Sterling Larrabee
Papers
1847-1974

Name: Larrabee, Sterling (1889-1974)  
Materials: Papers  
Dates: 1847-1974 (bulk c1920-c1945)  
Volume: 2 cubic feet  
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: Corre-
respondence, 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

### MC0006

I. Correspondence, 1928-1974

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Bound volume of correspondence</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Loose correspondence</td>
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II. Legal Papers, 1927-1942

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<td>Indenture and rental agreements</td>
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III. Printed Materials, 1920-1962

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<td>Fixture cards and race meet programs</td>
<td>1920-1945</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Magazine advertisements</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine clippings</td>
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<td>Old Dominion Hounds financial statements</td>
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III. Photographs, 1920

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<td>32</td>
<td>Larrabees and Old Dominion Hounds</td>
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III. Scrapbook, 1847-1945

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<th>Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Loose Photographs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K04</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Newspaper article and two booklets</td>
<td>1935-1938</td>
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<td>L49</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Personal scrapbook</td>
<td>1847-1945</td>
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This collection was processed by Robert Weber, August 2000.