

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Sterling Larrabee
Papers
1847-1974**

Name: **Larrabee, Sterling (1889-1974)** MC 0006

Materials: Papers

Dates: 1847-1974 (bulk c1920-c1945)

Volume: 0.75 cubic feet (Document boxes 1-2)

Donation: Mrs. Constance Stuart Larrabee, 1976 and 1978

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

Biographical Note

Sterling Loop Larrabee was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1889 to Charles and Estelle Loop Larrabee. Shortly after, the small family moved to Washington, D.C., where young Sterling received his education. In 1908 he entered West Point military academy and remained there for two years before joining the Philippine Constabulary. He returned to the United States in 1913, a year after the death of his father, also a military man, in a sanatorium. Larrabee returned to military service with the eruption of World War I; he served first with the British Royal Navy and Army and then with the American artillery after being severely wounded at Gallipoli.

Larrabee returned to the Washington area after the Armistice, settling temporarily in Warrenton and then Middleburg, Virginia. Larrabee was influential in the first Virginia Gold Cup, held at Oakwood Farm near Warrenton in 1922. A year later, Larrabee married the owner of Oakwood, Madge Stokes Stone, causing a minor scandal due to Mrs. Stone's divorcée status and the suddenness of the wedding. The Larrabees established a private pack of hounds in 1926 and foxhunted some 90,000 acres in the Flint Hill area. By 1932, their reputation had become fixed as a very desirable hunt, and the pack was converted into a subscription pack, taking the name of Old Dominion Hounds. Larrabee continued to serve as MFH until 1940. In addition to the foxhounds, The Larrabees also raised champion hunters including Persimmon's Pride and Harkaway, as well as Jones Terriers.

Larrabee returned again to military life during World War II as a Military Attaché to South Africa, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Madge died

near the end of the war, and as Oakwood was left to her son, Larrabee sold his pack to a friend and left Virginia. During his service Larrabee had met Constance Stuart, an accomplished British photographer and the only female war correspondent with the South African troops. The couple married in 1949 and settled at King's Prevention near Chestertown, Maryland. Larrabee spent the rest of his life on the Eastern Shore, developing a love of sailing that rivaled that of hunting. He and Constance became known for their excellent Norwich Terriers; Constance continued their breeding program after Sterling's death. Sterling Larrabee died in December 1974 after a brief illness.

Collection Description

The Sterling Larrabee Papers consist of personal correspondence, photographs, various printed materials, and a scrapbook compiled by Sterling Larrabee. The collection is arranged into five series: Correspondence, Legal Papers, Printed Materials, Photographs, and Scrapbook. The majority of the materials in this collection pertain to Larrabee's pack of foxhounds, the Old Dominion Hounds, and his farm, Oakwood, located near Warrenton, Virginia. The scrapbook of personal memorabilia also chronicles Larrabee's parents, his first marriage, and his service in World War II.

Series and Subseries

- I. **Correspondence, 1928-1974** **5 folders**
Consists mainly of letters bound into one volume, dating from 1932 to 1941, with one folder of loose correspondence included. Arranged in reverse chronological order, as compiled by Larrabee.
- II. **Legal Papers, 1927-1942** **1 folder**
Includes documents dealing with lands in Florida and Virginia: and indenture for lands in Dade County Florida, and two rental agreements between Larrabee and W. A. Laing and Albert Hinckley.
- III. **Printed Materials, 1920-1962** **4 folders**
Four folders of printed items dealing mostly with the Old Dominion Hounds and Larrabee's kennels and stables at Oakwood. Also, clippings on hunting, racing, etc. Arranged in chronological order.
- IV. **Photographs, 1920-c1935** **2 folders**
Two folders of photographs showing Larrabee and his first wife Madge hunting with the Old Dominion Hounds. Also, photographs of the Arbor Vitae and Oakwood Farms. A large portion of the images are identified. Arranged chronologically.
- V. **Scrapbook, 1847-1945** **--**
Contains personal memorabilia of Sterling Larrabee, including pictures of his parents, clippings regarding his marriage to first wife Madge, and materials relating to his service overseas during World War II.

Container List
MC 0006

I. Correspondence, 1928-1974

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1-4	Bound volume of correspondence	1932-1941
1	5	Loose correspondence	1928-1974

II. Legal Papers, 1927-1942

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	6	Indenture and rental agreements	1927-1942

III. Printed Materials, 1920-1962

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	7	Fixture cards and race meet programs	1920-1945
1	8	Magazine advertisements	1924-1928
1	9	Newspaper and magazine clippings	1928-1962
1	10	Old Dominion Hounds financial statements	1935-1938

III. Photographs, 1920

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	11	Oakwood and Arbor Vitae Farms	1920
1	12	Larrabees and Old Dominion Hounds	c1925-c1935

III. Scrapbook, 1847-1945

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	--	Personal scrapbook	1847-1945

This collection was processed by Robert Weber, August 2000.