Archives & Manuscript Collections

National Sporting Library

Middleburg, VA

George J. Garrett
Papers
1929-1959

Name: **Garrett, George J. (1862-1947)** **MC 0026**

Materials: Papers

Dates: 1929-1959 (bulk dates 1931-1948)

Volume: 0.25 cubic feet (1 document box)

Donation: Gift of Virginia Garrett Ellis in memory of her father, 1979

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Biographical Note

George J. Garrett was born on April 12, 1862 in Union Springs, Alabama. His father, Col. Joseph S. Garrett, was a Civil War veteran and the postmaster of Columbus, Georgia, where the family moved shortly after George was born. He received his early education at a private academy in Waverly Hall, Georgia, and graduated from Emory University in 1881. He worked as a wholesaler in Columbus before moving to Baltimore to work for the Garrett-Williams Company, distillers and importers of whisky and tobacco. He retired to the Garrett family estate in Columbus in 1918; he devoted the rest of his life to the breeding and researching of the July strain of the American foxhound. During his lifetime Garrett wrote several works on the July hound, a scholarship which culminated in the posthumous publication of a book, Fifty Years with Fox and Hounds, a volume which solidified his reputation as a leading expert on the July hound. He was a member of the Green Spring Valley Hunt of Baltimore, the Georgia State Fox Hunters Association, and the National Fox Hunters Association. He was also a game fowl enthusiast.

At the age of 52 in 1915, Garrett married Matilda Blanton of Talbotton, Georgia. The couple had four children: George Jr., Robert, Virginia, and Pauline. Mrs. Matilda Garrett died in 1943, and four years later her husband succumbed to pancreatic cancer on September 7, 1947.

Collection Description

The George J. Garrett Papers consist mainly of correspondence, printed materials, and photographs dealing with Garrett's status as an expert on the July foxhound. The collection has been arranged into the following five series: Correspondence, Pedigree Charts, Printed Materials, Photographs, and Artifacts. The majority of the collection is made up of letters dealing with the publication of Garrett's book, Fifty Years with Fox and Hounds, and newspaper and magazine clippings by or about Garrett.

Series and Subseries

I. Correspondence, 1929-1949 **3 folders**

Contains letters written to George Garret and his children, mostly concerning Garrett's death and the publication of his book, Fifty Years with Fox and Hounds. Bulk of correspondence written to Garrett's four children, who were instrumental in the posthumous publication of the book. Materials have been arranged chronologically.

II. Pedigree Charts, 1931-1941 **1 folder**

Consists of handwritten charts and reproductions of pedigrees of July foxhounds owned and bred by Garrett and J. L. Dorsey. Many charts are duplicated, and most are incomplete. The original order as compiled by Garrett has been maintained.

III. Printed Materials, 1946-1959 **4 folders**

Consists mainly of newspaper and magazine clippings written by Garrett, or written about him and his book. Several obituaries are included, as well as some advertising for the book. Several miscellaneous items include programs for hound shows and advertisements of products endorsed by Garrett.

IV. Photographs, 1936-1937 **2 folders**

Comprised of two groupings of images: snapshots of mostly Garrett and his hounds and gamecocks, and negative images of prominent southern hunters from Garrett's article in *The Sportsmen's Review*, c1900, "Hounds and Fox Hunters in America." The photos in the first group had been removed from a scrapbook. The individuals depicted in the ten negative images include Col. Myles Harris, Mr. Nimrod Gosnell, and Col. George L. F. Birdsong.

V. Artifacts, 1947 **1 folder**

Includes one item, a membership pin and ribbon from the Georgia Foxhunters Association, 1947. The pin, which features a fox head and a blue ribbon, belonged to Virginia Garrett as a member.

Container List
MC 0026

I. Correspondence

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	01	Letters to George Garrett	1929-1939
1	02	Letters to Garrett family	1947
1	03	Letters to Garrett family	1948-1949

II. Pedigree Charts

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	04	Pedigrees of Garrett's July foxhounds	1931-1941

III. Printed Materials

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	05	Articles by or about Garrett	1946-1959
1	06	Obituaries for Garrett	1947-1948
1	07	Advertisements for *Fifty Years*	c1947
1	08	Miscellaneous	1947-1948

IV. Photographs

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	09	Images of Garrett, hounds, etc.	1936-1937
1	10	Images from *Sportsmen's Review* (negatives)	undated

V. Artifacts

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	11	Georgia Foxhunters Association pin	1947

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, June 2004.