

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 269
THE COFFIN FAMILY PAPERS
By Barbara Murphy**

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: The Coffin Family papers

Creator: various

Quantity: .5 cubic foot

Abstract: The Coffin Family Papers consist of miscellaneous personal, legal and business papers from many members of the Coffin family, beginning in 1747 and continuing to 1907.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Coffin Family papers were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum over many years.

Processing Information: Barbara Murphy

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Coffin Family Papers, Record Unit 269

Index Terms

John Coffin

Enoch Coffin

Daniel Coffin

Timothy Coffin

Edwin Coffin

Hannah Coffin

Nevin House

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Family Papers

Historical Note:

According to Banks' *History of Martha's Vineyard*, the Coffin family arrived on Martha's Vineyard in 1682. John Coffin was born in Haverhill, MA in 1647 and then lived on Nantucket where he was a blacksmith with his father. John Coffin moved to Edgartown in 1682 and continued his profession as blacksmith. He married Deborah Austin of Nantucket in 1668 and they lived in Edgartown until his death in 1711, whereupon Mrs. Coffin returned to Nantucket. The family grew and prospered on the Vineyard, and many Coffins were influential in Edgartown, serving in many official capacities and also dealing extensively in real estate transactions all over MV.

Scope and Content Note: The collection of records in Record Unit 269 has been "artificially" created from individual documents in the MVM Archives. There is no original order to these documents.

Many of the documents relate to business transactions, town business and various monetary matters. Female members of the family are represented as well. Edwin Coffin's whaling interests are also present.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Family Papers

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Enoch Coffin: 1737 real estate transaction, 1777 acting as town clerk; list of his children (undated)

Folder 2: John Coffin 1710-1791: official papers 1747, 1761; VG article on John Coffin house

Folder 3: Daniel Coffin 1775-1827: letters, business transactions, Edg. o official business (as selectman, etc.)

Folder 4: Timothy Coffin 1755-1827: receipts, town business, invitation lists 1784-1810

Folder 5: Jemima Coffin: papers relating to monetary matters, dated 1796-1806

Folder 6: Edwin Coffin 1804-1874: whaling papers, ship insurance, land transactions 1837-1865

- Folder 7: Hannah Coffin 1804-1904 (wife of Edwin Coffin 1804-1874):
miscellaneous documents 1811, 1865, 1890-1906 (will probate)
- Folder 8: Thomas Coffin: copy of deed 1828, VG copy re Nevin house
- Folder 9: Miscellaneous Coffins: 1778-1900's
- Folder 10: Julia Coffin: autograph book from Bridgewater Normal
School 1856, misc. receipts upon her death 1907
- Folder 11: John Coffin House history including information from Ellen
Fellows Young (her obit. included)
- Folder 12: Genealogical notes on Coffin family 1776-1799, author
unknown; penciled entries on various Coffins in account book 1899-
1900