

Finding Aid to the Woodward Family Manuscript Collection ca 1899-2004, MS 3177

H. Furlong Baldwin Library, Maryland Historical Society

Collection summary

Title	Woodward Family Manuscript Collection
Creator	Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr.
Call number	MS 3177
Inclusive dates	Ca 1899-2004
Bulk dates	Ca 1929-1940
Extent	9 scrapbooks and 2 boxes
Abstract	The Woodward Family Manuscript Collection consists of publications, manuscripts, scrapbooks and other materials related to the Woodward family's involvement with thoroughbred horse racing. From 1898 – 1957, the family owned Belair Mansion and estate, an important site for thoroughbred horse breeding for three centuries. Items include a family history, a Belair mansion guest book, newspaper and magazine articles, programs, manuscripts, and other memorabilia. Related Photographs can be found in PP305, Woodward Family Photograph Collection.

Administrative summary

Repository	H. Furlong Baldwin Library Maryland Historical Society 201 W. Monument St. Baltimore, MD 21201 www.mdhs.org specialcollections@mdhs.org
Access restrictions	Open to the public without restrictions.
Use restrictions	Permission to quote must be received in writing from the Special Collections Librarian.
Provenance	Gift of Mr. Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr.
Accession number	7009
Processing note	Processed by Nicole Wise and Damon Talbot, October 2015
Related Collections	Woodward Family Photograph Collection, PP305

Historical Note

The Belair Mansion in Bowie, Maryland was built for colonial Governor Samuel Ogle around 1745 and encompassed nearly 2,500 acres. New York banker and President of Hanover Bank James T. Woodward purchased the estate in 1898 and immediately revitalized it by including a new addition of the Belair stable building. James T. Woodward's nephew, William Woodward, Sr. inherited Belair after James' death and

continued the family's involvement in thoroughbred horse racing. Raising multiple prize thoroughbreds during this period, the Belair Estate was home for the 1930 and the 1935 Triple Crown winners, father and son Gallant Fox and Omaha, and the 1955 "Horse of the Year," Nashua. The Belair Mansion was sold by the Woodward family in 1956, placed on the National Registrar of Historic Places in 1977, underwent restorations in the 1980s, and opened as a museum in 1995.

Scope and Content

The Woodward Family Manuscript Collection contains various materials documenting the Woodward family and their involvement with the horse racing industry, the historic Belair Estate in Bowie, Maryland, horse racing in Maryland, and thoroughbred horse racing of the twentieth century. Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr., grandson of William Woodward, collected and donated the collection to the Maryland Historical Society.

The Collection is broken down into three Series.

Series I: Scrapbooks

This series consists of 9 scrapbooks, organized chronologically and arranged alphabetically from A to I. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings about horseracing, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia

Series II: Manuscript Materials

This series includes correspondence, a journal, histories of Horseracing in America and England written by William Woodward, a guest book for Belair Mansion, and horseracing thoroughbred fact sheets. These materials are located in Box 1.

Series III: Publications

This series consists of published materials about horseracing, the Woodward family, and the Belair Estate, including *The Red Polka Dots*, a book detailing the horse racing involvement of the Woodward and Bancroft families during the twentieth century written by Thomas M. Bancroft. These materials are located in Box 2.

Container List

Series I: Scrapbooks			
Title	Description	Date	Box

Book A	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1909-1913	n/a
Book B	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1912-1916	n/a
Book C	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1916-1919	n/a
Book D	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1931	n/a
Book E	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1932	n/a
Book F	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1933, 1939	n/a
Book G	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1935-1935	n/a
Book H	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1936-1938	n/a
Book I	Scrapbook featuring horse racing newspaper article clippings, racing results, photographs, receipts, correspondence, advertisements, postage stamps, postcards, programs, and other memorabilia	1935-1937	n/a
Series II: Manuscript Materials			
Title	Description	Date	Box
"Belair"	Belair guest book containing the date, the signatures, the residence, and other remarks of guests	c. 1899-1939	1

[Letter from James W. Fitzsimmons to Thomas M. Bancroft Jr.]	Letter from James W. Fitzsimmons, attorney of Bancroft, to Thomas M. Bancroft Jr. with copies of photos of William Woodward; Copy of reply letter from Thomas M. Bancroft Jr. to James W. Fitzsimmons.	June 17, 1989; June 27, 1989	1
Yearlings at Belair; Racing totals in England Account, William Woodward; Racing Results in United States Account Belair Stud	Typed material of thoroughbred details, stats, and description of 1950/1 racing season	not dated	1
Yearlings Sent to England	Typed material of thoroughbred fact sheet	not dated	1
[Journal by Unknown]	Typed journal that includes some newspaper clippings and photos on thoroughbred horse racing	1929-1933	1
Story of American Racing	Bound manuscript by William Woodward, 117 pages	not dated	1
Story of English Racing, Beginning in Year 1928	Bound manuscript by William Woodward, 130+ pages	not dated	1
Series III: Publications			
Title	Description	Date	Box
The Red Polka Dots	Book detailing the horse racing involvement of the Woodward and Bancroft families during the twentieth century. Written by Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr. Copyrighted 2003 by Thomas M. Bancroft, Jr. Printers' Printers, Inc. Easton, Pennsylvania. Signed to the Maryland Historical Society T.M.B. Jr. 3/21/2015	2003	2
Off to the Races	Article by John Eisenberg, Smithsonian Magazine. Illustrations by William H. Wilson.	Aug. 2004	2
The Woodward Sales	Photocopied Chapter Eight from Fair Exchange, Unknown Author. Pages 73 - 85	not dated	2
Triple Crown Winners	Informational pamphlet of Triple Crown Winners from 1919 to 1978. Features William Woodward's Gallant Fox 1930 and Omaha 1935. Belmont Stakes Charts, Copyright 1979 by Daily Racing Form, Inc.	1979	2
Belair Museums Preserve Glorious Era in Maryland	Article by Cindy Deubler, Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine	May. 2002	2
[Cartoon of Woodward]	Cartoon, possibly a political cartoon sketch, printed in an unknown newspaper featuring William Woodward	not dated	2

Woodward's Belair is Sold; Zeckendorf Pays 1 1/4 Million	Article by Judith Crist, the New York Herald Tribune	Oct. 12, 1956	2
Belair Stud: Maryland's hallowed breeding ground	Articled by Edward L. Bowen on the 250th anniversary of Belair, The Maryland Horse Magazine. Photographs courtesy of the City Bowie Museums	Dec. 1996/ Jan. 1997	2
The Great Race: On the eve of the 125th running of the Preakness, we celebrate its 10 most memorable moments	Article by Sondra Guttman, Baltimore Magazine. Features William Woodward's 1930 Triple Crown winning horse the Gallant Fox	May. 2000	2
Newly-Elected Officers of the Jockey Club for 1943	Photocopy of a newspaper photo showing Newly-Elected Officers of the Jockey Club for 1943: A.H. Morris, vice-chairman; William Woodward, chairman; J.E. Davis, secretary-treasurer; and Marshall Cassidy, assistant secretary-treasurer and steward	c. 1943	2
The Blood Horse	A weekly magazine featuring William Woodward on the cover as the Guest of Honor at the Fourth Annual Dinner of the Thoroughbred Club of America. Published by the American Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Lexington, Ky. Photo courtesy of The Morning Telegraph	Nov. 23, 1923	2
William Woodward	Section of The Monumental City: Its Past History and Present Resources. Pages 663-666	not dated	2