Finding Aid to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 352
Marcus Jernegan Papers, 1939-1949
By Julia Novakovic and Keith Gorman

Descriptive Summary
Repository: Martha’s Vineyard Museum
Call No.
Title: Marcus Jernegan Papers
Creator: Jernegan, Marcus, 1872-1949
Quantity: 2.75 cubic feet
Abstract: The Jernegan Papers, 1939-1949, document the research, correspondence, and professional writings of Professor Marcus Jernegan. The collection includes detailed research notes focuses on New England whaling ships and genealogical records of whaling captains. The rough drafts of several manuscripts are also included in this record.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information: The Jernegan Papers were acquired by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum in ______ by ______________.
Processing Information: Julia Novakovic
Access Restrictions: none
Use Restrictions: none
Preferred citation for publication: Martha’s Vineyard Museum, Marcus Jernegan Papers, 1939-1949, Record Unit 352.

Index Terms
- Jernegan, Marcus
- Jernegan Family
- Martha’s Vineyard
- Whaling
- Whale-ships
- Ship Captains
- Maritime History

Series and Subseries Arrangement
Series I: Personal Papers
Series II: Personal Correspondence
Series III: Research Notes
  Subseries A: Jernegan Family Genealogy
  Subseries B: Whaling Voyages
Subseries C: Ship Captains
Subseries D: Ship Registers
Subseries E: Edgartown and Whaling
Subseries F: Miscellaneous Notes

Series IV: Publications
Series V: Lecture Notes
Series VI: Research Note Cards

Biography:
Marcus Jernean, 1873-1949, was a member of one of Martha’s Vineyard’s oldest families. The son of Captain Jared Jernean and Helen McLellan Clark, he grew up in the port of Edgartown. Along with his parents, Marcus’s household was made up of his older siblings Laura and Prescott. He received his B.A. in 1896 from Brown University; two years later, he received his A.M in history from the same institution. He returned to the Vineyard and was principal of the Edgartown High School for two years prior to moving to the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. in 1906. He married Imogene Cameron in 1913, and they had two daughters.

After conducting a number of research trips abroad, Jernean was appointed as a professor of history at the University of Chicago. He authored several American history books, including *The American Colonies – 1492 to 1750* and volumes on the progress of nations. He also edited his sister’s childhood journal entitled *A Child's Diary Aboard a Whale-ship*. Drawing from his family background, Jernean researched the New England whaling trade. He moved back to Edgartown in 1937, where he set about writing *The History of the Whaling Industry*. Despite his retirement, he remained an active member of many professional and academic associations, including the Dukes County Historical Society (now Martha’s Vineyard Museum). The island’s historical society was the site of several of Professor Jernean’s lectures on maritime topics.

Scope and Content Note:
The Marcus Jernean Papers are a collection of Professor Jernean’s extensive notes and data that he obtained from ship logbooks, whale-ship authorities, and other maritime records. These research materials were collected between the late 1930s up until his death in 1949. The 2.75 cubic feet of records in this collection are arranged by subject. Interestingly enough, Jernean’s relatives comprised many of the ship captains on his lists, including his own father. His writings on the Jernean family genealogy are thorough; of note are typed copies of both personal and professional papers of William Jernean (Justice of the Peace, late 18th century).

There are several different ways that Jernean organized his maritime notes; some folders contain the same information under different subject headings. Many lists are thorough from the 1730s through the 1910s, using research from ship registers. Jernean added many of his own annotations to these lists as well. The majority of the collection
(about 2.0 cubic foot) is typed or handwritten notes on ship data along with rough manuscripts for “Whales in Literature and History,” “The Golden Age of New England Whaling,” and lecture notes on the Charles W. Morgan.

**Series Descriptions**

**Series I: Personal Papers**

This Series contains a few of Jernegan’s postcards, a commencement pamphlet from Edgartown High School’s Class of 1900, a blank ship deed, and several other personal tokens.

Box 1 of 4  
Folder 1: Personal Papers

**Series II: Personal Correspondence**

This Series contains personal correspondence between colleagues at the University of Chicago as well as letters sharing aspects of his research.

Box 1 of 4  
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence

**Series III: Research Notes**

**Subseries A: Jernegan Family Genealogy**

This Subseries contains information collected from William Jernegan’s personal and professional papers, other Jernegan family recollections, and copies of family trees.

Box 1 of 6  
Folder 3: “An Account and estimate of the Number of Familys that William Jernegan well Remembers that lived and Died in Edgartown,” 1810. [Typed copy]  
Folder 4: Miscellaneous papers of William Jernegan, Justice of the Peace, Edgartown, 1795-1811. [Typed copy]  
Folder 5: Jernegan family genealogy; copy of M. Jernegan’s obituary from *Standard-Times*, 21 Feb 1949.

**Subseries B: Whaling Voyages**

This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan pertaining to whaling voyages, which he later used to create lists of whale-ship data.

Box 1 of 6  
Folder 6: List of Whaling Voyages, arranged by whaling ground  
Folder 7: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Grounds  
Folder 8: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Grounds  
Folder 9: List of Whaling Voyages, Arranged by Whaling Ground, 1794-1911  
Folder 10: Notes on Pacific Whaling Fleet, 1868-1884  
Folder 11: List of Whaling Ships Stopping in Honolulu, 1842  
Folder 12: List of Whaling Voyages, arranged by captains from Chilmark, 1738-1890  
Folder 13: Whaling Maps of Voyages
Folder 14: Clippings: *Newport Mercury*, January 1775-August 1776
Folder 15: Clippings: *Newport Mercury*, 1769-1771
Folder 16: Clippings: Assorted New Bedford Newspapers, 1849-1855
Folder 17: Clippings: *Boston Weekly News Letter*, February-April 1736

Box 2 of 6
Folder 1: *State of the British Whale Fishery*, 1749
Folder 2: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 3: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 4: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 5: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages
Folder 6: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Voyages

**Subseries C: Ship Captains**

This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan pertaining to whale-ship captains, which he used to later create lists of whale-ship data.

Box 2 of 6
Folder 7: Notes of Ship Captains and Their Vessels, 1732-1782
Folder 8: Notes on Captains and Their Vessels, 1761-1898
Folder 9: Notes on Ship Captains and Their Vessels, 1791-1907
Folder 10: Notes on Captains and Their Vessels, 1836-1867
Folder 11: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1726-1921
Folder 12: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, c. 1726-1869
Folder 13: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1726-1792

Box 3 of 6
Folder 1: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1730-1907
Folder 2: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1785-1835
Folder 3: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1793-1832
Folder 4: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1804-1903
Folder 5: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1816-1868
Folder 6: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1820-1876
Folder 7: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1820-1876
Folder 8: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1821-1876
Folder 9: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1833-1883
Folder 10: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1836-1878
Folder 11: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1845-1854
Folder 12: Notes on Vessels and Their Captains, 1846-1910
Folder 13: Notes on Children/Survivors of Whaling Captains
Box 4 of 6
Folder 1: List of “Daguerreotypes of 110 Sea Captains of Edgartown”
Folder 2: 110 Edgartown Whaling Masters, 1820-1870
Folder 3: Notes on Ship Captains
Folder 4: Notes on Whaling Captains
Folder 5: Notes on Whaling Captains
Folder 6: List of Nantucket Whaling Captains
Folder 7: Notes on 18th Century Whaling Captains

Subseries D: Ship Registers
This Subseries contains notes obtained by Marcus Jernegan from published ship
registers as well as whale-ship logbooks.
Box 4 of 6
Folder 8: Notes on Shipping Lists, 1849-1855
Folder 9: Notes from New Bedford Ships Register [1796-1850]
Folder 10: Notes on New Bedford Ships Register, 1796-1850
Folder 11: Notes from Starbuck’s 1652-1736
Folder 12: List of Logbooks and Whaling Records in the Pacific Bank and Whaling
Museum, 1948
Folder 13: Transcriptions of Vineyard Gazette, 1846-1857

Subseries E: Edgartown and Whaling
This Subseries contains typed articles from 19th century Vineyard newspapers and other
notes on whaling in conjunction with Edgartown and the rest of the island.
Box 5 of 6
Folder 1: Notes and excerpts from Edgartown Records
Folder 2: Edgartown Whaling Vessels, 1816-1876
Folder 3: Handwritten copies from 1850 Census of Martha’s Vineyard

Subseries F: Miscellaneous Notes
This Subseries contains note cards that Jernegan used for referencing the sources he
used when doing his research; also included is a section of notes that cannot be
classified into another Subseries.
Box 5 of 6
Folder 4: List of Names From West Tisbury, MA.
Folder 5: 5x8 Note Cards, Bibliography of Publications on Whaling Voyages
Folder 6: Miscellaneous Notes

Series IV: Publications
This Series contains rough drafts, outlines, and/or finished drafts of several of
Jernegan’s publications pertaining to whaling and maritime history, as well as a typed
list of sources for others to utilize.
Box 5 of 6
Folder 7: “Comparison of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard in Whaling Days,” undated
Folder 8: “Whales in Literature and History” undated rough draft, outline, other excerpts
Folder 9: “The Golden Age of New England Whaling” undated rough draft, outlines
Folder 10: “Vineyard Captains Made at Least 1500 Voyages,” article from Vineyard Gazette, 15 July 1941
Folder 11: “Statistics of Ships and Captains, 1846-1886” typed chart, date unknown; “Chart of Whaling Voyages of Lorenzo Fisher, 1830-1854,” handwritten chart, date unknown
Folder 12: “Sources for Finding Names of Whaling Captains” and “Sources of Whaling History of Martha’s Vineyard,” handwritten manuscripts, date unknown. “Martha’s on Martin’s Vineyard and Nomans Land”

Series V: Lecture Notes
This Series contains lecture notes on the whale-ship the Charles W. Morgan, as well as a written draft on the topic.
Box 5 of 6

Series VI: Research Note Cards
This Series contains note cards found in a file box marked “Marcus Jernegan’s File of Whaling Material Notes;” the information is mainly alphabetized by ship captain’s last name.
Box 5 of 6
Folders 14: Note cards: “File of Whaling Material Notes”

Box 6 of 6
Folder 1: Note Cards: “File of Whaling Material Notes”
Folder 2: Note Cards: “File of Whaling Material Notes”
Folder 3: Note Cards: “File of Whaling Material Notes”
Folder 4: Notes on the Charles W. Morgan & “Remarks on Board the Charles W. Morgan”