

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Nantucket Harriers
Hunting Diaries
1934-1955**

Name: **Nantucket Harriers (est. 1926)** **MC0017**

Materials: Hunting Diaries

Dates: 1934-1955 (bulk dates 1940-1943)

Volume: .5 cubic feet

Donation: Bequest of David and Rebecca Sharp, 1988

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

Historical Note

The Nantucket Harriers were established in 1926. The pack used 16" harriers instead of beagles because the former were better suited for chasing hare over the open land of the island. From the pack's founding until the outbreak of World War II, the hounds were hunted on horseback. However, after the war, the island, which was once open for grazing, was fenced off, necessitating a change in the pack's hunting style. 15" beagles were substituted for the harriers, the field hunted on foot instead of horseback, and the name was changed to the Nantucket Beagles.

Rebecca Lanier Trimpi, an accomplished sportswoman, became master and huntsman of the pack in 1935. Her father, Charles D. Lanier, had been MFH of the Fairfield, Connecticut Hunt; Trimpi and her siblings would accompany their father on many hunting trips to England and Ireland. Under her leadership, the Nantucket Harriers became a favorite summer hunt of many of the prominent MFHs throughout the country. The Harriers became the first harrier pack to be recognized by the Masters of Fox Hounds Association.

In 1955 Trimpi had married David B. "Bun" Sharp, Jr., master of the Treweryn Beagles of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The couple maintained their separate packs until 1964, when the packs were merged to form the Nantucket-Treweryn Beagles. This merger combined the third and fourth oldest packs in the country (Treweryn, 1924, and Nantucket, 1926, respectively). Sharp had reduced the size of the Treweryn pack to five couple, the rest of the hounds going to Robert

Montgomery Scott to form the Ardrossan Beagles. The combined pack continued to hunt in both Nantucket and Pennsylvania until 1970, when the whole establishment moved to Middleburg, Virginia. The Sharps served as joint masters until their deaths in 1987. Today the pack is still active in Berryville, Virginia and is recognized by the National Beagle Club.

Collection Description

The Nantucket Harriers Hunting Diaries consist of five bound diaries written by the pack's whipper-in, Sheila McCreery Jackson, in books with pre-printed sheets published by Ernest R. Gee of New York. Although the diaries for 1940 to 1943 are fairly complete, the first volume is nearly empty except for three dates of hare hunting in 1934 and 3 months of foxhunting in 1955. In addition, several of the volumes have been inscribed to either Trimpi or particular hounds. The diaries have been arranged in chronological order.

Series and Subseries

- I. Hunting Diaries, 1934-1955** **1 document box**
- Details hunt conditions such as hunt staff, hounds and horses, type of quarry (fox or hare), meet location, weather and wind, quality of scent, covers, accounting for the quarry, and other observations. Last three volumes contain detailed, customized maps of the Nantucket hunting grounds, which included the kennels near Vesper Lane, Bartlett's Farm, Hummock Pond, and Miacomet Pond. All volumes except the first cover the summer hunting season from July to September.

Container List MC0017

I. Hunting Diaries, 1934-1955

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0017 01	Hunting diary	1934,1955
MC0017 02	Hunting diary	1940
MC0017 03	Hunting diary	1940-1941
MC0017 04	Hunting diary	1942
MC0017 05	Hunting diary	1943

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