

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Ladies' Four-in-Hand Driving Club
Scrapbook
1904-1910**

Name: **Ladies' Four-in-Hand Driving Club (est. 1901)** MC 0024

Materials: Scrapbook

Dates: 1904-1910

Volume: 0.10 cubic feet (1 document box)

Donation: Gift of Mrs. Eleanor S. Lunde, 1974

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

Historical Note

The Ladies' Four-in-Hand Driving Club was formed in New York City in 1901 by several prominent society women who took an interest in driving. The club was a counterpart to the city's famed Coaching Club, many members of which were husbands, fathers, and brothers to the members of the Ladies' Club. The Ladies' Club took regular trips to the different boroughs as well as longer road trips to destinations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut; for a short time they even ran a small shuttle service through Manhattan. Under the tutelage of renowned driving instructor Morris Howlett, most of the members became quite accomplished drivers. Each year, the Club held a parade and review through Central Park onto Fifth Avenue. The Club's founder and president was Helen Benedict Hastings, wife of the famous architect Thomas Hastings, designer of the New York Public Library, the front façade of the U. S. Capitol Building, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. Other notable members of the Ladies' Club included Mrs. Arthur Iselin (vice president), Louisa Gulliver Sheldon (secretary and treasurer), Marion Hollins, and Harriet Alexander. The Club flourished until automobile traffic on the city streets made coaching impossible.

Collection Description

The Ladies' Four-in-Hand Driving Club Scrapbook consists of 11 pages of newspaper and magazine clippings compiled by Club secretary and treasurer Louisa Gulliver Sheldon, who remained a member even after her marriage around 1909. The pages, which were removed from Sheldon's scrapbook by her daughter, chronicle driving excursions by the Club from 1904 to 1910, including descriptions of the annual parades and reviews. Also included in the collection is a typed transcription of a riding trip taken by Sheldon's father, William C. Gulliver, shortly after his honeymoon in 1879.

Series and Subseries

- I. Scrapbook, 1904-1910** **1 folder**
 11 pages of scrapbook material compiled by Club secretary-treasurer Louisa Gulliver Sheldon from 1904 to 1910. Consists of clippings from New York City newspapers and national sporting magazines; contains accounts of Club outings such as trips to New Jersey and annual parades through Central Park. Clippings include many photographs of members.
- II. Miscellaneous** **1 folder**
 Typescript of account by Sheldon's father, William C. Gulliver, regarding a riding trip taken by Gulliver and his bride with friends from Tenafly, New Jersey to West Point, New York in November 1879. Transcribed by Gulliver's granddaughter (Louisa Sheldon's daughter), Mrs. Eleanor Lunde.

Container List MC 0024

I. Scrapbook

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Dates</u> |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 01 | Scrapbook of clippings | 1904-1910 |

II. Miscellaneous

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Dates</u> |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 02 | Typescript of William Gulliver's trip | c1879 |

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