Davidson, Richard C.; Collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 26, 2024. 
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
# Table of Contents

Summary Information ........................................................................................................... 3  
Biographical Note .................................................................................................................. 3  
Content Description ............................................................................................................... 4  
Arrangement of the Collection ............................................................................................ 4  
Administrative Information .................................................................................................... 4  
Controlled Access Headings ................................................................................................. 5
Summary Information

| Repository: | M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives |
| Title: | Richard C. Davidson Collection |
| ID: | apap398 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1937-1960 |
| Physical Description: | 0.8 cubic ft. |
| Physical Location: | The materials are located onsite in the department. |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | This collection includes the by-laws and regulations, correspondence, meeting minutes, and other administrative records and records of the political activities of The Sentinel Rifle and Revolver Club of New York from the late 1930s to 1960. |

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Richard C. Davidson Collection, 1939-1957. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Davidson Collection).

Biographical Note

Born in Yonkers, New York, Richard C. Davidson (1917-2004) was the oldest of three children born to Charles Davidson and Zara Odell. After graduating from New York University with a degree in Business Administration, he lived in Yonkers and worked in Manhattan for much of his life, except when he served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was married twice, first to Violet Pascotta with whom he had no children and whom he divorced in 1963. Shortly afterward, Davidson married Marguerite Melanson with whom he had one child, Denise Davidson. They moved to New Jersey in 1968, eventually buying a home in Ridgefield Park, where he lived until his death. When he retired in 1983, he had been working for McLean Trucking Company for nearly 30 years. At retirement, Davidson's title was Market Manager for Textiles.
In the late 1930s, Davidson and some close friends, including his brother-in-law William Lenau, founded The Sentinel Rifle and Revolver Club that became affiliated with the National Rifle Association (NRA). In addition to conducting target practice and participating in shooting competitions, they went on annual deer-hunting trips in Upstate New York. They were also politically engaged with regard to the issue of gun rights, lobbying against limitations to the right to bear arms. Soon after World War II began in Europe, Davidson participated in a nationwide effort to rearm the British public whose arms had been confiscated by the British government. Thousands of guns were collected and shipped to England in 1940 in the context of a feared German invasion. A lifetime member of the NRA, Davidson remained a passionate defender of the Second Amendment throughout his life.

Content Description

This collection documents the records of The Sentinel Rifle and Revolver Club, including business, executive committee, and regular club meeting minutes and other related documents, intraclub bulletins and communications, business materials, by-laws, correspondence with government officials, magazines, newspapers, and other firearm-related organizations, materials on firearms legislation at the local, state, and federal levels, materials from the club's marksman training school, National Rifle Association materials, range rules and regulations, interclub competition records, competition patches, and club certificates.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged chronologically. There are no series.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Processing Information

The collection was processed by Michael Munsey (2024)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Denise Davidson donated all materials in this collection to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 2022 and 2024.

Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Copyright

This page may contain links to digital objects. Access to these images and the technical capacity to download them does not imply permission for re-use. Digital objects may be used freely for personal reference use, referred to, or linked to from other web sites.

Researchers do not have permission to publish or disseminate material from these collections without permission from an archivist and/or the copyright holder.

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of copyright. Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and/or by the copyright or neighboring-rights laws of other nations. More information about U.S. Copyright is provided by the Copyright Office. Additionally, re-use may be restricted by terms of University Libraries gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing and trademarks.

The Department of Special Collections and Archives is eager to hear from any copyright owners who are not properly identified so that appropriate information may be provided in the future.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Controlled Access Headings

- Davidson, Richard C. (1917-2004)
- Sentinel Rifle and Revolver Club
- Firearms ownership--New York (State)--History
- Shooting--New York (State)--History
- Hunting--New York (State)--History