Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 235
Civil War and Martha’s Vineyard
By Marian Halperin

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: Civil War Collection
Creator:
Quantity: 2 cubic feet
Abstract: The Civil War Collection (1861-1865) focuses on diaries, letters, service lists, and information related to individual local servicemen. A sizeable section is related to an attempt at correcting state records to reflect the home town of individual volunteers rather than the town where they were recruited, in an effort to establish a town's meeting of its quota of service men. The majority of letters (and three diaries housed elsewhere) were written by an Edgartown soldier, Charles M.Vincent.

Administration Information
Acquisition Information: The Civil War Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum from various sources over many years.
Processing Information: Marian Halperin
Access Restrictions: none
Use Restrictions: none
Preferred Citation: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Civil War Collection, Record Unit 235.

Series and Subseries Arrangement
Series I: Personal Papers
  Subseries A: Diaries
  Subseries B.: Letters
Series II: Recruitment and Enlistment Papers, Individual Servicemen's Records
  Subseries A: Army
  Subseries B. Navy
Series III: Lists of Volunteers; Papers Concerning Town Quota Records
  Subseries A: Edgartown
  Subseries B: Tisbury
  Subseries C: Other/All Island towns
  Subseries D: Navy
  Subseries E: Massachusetts Regiments
  Subseries F: Campaign for redress for quotas
Historical Note
This collection was assembled from many sources. The material relates either to individual Martha's Vineyard servicemen or to the ways in which the towns of Martha's Vineyard responded to recruitment, quotas, bounties, and other problems associated with recruiting men for the war. The largest collection of diaries and letters was written by Charles M. Vincent (1843-1881), from his enlistment in August 1862 at age 18 to spring 1865. Material post-1865 connected with the war and other related topics are also included.

Scope and Content Note
Series I contains original papers, diaries and letters, associated with individual servicemen. Series II contains official papers, separated where possible between Army and Navy, pertaining to individuals, most of whom were from Martha's Vineyard. Series III is comprised of papers and printed lists of servicemen produced in individual Island towns and concludes with letters and lists created in relation to attempts to obtain changes in assignment of individual servicemen from their place of enlistment to their home town in order to meet assigned quotas. Series IV contains official government forms and directives. Series V contains material related to Martha's Vineyard in the war, including histories of local participation; organizations, both national and local, that aided service men; the development of bounties by individual towns to attract recruits; and the draft that was established to fill quotas. Series VI Pamphlets and Books, contains such items as are not located under pertinent subject matter. Series VII, Miscellaneous, contains Civil War material not specific to Martha's Vineyard such as Confederate papers, a Negro passport issued in Richmond, Civil War music, papers related to specific battles, and newspaper and magazine articles.

Series Description
Series I: Personal Papers
Subseries A: Diaries
Box 1 of 4
Folder 1: John Wesley Mayhew, 1863
Folder 2: Francis P. Vincent (2), 1863
Folder 3: Charles M. Vincent, transcripts of three diaries, 1862, 1863, 1863-1864
Folder 4: Sidney O. Brown, photocopy and transcription, 1862

Subseries B: Letters
Box 1 of 4
Folder 5: Wife of Frederick Crocker requesting release from prison
Folder 6: John L. McCollum, 1862
Folder 7: Hattie W. Taber to Eleanor, 1862
Folder 8: Capt. Thomas W. Williams (2) re: exemption as mariner, 1862
Folder 9: Charles M. Vincent, April 31, 1862 - January 23, 1863
Folder 10: Charles M. Vincent, January 25, 1863 - November 1, 1863
Folder 11: Charles M. Vincent, November 7, 1863 - January 19, 1864
Folder 12: Charles M. Vincent, January 21, 1864-March 3, 1864

Box 2 of 4
Folder 1: Charles M. Vincent, March 1864-May 22, 1864
Folder 2: Charles M. Vincent, May 27, 1864 - July 30, 1864
Folder 3: Charles M. Vincent, August 9, 1864 - April 5, 1865
Folder 4: Envelopes address to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. Vincent
Folder 5: Envelopes addressed to members of Charles M. Vincent's family
Folder 6: Envelopes addressed to Mrs. Frank P. Vincent

Series II: Recruitment/Enlistment Papers
Subseries A: Army
Box 2 of 4
Folder 7: Henry Bradley
Folder 8: Captain Welcome A. Crafts and Barzella Crowell
Folder 9: James W. Curtis
Folder 10: Peleg B. Davenport and James Diamond
Folder 11: Cyrus B. Fisher and Frank H. Sanders, Benjamin Norton Luce
Folder 12: James Wilbur, Jr.
Folder 13: Louis Brie and John Brown, Philip Brown, Frank L. Budlong, Elihu M. Bunker, John Carr (3)
Folder 14: A.L. Cleveland, John M. Coffee, David E. Cook, Patrick Devine, Benjamin Dowling, Michael Farley, John O'Brien, Timothy Laffert, Peter McCauly
Folder 16: John Heft, Capt. G.R. Hurlburt, Robert Leitch and James O'Connell, John L. Luce, Thomas Matthews and James O'Shaughnessy and John Barnes and William H. Ellis and John Hathern, Thomas F. McKenna,
Charles Milligan
Folder 18: Joseph Scatchard, Richard Shute, John Simons, Benjamin Smith, Christopher Smith, James Smith, Marcus Smith and W.W. Smith and Chauncey Smith and Leonard Clark and William Totten and Enoch Cornell and John Dindy and Carl Dart
Folder 20: Elisha Smith

**Subseries B: Navy**
Box 3 of 4
Folder 1: Edwin Coffin
Folder 2: Thomas W. Cook
Folder 3: Thomas M. Peakes
Folder 4: W. Picket, John Bell Smith
Folder 5: Daniel Stark

**Series III: Lists of Volunteers, Town Quota Records**

**Subseries A: Edgartown**
Box 3 of 4
Folder 6: Edgartown, 1862
Folder 7: Edgartown, 1863-1864
Folder 8: Edgartown, Army and Navy

**Subseries B: Tisbury**
Box 3 of 4
Folder 9: Tisbury
Folder 10: Tisbury, Citizens' Committee, Recruits and Substitutes

**Subseries C: Other/All Island Towns, Army and Navy**
Box 3 of 4

**Subseries D: Navy**
Box 3 of 4
Folder 12: Navy
Subseries E: Massachusetts Regiments
Box 3 of 4
Folder 13: 40th Regiment, First Regiment Infantry, Gazette Report, re: Lieut. Macy of 20th Regiment, 1861

Subseries F: Campaign for Redress for Quotas
Box 3 of 4
Folder 14: Committee to send agents to Washington
Letter re: whalers and the draft
Letter to Gov. Andrew re: naval credit
Circular re: redress
Newspaper clipping re: Convention June 22, 1864 for redress

Series IV: Official Government Forms and Directives
Box 4 of 4
Folder 1: U.S. Conscription Law, 1863
Mass. General Orders #12, Plan of Organization
Mass. General Orders #43, announcing draft
Mass. General Orders #49, Division of Mass. into military districts
Regulations for line officers in the U.S. Navy, 1862 (photocopy)
U.S. Sanitary Commission #77, Sick and Invalid Soldiers (photocopy)
U.S. Christian Commission, Information for Army Meetings, 1864
Mass. First Committee on Taxation and Finances, Chilmark
Tisbury, request for expenses for arms, 1861

Series V: Martha's Vineyard in the War
Subseries A: Reference
Box 4 of 4
Folder 2: Martha's Vineyard in the War by Emily Steere, 1960
Martha's Vineyard in the Civil War by Mrs. Andrews

Subseries B: Organizations
Box 4 of 4
Folder 3: Patriotic Fair
Ladies of the Soldiers' Relief Society, 1863
Program list of events, n.d.

Subseries C: Bounties
Box 4 of 4
Folder 4: Letter to Provost Marshal re: Bounties
   Mass. Executive orders and lists of bounty payments, 1863

Subseries D: Draft
Box 4 of 4
Folder 5: Martha's Vineyard Town Draft Lists, May 13, 1864
   Martha's Vineyard Town Draft Lists, June 11, 1864
   Martha's Vineyard Eligibility List, n.d.
   Newspaper Clipping re: May 13, 1864 draft

Series VI: Pamphlets and Books
Box 4 of 4
Folder 6: Am. Tract Society, #115, Friendly Conversation
   Atlantic Monthly, March 1865, "A Call to my Country Women,"

Series VII. Miscellaneous
Box 4 of 4
Folder 7: Civil War Battles, Gettysburg
   Tourist Guide to the Battlefield of Gettysburg
   Three weeks at Gettysburg, New York, 1863 (2 copies)
Folder 8: Civil War Music
   War Songs, published Boston, n.d.
   17 sheets of Civil War songs, words only
Folder 9: Confederate material
   Negro passport issued in Richmond
   Century Illustrated Monthly, August 1898, "Confederate
   Commerce-Destroyers" by James Morris Morgan
   Note from Jefferson Davis to U.S. Congress, Jan. 7, 1864
   Confederate Bond, $500
Folder 10: Naval Battles
   Article on Alabama, no source (photocopy). Pamphlet, "The
   Merrimac and Monitor Naval Engagement," New York, 1886
Folder 11: Newspaper clippings, magazine articles
   The Sunday Enterprise, Brockton, Ma., Feb. 6, 1994, "Witness to
   War" re: discovery of Civil War sketchbooks
   Clipping, Henry Ward Beecher on the Flag, n.d.
Folder 12: New Zealand material
   October 15, 2000 letter from Joan Druett re: Fernadina, Florida,
   August 6, 1861 U.S. Vincennes in Florida harbor
   Australian National Maritime Museum, Newsletter #7, 1988
"Linked by the Sea," U.S. contribution to Museum

Folder 13: U.S. Bark Ethan Allen
   Station Bill for U.S. Bark Ethan Allen
   Notebook, handwritten directions for discharging various ammunition aboard ship
   Letter from U.S. Ethan Allen, September 10, 1863 to J.A. Pennell, USN, Acting Master, report on damage following collision on Sept. 9

Folder 14: Support for Vineyard Servicemen
   Letter from Richard L. Pease, Chairman of Arrangements to Co. F, 3rd Regt. to attend welcome home party given by Ladies of Edgartown (Frank mentioned in the letter is RLP's nephew, Francis Vincent) (See Series V, Subseries B for Gazette report of the event)
   List of supplies furnished by Edgartown Ladies for soldiers, 1861-1864
   Certificate of Edgartown Selectmen agreeing to settlement of compensation for Joseph B. Mayhew, veteran, for ill health
   Same form as above, no reason given
   Mass. Commissioners of State Aide, May 10, 1883, $13,000 passed to assist Mass. Soldiers' Home
   Newspaper clipping, June 26, n.y., Red Cross Campaign report
   Newspaper clipping, report of the Edgartown Soldiers' Relief Society