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
Preferred citation for publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, W.F. Gookin Papers, 1940-1953, Record Unit 302.

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.

Gookin, Warner F.: Finding Aid
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
Box 1 of 8
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.

Box 1 of 8

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 Anglian 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.

Box 2 of 8

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.

Box 2 of 8

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 Womsettan, 1670.

Gookin, Warner F.: Finding Aid
Folder 10: Naming of Martha’s Vineyard
Folder 11: Mayhew, Thomas
Folder 12: Noman’s Land
Folder 13: Pring, Martin — Voyage of 1604

Box 3 of 8
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.

Box 4 of 8
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 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.
Box 4 of 8
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.
Box 5 of 8
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**

Box 5 of 8
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.

Box 6 of 8
Folder 1: Geology of Martha’s Vineyard, Indian Guardianship of Gay Head, 1948-49.

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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.
Box 6 of 8
Folder 8: Map of Gosnold’s Route

Series V: Photographs

Gookin, Warner F.: Finding Aid 8
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.