Finding Aid to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 206
Natural History, Early Tools
and Industry of Martha’s Vineyard
By Barbara Murphy

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: Natural History, Early Tools and Industry of Martha’s Vineyard
Creator: various
Quantity: .5 cubic feet
Abstract: Natural History, Early Tools and Industry of Martha’s Vineyard collection is a compilation of published pamphlets, newspaper and magazine articles, administrative records, narratives, correspondence, and research notes.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: The Natural History, Early Tools and Industry of Martha’s Vineyard Collection was acquired by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum by many donors throughout the twentieth century.
Processing Information: Barbara Murphy
Access Restrictions: none
Use Restrictions: none
Preferred citation for publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, Natural History, Early Tools and Industry of Martha’s Vineyard, Record Unit 206.

Index Terms
- the Heath Hen
- Barrier Beaches
- Waskosim’s Rock
- Woodticks
- N.S. Shaler

Series Arrangement:
Series I: The Heath Hen
Series II: Geology & Coastal Resources
Series III: Early Tools & Industry
Series IV: Fossils, Ticks, Inland Fisheries & Game
Series V: Miscellaneous
Historical Note:
The collection of records in Record Unit 6 has been “artificially” created. There is no original order to these documents. Rather, it is assumed that the organization’s librarians, interns and volunteers have brought these records together at some point. The institution’s own records do not shed any light on when and why the collection was originally formed. What is known is that the MVM was founded in 1922. And, the organization began to collect documents in 1923. Thus, the formation of this record unit can only by dated to sometime between 1923 and the present day. The processing of this collection in 2006 has largely kept this artificial collation together.

Scope and Content Note:
This record unit consists of information and records pertaining to the natural history, early tool and industry of Martha’s Vineyard, including the history of the heath hen and its extinction, geological descriptions of Martha’s Vineyard, the control of woodticks on the Island, and a study of tools utilized in the settlement of Martha’s Vineyard.

Series Description:
Series I: The Heath Hen
Box 1 of 1
Folder 1: Pamphlet DCHS: The Heath Hen’s Journey to Extinction
Folder 2: Nature Magazine, August 1927 article: The Tragedy of the Heath Hen
Folder 4: Fall River Line pamphlet, June 1932, Heath Hen article; St. Nicholas Magazine, May 1926, reference to Heath Hen

Series II: Geology and Coastal Resources
Box 1 of 1
Folder 8: Clifford A Kaye, Geologist: copies of various geological briefs re MV; V.G. articles on Mr. Kaye; related articles, 1960-1989
Folder 9: “Barrier Beaches, Salt Marshes & Tidal Flats: Inventory of Coastal Resources of MA”, 1985
Folder 11: “The Atlantic Continental Shelf & Slope: A Program of Study”, 1968

Series III: Early Tools and Industry
Box 1 of 1

Series IV: Fossils, Ticks, Inland Fisheries and Game
Box 1 of 1
Folder 14: “On the Occurrence of Fossils of the Cretaceous Age…MV, Mass”, N.S. Shaler, June 1889
Folder 15: Inland Fisheries & Game Commissioners’ Report, Dec. 1899

Series V: Miscellaneous
Box 1 of 1
Folder 17: Vineyard Gazette, February 16, 1866
Folder 18: Natural and Historic Aspects of New England, Pamphlets, 1905-1939
Folder 19: Western Traveler’s Pocket Dictionary, 1834