

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 337**

Henry Colt Collection 1803-1888

By Matthew Seklecki

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Henry Colt Collection.

Creator: various

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: The Henry Colt collection includes both personal and business correspondence, accounts of his ships and voyages, family documents, legal documents, and miscellaneous documents. The collection's main focus is on Colt's voyages.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Henry Colt 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, Henry Colt Collection, Record Unit 337.

Index Terms

- Henry Colt
- Edgartown, MA
- Martha's Vineyard
- Salley Anne
- Champion
- Java
- Lagoda
- Harriet T. Cummings
- Susan Colt
- Sarah Colt
- Daniel Colt

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Subseries A: Incoming

Subseries B: Outgoing

- Series II: Business Correspondence
 - Subseries A: Incoming
 - Subseries B: Outgoing
- Series III: Family Papers
 - Subseries A: Letters of Harriet Colt
 - Subseries B: Letters of Colt family members
- Series IV: Business Papers
 - Subseries A: Receipts
 - Subseries B: Ship Accounts
- Series V: Legal Documents
- Series VI: Miscellaneous
 - Subseries A: Correspondence
 - Subseries B: Receipts

Historical Note:

Henry Colt was born in 1803 and died in 1888. Henry Colt was a ship captain who lived in Edgartown. He had two wives during his long life. His first wife was Nancy Baylies. After 17 years of marriage, Nancy passed away. Captain Colt quickly remarried and chose another Islander--Harriet T. Cummings. Henry Colt had several children with each wife. While Colt's voyages left from New Bedford, he continued to reside on Martha's Vineyard. Colt captained a number of vessels that took him to different parts of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Scope and Content Note:

The Henry Colt collection (.5 cubic feet) consists of personal and business letters to and from Henry Colt. Accounts and muster books from his voyages are also in the collection as well as many business receipts (arranged chronologically). Letters to and from Colt family members can also be found in the collection (arranged chronologically). One folder contains legal documents that pertain to Henry Colt and his family members. The Martha's Vineyard Museum has three ships logs that Henry Colt captained. The logbooks of the *Salley Anne* (145), the *Java* (22), and the *Champion* (56A) are housed in the Gale Huntington Library. Also, there are several deeds that relate to Henry Colt and his family (box 132B and 133B).

Series Descriptions

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Subseries A: Incoming

Folder 1: Personal Letters to Henry Colt, 1839-1849.

Subseries B: Outgoing

Box 1 of 1

Folder 2: Personal Letters from Henry Colt, 1835-1862.
Folder 3: Personal Letters from Henry Colt, n.d.

Series II: Business Correspondence

Subseries A: Incoming

Box 1 of 1

Folder 4: Business Letters to Henry Colt, 1831-1868

Subseries B: Outgoing

Box 1 of 1

Folder 5: Business Letters from Henry Colt, 1835-1853

Series III: Family Papers

Subseries A: Letters of Harriet Colt

Box 1 of 1

Folder 6: Letters to and from Harriet Colt, 1843-1859

Subseries B: Letters of Colt Family Members

Box 1 of 1

Folder 7: Letters to and from Various Colt Family Members, 1836-1924

Series IV: Business Papers

Subseries A: Receipts

Box 1 of 1

Folder 8: Receipts from Business Transactions, 1834-1854

Subseries B: Ship Accounts

Box 1 of 1

Folder 9: Accounts of Individual Ships, 1836-1859

Series V: Legal Documents

Box 1 of 1

Folder 10: Legal Documents of the Colt family, 1816-1888

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Subseries A: Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 11: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1840-1885

Subseries B: Receipts

Box 1 of 1

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Receipts, 1833-1886