Descriptive Summary:
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club
Quantity:.5 cubic feet
Abstract: The Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club collection documents the correspondence and writings of the members of the Roque Club in Oak Bluffs.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: The collection of records in Record Unit 291 has been “artificially” created. There is no original order to these documents. Rather, it is assumed that the organization’s librarians, interns, and volunteers have brought these records together at some point. The institution’s own records do not shade any light on when and why the collection was originally formed. What is known is that the MVM was founded in 1922. And, the organization began to collect documents in 1923. Thus, the formation of this record unit can only be dated to sometime between 1923 and the present day. The processing of this collection in 2006 has largely kept this artificial collection together.
Processing Information: Barbara Murphy
Access Restrictions: none
Use Restrictions: none
Preferred Citation for Publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club, Record Unit 391.

Index Terms:
-Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club
-Limond C. Stone
-Eddie Clark (F. Edward Clark)
-J. Wesley Johnston
-Charles C. Cox

Series Arrangement:
Series I: Organizational Records
Series II: Treasurers’ Reports
Series III: Organizational Papers
**Historical Note:**
The Martha’s Vineyard Croquet Club was founded in 1890 by thirteen men (all summer residents). However, these players played a version of croquet that was unique to the Island. It was called “roque.” Roque was played with short-handled mallets and smaller balls than croquet. The court was made of packed clay and framed by a border of wooden planks. The Island historian Art Railton notes that the border area was eventually faced with rubber. The idea was that players could use the rubberized planks to bounce balls off the surface to their advantage. Roque courts were constructed first in the Campgrounds, but under pressure from some among the Methodist congregation, the courts were relocated to Waban Park in Oak Bluffs. Summer tournaments were held yearly.

The club changed its name to the Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club in 1899. It was incorporated in August 1905. The popularity of the sport spread beyond the Island and eventually roque courts were found up and down the eastern seaboard. National championships were held in the first three decades of the twentieth century, occurring across the country. The Martha’s Vineyard Roque Club became national champions six times during this period. The sport seemed to have met its demise on the Island around the time of the Second World War, yet remained popular in the south, especially Florida, long after.

**Scope and Content Notes:**
The Roque Club Finding Aid consists of secretarial and treasurers’ record books. Its contains personal and business correspondence from 1890 to 1940, records of its Incorporation in 1905, and various newspaper clippings. In addition, this collection includes membership lists from the 1920’s and 1930’s, guidelines for how to play the game and how to construct the court, and a list of the Roque club’s record in the National Championship.

**Series I: Records of Roque Club of Cottage City (Oak Bluffs) MA**
Box 1 of 1
Folder 1: Records of Club, 1890-1899
Folder 2: Records of Club, 1900-1905
Folder 3: Records of Club, 1905-1940

**Series 2: Treasurers’ Reports, Roque Club**
Box 1 of 1
Folder 4: Treasurers’ Book, August 1895-August 1901
Folder 5: Treasurers’ Book, August 7, 1901-August 7, 1905

**Series 3: Organizational Papers**
Box 1 of 1
Folder 6: Incorporation of Roque Club, 1905
Folder 7: Member Correspondence
Folder 8: List of Officers 1930-31
Folder 9: Business of Correspondence
Folder 11: Information on History of Roque Club, 1890-1915
Folder 12: Membership Lists; 1925, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1935
Folder 13: ‘Interesting Facts’ and Rules and Regulations
Folder 14: Record in National Championship competitions