



Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1815-2021. RG0776

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Boston Seaman's Friend Society
Title:	Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1815-2021.
ID:	RG0776
Date [inclusive]:	1815-2021
Physical Description:	24.17 Cubic Feet (25 boxes, 2 microfilm reels, 4 flat files)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Boston Seaman's Friend Society was formed December 13, 1827 out of Lyman Beecher's church on Hanover St in Boston, MA and was incorporated in 1829. The society was an independent branch of the American Seaman's Friend Society until 1888 when they turned to the New England Congregational churches and conferences for support. The BSFS started the Mariner's Church in 1830 and a boarding house that became the Sailors' Home in 1836. The Mariner's Church joined with the Salem St church to form the Salem and Mariner's Church in 1867 and moved to the corner of Salem and North Bennett streets where the Sailors' Home eventually shared space beginning in 1873 until the church closed in 1879 and the Home moved to Hanover St in 1893. A second branch on Martha's Vineyard was started in 1889 by chaplain Madison Edwards, and though there were periods of tension and decline, the branch continued until its close in 2003. The 1900s brought various changes including a reincorporation in 1922, renovations, two moves in the 1970s, changing relationships with other societies, the close of the Seaman's Congregational Church started in 1888, the start of two new branches in Portland, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1994, and a name change to Seafarer's Friend in 1998. The 2000s brought the permanent close of the boarding house, a move to Chelsea, Mass., the start of a branch in Searsport, Maine, additional office moves, and a continuation of the society's work as a maritime ministry working to meet the needs of seafarers. This collection contains records from the Boston Seaman's Friend Society and its branches including administrative records, property records, financial records, legal documents, reports, correspondence, histories, publications, house records, minutes,

publicity, audiovisual material, ledgers and registers, plans, digital files, and other documents.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1815-2021, RG0776. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Boston Seaman's Friend Society was formed December 13, 1827 by a group of Congregationalists at Rev. Lyman Beecher's church on Hanover Street in Boston, MA as an independent branch of the American Seaman's Friend Society that formed in New York a year previous. The origins and inspiration for the BSFS can be traced back to the Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction for the Poor and Rev. William Jenks' "Seamen's Meetings" under the Bethel flag on Central Wharf in the 1810s and 1820s. In 1828, the women of the society created the Ladies' Seaman's Friend Society as an auxiliary group to BSFS and in 1829, the BSFS was officially incorporated in Massachusetts. The society started the Mariner's Church in January 1830 with the dedication of the church building on Purchase St on the east side of Fort Hill where multiple services were held each Sunday and the Bethel flag welcomed both seamen and the local community. The 1830s also saw the opening of the Saving Bank for Seamen, eventually the Suffolk Franklin Savings Bank, in May 1833 through the collaboration of BSFS and the Boston Port Society, and the building of a wooden mansion on Purchase St in 1836 for use as a boarding house for seamen with rooms for rent, a library, and a reading room. In 1845, the boarding house or Sailors' Home was rebuilt as a brick structure through the combined efforts of the BSFS and the Ladies' Seaman's Friend Society. Unfortunately, fire destroyed both the Sailors' Home and the Mariner's Church on July 10, 1852, but the Home was quickly rebuilt at the same location and reopened March 1853 even larger than before while the church was moved to a new building on Summer and Sea Streets that was renovated and dedicated in December 1852. Shortly after in 1854, Rev. Elijah Kellogg took over as chaplain of the Mariner's Church and served until 1865. In 1867, the Mariner's Church combined with the Salem St church to become the Salem and Mariner's Church, and the building on Summer and Sea streets was sold so that the church could move to the building on the corner of Salem and North Bennett streets.

As Boston entered the 1870s, the city began leveling Fort Hill causing the Sailors' Home to close in 1872 and to sell the boarding house on Purchase St in March 1873. The church on Salem St was rebuilt that same year to accommodate both the Salem and Mariner's Church and the Sailors' Home in the same building. Unfortunately, due to changes in the city and movement of the population, the church congregation diminished until it decided to dissolve in 1879 and closed the Sailors' Home along with it. The society moved in 1880 to a hall at 175

Hanover St and sold the building on Salem St to the North Bennett School in 1884 after the school had been leasing the space since 1881. Eventually, the society purchased a building down the road at 287 Hanover St in 1892 and dedicated the space in January 1893 as the Sailor's Club House, where it also became known as "The Hook" for its anchor sign or the Sailor's Rest and Chapel.

The later decades of the 1800s and first half of the 1900s saw more changes than just the society's location. Some of the largest happened in 1888 with the dissolution of the relationship between BSFS and the American Seaman's Friend Society. The BSFS and ASFS had had a mutual financial relationship since 1846 and BSFS had been a branch of ASFS since its founding, but the Boston society chose to separate fully from the ASFS in 1888 and turn to the congregational churches of New England for support instead, though the two societies continued to collaborate for the benefit of seamen until ASFS's end in the 1970s. As they were now a fully independent society, the BSFS started their own newsletter, the "Sea Breeze", that year and also founded the Seaman's Congregational Church with chaplain Sylvester Nickerson, who began with BSFS in 1882 and served until 1903, as its pastor. Just a year later in 1889, a branch started in Martha's Vineyard through the work of chaplain Madison Edwards, and a year after that in 1890, Rev. Alexander McKenzie took over as president of BSFS until 1914. In 1895, Rev. McKenzie called on the women of the congregational churches and society to form the Women's Boston Seaman's Friend Society as an auxiliary group to BSFS which they remained until the societies separated in 1929. The BSFS and WBSFS later reaffiliated in 1942 to ensure the continuation of the women's work and support after a loss of funding and close of the women's "Hut" at the Chelsea Marine Hospital due to changing maritime needs in the wake of the world war. In 1902, a small boat was purchased to aid the society with visiting ships in Boston Harbor, and the Sailors' Home was renovated in 1910 to accommodate the numerous sailors visiting the society. In 1914, "Sailor Mother" Eleanor Roulston began the "Anchor Alliance" as a temperance society for seamen operating out of the Sailors' Home. August 1922 saw the society reincorporating as the Boston Seaman's Friend Society (Incorporated), and that year also saw the official endorsement of BSFS as an agent of the six New England Congregational Conferences even though collaboration and support had been coming from the conferences for some years before. In February 1938, the Seaman's Congregational Church formally closed after being inactive for some years though services and ministerial work continued to be done by the society's chaplains and chapel. As the society entered the 1940s, they saw more changes to their Home with their offices moving from 14 Beacon St to the Hanover St building in December 1942, the remodeling and rededication of 287 Hanover St in 1945, and the addition of the Scandinavian Sailor's Mission to the building in 1947 after the mission had lost their previous office space.

The next few decades brought various changes and trials for the BSFS legally, financially, and location wise. On July 20, 1960, the society again reincorporated and changed its name to Boston Seaman's Friend Society, Inc. The 1970s brought two separate moves for the Sailors' Home or Seaman's House as it was known by then. In 1970, the Hanover St property was sold and the society moved to 7 Park Sq, and then in 1978, the Park Sq building was claimed through eminent domain by the city of Boston for a redevelopment project in the area forcing a second move to 45 Church St even though operations continued at Park Sq until fall of 1979. The Seaman's House at Church St was dedicated and opened in 1981 after delays from renovations and zoning changes. Also occurring in the 1970s were splits between the

BSFS, the WBSFS, and the Scandinavian Sailor's Mission. In 1972, the Scandinavian Sailor's Mission left the Park Sq house and the BSFS taking the chaplain Wallace Cedarleaf with them due to tensions over Cedarleaf's actions and intentions while serving both organizations. As part of this separation and tension along with other concerns about the treatment of their belongings and donations, the WBSFS also split from the BSFS in the same year. As a response, some of the women who chose not to leave the BSFS created the Women's Division of Boston Seaman's Friend Society in 1974 as an auxiliary group to BSFS. The 1980s followed these years of change with years of legal battles including an eminent domain case against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for greater compensation for 7 Park Sq, a tax abatement case, a case against their neighbors Rifkin and later Emmer over use of the parking lot between the two buildings on Church St, various eviction cases for renters at the Seaman's House, and others.

The 1990s and into the 21st century saw the society adapting to the changes in the maritime industry and both an expansion and reduction of the BSFS. In 1994, branches in Portland, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire were officially started though work had been done in years previous through local volunteers and churches. The Portland branch worked out of offices and a visitor center at the Portland Fish Pier at the Marine Trade Center starting in 1994 while Portsmouth was given space by the New Hampshire Public Services Company in 1998 for their offices and center. In 1997, the various maritime ministry organizations in New England came together to form the New England Maritime Ministries Association or NEMMA consisting of BSFS, the New England Seafarer's Mission which had previously been the Scandinavian Sailor's Mission, the Boston Port and Seaman's Aid Society which runs the Mariner's House, and the Apostleship of the Sea. The following year in March 1998, BSFS changed its name and logo to Seafarer's Friend in order to be more inclusive of those that they served while the legal corporate name remained the same. As costs rose, funding fell, and the time seafarers had in port decreased, the society chose to sell its building and discontinue the boarding house aspect of its ministry in 2000 with the Church St property fully closing in 2001. In 2002, offices were moved to Chelsea, MA to be closer to the ports with an additional move happening in 2005 from the first location on Williams St to a new office on Broadway St. The branches of the society also saw changes with the Martha's Vineyard branch fully closing in the early 2000s, and a new Searsport branch in Searsport, Maine operating out of the Portland office starting in 2008. Currently, Seafarer's Friend continues its work as a maritime ministry out of four branches across New England with Boston remaining its main office, working to aid, advocate for, and minister to the seafarers coming into the ports.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records from, about, or related to the Boston Seaman's Friend Society and its branches in Maine, New Hampshire, and Martha's Vineyard, MA. The collection includes administrative, financial, legal, and property records along with annual reports, correspondence, histories, ship visit reports, policies, manuals, records and logs from the

Seaman's House, inventories, financial and statistic reports, personnel and chaplain records and histories, records from their social welfare and ministerial work, and minutes and records from the various committees, board of directors, annual meeting and semi-annual meeting. Also included are records from, to, or about other organizations that the BSFS worked with, communicated with, or joined. The records contain cards, postcards, letters, flyers, brochures, pamphlets, booklets, scrapbooks, wooden and metal printing blocks, programs, newspapers, newsletters, photographs, photo slides, microfilm, CDs, VHS tapes, volumes and ledgers, deeds, maps, blueprints and plans, digital files, legal and court documents, reports, statements, and other related documents. Some gaps do exist in the collection, particularly for a few years of the house logs, as those along with other files remained in the care of the BSFS due to condition and preservation concerns.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into seven series, four of which have subseries. Materials in this collection are arranged chronologically by start date.

Series 1:Administrative records, 1827-2021

*Subseries 1:*Annual reports, 1835-2009

*Subseries 2:*Board, committee, and meeting records, 1827-2016

*Subseries 3:*Correspondence, 1844-2015

*Subseries 4:*Financial records, 1877-2018

Series 2:Audiovisual records, 1889-2012

*Subseries 1:*Photos, 1898-2011

*Subseries 2:*Scrapbooks, 1889-1961

Series 3:Maine and New Hampshire branches, 1990-2013

Series 4:Martha's Vineyard branch, 1888-2011

Series 5:Property records, 1923-2018

*Subseries 1:*House records, 1960-2001

Series 6:Related organizations, 1815-2018

Series 7:Society records, 1857-2015

*Subseries 1:*Publications, 1900-2014

*Subseries 2:*Publicity, 1915-2011

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials were loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives by Boston Seaman's Friend Society in January 1988; accession number 1988-0. Additional materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Boston Seaman's Friend Society in October 2025; accession number 2025-22.

Custodial History

The Congregational Library and Archives collected material from the Boston Seaman's Friend Society, and about maritime ministry and history in Boston and New England. As

part of an effort to standardize and ensure legal ownership and rights over their collections, the CLA asked for an agreement from BSFS to cover the materials they housed in 1987. In response, in January 1988, executive director Gene Landry on behalf of the BSFS placed the records on permanent loan or as a deposit in trust to the CLA. This collection, Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1827-1973, RG0776, was later processed in 1993 by Barbara Austen. As part of that processing, the five scrapbooks were microfilmed and added to their own collection, Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1827-1923, RG4681. In 1997, a researcher who had used some of the materials in the 1960s before the collection was processed, returned some annual reports and ephemera he had taken with him, and those were added to the existing RG0776 collection. In October 2025, a large accrual of records was donated from BSFS consisting of most of the society's records from its founding in 1827 until approximately 2020 which was added to the RG0776 collection. The collection was processed in 2026, and combined the original RG0776 collection, the microfilm reels of RG4681, and the new accrual to RG0776 into the current Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1815-2021, RG0776 collection.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Madison Bellew, September 2026, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional records from the Mariner's Church and its successor the Salem and Mariner's Church can be found in [Boston, Mass. Salem and Mariners' Church records, 1827-1879. RG1070](#). The museum collection and some of the associated records housed at the Bethel in Martha's Vineyard were moved to the [Martha's Vineyard Museum](#). The [Seaman's Bethel collection](#) held by the museum includes print material from both the Boston Seaman's Friend Society and others interested in the Bethel. Records for other maritime ministry organizations are held by various institutions including the [Records of the American Seamen's Friend Society](#) at the G. W. Blunt White Library at the Mystic Seaport Museum, the [Boston Port and Seamen's Aid Society records](#) including records for Mariner's House at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and various items and publications at the Library of Congress.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Boardinghouses
- Chapels
- Church charities.
- Corporate minutes.
- Correspondence.
- Harbors -- Atlantic Coast (New England)
- Home missions.
- Legal documents.
- Merchant marine -- History
- Merchant mariners -- Mission and charities.
- Photographs.
- Real property.
- Sailors -- Missions and Charities
- Scrapbooks.
- Ships
- Women in charitable work.
- Boston Seaman's Friend Society
- Cruger, Douglas Wright, 1941-2016
- Edwards, Madison, 1852-1926
- Goldberg, Harriet (Harriet Norris Eaton), 1858-1937
- Kellogg, Elijah, 1813-1901
- McKenzie, Alexander, 1830-1914
- New England Maritime Ministries Association
- North American Maritime Ministry Association
- Tower, Austin, 1880-1961

Technical Requirements

A microfilm reader is required to access microform materials. One microfilm reader is available to the public upon request.

Various hardware is required to view audiovisual materials.

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Content Warning

This collection includes content and language that may be upsetting or triggering. These records reflect the language and attitudes of the historical period in which they were created; many of these terms are unacceptable today. The Congregational Library & Archives works to preserve Congregational history and stories while acknowledging that sometimes that history is problematic or questionable. We do this to preserve, contextualize, and reflect on the past so that we may learn from it.

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Bibliography

Wiseman, George William, *They Kept the Lower Lights Burning: The Story of the Seaman's Bethel at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and its Chaplains* Academic Books, 2012. <https://place.asburyseminary.edu/academicbooks/1>

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Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1827-2021

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the administration of BSFS including annual reports, minutes, meeting records, correspondence, financial records, legal records, policies, manuals, personnel records, reports, government records, by-laws, office files, digital files, and other related documents.

Annual reports, 1835-2009

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains annual reports for the society.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual reports, 1835-1888	box 11	folder 8
Annual reports, 1849-1864	box 11	folder 9

Annual reports, 1872-1873, 1918-1931	box 11	folder 10
Annual reports, 1961-1967	box 11	folder 11
Annual reports, 1996-2002	box 11	folder 12
Annual reports, 2002-2009	box 11	folder 13

Board, committee, and meeting records, 1827-2016

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records from the society's board of directors, executive committee, annual meetings, semi-annual meetings, and other committees including meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, financial records, clerk's records, and other related documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Board and annual meeting minutes, 1827-1851	box 11	folder 14
Board and annual meeting minutes, 1851-1895	box 11	folder 15
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material from this file was separated to "Correspondence, 1888" for preservation purposes.		
Board minutes, 1889	box 11	folder 17
Board and annual meeting minutes, 1896-1908	box 11	folder 16
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material from this file was separated to "Correspondence, 1887-1888" for preservation purposes.		
Board and annual meeting minutes, 1908-1922	box 11	folder 18
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material from this file was separated to "Board records, reports, and by-laws, 1921-1922" for preservation purposes.		
Executive committee and annual meeting minutes and records, 1919-1931	box 12	folder 1-2
Board records, reports, and by-laws, 1921-1922	box 11	folder 19
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		

Separated Materials

Material in this file was separated from "Board and annual meeting minutes, 1908-1922" for preservation purposes.

Executive committee minutes and records, 1925-1927	box 11	folder 20
Executive committee and annual meeting minutes, 1926-1941	box 12	folder 3-5
Executive committee clerk's records, 1932-1947	box 12	folder 6-8
Executive committee and annual meeting minutes, 1939-1952	box 12	folder 9
Executive committee clerk's records, 1942-1953	box 12	folder 10-11
Committee, board, and meeting records, 1942-2006	box 12	folder 12
Annual meeting minutes and financial reports, 1951-1952	box 12	folder 13
Executive committee minutes and financial reports, 1953-1956	box 12	folder 14-15
Committee minutes and financial records, 1953-1967	box 12	folder 16
Executive committee and board minutes, 1954-1960	box 12	folder 17
Minutes and reports, 1954-1961	box 12	folder 18-19
Executive committee, board, and annual meetings and reports, 1957-1960	box 12	folder 20-21
Minutes, correspondence, and financial records, 1961-1966	box 12	folder 22-23
Correspondence, minutes, and reports, 1964-1980	box 13	folder 1
Board minutes and correspondence, 1967	box 13	folder 2
Board, committee, and meeting minutes, 1970-1976	box 13	folder 3
Committee and board meetings and records, 1971-1975	box 13	folder 4-6
Minutes and reports, 1971-1980	box 13	folder 7
Committee, board, and annual meetings and records, 1975-1980	box 13	folder 8
Anniversary committee and correspondence, 1975-1991	box 13	folder 9
Investment and finance committee minutes, 1976-1978	box 13	folder 10
Meetings, reports, and correspondence, 1979-1981	box 13	folder 11
Development committee and house operations change, 1982-1984	box 13	folder 12
Study committee meeting and records, 1982-1984	box 13	folder 13
Board, committee, and annual meeting records, 1984	box 13	folder 14

Committee, administrative, and Martha's Vineyard records and correspondence, 1988-1995	box 13	folder 15
Executive committee and board minutes and records, 1989-1990	box 13	folder 16
Board minutes, directory, and records , 1989-2001	box 13	folder 17
Board, committee, and annual meeting records, 1990-1991	box 13	folder 18
Board, committee, and annual minutes, reports, and correspondence, 1990-1992	box 13	folder 19
Finance committee minutes and records, 1991-1994	box 13	folder 21
Semi-annual meeting records, 1991-1996	box 13	folder 20
Executive committee records, 1991-1997	box 13	folder 22
Board minutes and reports, 1992-1993	box 13	folder 23
Nominating committee correspondence, 1992-1994	box 13	folder 24
Annual meeting records, 1992-1995	box 13	folder 25
Executive director report to annual meeting, 1994	box 13	folder 26
Executive committee minutes and correspondence, 1994-1995	box 13	folder 27
Board meetings and records, 1994-1997	box 13	folder 28
Development committee and financial planning records, 1994-2008	box 14	folder 1
Executive committee minutes and records, 1995	box 14	folder 2
Nominating committee correspondence and reports, 1995	box 14	folder 3
Executive committee minutes and records, 1995-1996	box 14	folder 4
Strategic planning committee records, 1995-1996	box 14	folder 5
Board minutes and records, 1995-1997	box 14	folder 6
Board minutes, 1995-2000	box 14	folder 7
Annual meeting records and reports, 1996-1999	box 14	folder 8
Board meetings and records, 1997-1998	box 14	folder 9
President's reports to board, 1997-2000	box 14	folder 10
Board minutes and records, 1998-1999	box 14	folder 11
Board minutes and records, 1999-2000	box 14	folder 12
Board minutes and records, 2000-2001	box 14	folder 13
Annual and board meetings, 2000-2005	box 14	folder 14
Board meetings and records, 2001-2002		

	box 14	folder 15
Advisory committee directory, 2001-2003	box 14	folder 16
Board meetings and records, 2002-2003	box 14	folder 17
Board minutes and correspondence, 2003-2004	box 14	folder 18
Board minutes and records, 2003-2005	box 14	folder 19
Executive committee meetings and correspondence, 2004	box 14	folder 20
Board minutes and reports, 2005-2010	box 14	folder 21
Board minutes and records, 2006	box 14	folder 22
Board policies and description, 2006	box 14	folder 23
Board recruitment , 2006	box 14	folder 24
Board minutes and records, 2006-2009	box 14	folder 25
Annual meeting records, 2007	box 14	folder 26
Board open house records, 2007	box 14	folder 27
Board retreat, 2007	box 14	folder 28
Board minutes, financials, and records, 2009-2013	box 14	folder 29-30
Board minutes and financial records, 2010-2013	box 14	folder 31
Board meetings and records, 2013-2014	box 14	folder 32
Board minutes, 2014-2016	box 14	folder 33
Board minutes, 2016	box 14	folder 34

Correspondence, 1844-2015

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains correspondence to, from, or about the society or those associated with it such as the board of directors, executive director, or other personnel and organizations. The records include cards, postcards, letters, and other correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1844-1860	box 14	folder 35
Correspondence, 1887-1888	box 14	folder 36
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material in this file was removed from "Board and annual meeting minutes, 1896-1908" for preservation purposes.		
Correspondence, 1888	box 14	folder 37
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		

Separated Materials

Material in this file was removed from "Board and annual meeting minutes, 1851-1895" for preservation purposes.

Correspondence copies, 1888-1938	box 14	folder 38
Postcards and cards, 1920-1991	box 14	folder 39
Tax correspondence and records, 1934-1997	box 16	folder 12
Correspondence, 1944-1967	box 14	folder 41
Richard Goodere ship visitor correspondence, 1951	box 14	folder 40
Fundraising consultant correspondence, 1967	box 15	folder 1
Correspondence, 1967-1969	box 15	folder 2
Wallace Cedarleaf correspondence and records, 1968-1972	box 15	folder 3
Correspondence, 1970-1971	box 15	folder 4
Correspondence, 1970-1974	box 15	folder 5
Legal correspondence, payments, and records, 1970-1992	box 15	folder 6
Correspondence, 1974-1979	box 15	folder 7
Correspondence, 1980-1984	box 15	folder 8
Correspondence, 1980-1984	box 15	folder 9
Legal expense correspondence, 1980-1987	box 15	folder 10
Tax abatement legal correspondence and records, 1980-1988	box 15	folder 11
Correspondence, 1985-1990	box 15	folder 12
Correspondence, 1989-1990	box 15	folder 14
William R. Baran correspondence and records, 1989-2000	box 15	folder 13
Donation and thank you correspondence, 1989-2012	box 15	folder 15
Correspondence, 1991-1995	box 15	folder 16
Correspondence, 1993-1995	box 15	folder 17
Robert L. Wood correspondence and records, 1993-2004	box 15	folder 18
Correspondence, 1995-2000	box 15	folder 19
Ward Wilson correspondence and records, 1995-2004	box 15	folder 20
Congregational Library correspondence, 1997	box 15	folder 21
Heather Kirk-Davidoff correspondence , 1997-1998	box 15	folder 22
Mark Haldane correspondence, 1997-1998	box 15	folder 23

Ralph Garrett correspondence, 1997-1998	box 15	folder 24
Valerie R. Landry correspondence, 1997-2000	box 15	folder 25
James R. Hughes correspondence and records, 1997-2005	box 15	folder 26
Cherie Daniel correspondence, 1998-1999	box 15	folder 27
Thomas Pincello correspondence, 1998-1999	box 15	folder 28
Captain A. Ross Pope correspondence, 1998-2000	box 15	folder 29
Board member correspondence, 1998-2003	box 15	folder 30
Edward O. Coates correspondence and records, 1999-2005	box 15	folder 31
John Swanson correspondence, 2001-2004	box 15	folder 32
Kerrie Harthan correspondence and records, 2002-2004	box 15	folder 33
David Butler correspondence and records, 2003-2004	box 15	folder 34
E. John White correspondence and records, 2003-2004	box 15	folder 35
Rev. Don Jennings correspondence, 2004	box 15	folder 36
Jeffrey Stieb profile and correspondence, 2004-2006	box 15	folder 37
Correspondence, 2005-2007	box 15	folder 38
Michael Penn-Strah correspondence, 2005-2007	box 15	folder 39
Correspondence, 2006-2015	box 15	folder 40
Executive director correspondence, 2014	box 15	folder 41

Financial records, 1877-2018

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains financial records for the society including financial statements, reports, audits, bequests, donations, contributor or donor cards and lists, investments, tax records, budgets, appeals, trusts and funds, and other related documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Elisha V. Ashton trust, 1877-1881, 1942-2018	box 15	folder 42
Treasurer's reports and contribution lists , 1893-1927	box 15	folder 43
Stock certificates , 1902	box 16	folder 13
Inverclyde bequest fund, 1906-1967	box 16	folder 14
Bequest and estate ledger, 1910-1998	box 15	folder 44
Contributor and contact cards, A-O, 1914-1953	box 20	
Contributor and contact cards, P-Z, 1914-1954	box 21	folder 1
Legacies and bequests lists, 1920-1936	box 15	folder 45

Mary B. H. Emerson trust, 1927-1987	box 15	folder 46
Estates, trusts, and bequests, 1927-2000	box 16	folder 15-17
Funds and investments, 1929-2008	box 15	folder 47
Annuities, 1930-1962	box 16	folder 19
Financial statements, 1931-1933	box 16	folder 18
Financial statements and auditors' reports, 1934-1937	box 15	folder 48
Louise Gaylord Pease trust, 1936-2012	box 17	folder 1
Financial statements and auditors' reports, 1938-1942	box 17	folder 2
Financial statements, 1943-1949	box 17	folder 3
Remodeling and building fund contributions, 1944-1946	box 17	folder 4
Contributions and gifts , 1949-1953	box 17	folder 5
Financial statements, 1949-1961	box 17	folder 6
Bequests and trusts, 1952-1975	box 17	folder 7
Ida Neary trust, 1954-2012	box 17	folder 8
Retirement and annuity funds, 1955-1959	box 17	folder 9
Financial statements, 1955-1969	box 17	folder 10-11
Budgets, 1956-1986	box 17	folder 12
Retirement fund for lay workers, 1958-1964	box 17	folder 13
Alice Buff estate, 1959-1976	box 16	folder 20
Ella Andrews Pease estate, 1960-1967	box 17	folder 14
Potential donor lists, 1961-1964	box 17	folder 15
Alice Thurston Coleman estate, 1961-1966	box 16	folder 21
Charles H. Pearson trust, 1961-2009	box 17	folder 16
Bequests, legacies, and gifts lists, 1964-1986	box 17	folder 17
Clara Ihrig Linhardt estate, 1965-1966	box 17	folder 18
Evelyn Giles estate, 1965-1966	box 17	folder 19
Financial statements and government records, 1965-1968	box 16	folder 22
Olive Turk trust, 1966-1968	box 16	folder 23
Financial statements, 1966-1979	box 17	folder 20
Annie Peirce trust, 1967	box 16	folder 24
Inverclyde bequest fund, 1968-2011	box 16	folder 25
Comparative financial statements, 1970-1977	box 16	folder 26

Tax exemption, 1970-2014	box 17	folder 28
Arthur Ashley Williams Foundation grant, 1971	box 17	folder 21
Catherine Walsh annuity, 1971-2005	box 17	folder 22
Stephen C. Luce estate and foundation, 1973-1986	box 17	folder 23
Arthur Walker trust, 1973-2000	box 17	folder 24
Estates and trusts, 1976-1982	box 16	folder 27
Financial statements, 1979-1981	box 17	folder 25
Financial statements, 1985-1988	box 17	folder 26
Appeals , 1990-2008	box 17	folder 27
Financial statements, 1991-1995	box 17	folder 29-30
Budgets and financial reports, 1992-2005	box 17	folder 31
Alma Hill estate, 1996-1998	box 17	folder 32
David Dow estate, 1996-2005	box 17	folder 33
Fundraising report, 1998	box 17	folder 34
Alfred Small bequest, 1998-2000	box 17	folder 35
Financial statements, 1999-2007	box 17	folder 36
Donor lists and donations, 2000-2009	box 17	folder 37
Fundraising lists and correspondence , 2002	box 16	folder 28
Donations, 2002-2008	box 16	folder 29
Dorothy Wilcox bequest, 2003	box 17	folder 38
Highland Congregational Church bequest, 2007	box 17	folder 39
Stevenson and Moore trust, 2010	box 17	folder 40
Audits, correspondence, and financial records, 2010-2014	box 17	folder 41
Chart of accounts, 2013 Digital Object: Sep 17 2013: 2013	box 24	Compact Disk 14
Donation letters and records, 2014-2015	box 17	folder 42
Bill of sale and insurance, 1842-1856	box 16	folder 30
State forms, reports, and correspondence, 1868-2008	box 16	folder 31
Legal, financial, and property records and correspondence, 1893-1959	box 16	folder 32
Certificates of incorporation and registration , 1922-2005	box 16	folder 33
"Sea Breeze" cuts inventory and uses, 1923-1960	box 17	folder 43
Reports, 1940-1951		

	box 17	folder 44
Closet inventory, 1941	box 17	folder 45
Bank vault correspondence and contents, 1943-1974	box 16	folder 34
Conference correspondence and representatives, 1949-1963	box 17	folder 46
Personnel records, 1950-2005	box 17	folder 47
Miscellaneous records, 1952-2011	box 17	folder 48
Society study, 1955	box 17	folder 49
Wood cut inventroy, 1959	box 17	folder 50
Meeting calls, financial records, and miscellaneous records, 1964-1966	box 17	folder 51
By-laws, 1964-2006	box 17	folder 52
Bank corporate resolutions, 1970-1989	box 18	folder 1
Study on work and needs, 1977	box 18	folder 2
Incoming mail register, 1980-1983	box 18	folder 3
Committee records and corporate members, 1986-1995	box 18	folder 4
Blueprint for action, 1987-1990	box 18	folder 5
Job descriptions, 1987-2011	box 18	folder 6
Member, Bethel, and parking lot records and correspondence, 1988-1992	box 18	folder 7
Crisis preparedness handbook, circa 1990s	box 18	folder 8
Board minutes and Gene D. Landry records, 1993-1996	box 18	folder 9
Chaplain and desk clerk pilot program, 1994	box 18	folder 10
Institutional development audit report, 1995	box 18	folder 11
Employee benefits, 1995-1999	box 18	folder 12
Ship visitor training packet, 1997	box 18	folder 13
Personnel manual, 1997-2006	box 18	folder 14
Corporate resolutions, 1998-2003	box 18	folder 15
Statistic reports, 1999-2009	box 18	folder 16
Policies, procedures, briefings, and ship visiting records, 2003-2009	box 18	folder 17
Office files, 2004-2005 Digital Object: Aug 19 2005: 2004-2005	box 24	Compact Disk 4
Office files, 2005-2006	box 24	Compact Disk 6

Digital Object: [Disc_052606_2: 2005-2006](#)

Ship visiting protocols, 2005-2013	box 18	folder 18
Personnel policy manual , 2006	box 18	folder 19
Administrative and financial office binder, 2006-2013	box 18	folder 20
Executive director files, 2006-2014 Digital Object: Coates.BSFS.file: 2006-2014	box 24	Compact Disk 7
Expansion project report, 2007	box 18	folder 21
Boston reports and statistics, 2007-2009	box 18	folder 22
Office manager manual, 2009-2011	box 19	folder 1
Policies, 2009-2014	box 19	folder 2
Terminal contacts and procedures, 2010-2021	box 19	folder 3
Government documents, 2016-2019	box 19	folder 4

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Audiovisual records, 1889-2012

Scope and Contents

This series contains audiovisual material including photographic material, photo slides and scripts, wooden and metal printing blocks, scrapbooks, CDs, VHS tapes, DVDs, drawings and images, postcards, microfilm, videos, children's cards, and digital photos and files.

Photos, 1898-2011

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains photographic material including photographs, photo slides, and photo negatives with the content of the photos ranging from people, buildings, ships, ports, events, and other related topics.

Title/Description	Instances	
Aerial and house photos, undated	box 6	folder 16
City and building photos, undated	box 6	folder 17
Clubhouse, show, ship, and miscellaneous photos, undated	box 6	folder 18
Entertainment and show photos, undated	box 6	folder 19
Event at Massport cruise terminal photos, undated	box 6	folder 20
Exhibit photos, undated	box 6	folder 21
Large slides, undated	box 6	folder 22
Lighthouse photos and description, undated		

	box 5	folder 13
Martha's Vineyard location photos, undated	box 6	folder 23
Martha's Vineyard photos, undated	box 6	folder 24
Miscellaneous photos, undated	box 6	folder 25
Miscellaneous photos, undated	box 6	folder 26
Miscellaneous photos, undated	box 6	folder 27
Miscellaneous clubhouse and ship photos, undated	box 6	folder 28
Museum photos, undated	box 6	folder 29
Negative strips, undated	box 6	folder 30
People and event photos, undated	box 6	folder 31
People and event photos, undated	box 6	folder 32
Personnel photos, undated	box 6	folder 33
Photos, undated	box 6	folder 34
Photo slides, undated	box 6	folder 35
Portraits, undated	box 6	folder 36
Seaman's house photos, undated	box 6	folder 37
Ship photos, undated	box 6	folder 38
Ship and office photos, undated	box 6	folder 39
Ship, clubhouse, and miscellaneous photos, undated	box 6	folder 40
Ship, society, and seafarers photos, undated	box 6	folder 41
Steamship photos, undated	box 6	folder 42
Vineyard Haven and ship photos, 1898-1984	box 6	folder 43
Portraits, 1931-1984	box 6	folder 44
Bethel photos and cards, 1931-1991	box 6	folder 45
Diorama photos, 1937	box 6	folder 46
Event and holiday photos, 1939-1961	box 6	folder 47
Christmas party photos, 1940	box 6	folder 48
Society officials and Seamen's Council photos, 1942-1963	box 6	folder 49
Ship, Coast Guard, event and miscellaneous photos, 1944-1962	box 6	folder 50
Miscellaneous photos, 1952-1969	box 6	folder 51
Burning ship photos, 1958	box 6	folder 52
Ship photos, 1958-1964	box 6	folder 53

Ship and port photos, 1958-1998	box 7	folder 1
Marine hospital photos, 1960	box 6	folder 54
Events, people, and miscellaneous photos, 1960-2004	box 7	folder 2
House, Martha's Vineyard, and miscellaneous photos, 1964-1969	box 7	folder 3
Photo slides, 1966-1977	box 7	folder 4
Old slide set, 1966-1978	box 7	folder 5
Photo slides, 1966-1988	box 7	folder 6
Photo slide carousel and script, 1966-1990	box 7	folder 7
Ships, society, and Boston photo slides, 1966-1990	box 7	folder 8
Seamen, house, and miscellaneous photos, 1967-1975	box 7	folder 9
Photo slide set and scripts, 1969-1981	box 7	folder 10
Photo slide carousel tray 83, 1969-1983	box 7	folder 11
People, events, and miscellaneous photos, 1971-1977	box 7	folder 12-13
Event, people, and miscellaneous photos, 1972-1978	box 7	folder 14
Photo slide carousel, 1977	box 7	folder 15
Seaman's house and society photos, 1978	box 7	folder 16
Thanksgiving dinner, seamen, and drill ship photos, 1978	box 7	folder 17
Office photos, negatives, and slides, 1980	box 7	folder 18
Vineyard Haven, seaman's house, and event photos, 1983-1989	box 7	folder 19
Event and society personnel photos, 1986-1989	box 7	folder 20
Executive committee and van photos, 1988-1989	box 7	folder 21
Seaman's house, board, ship, and miscellaneous photos, 1988-1989	box 7	folder 22
Volunteers, dinner, and ship visit photos, 1988-2007	box 7	folder 23
Events, people, Vineyard, and miscellaneous photos, 1991-1998	box 7	folder 24-25
Board and personnel photos, 1992-1996	box 7	folder 26
Parking lot photos, 1994	box 7	folder 27
Ditty bag photos, 1994-1998	box 7	folder 28
Event photos, 1994-1998	box 7	folder 29
Portland training, ship, and miscellaneous photos, 1995-1999	box 7	folder 30

Event, visit, people, and miscellaneous photos, 1996-2007	box 7	folder 31
Portland cruise ship ministry photos, 1997	box 7	folder 32
Event and miscellaneous photos, 1999-2000	box 7	folder 33
Portsmouth port and event photos, 1999-2000	box 7	folder 34
Photos, 2000-2001 <u>Digital Object:</u> NEW: 2000-2001	box 24	Compact Disk 8
Vineyard cemetery photos, 2000-2003	box 7	folder 35
Miscellaneous photos, 2001	box 7	folder 36
Miscellaneous photos, 2001-2006	box 7	folder 37
Seafarer and personnel photos, 2001-2006	box 7	folder 38
Day of caring photos, 2002	box 7	folder 39
Photos for National Guard, 2002	box 7	folder 40
Portland Pier blessing of the fleet, 2002-2004	box 8	folder 1-2
Tree lighting and personnel photos, 2002-2006	box 8	folder 3
Day of caring photos, 2003	box 8	folder 4
DC kit training photos, 2003	box 8	folder 5
MSC Italy, Bill visit photos, 2003	box 8	folder 6
Ship and port photos, 2003	box 8	folder 7
Annual meeting photos, 2004	box 8	folder 8
Seafarer pictures, 2004 <u>Digital Object:</u> Seafarer Pictures: 2004	box 24	Compact Disk 9
Photos for website of social media, 2004-2011 <u>Digital Object:</u> May 10 2012: 2004-2011	box 24	Compact Disk 13
Miscellaneous Portland photos, 2005	box 8	folder 9
Photos, 2005 <u>Digital Object:</u> Nov 01 2005: 2005	box 24	Compact Disk 10
Pictures, 2005-2006 <u>Digital Object:</u> 060616_1250: 2005-2006	box 24	Compact Disk 5
Visitor and personnel photos, 2005-2007	box 8	folder 10
Miscellaneous Portsmouth photos, 2005-2010	box 8	folder 11

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Scrapbooks, 1889-1961

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains scrapbooks documenting the society and their history through news stories, pamphlets, annual reports, ephemera, photos, and other material. Microfilm versions of the scrapbooks are also included.

Title/Description	Instances	
News stories scrapbook, 1889-1917	box 8	folder 12
	box 26	
	box 27	
Scrapbook, 1898-1953	box 24	folder 3
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	box 26	
Separated Materials	box 27	
Material from this file was separated to "News stories and correspondence, 1943-1960" for preservation purposes.		
Newspaper and program scrapbook, 1903-1904, 1941-1952	box 24	folder 4
	box 26	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	box 27	
Separated Materials		
Material from this file was separated to "News stories, correspondence, and records, 1941-1946" for preservation purposes.		
Scrapbook, 1904-1951	box 24	folder 2
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	box 26	
Separated Materials	box 27	
Material from this file was separated to "News stories, programs, and correspondence, 1927-1943" for preservation purposes.		
Correspondence, appeals, and programs scrapbook, 1948-1961	box 8	folder 13
News stories and programs scrapbook, 1949-1956	box 24	folder 5
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		

Separated Materials

box 26

Materials from this file were separated to "News stories and newsletter, 1939-1953" for preservation purposes.

box 27

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Blank postcards, undated	box 8	folder 16
Boston Seamen's seal proof, undated	box 8	folder 14
Miscellaneous images and drawings, undated	box 8	folder 15
Posters and images, undated	box 5	folder 14
Ship images and drawings, undated	box 8	folder 17
Slide scripts, undated	box 8	folder 18
"The U. S. Coast Guard: the first 200 years", undated	box 24	Item 15
"Sea Breeze" image clippings, 1928-1958	box 8	folder 19
Printing blocks, 1932-1966	box 23	Item 1-50
Printing blocks, 1932-1966	box 25	Item 1-53
Printing blocks , 1938-1968	box 22	Item 1-98
"Sea Breeze" images, 1941-1956	box 8	folder 20
Image clippings, 1946-1956	box 8	folder 21
International Maritime Center video, 1997	box 24	Item 16
International Maritime Center video, 1997	box 24	Item 17
Apostleship of the Sea seafarers information, 2006 <u>Digital Object:</u> S.I.C: 2006	box 24	Compact Disk 2
Barge christening, 2007 <u>Digital Object:</u> barge christening: 2007	box 24	Compact Disk 11
Greenland children's thank you cards, 2009 <u>Digital Object:</u> Apr 30 2009: 2009-	box 24	Compact Disk 1
World Maritime Day program and DVDs, 2010 <u>Digital Object:</u> VIDEO_TS: 2010 <u>Digital Object:</u> VIDEO_TS (2): 2010	box 8	folder 22
Hanover children's cards, 2012	box 24	Compact Disk 3

Digital Object: [Apr 03 2012: 2012](#)

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Maine and New Hampshire branches, 1990-2013

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from the Maine and New Hampshire branches of the society specifically in Portland, ME; Portsmouth, NH; and Searsport, ME. The records include ship visit reports, phone card logs and reports, correspondence, minutes, financial records, property records, newspapers, reports, personnel records, donation records, ministerial and social work records, and other documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Portsmouth port and branch records, 1990-2003	box 9	folder 28
Marine Trade Center rent correspondence and lease, 1994-1999	box 9	folder 29
Portland branch records, 1994-2004	box 9	folder 30
Reports, correspondence, and records, 1994-2012	box 9	folder 31
Douglas Cruger reports and photo, 1995-1997	box 9	folder 32
Portland and Portsmouth publicity, 1995-2010	box 5	folder 24
Ditty bags and outreach records, 1997-2010	box 9	folder 33
Lynn Van Coonis, 1998-2006	box 9	folder 34
Portland and Portsmouth donation lists and records, 1998-2008	box 9	folder 35
Christmas at sea ditty bag distribution, 1999-2008	box 9	folder 36
Coast Guard correspondence and records, 1999-2010	box 9	folder 37
Shore pass denials, 2000-2001	box 9	folder 38
Portsmouth advisory committee minutes, reports, and correspondence, 2000-2004	box 9	folder 39
Portland port reports and records, 2000-2013	box 9	folder 40
Portland advisory committee minutes and records, 2001-2004	box 9	folder 41
Portland advisory committee minutes and reports, 2001-2004	box 9	folder 42
Phone card reports, receipts, and records, 2001-2010	box 9	folder 43
Portsmouth Pilots ship reports, 2001-2013	box 5	folder 25
Damage control kits, 2002-2005	box 9	folder 44
Portland blessing of the fleet, 2002-2005	box 5	folder 26

Tubby correspondence and records, 2002-2006	box 9	folder 45
Phone card reports, 2002-2008	box 9	folder 46
Portsmouth ship and visit reports, 2002-2009	box 9	folder 47
Jennings volunteer dinner, 2003	box 9	folder 48
Clinical pastoral education records, 2003-2010	box 9	folder 49
Shamrock detention and legal dispute, 2004-2005	box 9	folder 50
Portland ship visit logs, 2004-2007	box 16	folder 1
Portland ship and visit reports, 2004-2009	box 9	folder 51
Phone card reports, sign outs, and receipts , 2005-2006	box 9	folder 52
Monthly operations reports, 2006	box 9	folder 53
Cruise ship program reports and records, 2006-2010	box 9	folder 54
Jehovah's Witness records, 2006-2010	box 9	folder 55
Irving ship visit reports, 2007-2008	box 9	folder 56
Searsport correspondence and records, 2007-2010	box 9	folder 57
"Great Eastern" reports, 2008	box 9	folder 58
Searsport correspondence, meetings, and records, 2008-2009	box 9	folder 59
Ship visit logs, 2008-2009	box 9	folder 60
Portland programs, 2009-2012	box 9	folder 61
Contact and meeting reports, 2010-2012	box 9	folder 62
Ship visit reports, 2011-2012	box 9	folder 63

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Martha's Vineyard branch, 1888-2011

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from the Martha's Vineyard branch of the society located in the town of Tisbury, MA, also known as Vineyard Haven, on the island of Martha's Vineyard. The series contains records from or relating to the Seaman's Bethel, the Goldberg fund, chaplains Madison Edwards and Austin Tower, two seamen's cemeteries, and the maritime history of Vineyard Haven. The records include histories, correspondence, reports, financial records, property records, legal records, court documents, newspapers, personnel records, maps, blueprints and plans, inventories, and other related documents.

Historical Note

In the later 1800s, the BSFS turned its eyes to the island of Martha's Vineyard and the seamen that visited, and the society hired Madison Edwards who had already been ministering to the seamen on his

own to begin a branch on the island in 1888. When chaplain Edwards officially started in 1889, he ran three reading rooms in Tarpaulin Cove, Woods Hole, and Vineyard Haven, also known as the town of Tisbury, along with shipboard and shipside services for the sailors. In 1893, land was leased in Vineyard Haven at the end of the Steamship Wharf where a Seamen's Bethel with reading room and chapel was built to replace the previous reading room in a rented loft above a store near the water. That same year a boat was dedicated as the Helen May that Edwards used to bring seamen to shore to visit the Bethel and attend services. Due to the numerous sailors coming to the island at the time that created a need for both space for services and housing after shipwrecks, the Bethel was renovated in 1897 to enlarge the reading room and create an apartment for Edwards' family, and a building on the property was turned into a forecastle or dorm in 1899. Also in 1899, a burial lot, later known as the Bethel lot, was purchased in the Oak Grove cemetery in Tisbury so that Edwards could bury the sailors that died in shipwrecks or on the island instead of having to use the Marine Hospital cemetery, and in 1913, a lighthouse monument to honor those seamen was completed. In 1905, some of the buildings on the property including an old store were bought by the society and in 1906, a chaplain's office was added, and a new forecastle was built. In 1907, Edwards began the "Hold Fast" group as a form of Christian endeavor society for the sailors visiting the Bethel which later inspired Boston's "Anchor Alliance" endeavor. In 1921, the land the Bethel sat on was bought by the society instead of continuing to be leased, and when the society reincorporated in 1922, that property was transferred from the board to the BSFS. Chaplain Edwards died in 1926 and the work at the Seamen's Bethel was continued by his son-in-law Austin Tower who had been assisting Edwards since 1900. Tower continued as chaplain until his retirement in 1957 and as chaplain emeritus until his death in 1961, after which his daughter-in-law Teresa Tower cared for the Bethel until her retirement in 1981.

Over the course of the 1900s, the maritime industry on Martha's Vineyard changed and brought changes to the Bethel with it. In 1934, the reading room in Tarpaulin Cove closed due to lack of visitors, and only the Bethel remained as part of the Vineyard branch as the Woods Hole room had closed with the opening of the Bethel in 1893. In 1956, the society bought the Marine Hospital and its burial ground intending to sell the Bethel and move offices there to better accommodate their ministry. After the islanders' objections to the sale, the society chose to keep and renovate the Bethel and sold the Marine Hospital, except for the Sailor's Burial Ground, to the St. Pierre school in 1961. The Bethel was renovated and rededicated in 1965 with an added chapel in memorial for its two chaplains, and the reading room turned into museum space to house the items given to them over the years and to hopefully attract visitors. In 1973, the Bethel building and property was sold to the Steamship Authority which allowed the society to lease the Bethel and continue their ministry until 1991 when the society was evicted. The society moved offices in 1992 to Beach St., while the chapel building was moved to the Martha's Vineyard hospital, and the Bethel building was moved to the American Legion property in Vineyard Haven. In 1996, the society moved again and created the Vineyard Seafaring Center on Main St which they shared with Sail MV. The 1970s saw tensions between the society and the residents of Martha's Vineyard, partially due to the sale of the Bethel and partially due to the use of a bequest given to the society in 1954 for the maintenance of its Vineyard branch known as the Harriet Goldberg Fund. In 1975, the society petitioned the courts to allow the use of the Goldberg Fund for its general purposes, but a judgement in 1978 instructed the society to use the fund for the benefit of the island and its seamen. This was the first of many decisions, conversations, and legal intercessions involving the Goldberg fund, a similar bequest from Mary Marsh, the society, and the island residents which continued in varying levels of hostility until the society closed the Martha's Vineyard branch in 2003 due to a lack of visitors and purpose on the island. The society chose to transfer the Goldberg fund to the Permanent Endowment Fund of Martha's Vineyard in 2006 to be used as scholarships and grants for island residents and seafarers. The close of the branch also necessitated the transfer of the Sailor's Burial Ground and its upkeep to the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank in 2006 with the Bethel lot already being cared for by the town of Tisbury, and the donation of the Bethel museum collection to the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society in 2006 except for a few items given to the American Legion and those kept by the society.

Title/Description	Instances	
History and articles, 1888-1965	box 10	folder 1
Martha's Vineyard history, maps, and receipts, 1893-1980	box 10	folder 2

Madison Edwards correspondence, records, and boys, 1899-1926	box 10	folder 3
Marine Hospital, Bethel, and cemetery deeds, 1899-1988	box 16	folder 2
Oak Grove cemetery Bethel lot correspondence and records, 1899-1994	box 10	folder 4
History, flyers, and publications, 1909-1993	box 10	folder 5
Harriet Norris Goldberg will, estate, and trust distribution, 1935-1960	box 16	folder 3
Martha's Vineyard public meeting and supporting documents, 1935-2003	box 10	folder 6
Martha's Vineyard publicity, 1937-2006	box 16	folder 4
Martha Gertrude Goldberg estate, 1949	box 10	folder 7
Mary P. Marsh trust, 1951-2004	box 10	folder 8
Marine Hospital sale, property, and records, 1954-1962	box 16	folder 5
Goldberg and Vineyard correspondence, notes, and records, 1954-2003	box 10	folder 9
Financial records, 1954, 1991-2004	box 10	folder 36
Goldberg legal correspondence and records, 1956-2003	box 10	folder 10
Bethel use, renovation, proposed sale, and property records, 1957-1965	box 10	folder 11
Miscellaneous correspondence and records, 1958-2003	box 10	folder 12
Vineyard Haven committee records and correspondence, 1960-1964	box 10	folder 13
Bethel, marine hospital, and cemetery plans, 1960-2003	folder 3	
Correspondence, 1964-2005	box 10	folder 14
Bethel dedication and building records, 1965	box 10	folder 15
Bethel publicity and program, 1966-2004	box 16	folder 6
Cemetery history, correspondence, and records, 1967-2001	box 10	folder 16
Teresa Tower apartment and retirement, 1969-1981	box 10	folder 17
Bethel collection, inventory, correspondence, and records, 1969-2006	box 10	folder 18
Edwards and Tower genealogy , circa 1970s	box 16	folder 7
Bethel and Steamship Authority correspondence, meetings, and records, 1972-1993	box 16	folder 8
Paul Bobbitt visit reports and correspondence, 1973-1974	box 10	folder 19

Bethel and Steamship Authority sale, eviction, correspondence, and records, 1973-1994	box 16	folder 9
Legal correspondence and records, 1975-1999	box 10	folder 20
Sailor's Burial Ground records, 1975-2007	box 10	folder 21
Goldberg fund and attorney general legal records, 1978-1980	box 10	folder 22
Bethel history and historic register, 1980-1988	box 10	folder 23
All-Island committee correspondence and records, 1980-1993	box 10	folder 24
Goldberg and Vineyard correspondence, history, and records, 1980-2003	box 16	folder 10
Miscellaneous records, 1980-2003	box 10	folder 25
Goldberg scholarship correspondence, recipients, and records, 1980-2011	box 10	folder 26
Bethel use, eviction, move, and history, 1987-1991	box 10	folder 27
Historical society and commission correspondence, 1988-1992	box 10	folder 28
Fred Bennett correspondence, 1988-1994	box 10	folder 29
Surveys, demographics, mailing lists, and reports, 1990-1996	box 10	folder 30
Vineyard publicity and correspondence, 1990-2007	box 10	folder 31
Beach St. lease and correspondence, 1991	box 10	folder 32
Bethel moving inventory, 1991	box 10	folder 33
"Who will keep the lower lights burning" drafts and printing, 1991	box 10	folder 34
Nathan Mayhew seminars, 1991-1993	box 10	folder 35
Mason Taber, attorney general, and Martha's Vineyard correspondence and records, 1991-1996	box 16	folder 11
Outreach and community involvement, 1992-1996	box 10	folder 37
Lawyer correspondence, 1992-1999	box 10	folder 38
Shawn Ahearn and Vineyard Maritime records, 1992-2004	box 10	folder 39
Alfred Moran correspondence, 1993	box 10	folder 40
Transcript of meeting with Island Goldberg Trust Committee, BSFS, and others, 1993	box 10	folder 41
Commercial Fishing Association records, 1993-1994	box 10	folder 42
Fred Bennett correspondence, 1995-1996	box 11	folder 1

Seafaring center and Sail MV records, 1996-1997	box 10	folder 43
Cy pres petition records and summary, 1997	box 11	folder 4
Fred Bennett correspondence, 1997-1998	box 11	folder 2
Advisory committee minutes and records, 1997-2003	box 11	folder 5
All-Island Board of Selectmen reports and correspondence, 1998-1999	box 11	folder 6
Habitat for Humanity records, 1998-2001	box 11	folder 3
Fred Bennett correspondence, 1999	box 11	folder 7
Fred Bennett correspondence, 2000	box 19	folder 5
Juliette correspondence and records, 2000-2003	box 19	folder 6
Goldberg grant applications and records, 2000-2005	box 19	folder 7
Fred Bennett correspondence, 2001-2005	box 19	folder 8
Public forum agenda and documents, 2003	box 19	folder 9
American Legion correspondence, 2003-2004	box 19	folder 10
Goldberg and permanent endowment fund correspondence and records, 2003-2011	box 19	folder 11
Goldberg and permanent endowment fund legal and related records, 2005-2007	box 19	folder 12

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Property records, 1923-2018

Scope and Contents

This series contains property records from the society including blueprints and plans, correspondence, legal records, leases, deeds, financial records, renovation and building records, government records, property sales and purchases, registers, records and court documents from legal cases involving their neighbors and a contested parking lot, records from the use of the building as a boarding house and sailor's clubhouse, and other related material.

House records, 1960-2001

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records from the Seaman's House, also known as the Sailors' Rest, the Sailors' Club House, "The Hook", or the Sailor's Rest and Chapel which operated as a boarding house and gathering spot for seafarers and the society. The records include guest registers, eviction records, house rules, visitor records, house logs which document daily occupants and front desk notes, and other records.

Title/Description	Instances
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House rules and procedures, circa 1960s	box 1	folder 1
Guest register, 1961-1963	box 1	folder 2
Visitor's register, 1962-1994	box 2	folder 1
Guest register, 1964-1970	box 2	folder 2
House log, 1965-1966	box 1	folder 3
House log, 1966	box 1	folder 4
House log, 1966-1967	box 1	folder 5
House log, 1967-1968	box 2	folder 3
House log, 1969	box 2	folder 4
House log, 1969-1970	box 1	folder 6
House log, 1970	box 1	folder 7
House log, 1970	box 2	folder 5
House log, 1970	box 2	folder 6
House log, 1970-1971	box 2	folder 7
House log, 1971	box 1	folder 8
House log, 1971	box 1	folder 9
House log, 1971-1972	box 2	folder 8
House log, 1972	box 2	folder 9
House log, 1972	box 2	folder 10
Barred list, 1972-1977	box 1	folder 10
House log, 1973	box 2	folder 11
House log, 1973	box 1	folder 11
House log, 1973	box 1	folder 12
House log, 1973-1974	box 1	folder 13
Eviction legal records, 1974	box 1	folder 14
House log, 1974	box 1	folder 15
House log, 1974	box 1	folder 16
House log, 1975	box 1	folder 17
House log, 1975-1976	box 2	folder 12
House log, 1976	box 2	folder 13
House log, 1976-1977	box 3	folder 1
House log, 1977	box 3	folder 2

Boston Seaman's Friend Society records, 1815-2021. RG0776

House log, 1977-1978	box 1	folder 18
House log, 1978	box 1	folder 19
House log, 1978-1979	box 3	folder 3
House log, 1979-1980	box 4	folder 1
Room and occupant records, 1979-1988	box 4	folder 2
House log, 1985-1987	box 3	folder 4
Meehan eviction records, 1986-1988	box 4	folder 3
House log, 1987-1988	box 4	folder 4
Rent equity board records, 1987-1988	box 3	folder 5
House log, 1988	box 4	folder 5
House log, 1988	box 4	folder 6
House log, 1989-1990	box 3	folder 6
House log, 1992	box 3	folder 7
House log, 1993	box 3	folder 8
House log, 1994	box 3	folder 9
House log, 1995	box 3	folder 10
House log, 1996	box 3	folder 11
House log, 1998	box 3	folder 12
House log, 1999	box 5	folder 1
House log, 2000-2001	box 5	folder 2
House log, 2001	box 5	folder 3
Hanover st. property and financial records, 1923-1970	box 4	folder 7
Property, renovation, and cemetery plans, 1934-1995	folder 11	
Remodeled Hanover st. dedication, 1945	box 4	folder 8
Church st. purchase, occupancy, and property records, 1956, 1978-1979	box 5	folder 4
Park square property records, 1970-1979	box 4	folder 9
Oil and gas leases, deeds, correspondence, and records, 1974-2013	box 5	folder 5
Boston Redevelopment Authority correspondence and records, 1976-1977	box 4	folder 10
Eminent domain, relocation, property, and legal records, 1978-1985	box 5	folder 6-7
Winchester st. and Church st. quitclaim deed, 1979	box 5	folder 8

Church st. renovation bids and correspondence, 1980	box 4	folder 11
Church st. property and renovation plans, 1980-1991	folder 12	
Parking lot legal records, 1980-1991	box 4	folder 12-14
Parking lot legal correspondence and records, 1980-1994	box 4	folder 15-17
Church st. house dedication, 1981	box 4	folder 18
Parking lot legal correspondence, maps, and records, 1982-1991	box 5	folder 9
Texas oil lease and correspondence, 1984-1988	box 5	folder 10
Dorchester property correspondence and records, 1987	box 5	folder 11
Franklin property correspondence and records, 1987	box 4	folder 19
Smith property quitclaim, 1987-1988	box 4	folder 20
Church st. photos and map, 1988	box 4	folder 21
Parking lot legal appendix, 1989	box 4	folder 22
Property sale, planning, and records, 1998-2001	box 4	folder 23
Church st. sale and property records, 2000-2001	box 4	folder 24
Broadway purchase and financial records, 2005-2006	box 4	folder 25
Oklahoma oil leases, correspondence, and legal records, 2005-2013	box 5	folder 12
Oil property legal notices and records, 2016-2018	box 4	folder 26

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Related organizations, 1815-2018

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from or related to other organizations and groups that BSFS interacted, collaborated, or corresponded with. These organizations included regional, national, and international associations of maritime ministries or the maritime industry along with independent organizations who had connections to the maritime industry, the congregationalists, or social welfare. Also included in this series are the records from the women's division of the BSFS which was a subordinate group within BSFS and a separate organization from the Women's Seafarer's Friend Society, whose records are included as well. The records contain correspondence, programs, addresses, extracts, histories, meetings, directories, and other material.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Five years on the Erie canal", undated	box 4	folder 27
"Sailors wanted...voyage with the captain of our salvation", 1815	box 4	folder 28
Extracts from "New missionary field", 1817	box 4	folder 29

"Address to seamen" at Portland Marine Bible Society, 1821	box 4	folder 30
"Statements...of the United States marine hospital in Chelsea", 1834	box 4	folder 31
Seamen's Widow and Orphans' Association address, 1851	box 4	folder 32
"The western pilot" from the Western Seamen's Friend Society, 1853-1856	box 4	folder 33
"Address to sons of the ocean", 1865	box 4	folder 34
American Seamen's Friend Society "Fifty years' efforts", 1878	box 4	folder 35
Women's Seafarers Friend Society correspondence, history, and records, 1894-2002	box 4	folder 36
American Seamen's Friend Society, 1932-1966	box 4	folder 37
Correspondence and meetings, 1933-1996	box 4	folder 38
"President station progressive times", 1944	box 4	folder 39
Scandinavian Sailors' Society space correspondence, 1947	box 4	folder 40
Council of Seamen's Agencies conference correspondence, 1953	box 4	folder 41
Seamen's agencies directory, 1953	box 4	folder 42
Scandinavian Seamen's Mission reports and correspondence, 1955-1963	box 6	folder 1
Women's division correspondence and records, 1974-1998	box 4	folder 43
NAMMA conference and records, 1989-1996	box 6	folder 2
NACCC and MACCC records, 1990-2011	box 6	folder 3
Woman's Seafarers Friend Society and ditty bags, 1994-2007	box 6	folder 4
NESM correspondence and records, 1998-2006	box 6	folder 5
ITF correspondence and ship visit reports, 1998-2007	box 6	folder 6
NEMMA minutes and records, 1998-2010	box 6	folder 7
IASMM records, 2002-2007	box 6	folder 8
ICMA records, 2004	box 6	folder 9
NAMMA conference and records, 2004-2012	box 6	folder 10
Propeller Club records, 2004-2013	box 6	folder 11
NAMMA records, 2004-2018	box 6	folder 12
Boston port, Propeller Club, and NROC records, 2006-2012	box 6	folder 13
NAMEPA records, 2008	box 6	folder 14

MBYCA correspondence and ad, 2014

box 6

folder 15

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Society records, 1857-2015

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from the society's history, ministerial and social work, ship visiting, chaplains, volunteers, events, and efforts as a Christian mission society. The records contain pamphlets, booklets, brochures, articles, newspapers, newsletters, publications, histories, programs, ship visit reports, personnel histories and records, correspondence, anniversaries, historical research, historical records, and other related records.

Publications, 1900-2014

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records published by or for the society including booklets, pamphlets, brochures, flyers, newsletters, and other documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
"The Hook" booklet, undated	box 8	folder 23
"Sea Breeze" excerpts , 1900-1931	box 8	folder 24
Concert programs, 1906	box 8	folder 25
Booklets and leaflets, 1906-1943	box 5	folder 15
Pamphlets, 1918-1980	box 21	folder 2
100th anniversary book, 1928	box 8	folder 26
100th anniversary booklet, 1928	box 8	folder 27
Trotty Veck messages, 1935-1936	box 21	folder 3
Pamphlets, brochures, and knitting instructions , 1941-1942	box 8	folder 28
Programs, brochures, and flyers, 1962-2013	box 8	folder 29
"Sea Breeze" editing pages, 1969-1971	box 24	folder 1
Images and writings for "Sea Breeze", 1971	box 8	folder 30
"Occasional Gram" newsletter, 1987-1991	box 8	folder 31
"An Occasional Newsletter", 1995-1998	box 8	folder 32
Church programs, 2001-2014	box 8	folder 33

Publicity, 1915-2011

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains publicity about the society including articles and newspapers.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and clippings, 1915	box 5	folder 16
Publicity, 1922-1992	box 5	folder 17
Articles, 1973-2011	box 8	folder 34
Bethel and society newspapers, 1986-1990	box 5	folder 18
Publicity, 1987-1991	box 8	folder 35
Publicity, 1991-2005	box 5	folder 19-20
Publicity, 1995-2010	box 5	folder 21
Publicity and press releases , 2001-2003	box 8	folder 36
Publicity and programs , 2003-2007	box 5	folder 22
News stories, 2006-2010 <u>Digital Object:</u> SF Media Disc: 2006-2010	box 24	Compact Disk 12
Chaplain biographies, undated	box 8	folder 37
Miscellaneous society records, undated	box 8	folder 38
History and historical records and articles, 1857-1998	box 8	folder 39
Historical maritime and ship records, 1872-1908	box 8	folder 40
Programs, correspondence, and historical records, 1880-1902	box 5	folder 23
Society history and congregational appeal, 1888	box 8	folder 41
Notes and articles on people, 1889-1967	box 8	folder 42
Mother Janet Lord Roper, 1891-1965	box 8	folder 43
Sea Breeze and Scandinavian home certificate, 1893-1926	folder 4	
"Reminiscence" address, 1897	box 8	folder 44
Albert Roberts, 1898-1964	box 8	folder 45
Sylvester S Nickerson, 1904	box 8	folder 46
Stories and letters of Mother Roulston's boys, 1915-1917	box 8	folder 47
Society description and mission work, 1915-2014	box 8	folder 48
John Adams biography and photo, 1921-1940	box 8	folder 49
News stories, programs, and correspondence, 1927-1943	box 8	folder 50

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

Material in this file was removed from "Scrapbook, 1904-1951" for preservation purposes.

Historical articles, 1938-1949	box 8	folder 51
News stories and newsletters, 1939-1953	box 8	folder 52
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material in this file was removed from "News stories and programs scrapbook, 1945-1956" for preservation purposes.		
News stories, correspondence, and records, 1941-1946	box 8	folder 53
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material in this file was removed from "Newspaper and program scrapbook, 1903-1904, 1941-1952" for preservation purposes.		
News stories and correspondence, 1943-1960	box 8	folder 54
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials Material in this file was removed from "Scrapbook, 1898-1953" for preservation purposes.		
Albert R. Sharp, 1962	box 8	folder 55
William Winberg, Jr., 1962	box 8	folder 56
Brigham, Trumbull, and Chile research correspondence, 1966	box 9	folder 1
150th anniversary correspondence and records, 1977	box 9	folder 2
History, 1978-2000	box 9	folder 3
Ship visit logs, 1994	box 9	folder 4-6
Mentoring, internships, and ministry education, 1994-2013	box 9	folder 7
Chaplains and ship visiting, 1995-2015	box 9	folder 8
Name change event, 1997-1998	box 9	folder 9
Publication planning and appeals, 1997-2002	box 9	folder 10
Rev. Douglas W. Johnson, 1998-2004	box 9	folder 11
Events, 2000-2015	box 9	folder 12
Congregational Library research, 2002-2003	box 9	folder 13

Detention reports, 2004-2005	box 9	folder 14
Rev. William Fleming Jr., 2004-2007	box 9	folder 15
Ship visitation log, 2005-2006	box 9	folder 16
Chaplain's work descriptions, 2005-2008	box 9	folder 17
Maritime day, 2005-2010	box 9	folder 18
Ditty bag instructions, 2006	box 9	folder 19
Volunteers and workshops, 2006-2009	box 9	folder 20
180th anniversary, 2007-2008	box 9	folder 21
Exhibit, speaking, and contact reports, 2007-2008	box 9	folder 22
Chaplain for a day, 2007-2009	box 9	folder 23
Staff retreat notes, 2009	box 9	folder 24
Field education essay, 2010	box 9	folder 25
Ailsa Odom internship, 2012	box 9	folder 26
Glam Gam event and planning, 2010-2012	box 9	folder 27

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