

Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 398
HOMEMAKERS' CLUB OF OAK BLUFFS
by Barbara Murphy

Descriptive Summary:

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Homemakers' Club of Oak Bluffs

Creator: various

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: The Homemakers' Club Collection is a compilation of two treasurer's reports, and a series of secretaries' reports and various other publications and correspondence relating to the Oak Bluffs Homemakers' Club, 1932-1997.

Administrative Information:

Acquisition Information: The Homemakers of Oak Bluffs Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in 2001 as a donation from Estelle Surprenant.

Processing Information: Barbara Murphy

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Homemakers' Club of Oak Bluffs Collection, Record Unit 398

Index Terms:

- Dukes County Extension Service
- 4-H Clubs
- Cerebral Palsy Camp (Camp Jabberwocky)
- Henry Franklin Norton
- "Martha's Vineyard, History, Stories and Legends," (republished by Homemakers')
- The Consecrated Tree of Oak Bluffs (in Hartford Park)

Series Arrangement:

- Series I: Treasurers' Reports of Club.
- Series II: Secretaries' Reports of Club
- Series III: Newspaper Clippings
- Series IV: Memorabilia

Historical Note:

The Homemakers' Club was established in September, 1932 and named the Ogkeshkuppe Homemakers' Club (Ogkeshkuppe being the Wampanoag name for Oak Bluffs, meaning "wet or damp thicket or woods."). The club was primarily organized to sponsor the homemaking projects of the Dukes County Extension Service of which Edith Morris, one of the founding members, was the agent. Community service and continuing education were two of the main goals of the club.

Over the years the Homemakers supported extension programs, Red Cross, March of Dimes, Cancer Fund Drives, Red Stocking, various needy individuals, and many other charitable endeavors. The primary recipient of the club's time and money was the town of Oak Bluffs where they sponsored milk, cod liver oil and orange juice to children of the Oak Bluffs School, petitioned for life guards for the beach, restored and rededicated the Consecrated Tree in Hartford Park, Oak Bluffs, but in later years the club extended their charitable work to include all of Martha's Vineyard.

For years the donations were limited by financial constraints, but in 1976 the Club decided to republish Henry Franklin Norton's book "Martha's Vineyard, History, Stories and Legends" The book has since gone through many editions and consequently the club's donations to Island organizations have greatly increased in number and generosity. The Homemakers' programs focused on the members' education, including music, countries of the world, literature, political issues and many other topics.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes treasurers' reports, secretaries' reports, and some correspondence received by the club, and other miscellaneous items. Some secretaries' books contain newspaper articles, cards and other memorabilia associated with the club.

Series Descriptions:**Series I: Treasurers' Reports for the Oak Bluffs Homemakers' Club****Box 1**

Folder 1: Treasurers' Book: September 1932-May 8, 1956

Folder 2: Treasurers' Book: October 1956-June 17, 1983

Series II: Secretaries' Reports for the Oak Bluffs Homemakers' Club**Box 1**

Folder 3: Secretary's Reports: 3/23/1937-10/23/1945

Folder 4: Secretary's reports: 10/23/1945 (rewritten from previous book)-5/23/1950

Folder 5: Secretary's reports: 10/10/1950-10/20/1953

Folder 6: Secretary's reports: 12/15/1953-4/14/1964

Folder 7: Secretary's reports: 5/12/1964-5/13/1975

Folder 8: Secretary's reports: 10/28/1975-5/17/1983; including 50th anniversary of club, consecrated tree of Oak Bluffs

Folder 9: Secretary's reports: 10/29/1983-6/18/1987

Folder 10: Secretary's reports: 11/3/1987-2/28/1989

Folder 11: Secretary's minutes 10/28/1991-11/28/1992; 1/13/no year, 2/17/1997

Series III: Clippings

Box 1

Folder 12: Clippings and Memorabilia