

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum**  
**Record Unit 315**  
**Martha's Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways 1860-2000**  
By Karin Stanley

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum

**Call No.**

**Title:** Martha's Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways, 1860-2000.

**Creator:** Karin Stanley

**Quantity:** .5

**Abstract:** This collection contains a variety of cookbooks, mostly from Martha's Vineyard, including community cookbooks written to benefit local organizations, manuscript cookbooks, and a couple of commercially published cookbooks. It also includes reference materials from various articles pertaining to Vineyard diet, Native American diet, and local recipes.

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** The Cookbooks and Foodways Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries; many donors contributed to the growth of this compilation.

**Processing Information:** Karin Stanley

**Access Restrictions:** none

**Use Restrictions:** none

**Preferred Citation for Publication:** Martha's Vineyard Museum, Martha's Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways, 1860-2000, Record Unit 315.

**Index Terms**

- Martha's Vineyard Cookbooks
- Community Cookbooks
- Martha's Vineyard Ladies' Aid Society
- Island Cookbook
- Martha's Vineyard Hospital benefit
- Vineyard Conservation Society benefit
- Oak Bluffs School, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Vose Family Boathouse
- Carrie R. Howland
- "The Dime Cook Book"
- Thimble Farm
- Rosamond Hawkins
- Louise Aldrich Bugbee
- Gay Head Indians
- Wampanoag

- Indian corn
- Brown bread
- Vineyard diet
- Vineyard cookery
- Vineyard recipes

## **Series and Subseries Arrangement**

Series I: Cookbooks, 1860-2000

Subseries A: Authored Cookbooks, 1860-2000

Subseries B: Community Cookbooks, 1886-2000

Series II: Reference, 1891-2000

Subseries A: Native American Foodways

Subseries B: Vineyard Diet

Subseries C: Vineyard Recipes

## **Historical Note:**

Geography, food resources, ethnic-make up, cultural history and outside influences all contribute to the foodways, or eating habits and culinary practices of a people or region. Cookbooks – used and kept, recipes shared, documented memories of food, and the development of a distinctive regional dish, (such as chowder) all provide some evidence of a region or communities culinary heritage.

A coastal location, Native American influences, early English customs, outside influences from the whaling fleet, and other factors contributed to the Vineyard's foodways, at least through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Articles written on the influence of native peoples or other reflections on the Vineyard diet point to what people have perceived to have shaped the Islands foodways.

Perhaps more so than other cookbooks community cookbooks reflect what people really ate in their everyday lives. These recipes submitted by women for hospital and other benefit publications are often simple recipes that would have been used by the writer. This collection of Martha's Vineyard cookbooks and food reference material consists of community cookbooks and copies of articles written about Vineyard foodways.

## **Scope and Content Note:**

This .5 cubic feet of cookbooks and documents are arranged chronologically in their series. The bulk of this collection consists of cookbooks, mostly Vineyard related. These cookbooks are divided into subseries based on authorship. Those written by a single author include commercially published cookbooks dating from 1860 to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, along with a couple of manuscript cookbooks

from the late 1800's. Other cookbooks, termed community cookbooks, are those written to benefit an organization. These books are a compilation of recipes contributed by a number of (mostly) women and date from 1886 to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This collection also includes a miscellaneous group of reproduced reference works describing the Vineyard diet, or copies of Vineyard related recipes.

## **Series Descriptions:**

### **Series I: Cookbooks, 1860-2000**

This series includes cookbooks, mostly Vineyard related, dating from 1860 to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some are manuscript collections written by individual authors, others are commercially published cookbooks. A large portion of the series is comprised of community cookbooks written to benefit organizations.

### **Subseries A: Authored Cookbooks, 1860-2000**

This subseries includes cookbooks written by a single author. A few are hand written manuscript cookbooks, the others commercially published.

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: *The Dime Cook Book*; Mrs. Victor, New York, 1860. *Comforts for the Sick*; Mina Worth, Edgartown, manuscript n.d.

Folder 2: Manuscript cookbook, author unknown, ca. 1873. Manuscript cookbook, Carrie R. Howland, Vineyard Haven, 1884

Folder 3: *Recipes by Ros*; Rosamond Hawkins, (dedicated to Martha's Vineyard) n.d. *Slap-Dash Cookery*; Louise Aldrich Bugbee, Martha's Vineyard, n.d.

### **Subseries B: Community Cookbooks, 1886-2000**

This subseries includes cookbooks, most of which were written to benefit an organization. These books are a compilation of recipes contributed by a number of people, mostly women, and reflect popular recipes of the period that people would have made at home, although special party recipes are also included.

Box 1 of 1

Folder 4: *The Ladies' Delight Cook Book*; Lawrence, MA, 1886

Folder 5: *Martha's Vineyard Cook Book*, Ladies' Aid Society M. E. Church, Lambert's Cove, ca. 1922.

Folder 6: *Island Cook Book to Benefit M. V. Hospital*; Oak Bluffs, MA, 1924

Folder 7: *Cuttyhunk Favorites*; Cuttyhunk, MA, 1979

Folder 8: *Vineyard Tastes*; Vineyard Conservation Society, 1986

Folder 9: *Everything Including the Kitchen Sink!* Oak Bluffs 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1989

Folder 10: *Vose Boathouse Centennial Celebration Cookbook*; Edgartown 1999

*Thimble Farm..almost a recipe book*; n.d.

## **Series II: Reference, 1891-2001**

This series contains miscellaneous copies of materials describing Vineyard diet, some Native American food practices, and some Vineyard recipes.

### **Subseries A: Native American Foodways**

This subseries consists of two articles pertaining to the native Wampanoag life style and diet.

Box 1 of 1

Folder 11: Indian Notes, Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, 1930 (partial article). The Character and Life Style of the Indians, *Dukes County Intelligencer*, 1950.

### **Subseries B: Vineyard Diet**

This subseries contains articles written about the unique diet of Martha's Vineyard.

Box 1 of 1

Folder 12: "Cookery of Vineyard is Distinctive" *Vineyard Gazette*, 1934. "Diet Was Rude But Plenteous in Olden Days" *Vineyard Gazette*, 1958

### **Subseries C: Vineyard Recipes, 1891-2001**

This subseries contains articles and copies of recipes from Vineyard sources.

Box 1 of 1

Folder 13: "A Few Vineyard Receipts", *The Sea Gull*, West Tisbury, MA 1891  
Some Vineyard Recipes, *Vineyard Magazine* 1924. Traditional Vineyard Holiday Recipes, *Dukes County Intelligencer*, 1960. Wedding Cake Recipes from 1800's.