

FINDING AID FOR THE
ARCHIVE AND COLLECTION OF LONG BRANCH PLANTATION

Background

Robert Carter Burwell built Long Branch Plantation in 1811. Burwell planned Long Branch to be his home on the wheat plantation that he had created on land he inherited from his father. The home was built in the Federal style with some personal comments from Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the architect of the U.S. Capitol, used during the construction of the home. The home passed to Robert's sister, Sarah, and her husband Philip Nelson after Robert Carter's death in 1813. Sarah and Philip further developed the plantation and used the home as a girls' boarding school. They sold the home to Philip's nephew, Hugh Nelson, in 1842 and Hugh moved his wife Adelaide and young daughter Nannie into the home. Hugh oversaw a large Greek-Revival restoration in the 1840s. Clarke County elected Hugh to the Virginia Secession Convention in 1861 and originally spoke out against secession. After the ordinance passed, Hugh changed his vote and organized the Clarke Cavalry. Hugh was wounded outside of Richmond during the Seven Days Battle in 1862 and eventually passed away from typhoid a few weeks later.

After the war, Adelaide and Hugh Jr. were left with Hugh Sr.'s debt. The house was put up for auction in 1868, but Adelaide was able to buy back the home and half of the property. Soon after Adelaide passed away in 1875, Hugh Jr. was able to buy back the rest of the property. Hugh Jr. passed away in 1913 and his wife, Sallie Page Nelson, lived in the home until 1952. The home was eventually sold to Abraham and Dorothy Hewitt in 1956. The home had deteriorated by that time and the family started an extensive renovation of the property. They lived in the home with their children until 1978 when they sold the property. The home passed through a few owners over the next decade until Harry Isaacs purchased it in 1986. Isaacs oversaw a massive restoration to the home and property including the addition of the west wing and large horse barns being built on the property. upon his death in 1990, Isaacs left Long Branch and the land to the Harry Isaacs Foundation, a non-profit foundation, and the home was opened to the public.

Scope & Content of Collection

The items included in the Long Branch Collection vary from letters and newspaper articles to blueprints and photographs that cover most of the home's history. All items are foldered chronologically when a date could be determined with accuracy. Undated/unknown date items are placed at the end of the specific group to which they belong. Letters, manuscripts, and newspaper articles are stored in multiple Hollinger boxes. The majority of the letters are from the time period when the Nelson family owned the home, with the rest pertaining to Harry Isaacs' ownership. The letters help to provide a window into the daily

activities the people experienced in the home. All regular sized photographs are stored in multiple photo albums. The bulk of the photographs are from the turn of the Twentieth Century to the present, with some copies of portraits of the earlier Nelson owners. Blueprints, maps, and aerial photographs are from the 1950s to the present and show changes made to the home, proposed alterations to the home and property, and details of the surrounding towns and cities. These oversized items are stored in multiple long map/blueprint boxes. Items and artifacts included in the collection are mainly from the time period of the Nelson family's ownership of the home from 1820-1952. All items are located in the Long Branch Archive Room unless specifically stated otherwise. The original organization and creation of this archive and collection was done by Kris Allen.

Letters, Manuscripts, & Newspaper Articles

Box #1. Long Branch as a Home

Folder #1. Hugh M. Nelson Sr.

Folder #2. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., 1839-1857

Folder #3. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., 1858-1859

Folder #4. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., 1860-1861

Folder #5. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., 1895-1906

Folder #6. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., unknown

Folder #7. Thomas Nelson Sr., Robert Nelson Sr., Susan Nelson, Thomas Jr., unknown continued

Folder #8. Adelaide, Hugh Jr., Nannie, March 1857-April 9, 1857

Folder #9. Adelaide, Hugh Jr., Nannie, April 13 1857-May 11, 1857

Folder #10. Adelaide, Hugh Jr., Nannie, May 16, 1857-June 1857

Folder #11. Adelaide, Hugh Jr., Nannie, March 1861-October 1865, unknown

Folder #12. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., 1863

Folder #13. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., Jan. 1864-March 1864

Folder #14. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., April 1864-June 1864

Folder #15. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., July 1864-April 1865

Folder #16. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., May 1865-July 1865

Folder #17. Mollie Scollay & George Washington Nelson Jr., Sept. 1865-Feb. 1872

Folder #18. Sallie Paige Nelson Dec. 1926

Folder #19. Harry Isaacs 1989

Folder #20. Harry Isaacs 1990

Folder #21. Harry Isaacs unknown

Folder #22. Harry Isaacs Reopening Oct. 1989-Nov. 7, 1989

Folder #23. Harry Isaacs Reopening Nov. 8, 1989-Dec. 13, 1989

Folder #24. Harry Isaacs Reopening unknown

Folder #25. Historic Preservation Consultants List 1986

Folder #26. Harry Isaacs Kitchen Improvements Feb. 17 and 18, 1988

Folder #27. Harry Isaacs Kitchen Improvements Feb. 18-March 1988

Folder #28. Harry Isaacs Horse Barn Plans 1987

Folder #29. Harry Isaacs Restoration Misc.

Folder #30. Harry Isaacs Long Branch Easement

Folder #31. Harry Isaacs Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission Form

Folder #32. Harry Isaacs Property of Estate

Folder #33. Hugh M. Nelson Misc.

Folder #34. George W. Nelson Misc.

Folder #35. Will & Testament, Inventory, Appraisal, Obituary

Folder #36. Long Branch for Sale 1953

Folder #37. Virginia Landmarks Register 1969

Folder #38. Misc.

Folder #39. Oral Histories

Folder #40. Long Branch Stories 1951, 1953, 1990

Folder #41. Newspaper Articles 1969, 1989, 1994

Folder #42. Long Branch Financials 1987

Folder #43. Long Branch Financials Jan. 1988-June 1988

Folder #44. Long Branch Financials June 1988

Folder #45. Long Branch Financials July 1988-Dec. 1988

Folder #46. Long Branch Financials Jan. 1989-Feb. 9, 1989

Folder #47. Long Branch Financials Feb. 17, 1989

Folder #48. Long Branch Financials Feb. 28, 1989-March 10, 1989

- Folder #49. Long Branch Financials March 16 and 23, 1989
- Folder #50. Long Branch Financials March 31 and April 7, 1989
- Folder #51. Long Branch Financials April 14 and 21, 1989
- Folder #52. Long Branch Financials April 28-June 1989
- Folder #53. Long Branch Financials July-Sept. 1989
- Folder #54. Long Branch Financials Oct. -Dec. 1989

Box #2. Long Branch as a Historic Site

- Folder #1. Brochures
- Folder #2. Shelia Macqueen Gardens Sept. 1997-June 1999
- Folder #3. Martha Cook Lists April 1996-Oct. 1997
- Folder #4. Martha Cook Lists undated
- Folder #5. Robert Wellford and Dining Room Mantel
- Folder #6. Long Branch Architecture and Genealogy
- Folder #7. Hewitt Deed of Gift
- Folder #8. Page Huidekoper Wilson Lecture Notes
- Folder #9. Long Branch Guided Tour
- Folder #10. Long Branch Committee Nov. 1991-April 1992
- Folder #11. Long Branch Summary of Events 1992-1993
- Folder #12. Floor Plan 1996
- Folder #13. Washington Bicentennial at Mount Vernon
- Folder #14. Washington Bicentennial Press Releases
- Folder #15. Washington Bicentennial Information Packet
- Folder #16. Washington Bicentennial Event Application Form
- Folder #17. Washington Bicentennial "Footsteps of Washington"

Folder #18. Washington Bicentennial Misc.

Folder #19. Proposal for Preservation of Recognized Historic Sites undated

Folder #20. Historical Markers

Folder #21. Tyson Gilpin

Folder #22. Rosney photos

Folder #23. Fordney Rough Draft 1993 pg. 6-30

Folder #24. Fordney Rough Draft 1993 pg. 31-63, press release

Folder #25. Misc.

Box #3. Owners & Family pre-Long Branch

Folder #1. Prescott Huidekoper 1907-Aug. 1909

Folder #2. Prescott Huidekoper Sept. 1909-1925

Folder #3. Harry Isaacs Horse Awards

Folder #4. Isaacs Family Chronicles

Folder #5. Harry Isaacs Barn Fires 1953, 1970

Folder #6. Harry Isaacs Horses Misc.

Folder #7. Harry Isaacs Horse Racing

Folder #8. Harry Isaacs Misc.

Aerial Photos, Blueprints, Maps

Box #1. B&W Aerial View w/o West Wing or Back Roads- 2 copies

Box #2. B&W Aerial View with Proposed Fence and Road Plans

Box #3. B&W Aerial View w/o West Wing or Back Roads

Box #4. Color Aerial with West Wing and Back Roads

- Box #5. Balloon Festival 2007 Landing Zones Map**
- Box #6. Proposed Alterations and Additions 1987 with Side & Basement Plans
Drawing #1- 2 copies**
- Box #7. Proposed Alterations & Additions Sept. 1986 Drawing #2**
- Box #8. Proposed Alterations and Additions Sept. 1986 Drawing #1**
- Box #9. Proposed Alterations & Additions Sept. 1986 Drawing #2**
- Box #10. Proposed Alterations & Additions Aug. 1987 Drawing #1 w/o Side and
Basement**
- Box #11. Drawings Pertaining to Special Use Permits for Museum and Vet Clinic
Aug. 2001- 2 copies**
- Box #12. Site Plan Existing Facilities March 2001- 2 copies**
- Box #13. Large Scale Site Plan of Area Surrounding House Aug. 2001**
- Box #14. GIS June 2001**
- Box #15. Pavilion Plan- 2 copies**
- Box #16. Cancelled Tent Pad Blueprint Feb. 2003**
- Box #17. Tenant Housing Blueprint w/ Section Elevation Details- 3 copies**
- Box #18. Tenant House Plans- 2 copies**
- Box #19. Tenant Housing Foundation Blueprint- 3 copies**
- Box #20. Tenant Housing 1st & 2nd Floor Blueprint- 2 copies**
- Box #21. Cottage Blueprints July 1984**
- Box #22. Stable Plan Blueprint 1 of 1 July 1987- 3 copies**
- Box #23. Stable Plan Blueprint 2 of 2 July 1987- 3 copies**
- Box #24. Macqueen Gardens General Development Plan Sept. 1996**

- Box #25. Proposed Tree Plantings Jan. 1988**
- Box #26. Landscape Architect Blueprints**
- Box #27. Water Pump/Farm Water System**
- Box #28. Convector Covers**
- Box #29. Clarke County 1990**
- Box #30. Hampstead Quadrangle 1973**
- Box #31. Ashby Gap Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #32. Berryville Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #33. Boyce Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #34. Front Royal Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #35. Linden Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #36. Stephens City Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #37. Stephenson Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #38. Upperville Geo Survey 1986- 3 copies**
- Box #39. Winchester Geo Survey 1986**
- Box #40. Rutledge Farm Blueprint Dec. 1985**
- Box #41. Historic VA Map 1992**
- Box #42. Pen Drawing during Balloon Festival**
- Box #43. B&W Aerial w/o West Wing or Back Roads**
- Box #44. B&W Aerial of Full Property**
- Box #45. Color Aerial w/o West Wing and Back Roads- 3 copies**
- Box #46. Color Aerial w/o West Wing and Back Roads**

Photo Albums

1. Long Branch as a Home

People, inside of the home, outside of the home, misc.

2. Long Branch as a Historic Site

Items, inside of the home, outside of the home, horses, gardens/pond/property, reenactment, fox hunt, events

3. Brookfield Farm- Harry Isaacs Baltimore Home

4. Harry Isaacs' Horses

alone-Informative

5. Harry Isaacs' Horses

Inhand-I've Got Rhythm, Misc.

Artifact Boxes

1. Fabric and Wallpaper Samples

2. Betamax- 5 copies, Film Reel Horse Race

Brookfield Farms, Brookfield Farms, Brookfield Farms, Brookfield Farms, Harry Z. Isaacs, Modesty Handicap June 26, 1965

3. Misc. Photos

4. Misc. Oversized Items

Misc. magazines, 1992 & 1993 Christmas Gala Invitations, Posters, Rough Draft Fordney Book Cover, Thoroughbred Index

Artifacts

Nelson Family (19th & 20th Centuries)

Walnut Cradle – Located in first floor parlor

Pre-1900 cradle used by Hugh Nelson Jr. and Sallie Page Nelson for their son Hugh III

Nelson Family High Chair – Located in first floor closet

Windsor high back family high chair, painted.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Nelson Family Pickle Jar – Located in first floor closet

Shenandoah Valley pottery pickle jar, likely from the 1840s-1860s; Originally Adelaide Nelson's pickle jar; See Adelaide Nelson's pickle recipe.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Banchory & Loch Lion Broadside – Located in first floor closet

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

1868 Broadside of Long Branch Auction – Located in first floor closet

After the death of Hugh Mortimer Nelson in 1863 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, Adelaide Nelson maintained control of the Long Branch estate. After the war, Adelaide dealt with many of Hugh's debt collectors. A probate inventory was also taken at this time. The house went up for auction on the Clarke County Court steps for the first time in 1868. Adelaide was the only bidder on the home, and was able to buy it back for \$25,000. In addition, she maintained much of the land, but did lose about 200 acres during this auction.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Empire Children's Chairs – Located in first floor closet

These empire style mahogany children's chairs were originally located in front of the fireplace in the parlor.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Cracked Vase (man and woman romantic scene)

This vase adorned the dining room mantel of Long Branch.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Writing Desk – Located in first floor closet

Wood writing desk with delicate mother of pearl details. Originally used by Hugh Mortimer Nelson, Jr.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Dinner Plate with Tomatoes and Vines – Located in first floor closet

The Nelson's purchased this dinner plate (and likely others to match) from Millwood's Locke Store. Date of purchase unknown. Page Wilson received this plate from her grandmother, Sallie Page Nelson.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Pocket Bible

Page Wilson received this pocket bible from her grandmother, Sallie Page Nelson. It is likely that it may have been in the Nelson family for many years.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Spode tea cups or demitasse cups

Hugh Mortimer Nelson, Jr. and Sallie Page Nelson's wedding gift.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Gilded Mirror – Located in first floor closet

This mirror used to hang on the wall at Long Branch during the Nelson Family's ownership of the home. It is unknown the exact location where it was displayed in the home.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

19th and 20th Century Nelson Family Foot-warmer – Located in first floor closet

The Nelson Family would use this foot-warmer at church. They would place warm coals in the foot warmer and then rest their feet on top throughout church.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Marquis de Lafayette Saucepan – Located in first floor closet

Adelaide Nelson's father, John Holker, was friends with Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette presented Holker with this his copper saucepan.

The oral account passed down through family members is that some of the wheat fields of Long Branch were burned during the Civil War and that Adelaide Nelson felt under enough of a threat that she buried the family silver and at least one heirloom, the Lafayette saucepan, to protect them from plunder. The lid of saucepan remained buried for several decades until it was uncovered by a hog. Per the family lore, the hog ran around the yard with the saucepan lid in its mouth.

Acquired in 2014 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Nelson Family Case clock

This Shenandoah Valley clock was likely constructed during the mid-19th century. It sat in Long Branch's main hall for over 100 years. It left Long Branch in the 1950's when the Nelson family moved. In 2013, Nicholas Redding, executive director of Long Branch at the time, found the clock with a Nelson family descendent (Huidekoper) just outside of Philadelphia. The clock now stands near its original location.

Acquired in 2013.

Nelson Family Windsor Chairs (on display)

Windsor chair, painted black. These chairs once adorned the porches of Long Branch. Oral histories from Page Wilson state that the family used to sit on these chairs on the porches while sipping tea and telling old stories (especially of during the war)
Acquired in 2013 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Hugh Mortimer Nelson's Civil War Era Belt Buckle (on display)

Acquired in 2013 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Nelson Family Bible (on display)

Signed by Hugh Nelson, Sr., Bible from the 1850s.
Acquired in 2013 from Page Wilson, Sallie Page Nelson's granddaughter.

Hewitt Collection

Hewitt family silver.

Acquired in 2013 from Adam Hewitt, Abram & Dorothy Hewitt's son.

Prints

Many of these prints (primarily animals) were displayed in the slave staircase. One print is currently being displayed in the Long Branch living room.
Acquired in 2013 from Adam Hewitt, Abram & Dorothy Hewitt's son.

Isaacs Collection

Pajama set and shirt**Light fixtures from the 1980s renovation of Long Branch****Isaac's family silver****Family Photos****Goggles and Racing Cap. – 20th century****Silver Platter****Horseheads – decorative bookends****Silver candlesticks**

Miscellaneous

Traditional Carpenter's Tool – Located in first floor closet

This traditional carpenter's tool was located in the space between the attic and portico ceiling. It is likely that this piece was used during one of the renovations to the home – quite possibly the 1840's renovations by Hugh and Adelaide Nelson.

A Long Branch Plantation intern found this item in the Summer of 2013.

18th Century Long Branch Plantation Ledger (on display)

In this 1796 Plantation Ledger, the name "Long Branch" is easily identifiable.

Acquired (date unknown) through a collector in New England.

19th Century Wooden Pick Fork

Nicholas Redding purchased this pick fork at an antique shop in 2013.