



**OLD COLONY
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

**William T. and Mary L.
Hurley Library
Finding Aid**

**MSS-02-009
Desroches Family**

Historical & Biographical Note: The Killian-Desroches were a family of Polish descent who came to Taunton for work in the textile industry in the mid 1900's. Among the materials in this collection are naturalization papers for Joseph Killian and Katherine Mary Killian (Katarzyna Killijan), presumably the first members of their family to acquire American citizenship. Also mentioned in the collection are Stanley and Helen Killian. The "Verney News and Vues" mentions Stanley taking a loomfixers course in Taunton in 1948, therefore he and Helen were likely relatives of Joseph and Katherine.

Stanley and Helen Killian had two daughters, Carol Ann and Gail Mary, and Carol Ann later married to become Carol Ann Killian Desroches. Carol's daughter, Lisa Gail Desroches (Herbert), attended Wheaton College with the help of the Miss America Scholarship program, and went on to win Miss Massachusetts in 1992.

Scope & Content Note: This collection contains four folders and five books, with material ranging from the mid 20th century to 2015.

Series Description: There are three series in this collection concerning the Killian-Desroches family. The first contains material on Lisa Gail Desroches, who was crowned the 1992-1993 Miss Massachusetts. The second and third series focus on Joseph and Katherine Killian, and Stanley and Helen Killian respectively.

Series 1: Lisa Gail Desroches

Series 2: Joseph and Katherine Mary Killian

Series 3: Stanley and Helen Killian

Inventory:

Series 1: Lisa Gail Desroches

Box:	Folder:	Contents:
1	1	Photograph, "LISA GAIL DESROCHES Miss Massachusetts 1992-1993," Miss America Pageant, photographs by Bob Bartlett
		Brochure, "Meet Your Miss Massachusetts", Lisa Desroches 1992
		Admission ticket for "Oldies But Goodies," Miss Taunton Scholarship Pageant, Inc., November 21, 1992
		Admission ticket for "A Chorus Line," Star Players of Taunton, July 18,

		1992
		Copy of <i>Taunton Daily Gazette</i> headline in Holy Rosary Church Bulletin, "Miss Massachusetts title to Taunton's Lisa Gail Desroches," August 9, 1992

Series 2: Joseph and Katherine Mary Killian

Box:	Folder:	Contents:
1	2	Certificate of Naturalization for Joseph Killian, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of Bristol, September 19, 1947
		Certificate of Naturalization for Katherine Mary Killian, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of Bristol, September 19, 1947
		"Nowa Szkola do Nauki Obywatelstwa," American citizenship preparation booklet used by Joseph and Katherine Mary Killian
		Two receipt books for the Polish National Alliance for Katarzyna Killiljan, 1961
	3	Prayer book in Polish, circa 1926
	4	Prayer book in Polish, date unknown
	5	Prayer book in Polish, circa 1957

Series 3: Stanley and Helen Killian

Box:	Folder:	Contents:
1	6	"Verney News and Views," June 1948 (<i>article of page 19 references Stanley Killian</i>)
		Japanese 100 peso note, issued in the Philippines during Japanese invasion during World War II
		Photocopy, <i>Taunton Daily Gazette</i> obituary for Helen Killian, May 11, 2015
	7	The Wanaker Diary, 1933
	8	<i>The Wide Awake First Reader</i>