

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 336**

Joshua Slocum Collection, 1904-1995

By Matthew Seklecki

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Joshua Slocum Collection.

Creator: various

Quantity: .25 cubic feet

Abstract: The Joshua Slocum collection includes article clippings, correspondence, publications, professional writings of Joshua Slocum, and reference information contributed by various sources. The collection focuses on Slocum's two historic voyages.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Joshua Slocum collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in _____ by _____.

Processing Information: Matthew Seklecki

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Joshua Slocum Collection, Record Unit 336.

Index Terms

--Joshua Slocum

--The Spray

--The Destroyer

--Martha's Vineyard

--Brazil

Series Arrangement

Series I: Correspondence, 1904

Series II: Newspaper Clippings, 1900-1995

Subseries A: First Trip: Solo Voyage in the "The Spray"

Subseries B: Second Trip: Voyage to Brazil in the "The Destroyer"

Series III: Reference, 1900-1972

Historical Note:

Joshua Slocum was born on February 20, 1844 in Wilmont, Nova Scotia, Canada. Slocum grew up in community that lived on or near the water. As a result boats were the common and easiest means of communication and he became proficient at a young age. He left Nova Scotia at the age of 16 in search of adventure on the high seas. Joshua Slocum is best known for the fact that he is the first person to sail single-hand around the world. Slocum left Vineyard Haven on April 24, 1895 and completed his journey on June 27, 1898. This made Slocum a world celebrity. He was not as popular on Martha's Vineyard because he was not born here and called an "off-islander" by most of the native inhabitants. In 1909 Slocum left Vineyard Haven in search of the Amazon and was never seen or heard from again by most accounts.

Scope and Content Note:

The Joshua Slocum collection consists of article clippings from different voyages that he made. The location to the Slocum homestead is also enclosed. There is also, several book or pamphlets written by other authors about Slocum and his journeys. A small amount of correspondence is from Joshua Slocum. There is also a 1901 publication of the pamphlet *Sloop Spray* Souvenir. The pamphlet was a compilation of materials put together by Henrietta Slocum. The souvenir pamphlet also contains a swatch of Slocum's original sail. There is an original photograph of the *Spray* in Menemsha. It is dated June 1903. See photo file 810 AA for original.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Letter from Joshua Slocum, March 18, 1904.

Series II: Voyage Clippings

Subseries A: First Trip: Solo Voyage in the "Spray"

Box 1 of 1

Folder 2: Newspaper Articles from the *Vineyard Gazette*, Fairhaven newspaper, centennial flyer, 1909-1995.

Folder 3: Article in *Century Magazine*, 1900

Subseries B: Second Trip: Voyage to Brazil in the "Destroyer"

Box 1 of 1

Folder 4: Slocum's own account of the voyage, 1900.

Series III: Reference

Box 1 of 1

Folder 5: Accounts of Slocum's journeys and biographies, 1900-1972.

Series IV: Publications

Box 1 of 1

Folder 6: *Sloop Spray Souvenir*, 1901.