c. 1712.
Folder 6: *The Society for Propagating the Gospel Among the Indians and Others in North America, 1787-1887.* (book)
Folder 7: Society for Propagating the Gospel: Sermons and Reports
Sermon preached in Boston by Ebenezer Porter, 1824, 1827, 1861, 1865. “A Petition of W. C. Exhibited to the High Court of Parliament for the Propagating of Gospel in America,” (copy; orig. pub. 1641)

**Subseries D: Wampanoag Preachers/Ministers**
Box 2 of 5
Folder 8: Wampanoag Preachers/Ministers
Subseries E: Christian Publications
Box 2 of 5
Folder 9: Sabin Reprints

Subseries F: Reference
Box 2 of 5
Folder 10: Reference

Series IV: Wampanoag Society and Culture, 1801-Present
Box 2 of 5
Folder 11: Christianstown
Folder 12: Cranberry Day

Folder 13: Fugitive Slave in Gay Head, 1854
“Slave Case,” VG, Sept. 29, 1854
“The Story of a Fugitive Slave or the Story a Gay Head Grandmother Told,” VG, Feb. 3, 1921.

Folder 14: Gay Head
“Gay Head’s One-Room School,” Boston Sunday Globe, Nov. 11, 1956. “Gay Head Visits were Adventures,” May 9, 1958. “Rickshaws in Japan, Caleches in Quebec, and Oxcarts were Rule in Gay Head,” VG, May 1, 1959. “Gay Head as An Artist Saw It Eighty Years Ago,” VG, June 26, 1959. “Centennial Events at Gay Head both Merry and Solemn,” VG, Aug. 11, 1970.

Folder 15: Gay Head Cliffs

Folder 16: Gay Head Housing Development

Folder 17: Gay Head Museum

Folder 18: Gay Head Utilities

Folder 19: Lobsterville/Menemsha
“‘I Remember’ the Lobsterville of Its Fishing Colony Days,” VG, May 2, 1952.
“A New Look at Menemsha, a Mecca for Photographs as Well as Artists and Fishermen,” VG, May 9, 1952. “Lobsterville Came By Name Rightfully,” VG, May 9, 1952.

Folder 20: Wampanoag Tribe: Gambling/Casino Proposal, 1990s

Folder 21: Wampanoag Tribe: Health Care

Box 3 of 5
Folder 1: Wampanoag Tribe: History, Traditions

Subseries B: Wampanoag Tribal Members, Biographies
Box 3 of 5
Folder 2: Wampanoag Tribal Members
Subseries C: Gay Head Community Baptist Church
Box 3 of 5
Folder 3: Gay Head Community Baptist Church
“A Century View of Vineyard Panorama,” (from VG Dec. 6 and 20, 1850)
Handwritten notes re: dedication of Community Baptist Church
“The 260th Anniversary Community Baptist Church of Gay Head, Massachusetts,”

Subseries D: Legal Documents
Box 3 of 5
Folder 4: Legal Documents
Resolve of Legislation, May 17, 1855 (copy).
Resolve of Commonwealth — Deep Bottom, West Tisbury, June 2, 1855.

Subseries E. Reference
Box 3 of 5
Folder 5: Gay Head Histories
The Belain Homestead, Now the Duck Inn, by Corinne LeBovit. n.d. (pamphlet).
Attaquin, Helen. A Brief History of Gay Head; or ‘Aquinuih’ (2 copies of pamphlet — note on envelope says original is in safe in the Indian box). Cassette:
Folder 6: Remedies and Wampum
Folder 7: Reports on Status of Massachusetts Indians
“Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1921”

Series V. Wampanoag Governance, 1960- Present.
Subseries A: Federal Recognition of Wampanoag Tribe of MV
Box 3 of 5
Folder 8: Federal Recognition of Wampanoag Tribe of Martha’s Vineyard

**Subseries B: Land Claims**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 9: Land Claims

**Subseries C: Tribal Government**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 10: Wampanoag Tribe: Constitution

**Subseries D: Wampanoag Cultural Council**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 11: Wampanoag Cultural Council
*Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc.*, n.d. (brochure) (2)

**Subseries E: Reference**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 12: Reference

**Series VI: Archaeological Studies**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 13: Archaeological Studies

**Series VII: Anthropological Studies**
Box 3 of 5
Folder 14: Burial Sites and Excavations
Folder 15: Articles 1883-1916
Box 4 of 5
Folder 1: Articles 1940-1983
Byers, Douglas S. and Frederick Johnson. *Two Sites On Martha’s Vineyard*, Phillips Academy, 1940. (excavations on Hornblower property, Squibnocket.)
Folder 2: Articles 1984-1992

Series VIII: Historical Studies (alphabetical by author)
Box 4 of 5
Folder 3: Historical Studies A-L
Folder 4: Historical Studies M-Speck
Folder 5: Historical Studies: State Street Trust Company  
Folder 6: Historical Studies: Stockley-Z  
Worth, Henry B. “Voyages of Ship Bartholomew Gosnold,” 1916. (copy of article re: Gay Head Indians),  
Folder 7: Norumbega (territory now in center of Maine, 1437-1614)  
Squanto: Last of the Patuxets.  

Series IX: Research Notes  
Subseries A: Research Notes by Individual Authors  
Box 5 of 5  
Folder 1: Banks, Charles F. (Indian Bondage)  
Folder 2: Burgess, Edward S. (Indian Language) & Old South Road  
Burgess, Edward S. The Old South Road of Gay Head. Dukes County Historical Society, Vol. 1, No. 4, Oct. 1926.  
Folder 3: Railton, Arthur R. Notes on Indians of Martha’s Vineyard”  
Copy of list of fines levied vs. Vineyarders for selling liquor to Indians, 1699-1723.