

Loudoun Mansion Recovery Collection

FP.2008.001

Finding aid prepared by Caity Tingo

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Fairmount Archives
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Summary Information

Repository	Fairmount Archives
Title	Loudoun Mansion Recovery Collection
Date	c. 1900s
Extent	10.0 Linear feet
Condition Note	Glass Plate Negatives: Most of the items in this series are in fair to good condition, with only minor emulsion deterioration and infrequent instances of chipped glass.
Language	English
Sarah Logan Wister Starr Correspondence	<p>Sarah Logan Wister Starr (1873-1956) was a prominent philanthropist and member of Philadelphia society throughout the early 20th Century. A descendant of the wealthy and well-known Wister and Logan families, she became a public figure throughout the region for her humanitarian activities. Starr served as State Vice-Chairman of the World War I-era National League for Women's Services and from 1921 to 1941 as President of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The correspondence in this collection is primarily concerned with her public service activity during World War II. During the 1940s and 1950s, Sarah Logan Wister Starr obtained permission to utilize Loudoun Mansion as the meeting place for the Women's Permanent Emergency Association of Germantown. This organization was formed by her grandmother in the 1870s and revived by Starr in approximately 1940 as an effort to unite local women and provide clothing and knitted material to the Allied troops. The WPEA aligned themselves with the Maple Leaf Fund of Canada- an unusual occurrence for such a prominent American group. This may be attributed to Starr's close ties with Nova Scotia, as she frequently summered in this location. The Maple Leaf Fund eventually</p>

became a branch of the British War Relief Society, and the WEPA worked to provide non-military aid to the people of Great Britain. After the end of World War II, the WPEA remained in effect to continue aiding the less fortunate worldwide. They were major contributors to the Daniel and Emily Oliver Orphanage, a school for boys and orphanage in Lebanon administered by Quakers. They also sent care packages to Holland, Norway, and Greece over the next five years. Included in this collection is the correspondence of the WEPA and, more specifically, their President, Sarah Logan Wister Starr. Correspondence includes meeting invitations and responses, Board membership nominations and acceptances, correspondence with the Maple Leaf Fund, the Maple Leaf newsletter, lists of supplies needed and shipped to this organization, thank you letters from receivers of shipments, and personal correspondence amongst the ladies of this organization. There is also information regarding the everyday upkeep of Loudoun Mansion, such as water bills and repairs to furniture, and a miscellaneous file which includes correspondence to James Starr, Sarah's husband, from the American Swedish Association regarding involvement with World War II, a copy of a petition for a World Federation (possibly a precursor to the United Nations), and advertisements addressed to the previous owner, Maria Dickinson Logan, for flower market in Rittenhouse Square.

Glass Plate Negatives

The glass plate negative collection was removed from Loudoun and retained and processed by the Fairmount Park Commission Archives in February 2008. They are believed to be the personal negatives of Maria Dickinson Logan and her brother, A.C. Logan. During the Loudoun Deaccessioning Open House held in November 2007, photographic processing materials were identified and exhibited. It is believed that this equipment was used to process some of the glass plates in this collection. Containers for developer baths and solutions, drying racks, containers, and tongs were exhibited. Other photographs recovered at Loudoun indicate that these negatives were used to develop prints through an albumen process. Most of the glass plates were originally housed in late 19th Century and early 20th Century commercial sleeves. The negatives have been placed in new four-flap acid-free envelopes and reinserted into the original negative holders. Many of the original sleeves bear notations

indicating the photographer and the subject. Though most of the objects in this box are glass plates, there are also two framed sandwiched glass prints, A.C. Logan's photo book, and two concave glasses of undetermined purpose. The rest of the contents of this box are glass plate negatives of two vintages and, apparently, two processes. The early vintage of negatives (27-34) are stereoscopes perhaps processed by the dry plate process with considerable deterioration. Plate 1 could also be produced through the wet plate process- though it is difficult to differentiate. Most of the 4" X 6" glass negatives could be the more "recent" dry plate variety.

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], FP.2008.001, Loudoun Mansion Recovery Collection, Fairmount Park Historic Resource Archives.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Fairmount Archives 14 August 2012

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Processing Information note

This collection has not been fully processed, and only a limited number of materials have been arranged and described.

Glass plate negatives

Collection Inventory

Glass plate negatives

Box
Loudoun 1

Processing Information note

Processed 11 February 2008

1. Unknown woman in mourning attire, c. 1870s-1880s. c. 1860-1900 6.5 X 8.5 inches

2. Boat race, steamer in foreground with two rowboats. 5 X 4 inches

3. Logan, Maria Dickinson "Woodland scene + hickory fence". 4 X 6 inches

4. Front elevation of Loudoun Mansion.

5. Seaside scene, coastal with house, possibly Maine. 4 X 6 inches

6. Front elevation of Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

7. Maria Dickinson Logan's bedroom. 4 X 6 inches

8. Maria Dickinson Logan's dog, "Beautiful Witch". 4 X 6 inches

Glass plate negatives

9. Logan dog "Sussex". 4 X 6 inches

10. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

11. Maria Dickinson Logan's bedroom. 4 X 6 inches

12. Maria Dickinson Logan at John Smith's tomb. 4 X 6 inches

13. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

14. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

15. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

16. Maria Dickinson Logan's bedroom. 4 X 6 inches

17. Maria Dickinson Logan's room. 4 X 6 inches

19. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

20. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

21. Fireplace in Maria Dickinson Logan's bedroom. 4 X 6 inches

Glass plate negatives

22. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

23. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

24. Maria Dickinson Logan's bedroom. 4 X 6 inches

25. Parlor at Loudoun Mansion. 4 X 6 inches

26. Logan dogs, Frank and Union. 4 X 6 inches

27. Springhouse or stone arch in woodland in background. 5 X 7 1/4 inches Stereoscope

28. Maria Dickinson Logan on horse. 5 X 7 inches

29. Walk, house (possible Loudoun Mansion) set in trees. c. 1860 Stereoscope

30. Stenton. 5 X 7 inches

31. Woman seated near Armatt gravestones. 5 X 7 inches

32. House through hemlock alley. 5 X 7 inches Stereoscope

33. Outbuilding at Stenton. 5 X 7 inches Stereoscope

Sarah Logan Wister Starr correspondence

34. Logan plot at Stenton. 5 X 7 inches Stereoscope

35. Pastoral scene, wheat with barn in background. Image: 4 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches Frame: 6 1/2 X 8 1/2 inches Opaque image sandwiched between two glass pieces

36. Coastal scene, rocky foreground, house and docked steamer in background. Image: 4 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches Frame: 6 1/2 X 8 1/2 inches Opaque image sandwiched between two glass pieces

37. John Dickinson's coat of arms. 5 X 7 inches Photograph

38. A.C. Logan's photographic album, containing small photographs, lithographs stamps, etc. 5 1/2 X 4 1/2 X 2 inches Leather album with clasps

Sarah Logan Wister Starr correspondence 1936-1950 (Bulk, 1940-1943)

Box
Loudoun 2

Processing Information note

Processed August 2012

World War II charity - Women's Permanent Emergency Association, the Maple Leaf Fund, and the British Relief Aid

Invitations and responses - Women's Medical College and Women's Permanent Emergency Association

Charity work after World War II - Daniel and Emily Oliver Orphanage

Sarah Logan Wister Starr correspondence

Charity work after World War II - Holland, Norway, and Greece

Personal correspondence between members of the Women's Permanent Emergency Association

Loudoun Mansion general care

Miscellaneous correspondence and ephemera

Stamps c. 1940s