



# MILLWOOD HUNT CLUB ARCHIVE

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## Abstract

The Millwood Hunt Club Archive documents the history of the Millwood Hunt Club, which existed in Framingham for over 100 years. This archive consists in large part of photographs, both loose and in bound albums, depicting action shots of riders with their horses. The remainder of this archive comprises primarily of institutional documentation (correspondence, bylaws, reports) and publications pertaining to the Hunt and its Horse and Hound Shows.

## Provenance

With the exception of a few found in collection items listed under accession number x2023.1, the provenance of this archive is very well documented. The majority of this archive consists of donations made by Edith Overly, a former Master of the Foxhounds at the Millwood Hunt. The donations were made both during her lifetime (2005.1, 2008.10, 2017.12) and through a posthumous gift (2019.30). The sources for the remaining items in this collection are as follows:

- 1977.12 - Mrs. Gardiner Fiske
- 1977.13 - Mrs. Winthrop Pyemont (NOTE: donor is the author of the booklet in this accession)
- 1991.16 - Mary Stephenson
- 1994.204 - Harriet Duplisse
- 1996.32 - Carol Devine
- 1999.20 - Georges Danton
- 2004.141 - Robert Banks
- 2018.15 - Evan Kempton
- 2019.18 - Pamela Marold

## Historical Context

The following was written by Elsa Hornfischer in 1999 on behalf of the Framingham Historical Society. It was written as an announcement for a talk by Edith Overly about the Millwood Hunt Club to be held that March:

One hundred thirty three years ago, in 1866, when Framingham's horse population approached one thousand, Ebenezer Francis Bowditch started the Millwood Hunt Club at his farm at the corner of Millwood and Winch Streets. With Millwood Hounds imported from England and a group of eager equestrians, the Millwood Hunt Club thrived for over a century – the oldest hunt club in New England and the third oldest in the nation. Its trails wound through northwest Framingham's farms and private land for decades until a rising population and newly discharged war veterans created an acute need for housing in the late forties and fifties. Acre by acre, Framingham's new neighborhoods arose. Acre by acre, lands around Waveney Farm, Apple D'or Farm and along Pleasant, Belknap, Grove Streets were sold off. Raised ranches, split levels, and cape cods adorned the previously open land and trails, birthing a new era. By the time the Millwood Hunt Club disbanded at a 1969 meeting chaired by President Dr Trum at its' Edmands Road clubhouse, only about 90 acres were left. A colorful assortment of memories, however, remain.

By 1922, the Millwood Hunt Club's horse show had moved to Reginald Bird's Waveney Farm to accommodate the large crowds. Over 300 horses competed in over fifty classes over two days, attracting horse lovers from all over New England. By 1929, over twenty hunt teams gathered to compete, wearing Millwood Hunt colors known far and wide. Also in the twenties, steeplechase racing and Eastern Horse Club events attracting up to 20,000 people were held at Raceland, John Macomber's estate on Salem End Road. E. F. Bowditch ancestors active in Framingham include former Selectman John P. Bowditch, Mrs. Reginald Bird and Mrs. Robert Perkins and their families.

George Marlowe, former President of the Framingham Historical Society, wrote in the forties about Millwood Farm, and described himself as the "ultimate trespasser." He regularly walked the trails and paths of the Millwood estate and explains, "Whenever I have looked across its fields towards the high pastures and rolling hills, I have been reminded of the English countryside of Warwickshire or Dorset, which to me will always be the most beautiful in the world."

(Hornfischer, Elsa. "A Common View...from the Framingham Historical Society." *Framingham Historical Society*, 24 February 1999, [users.rcn.com/elsadave/TAB2-24-99.htm](http://users.rcn.com/elsadave/TAB2-24-99.htm). Accessed 8 June 2023.)

## Series Outline

This collection is arranged in the following Series:

**Series 1: Institutional Records** – Including receipts, ledgers, and correspondence covering 1923-1946 with a gap from 1935-1940

**Series 2: Historical Context and Publications** – Including bylaws, programs, and show catalogs, as well notes and publications on the history of the institution and its members.

**Series 3: Photographs and Prints** – Including loose photographs and photo albums showing primarily riders in action. Most loose photos have information on the back listing who is in each image.

## Series 1: Institutional Records

### Box 1: Records 1923-1935 – all 2017.12.1

- Folder 1 – 1923-1925 Ledger
- Folder 2 – 1931-1933 receipts
  - Receipts for payments of tax on admissions and dues, monthly, Sept. 1932-Sept. 1933
  - Baiting Brook Stables' boarding fees, monthly, Sept. 1932-Aug. 1933
  - Lakeview Press Printers, Sept. 1932-August 1933
  - Kennel man's wages, monthly, Feb. 1933-May 1933
  - H.J.R. Poole Company for Schlessers Brothers', dog food, Jan. 1933-March 1933
  - Various individual receipts, 1931-1933
- Folder 3 – 1933 Treasurer's Reports and Secretary Correspondence
  - Correspondence is mostly related to billing and membership issues.
- Folder 4 – 1933-1934 Correspondence of Chairman Reginald Bird
  - Some letters and memos were sent by A.S. Winkler on behalf of Mr. Bird's office.
- Folder 5 – 1934 Correspondence of Treasurer E. Sohler Welch and Secretary Gardner Fiske
- Folder 6 – 1934 Horse and Hound Shows' Financials
  - Correspondence, receipts, and treasurer reports specific to these events.
- Folder 7 – 1934-1935 Receipts
- Folder 8 – 1935 Correspondence of Treasurer E. Sohler Welch and Secretary Gardner Fiske
- Folder 9 – 1935 Horse Show Financials
  - Correspondence and receipts

### Box 2: Records 1940-1946 – all 2017.12.1

- Folder 1 – 1940 Correspondence and Financials
- Folder 2 – 1946 Correspondence and Financials

## Series 2: Historical Context and Publications

### Box 1: Historical Context and Publications

- Folder 1 – History of Millwood Hunt
  - booklet, Memories of Millwood Hunt, by Ruth N. Pyemont, signed by the author and dated Fall 1969 – 1977.13
  - archive, photocopies of History of Millwood Hunt interviews and observations – 2019.30.1

- archive, notes on Bowditch family genealogy and Millwood Hunt, including its dissolution in 1969 (courtesy of Edith Overly) – x2023.1.8
- archive, memos, notes, and newsletters relating to the Millwood Hunt 1965-1969 - 2019.30.49
- Folder 2 – Bylaws
  - bylaws, 1931 – x2023.1.1
  - bylaws, 1934 - 2019.30.19
  - bylaws, 1942 – 2017.12.2
- Folder 3 – Hunting Appointments
  - September 1961 - x2023.1.2
  - October 1961 - x2023.1.3
  - November 1961 - x2023.1.4
  - Series of itineraries for 1966 – 2019.30.58
  - November 1968 – 2019.30.28
- Folder 4 – Show Programs
  - Program, The New England Hunts Hound Show, 1959 – x2023.1.5
  - Program, Millwood Horse Show, 1965 – x2023.1.6
- Folder 5 – Horse Catalogs and Class Lists
  - catalog, Millwood Hunt and Horse Show, 1927 - 2019.30.25
  - catalog, Millwood Hunt and Horse Show, 1928 - 2004.141.11
  - catalog, Millwood Hunt and Horse Show, 1931 - 2019.30.21
  - catalog, Millwood Hunt and Horse Show, 1932 - 2019.30.26
  - catalog, Millwood Hunt and Horse Show, 1933 - 2019.30.27
  - booklet, Twelfth Annual Millwood Hunt Horse Show Class List, 1934 - 2017.12.3
- Folder 6 – Prize Lists
  - prize list, Millwood Spring Schooling Show, 1967 – 2019.30.59
  - prize list, Millwood Spring Schooling Show, 1968 – 2019.30.60
- Folder 7 – Mailings
  - card, Christmas greetings, 1942 – 2017.12.4
  - card, Christmas greetings, undated – x2023.1.7

## Series 3: Photographs and Prints

### Box 1: Photos

- Folder 1 – Fiske Collection
  - 1977.12.1-.3
- Folder 2 – Duplisse Collection
  - 1994.204.1-.3, -.5
- Folder 3 – Overly Collection #1
  - 2008.10.1-.4, -.6-.11, -.13-.20, and -.22-.24

- Folder 4 – Overly Collection #2
  - 2019.30.5, -.9-.17, -.22, -.38-.43, -.48, and -.61-.66
- Folder 5 – Miscellaneous Donations
  - 1996.32.15
  - 2019.18
  - X2023.1.9-.10

## Box 2: Photo Albums

- 2005.1.1-.2

## Box 3: Photo Albums

- 2005.1.3-.4

## Box 4: Photo Albums and Oversized Prints

- Photo Albums
  - 2019.30.53-.54
- Oversized Photographic Prints
  - 1991.16.7
  - 1999.20.1-.7
  - 2019.30.2-.4, -.6, and -.8
- Other Oversized Prints
  - 2018.15