

# A Finding Aid to the Barbara Greenough Bradley Diaries

## Record Unit 466



Finding aid prepared by Joyce Cooper in May 2014 with assistance from Lara J. Ullman.  
Edgartown, Massachusetts  
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### Descriptive Summary

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum  
Gale Huntington Research Library  
59 School Street  
P.O. Box 1310  
Edgartown, MA 02539  
508-627-4441

**Call Number:** RU 466

**Creator:** Bradley, Barbara G., 1913-

**Title:** Barbara Greenough Bradley diaries

**Dates:** 1975-1989

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes (2.016 cubic feet)

**Language(s):** The materials are in English.

**Abstract:** Barbara G. Bradley was a poet and life long summer resident of Martha's Vineyard. The 9 diaries in this collection are from her later years, from age 62 to 76.

### Administrative Information

#### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

### **Use and Reproduction Restrictions**

Requests to reproduce material from this collection should be directed to museum staff. Reproduction fees may apply.

### **Preferred Citation**

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 466, Barbara Greenough Bradley Diaries.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Anne B. Greenough in 1993. (Accession no. 1993.092).

## **Index Terms**

### **Subjects - Topics**

Alcoholics Anonymous

Lesbians

Poetry

### **Subjects - Places**

Tisbury (Mass. : Town)

Wellesley (Mass.)

### **Form/Genre Terms**

Diaries

## **Biography/Historical Note**

Barbara Greenough was born in Tisbury, Massachusetts on August 19, 1913, to Henry Vose Greenough (1885-1976), a textile executive, and Emery Holden, whose family owned the Cleveland, Ohio newspaper *The Plain Dealer*. She had two brothers Henry Vose Greenough, Jr. (1912-1976), an acoustical engineer, and Peter B. Greenough (1917-2006), a newspaper editor and financial columnist who married opera singer Beverly Sills. Barbara was a society debutante at age 17. On October 22, 1932, at 19 years old, Barbara married John Freeman Bradley. The couple had two daughters, Anne, known as Nan, and Emery, called Ummy, by the family. Barbara lived in the greater Boston area and spent her last years in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She was a member of the Cleveland House Poets, a group of poets that met biweekly in West Tisbury, Massachusetts. Barbara's poems were published in the *Boston Globe* and the *Vineyard Gazette*, and she contributed to 3 books of poetry. By the early 1970s Barbara realized that she had a problem with alcohol and joined Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). AA was a major part of her life into the 1980s.

Barbara Greenough Bradley's family had a long history as summer residents of Tisbury, Massachusetts. Barbara's grandfather, Charles Greenough, was one of the first homeowners on West Chop, building his house for the summer of 1890. Barbara's father, Henry Vose Greenough, and mother, Emery Holden, bought their cottage, "Chopsticks", on West Chop in 1912. "Chopsticks" was the family's summer residence until it was sold in 1970. After her family home on West Chop was sold Barbara spent time in Makonikey at the home of her partner Justine Ruiz de Conde.

## Scope and Content of Collection

Barbara Greenough Bradley kept journals and diaries throughout much of her life. This collection includes 9 of these diaries which Barbara wrote between the ages 62-76. An entry in January of 1984 reflects, "I did originally start writing them in later years to give a picture of the life of an ageing woman – a lesbian grandmother, a sometime poet and painter – in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century." She frequently inserted articles, cards, and pictures between the pages. The inserts include: newspaper clippings of current events, poetry, and obituaries of family and friends; greeting cards from Christmas, Valentine's Day, birthdays, and anniversaries; programs for museums and theater productions; and photographs of her dog and friends. The letters in the final folder between Barbara and Arthur Railton of the Dukes County Historical Society discuss her desire to donate her diaries to the Society.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

## Collection Contents

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Diary	1975
1	2	Diary inserts	1975 January-June
1	3	Diary inserts	1975 July-December
1	4	Diary	1976
1	5	Diary inserts	1976 January-June
1	6	Diary inserts	1976 July-December
2	1	Diary	1977
2	2	Diary inserts	1977 January-June
2	3	Diary inserts	1977 July-December
2	4	Diary	1978
2	5	Diary inserts	1978 January-June
2	6	Diary inserts	1978 July-December
3	1	Diary	1984

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
3	2	Diary inserts	1984 January-July
3	3	Diary inserts	1984 August-December
3	4	Diary	1986 May-October
3	5	Diary inserts	1986 May-October
4	1	Diary	1986 November-1987 April
4	2	Diary inserts	1986 November-1987 April
4	3	Diary	1988 October-1989 April
4	4	Diary inserts	1988 October-1989 April
4	5	Diary	1989 May-1989 October
4	6	Diary inserts	1989 May-1989 October
4	7	Letters	1989 May-1990 February