

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 201
Congregational Church Records of Holmes Hole, West Tisbury
and Chilmark Churches 1696-1987**

By Barbara Murphy

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Congregational Church Records of Holmes Hole, West Tisbury and Chilmark Churches 1696-1987

Creator: various

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: The Congregational Church collection is a compilation of published pamphlets, newspaper and magazine articles, administrative records, sermons, baptismal records, correspondence, and research notes.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Congregational Church Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum by many donors throughout the twentieth century.

Processing Information: Barbara Murphy

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Congregational Church Records of Holmes Hole, West Tisbury and Chilmark Churches 1696-1987, Record Unit 201.

Index Terms

- Churches
- Chilmark Congregational Church
- Holmes Hole Congregational Church
- West Tisbury Congregational Church
- Nathan Mayhew
- Reverend William Homes
- Reverend Joseph Thaxter
- Sermons

Series Arrangement

Series I: Congregational Church

Series II: Diaries, Letters – West Tisbury Religious Leaders

Series III: Congregational Church, Holmes Hole

Series IV: West Tisbury Baptist Church

Series V: Sermons, Sunday exercises

Series VI: Recollections of West Tisbury

Historical Note:

The collection of records in Record Unit 1 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 shed 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.

Scope and Content Note:

This record unit consists of information, sermons and records pertaining to the Congregational Churches in Chilmark, Holmes Hole and West Tisbury including: information about church members in 1717, a warrenty deed of 1871, two sermons of Rev. William Homes 1696, a Samuel Cooper sermon 1753, and some recollections of West Tisbury by individuals. On the back of the minutes of the Holmes Hole Congregational Church (folder 16), is a short genealogy of Nathan Mayhew including namesake who died aged 11 months, 15 days.

Series Description:

Series I: Congregational Church

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Documents of West Tisbury Congregational Church, 1717-1983, originals and photocopies

Folder 2: Photocopies of baptisms, 1783

Folder 3: Sermon by Henry Lincoln, 1801 – First Church and Society in Tisbury

Folder 4: Written copy of 1837 vote on bell tolling

Folder 5: 1871 Warrenty Deed and copy; Draft by-laws

Folder 6: Steeple/clock, 1923-1975

Folder 7: Pamphlets, 1923, 1986

Folder 8: Essay, 1942 by Marshall Shepard

Folder 9: Program, 1965; photocopies of church history

Folder 10: Articles on Elmer Athearn and town clock

Series II: Diaries, Letters – West Tisbury Religious Leaders

Folder 11: Rev. William Homes, 1780; N.E. Genealogical Register 1894-1896

Folder 12: Photocopy of Rev. Thomas Davis's minister's diary, 1910-1939;
Photocopy of journal page from Rev. Newton James of WT Church,
Aug. 1924

Series III: Congregational Church, Holmes Hole

Folder 13: Letters granting dismissals of individuals to join new Holmes Hole
Church 1844-1848

Folder 14: 1844 letter re: establishment of new Church – Nathan Mayhew, clerk

Folder 15: Letter, July 2, 1847 from J. Clark to Nathan Mayhew

Folder 16: Minutes of meetings March-December 1851, March-May 1852.

Folder 17: By-laws Confession of Faith pamphlet 1844

Folder 18: 1848 correspondence: Church Committee and George Dunham

Folder 19: Articles on Rev. Joseph Thaxter (1744-1827).

Folder 20: Receipt of payment of ministerial services, July 23, 1849

Folder 21: 1847 complete record of all houses Nathan Mayhew visited

Folder 22: Correspondence: Elijah Dexter to Nathan Mayhew 1842

Folder 23: Paper re sale of pews

Series IV: West Tisbury Baptist Church

Folder 24: Dedication 1837

Series V: Sermons, Sunday exercises

Folder 25: August 8, 1753: Samuel Cooper

Folder 26: May 29, 1811: Thomas Thacher

Folder 27: 1818: Questions on the New Testament

Folder 28: 1851 Ebenezer Chase: "To Young Ministers....", original and copy

Folder 29: Rev. William Homes 1732, Chilmark: "Proposals of Some Things to be
done in Church Gov't"; "Ecclesiastical Gov't"

Folder 30: Rev. William Homes, 1732: Four sermons preached in Chilmark

Folder 31: Rev. William Homes 1696: Two sermons preached in Straban, Ireland.

Series VI: Recollections of West Tisbury

Folder 32: 19th Century Childhood (given 1920), fall 1987