Finding Aid to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 315
Martha’s Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways 1860-2000
By Karin Stanley

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: Martha’s Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways, 1860-2000.
Creator: Karin Stanley
Quantity: .5
Abstract: This collection contains a variety of cookbooks, mostly from Martha’s Vineyard, including community cookbooks written to benefit local organizations, manuscript cookbooks, and a couple of commercially published cookbooks. It also includes reference materials from various articles pertaining to Vineyard diet, Native American diet, and local recipes.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: The Cookbooks and Foodways Collection was acquired by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum during the 20th and 21st centuries; many donors contributed to the growth of this compilation.
Processing Information: Karin Stanley
Access Restrictions: none
Use Restrictions: none
Preferred Citation for Publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, Martha’s Vineyard Cookbooks and Foodways, 1860-2000, Record Unit 315.

Index Terms
--Martha’s Vineyard Cookbooks
--Community Cookbooks
--Martha’s Vineyard Ladies’ Aid Society
--Island Cookbook
--Martha’s Vineyard Hospital benefit
--Vineyard Conservation Society benefit
--Oak Bluffs School, 8th Grade
--Vose Family Boathouse
--Carrie R. Howland
--“The Dime Cook Book”
--Thimble Farm
--Rosamond Hawkins
--Louise Aldrich Bugbee
--Gay Head Indians
--Wampanoag
Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Cookbooks, 1860-2000
  Subseries A: Authored Cookbooks, 1860-2000
  Subseries B: Community Cookbooks, 1886-2000

Series II: Reference, 1891-2000
  Subseries A: Native American Foodways
  Subseries B: Vineyard Diet
  Subseries C: Vineyard Recipes

Historical Note:

Geography, food resources, ethnic-make up, cultural history and outside influences all contribute to the foodways, or eating habits and culinary practices of a people or region. Cookbooks – used and kept, recipes shared, documented memories of food, and the development of a distinctive regional dish, (such as chowder) all provide some evidence of a region or communities culinary heritage.

A coastal location, Native American influences, early English customs, outside influences from the whaling fleet, and other factors contributed to the Vineyard’s foodways, at least through the early 20th century. Articles written on the influence of native peoples or other reflections on the Vineyard diet point to what people have perceived to have shaped the Islands foodways.

Perhaps more so than other cookbooks community cookbooks reflect what people really ate in their everyday lives. These recipes submitted by women for hospital and other benefit publications are often simple recipes that would have been used by the writer. This collection of Martha’s Vineyard cookbooks and food reference material consists of community cookbooks and copies of articles written about Vineyard foodways.

Scope and Content Note:

This .5 cubic feet of cookbooks and documents are arranged chronologically in their series. The bulk of this collection consists of cookbooks, mostly Vineyard related. These cookbooks are divided into subseries based on authorship. Those written by a single author include commercially published cookbooks dating from 1860 to the late 20th century, along with a couple of manuscript cookbooks

--Indian corn
--Brown bread
--Vineyard diet
--Vineyard cookery
--Vineyard recipes
from the late 1800's. Other cookbooks, termed community cookbooks, are those written to benefit an organization. These books are a compilation of recipes contributed by a number of (mostly) women and date from 1886 to the late 20th century. This collection also includes a miscellaneous group of reproduced reference works describing the Vineyard diet, or copies of Vineyard related recipes.

Series Descriptions:
Series I: Cookbooks, 1860-2000
This series includes cookbooks, mostly Vineyard related, dating from 1860 to the late 20th century. Some are manuscript collections written by individual authors, others are commercially published cookbooks. A large portion of the series is comprised of community cookbooks written to benefit organizations.

Subseries A: Authored Cookbooks, 1860-2000
This subseries includes cookbooks written by a single author. A few are hand written manuscript cookbooks, the others commercially published.
Box 1 of 1
Folder 1: The Dime Cook Book; Mrs. Victor, New York, 1860. Comforts for the Sick; Mina Worth, Edgartown, manuscript n.d.
Folder 2: Manuscript cookbook, author unknown, ca. 1873. Manuscript cookbook, Carrie R. Howland, Vineyard Haven, 1884
Folder 3: Recipes by Ros; Rosamond Hawkins, (dedicated to Martha’s Vineyard) n.d. Slap-Dash Cookery; Louise Aldrich Bugbee, Martha’s Vineyard, n.d.

Subseries B: Community Cookbooks, 1886-2000
This subseries includes cookbooks, most of which were written to benefit an organization. These books are a compilation of recipes contributed by a number of people, mostly women, and reflect popular recipes of the period that people would have made at home, although special party recipes are also included.
Box 1 of 1
Folder 4: The Ladies’ Delight Cook Book; Lawrence, MA, 1886
Folder 5: Martha’s Vineyard Cook Book, Ladies’ Aid Society M. E. Church, Lambert’s Cove, ca. 1922.
Folder 6: Island Cook Book to Benefit M. V. Hospital; Oak Bluffs, MA, 1924
Folder 7: Cuttyhunk Favorites; Cuttyhunk, MA, 1979
Folder 8: Vineyard Tastes; Vineyard Conservation Society, 1986
Folder 9: Everything Including the Kitchen Sink! Oak Bluffs 8th Grade, 1989
Folder 10: Vose Boathouse Centennial Celebration Cookbook; Edgartown 1999
Thimble Farm..almost a recipe book; n.d.
Series II: Reference, 1891-2001
This series contains miscellaneous copies of materials describing Vineyard diet, some Native American food practices, and some Vineyard recipes.

Subseries A: Native American Foodways
This subseries consists of two articles pertaining to the native Wampanoag lifestyle and diet.
Box 1 of 1

Subseries B: Vineyard Diet
This subseries contains articles written about the unique diet of Martha’s Vineyard.
Box 1 of 1

Subseries C: Vineyard Recipes, 1891-2001
This subseries contains articles and copies of recipes from Vineyard sources.
Box 1 of 1
Folder 13: “A Few Vineyard Receipts”, The Sea Gull, West Tisbury, MA 1891