

Archives & Manuscript Collections  
National Sporting Library  
Middleburg, VA

**Upperville Colt and Horse Show Papers  
1857-2003**

Name: **Upperville Colt and Horse Show (est. 1853)** **MC0037**

Materials: Papers

Dates: 1857-2003

Volume: 1.0 cubic feet (1 document box, 1 oversized folder, 1 artifact)

Donation: Gift of the Slater family, Alexander Mackay-Smith, et al., 1975-2003

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

**Historical Note**

The Upperville (Virginia) Colt and Horse Show was established in 1853 by Richard Henry Dulany, gentleman planter and sportsman. In the years prior, Dulany had visited friends in New England, where he had purchased a Morgan stallion to stand at stud on his estate of Welbourne. While he allowed the local farmers to have free service of the stallion, he became dismayed at their lack of care and attention to their horses, which were regarded by many as merely sources of labor. In order to encourage these farmers to take better care of their animals, Dulany proposed to his fellow planters that a horse show be held in the summer; prizes were to be given for the best of the local colts and fillies. He traveled to New York to employ the services of Tiffany & Co. to craft silver trophies to be awarded in addition to premiums; Louis Tiffany is said to have crafted the cups himself, and only charged Dulany for the price of the silver. The show was held on the grounds of Dulany's Welbourne estate, on Lot Six, which has since become Grafton Farm.

The show in June 1853 proved to be so successful, that it became an annual event with a sponsoring club, the Upperville Union Club. The focus of the show was mainly Quick Drafts and Heavy Drafts, as these were the types of horses being used by the local farmers. The show continued until the outbreak of the Civil War; Dulany himself enlisted in the Confederate Cavalry and sustained wounds that nearly crippled his left arm for life (such injuries, however, did not deter

him from riding and driving well into his eighties). The show and club were reactivated in 1869, under Dulany's leadership, although the name of the club was changed to the Upperville Colt Club so as to drop the word "Union." A new charter was drawn up with the official reorganization in 1894, and by 1902 the organization was officially known as the Upperville Colt and Horse Club. By this time, the show had expanded as well to include classes for ponies, coaching, and saddle horses; in addition, thoroughbreds were also being judged, not just the heavier working horses. Hunting and jumping classes were added in later years.

Dulany presided over the show until his death in 1906. During his tenure, women were not permitted to compete, and were often discouraged from taking any active part at all. This exclusion was slowly phased out after his death, and today the show is open to all competitors. Grafton Farm, formally Lot Six of Welbourne, is still the home of the oldest horse show in the country.

### **Collection Description**

The Upperville Colt and Horse Show Papers consist of a mix of primary and secondary source materials on the history of the show. The collection is arranged into five series: General Business, Printed Materials, Miscellaneous, Oversized, and Artifacts. For the most part, materials in each series are arranged chronologically.

In addition to the materials in this collection, the NSL also has a run of Upperville Colt and Horse Show programs, located in the Periodicals stacks.

### **Series and Subseries**

- I. General Business, 1869-1918** **2 folders**  
This series contains materials relating to the operations of the horse show. The most prominent item is the original minute book, which contains minutes of committee meetings dating back to the reorganization in 1869. The correspondence included in this series deals mainly with the payment of subscriptions.
- II. Printed Materials, 1857-2000** **4 folders**  
This series consists of newspaper and magazine articles on the history and results of the horse show from 1857 to 2000. These items are arranged chronologically. Also included are programs, one for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show as well as one for a garden club which used the horse show as a theme. Other annual programs are located in the NSL's Periodicals stacks.
- III. Miscellaneous, 1924-c2000** **4 folders**  
Materials in this series include a paper fan, notes on the history of the show by Alexander Mackay-Smith, photographs, and a roll of stickers commemorating the show.

**Series and Subseries (cont.)**

- IV. Oversized** **1 folder**  
 Items in this series are oversized and housed separately from the rest of the collection. Includes multiple images and text panels mounted on poster board.
- V. Artifacts, 2003** **1 item**  
 Series includes one item, a cancellation stamp pad issued by the United States Post Office to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Upperville Colt and Horse Show in 2003. The rubber stamp pad was purposefully damaged by the USPS prior to donation.

**Container List  
MC0037**

**I. General Business**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L52	--	Original minute book	1869-1904
J49	12	Correspondence	1899-1918

**II. Printed Materials**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
K06	12	Articles in <i>The Southern Planter</i>	1857,1859
K06	13	Newspaper clippings	1891-1979
J49	13	Magazine articles	1931-2000
J49	14	Centennial commemorative program, Garden Club Flower Show program	1953,1959
J49	17	Printed Photographs	1935-2003
L52	--	Show Catalogs (4)	1899-1944

**III. Miscellaneous**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L52	--	Paper fan used by show attendees	1924
J49	15	Notes by Alexander Mackay-Smith	1953
J49	16	Photocopies of articles	1953-2003
L52	--	Roll of stickers	c2000

**IV. Oversized**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L52	--	Posterboard Images and Labels	undated

**V. Artifacts**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L52	USPS cancellation stamp pad	2003

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, August 2004.  
Updated by John Connolly, September 2016.