

**Martin House Records
Manuscript Collection, MS-1**

Date range: 1914-2011

Bulk dates: 1970-2000

Creator: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Extent: 9.8 linear feet (16 Hollinger boxes, 3 half Hollinger boxes, 1 cabinet in the flat file cabinet).

Collection Summary: This collection consists of records related to the Martin House Farm at 22 Stoney Hill Rd, Swansea, MA 02777, under the domain of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (NSCDA-MA). It includes history of the Martin family and of the farmhouse and surrounding land and gardens, preservation of the house and grounds, public programs, and administrative files. The NSCDA-MA is a non-profit organization seeking to preserve colonial heritage.

Processor: Alexa Gonzalez, Abigail Johnston; Clio Lang; November 2023.

Languages: English

Collection Details

Collection Description: This collection contains documents related to the history, interior decorations, grounds, maintenance, and administration of the Martin House Farm, including information pertinent to the genealogy of the Martin family.

Materials include manuscripts, correspondence, drawings and plans, print materials, and photographs. The collection is currently stored at The National Society of Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Archives Room of Prescott House in Boston, MA. This collection will be of interest to researchers studying the history of New England or 18th century interiors and textiles, as well as genealogists.

Biographical Note: In 1728, John Martin the Younger built Martin House Farm on the 63-acre lot of land which had been purchased by his father. Martin, his wife, and their 8 children lived in Martin House Farm as did their descendants for more than 200 years. In 1930, eighth-generation Martin descendant Susan Taber Martin Allen bestowed Martin House Farm to The National Society of The Colonial Dames in The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Martin House Farm was then placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Arrangement Description: The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Series 1: History and Architecture
- Series 2: Biography and Genealogy
- Series 3: Preservation and Maintenance,
- Series 4: Architectural and Renovation Plans
- Series 5: Programs and Events
- Series 6: Collections and Interior
- Series 7: Administrative Files

Separated Materials

“Map” refers to flat case drawers. Photographs, prints and negatives related to the collection are stored separately and are awaiting processing.

A portion of documents and photographs may be stored separately and can be accessed onsite at the Martin House Farm in Swansea, Massachusetts.

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in 1930 by Susan Taber Martin Allen, a member of the New York Society of The Colonial Dames and a descendant of John Martin.

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Subject Headings

Historic farms- Massachusetts
Historic buildings – Conservation and restoration – Massachusetts – Boston
Historic buildings – Designs and plans
Historic buildings – Guidebooks
Historic buildings – Maintenance and repair
Historic house museums – Collection management – Massachusetts – Boston
Historic house museums – Furniture, equipment, etc.
Martin Family
Martin House Farm- Management
Martin House Farm-Massachusetts-Swansea

Processing Note

The processing process followed our institution's policies and procedures.

Using the Collection

Access: Collection is open and available for use.

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Preferred Citation: The Martin House Farm Records, The Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: History and Architecture, 1914-1986, non-consecutive

This series contains records on the history and architecture of the Martin House Farm. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
Map		Certification of Ownership for Susan Martin Allen, 1898
Map		Certification of Life Member for Susan Martin Allen, 1914
1	1	Dedication of the Cole's Hill Memorial, 1921
Map		Deed, Original, 1724
Map		Deeds, Copies of, 1724, 1932, 1962, 1986
1	2	Deeds and Titles, 1914-1986
1	3	General Histories, 1988-1993, 2002, undated
1	4	Histories, 1918-1979, undated
1	5	Histories, 1980-1987, 1998, 2003, undated
1	6	Living in the 18 th Century, undated
1	6.1	Magazine Mentions, 1995
1	7	Martin, Mary E. – History of MHF, undated
1	8	Mayflower Quarterly, 1983
1	9	Native American Tribes in this Area, undated
2	10	Newspaper References, 1955-1956, 1966-1968, 1975-1979, undated
2	11	Newspaper References, 1981-1987, 1993-1995, 2001, 2003, 2006
Map		Photographs of Property, c1952
2	12	The Swansea Stagecoach: A Local History, 1976

Series 2: Biography and Genealogy, 1911-2006, non-consecutive

This series includes genealogical charts of the generations of the Martin family as well as biographies on several Martin family members. This series also includes correspondences between Martin descendants and the Martin House Farm organization relating to Martin genealogy. Other figures within this series include Sarah G. Beckwith and Barbara Buell. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
Map		Allen, Susan Martin's Recording of Death, 1930
1	1	Beckwith, Bequests of Sarah G., 1954-1956, 1969-1971
1	2	Beckwith, Sarah G. – Sympathies, 1969
1	3	Buell, Barbara, c1990
Map		Martin Genealogy Tree, undated
1	4	Martin Genealogy, undated
1	5	Martin Genealogy – Correspondences, 1948, 1979, 1983-1984, 2006
1	6	Martin, Samuel, undated
1	7	Martin, Simeon, 1880

Series 3: Preservation and Maintenance, 1967-2015, non-consecutive

This series contains correspondences, notes, receipts, and other materials relating to the structure, content, repairs, and preservation of the Martin House farm. This series also contains contents related to the Long Range Planning, or later known as the Restoration and Development Committee, which planned improvements to the estate. Architectural and renovation plans are found in series 4. The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Budgets, Estimates, and Statements, 1979-1984
1	2	Budgets, Estimates, and Statements, 1985-1987
1	3	Budgets, Estimates, and Statements, 1991-1993, 1998, 2015
1	4	Chimney Work – Contract, 1980
1	5	Excerpts from Mass. Society Board Meeting Minutes, 1975-1977
1	6	Forest Cutting, 1993-1996
1	7	Heat Installation, 1966-1968
1	8	Interior Paint Study, 1986
1	9	J. B. Travers Lumber Company – Receipts, 1967-1968
1	10	John D. L. Sullivan Renovations & Restorations, 1967-1970
1	11	Joseph Valley Statements, 1971, 1979-1997
1	11.1	Lead Paint Inspection, 2011-2013
2	12	Long Range Planning, 1978-1986, undated
2	13	Long Range Planning – Correspondences, 1986-1987, 1993
2	14	Long Range Planning (Restoration and Development) Committee

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Reports and Minutes, 1986-1987, 1978-1992

2	15	Long Range Planning, 2004
2	15.1	Martin House Signs, 1996-1997, 2002
2	16	Paint Samples, 1984
2	17	Property Conditions Report, 2008
2	18	Renovations & Repairs, undated
2	19	Renovations & Repairs, 1970-1971, 1980-1982
2	20	Renovations & Repairs, 1990-2006, 2011
2	21	Renovations & Repairs – Correspondences, 1971, 1979-1980
3	22	Renovations & Repairs – Correspondences, 1981-1984
3	23	Renovations & Repairs – Correspondences, 1985-1989, 1997-2015
3	24	Renovations & Repairs – Specifications, 1981-1987
3	25	Surveys of Property, 1978-1990, undated
3	26	Swansea Wetlands Protection, 1992, 1996
3	27	Timber Sale, 1994

Series 4: Architectural and Renovation Plans, 1979-1992, undated

This series is comprised of architectural and renovation plans and is related to documents found in series 3. The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
Map		Blueprints, undated
1	1	Conservation Plan Map, 1979
1	2	Construction Project Agreement, 1981
Map		Floor Plans, 1989
Map		Land survey, undated
1	3	Miscellaneous Diagrams, undated
1	3.1	Museum Room Renovation, 1999
1	4	Seekonk Engineering Land Survey, 1983-1984
1	5	Wetlands Flag Delineation, 1992

Series 5: Programs and Events, 1980-2016, non-consecutive

This series includes programs and events pertaining to the Martin House Farm, containing brochures, scripts, correspondences, descriptions, flyers, newspapers, and similar documents. The most expansive parts of this series are papers related to the Flag Day event and School to Work program. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Brochures & Related Documents, 1992, undated
1	2	Colonial Gardens, 2000-2002
1	3	Docents – Notebook, 2010-2016
1	4	Docents – Scripts, 1980-1981, 1988, 2010, undated

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1	5	18 th Century Day, 2000-2003
1	6	Flag Day, 2014
1	7	Flag Day – Correspondences, 2014-2015
1	8	Flag Day – Descriptions of flags, undated
1	9	Flag Day – Printed Booklets, undated
1	10	Flag Day – Scripts, undated
1	11	Gala June Day, 1987
1	12	General Events & Tours, 1982-1983, 1992, 2004, undated
1	13	May Board Meeting, 1983
2	14	MHF Visitors – Books, 1977-1979, 1986-1988, 1998-2018
2	15	Mont Clare Mansion Program, 1991
2	16	Open House Flyers, 1989, undated
2	17	Plaque Dedication, 2011
2	18	Police Services, 2015
2	19	Quilt Show, 1983-1989, 1999
2	20	Sampler Day, 2000-2007
2	21	School to Work, 1986, 1996-1999, 2002-2008, 2015-2016, undated
2	22	School to Work – Joseph Case High School, 1997-1999, 2003 2007, 2009, undated
2	23	School to Work – Newspapers, 1986, 1996-2002, undated
2	24	Swansea Doll Club Visit, 1982
2	25	Swansea Reunion, 1987
2	26	300 th Anniversary, 2015, undated
2	27	Wreath Presentation by Libby Stephenson, 1993

Series 6: Collections and Interior, 1713-2012, non-consecutive

This series contains descriptions, articles, card catalogs, appraisals, inventories, examination forms, and papers related to specific items within the Martin House Farm. There is a larger focus on the beds within the home, the miniature exhibition, and a sleigh. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Advertisements for Antique Repair, undated
1	1.1	Banjo Clock Sale, 2010
1	2	Collections and Interior – Descriptions, undated
1	3	Collections, 1982, 1988, 1998, 2004, undated
1	4	Collections – Articles, undated
1	5	Collections – Beds, 1986, 1993, 1996, undated
1	6	Collections Card Catalog, undated
1	7	Collections Card Catalog with Descriptions, undated
1	8	Collections – Repairs, 1982-1997
1	8.1	Deaccession, 1995-1996, 2005
1	9	Gifts and Loans, 1979, undated

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1	10	Guides to Antiques, 1914, 1924-1925
	Flat file storage	Half Tester Bed Diagrams, 1981
1	11	Insect Survey and Damage, 1919, 1980
2	12	Inventory Appraisals, 1931, 1973, 2003, 2007
2	13	Inventory, 1713, 1802, 1826
2	14	Martha Richardson Fine Art Appraisal, 2012
2	15	Miniature Bed Sales, 1982-1989
2	16	Miniature Exhibition, 1996, undated
2	17	Miniature Reproduction of a Colonial Bed, undated
2	18	Miscellaneous, 1988-1996, undated
2	19	Object Examination Forms, 2004
2	19.1	Restoration, 1996
2	19.2	Restoration (Mussey), 2005
3	20	Sleigh, 1991, undated
3	21	Sleigh Sale, 2005-2006
3	22	Textile Conservation Center, 1991, 2002-2005
3	23	Weaving, 1989-1991

Series 7: Administrative Files, 1928-2016, non-consecutive

This series contains all administrative paperwork related to the operations surrounding the Martin House farm. Of historical significance include documents related to Susan Martin Allen's will. Other contents include paperwork on committees, grants and foundations, and land sale. Formats include binders, papers, correspondences, bound books, and telegrams. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Addresses & Phone Numbers, undated
1	2	Administration – Binder, 2011-2015
1	3	Administration – Binder, 2014-2016
1	4	ADT and alarm records, 2010-2011
1	5	Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program – Application, 1977, 1979
1	6	Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, 1978-1981
1	7	Allen, Susan Martin's Will, Deeds, & Related Documents, 1928-1930, undated
2	8	Allen, Susan Martin's Will – NSCDA Related Documents, 1930, 1971-1987
2	9	Annual Reports, 1975-1988, 2010
2	10	Annual Report of the Town of Swansea, 2014
2	11	Archived Inventories, undated
2	12	Balance Records, 1966-1983, 2002, 2010, undated
2	13	Board of Managers Meetings, 1982-1987, 2012
2	14	Bristol Conservation District, 1979
2	15	Bristol County Engineering, 1992-1993

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2	15.1	Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1997-2001
2	16	Caretaker's Cottage & Repairs, 1992-1993, 2011
2	17	Caretaker Position, 1983, 2006, 2009-2011
2	18	Commercial Logging, 1967-1969, undated
2	19	Committee Reports, 1967-1989
2	20	Conservation Restriction, 2003-2004, undated
2	21	Correspondences, c. 1916
3	22	Correspondences, 1968, 1975-1990
3	23	Correspondences, 1991-2018
3	24	Custodian's Agreement, 1935, 1971, undated
3	25	Development Fund, 1980, 1986-1987
3	25.1	DCP Contract, 2006
3	26	Edwin S. Webster Foundation, 1976-1986
3	27	Ellison Foundation, 1980-1982
3	28	Eviction – Correspondences, 2009-2011
3	29	Expenses, income, and budgets, 1967, 1979-1998, 2003, 2008-2009
3	30	Feasibility Study – Barns, 1976, 1984-1985, undated
3	31	Finance Committee, 1982-1985, 1995, undated
3	32	Flag Purchase, 1986-1987
3	33	Forestry Project, 1980
3	33.1	Forms, 1999
3	34	Friends of the Martin House Farm – Correspondences, 1979-2001
3	35	Friends of the Martin House Farm – Letterheads, undated
3	36	Friends of the Martin House Farm – Newsletter, 1979-2008
4	37	Funds and Foundation Prospects, 1997-2002, 2010
4	38	General Committee Records, 1980-2012
4	39	General Notes – Loose Leaf Notebook Paper, undated
4	40	Glenn Horton (Resident Overseer) records, 1979-1983
4	41	Land Sale, 1964, 1970
4	42	Land Sale, 1979-1985
4	43	Land Sale, 1986-1989
5	44	Land Sale, 1990-1993
5	45	Land Sale – Diagrams, undated
5	46	Life Member, undated
5	47	Mabel Louise Riley Charitable Trust, 1979-1980
5	48	Martin House Committee – Agenda, 1967, 1991-2015
5	49	Martin House Committee – Correspondences, 1966 1987, 1997-2015, undated
5	50	Martin House Committee Minutes, 1985-1989
5	51	Martin House Committee Minutes, 1990-1995
5	52	Martin House Committee Minutes, 1996-2000
6	53	Martin House Committee Minutes, 2001-2005
6	54	Martin House Committee Minutes, 2006-2010
6	55	Martin House Committee Minutes, 2011-2015

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6	55.1	Martin House Committee Members, undated
6	56	Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1978-1979
6	57	Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1983, 2002
6	57.1	Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames Newsletter, 2006-2010
6	57.2	Museum House Accreditation Application, 1999-2003
6	57.3	Massachusetts Teaching Association (MTA) Discount Directory Program, 1997-1998
6	58	Museum House Questionnaire, 1984, undated
6	59	Nangle Consulting Associates, Inc. (NCA), 1993
6	59.1	Opening/Closing Procedures, undated
7	60	Pecuniary Donations, 1981-1987, 2001-2008
7	61	Plans, Proposals, and Goals, 1986-1987, 1997, undated
7	62	Property Inspection Report and Insurance, 1998-2000
7	63	Public Hearing About Zoning, 1996, 1998, 2001
7	64	Record – Bound Book, 1983-1996
7	65	Reports to the Board, 2012-2015
7	66	Roger Williams College, 1980, 1987
7	67	Society of Colonial Wars, 1980-1982, 1987-1988, 2007-2008
7	68	Society of the Cincinnati, 1983-1987
7	69	Soil & Water Conservation Plan, 1973-1980
7	70	Tax Documents, 2001
7	71	Telegrams, undated
7	72	Timber Sale – Correspondences, 1960, 1988