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2024

## MF061 Tom Tilton: Coaster and Fisherman / Gale Huntington

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## "Tom Tilton: Coaster and Fisherman"/Gale Huntington

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

Business Number: 207.581.1686

URL: <http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/c.php?g=718650>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
MF 061, Collection Summary .....	6
Tom Tilton, interviewed by Gale Huntington, Nancy Safford, and Nora Groce Kaplan .....	6

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
<b>Creator - ive:</b>	Tilton, Tom, 1887-
<b>Creator - ivr:</b>	Huntington, Gale
<b>Title:</b>	"Tom Tilton: Coaster and Fisherman"/Gale Huntington
<b>ID:</b>	MF061
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/5/resources/2973
<b>Date:</b>	1979
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 item
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Material Specific Details:</b>	Audio files are the primary source material. Transcriptions are the transcriber's best effort to convert audio to text, but should be considered secondary to the audio.
<b>Note:</b>	Open to Collaborate Notice



Our institution is committed to the development of new modes of collaboration, engagement, and partnership with Indigenous peoples for the care and stewardship of past and future heritage collections.

### Preferred Citation

Tilton, Tom. 1979. NA1278, MF061, NAFOH. Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains a set of interviews with Tom Tilton who was a coaster and fisherman from Massachusetts.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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NA1278 Basis of Northeast Folklore XXIII: Tom Tilton: Coaster and Fisherman (1982). Tom Tilton, interviewed by Gale Huntington, Nancy Safford, and Nora Groce Kaplan, 1973 and 1979, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. The interviews were mostly between Gale Huntington and his father-in-law Tom Tilton, but they were also joined by Nancy Safford in 1973 and Nora Groce Kaplan (and once by Tilton's wife Laura) in 1979. All of the tapes are on file at the Dukes County Historical Society, Edgartown, Massachusetts, with duplicates here at the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History. Tilton, 92, talks his work on the water around Martha's Vineyard; his childhood during the late nineteenth century on Martha's Vineyard; education; preparing salt cod; boxing a compass; childhood recreation; sailing to transport fish to New Bedford; May baskets; trapping fish, including methods, fish species, and prices; salvaging salable goods from the wrecked Port Hunter and disputes over salvage rights; bull-raking for quahogs; comparison of shoal vessels and keel vessels; cargoes carried on ships and why lime was dangerous; how to slip the anchor and when it was necessary; purification process for contaminated oysters; growing oysters; the transportation of goods to Martha's Vineyard and seasonal patterns; dances; a near-shipwreck; swordfishing off the coast of Nova Scotia, including season, boat preparation, and techniques; use of sail and power on boats; different styles of dragging boats; tales of fishermen lost at sea; use of trunnels in boat construction; limited options for making a living available to him; his father's lobstering; living on Nomans's Land (Island) in the late nineteenth century; keeping fish alive in pockets; end of trap fishing; coasting; goods salvaged from wrecks; fishermen helping each other, particularly when the Coast Guard was occupied with military matters; alcohol and the rarity of drinking while at sea; wasted catches when fish were not iced properly; boating superstitions; potato bugs; and the importance of not giving in to fear in dangerous seas. Text: 251 pp. transcript. Recording: T 1340 - T 1345, T 1409 - T 1410 8 hours.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

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Business Number: 207.581.1686

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### Conditions Governing Access

For digitized items free from access restrictions, we are working to upload this material (pdfs, mp3s, jpgs) for public access, but it is an ongoing project. If you don't find what you are looking for here, contact Special Collections ([um.library.spc@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.spc@maine.edu)).

### Conditions Governing Use

Rights assessment remains the responsibility of the researcher. Permission needed from Dukes County Historical Society for publication.

### Existence and Location of Originals

Located at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress: AFC 2012/047 <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013655211>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Folklore
- Oral histories
- Massachusetts
- Fishing

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## Collection Inventory

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### MF 061, Collection Summary

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

#### Tom Tilton, interviewed by Gale Huntington, Nancy Safford, and Nora Groce Kaplan

Creator: Huntington, Gale

Creator: Safford, Nancy

Creator: Kaplan, Nora Groce

Source: Tilton, Tom, 1887-

Abstract: NA1278 Tom Tilton, interviewed by Gale Huntington, Nancy Safford, and Nora Groce Kaplan, 1973 and 1979, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. The interviews were mostly between Gale Huntington and his father-in-law Tom Tilton, but they were also joined by Nancy Safford in 1973 and Nora Groce Kaplan (and once by Tilton's wife Laura) in 1979. Tilton, 92, talks his work on the water around Martha's Vineyard; his childhood during the late nineteenth century on Martha's Vineyard; education; preparing salt cod; boxing a compass; childhood recreation; sailing to transport fish to New Bedford; May baskets; trapping fish, including methods, fish species, and prices; salvaging salable goods from the wrecked Port Hunter and disputes over salvage rights; bull-raking for quahogs; comparison of shoal vessels and keel vessels; cargoes carried on ships and why lime was dangerous; how to slip the anchor and when it was necessary; purification process for contaminated oysters; growing oysters; the transportation of goods to Martha's Vineyard and seasonal patterns; dances; a near-shipwreck; swordfishing off the coast of Nova Scotia, including season, boat preparation, and techniques; use of sail and power on boats; different styles of dragging boats; tales of fishermen lost at sea; use of trunnels in boat construction; limited options for making a living available to him; his father's lobstering; living on Nomans's Land (Island) in the late nineteenth century; keeping fish alive in pockets; end of trap fishing; coasting; goods salvaged from wrecks; fishermen helping each other, particularly when the Coast Guard was occupied with military matters; alcohol and the rarity of drinking while at sea; wasted catches when fish were not iced properly; boating superstitions; potato bugs; and the importance of not giving in to fear in dangerous seas. RESTRICTED. Text: 251 pp. transcript. Recording: T 1340 - T 1345, T 1409 - T 1410 8 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Martha's Vineyard (Mass.)
- Salted fish
- Childhood
- Fishing
- Sailing ships
- Tilton, Tom, 1887-
- Tilton, Laura

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)