

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Rhode Island Collection
008-02-02
Arthur W. Davis Yachting Scrapbooks
1921-1955

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 008-02-02

Title: Arthur W. Davis Yachting Scrapbooks

Creator: Davis, Arthur W.

Dates: 1921-1955

Quantity: 13 boxes (total 5.2 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Unknown

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2018 by Claire Uziel.

Conservation: None.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item description], Arthur W. Davis Yachting Scrapbooks, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library

Property Rights: Copyright has not been assigned to Providence Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be obtained by the researcher from the copyright holder.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None.

Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	America's Cup Boats and boating Boating for children Boating for women Boatbuilding Herreshoff family Narragansett Bay (R.I.) Presidential yachts--United States Providence Journal Regattas Sailing Yachts Yacht racing Yachting--History Yacht clubs

SEE ALSO

Not applicable.

HISTORICAL NOTE

"Jeff" Davis (1868-1954) was born Arthur W. Davis in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He lived in Chelsea, MA until he was 23 years old. Davis married May Russell of Chelsea, MA in May 1891 and they had two children. He worked at several Massachusetts newspapers before moving to Rhode Island where he'd secured a job at the Stillwater Mill in Harrisville. He started at the *Providence Journal* in 1921 and received his first yachting assignment from the newspaper. While at the *Providence Journal*, Davis also covered labor and agricultural news. He continually covered yachting until his retirement in 1948. He retired to Copake, NY and died in Hudson, NY.

In 1922, he helped organize the Narragansett Bay Racing Fleet and was elected secretary of the association. He held this position until his death. He also served as secretary of the Narragansett Bay Allowance Class Association and was a charter member of the North American Yacht Racing Union. Many yachting clubs gave him honorary memberships. He edited the International Star Class Yacht Racing Association's official paper from 1927 to 1935. In 1938, the Biltmore ballroom played host to a dinner "in recognition and appreciation of the untiring service of Jeff Davis in the organization and improvement of yachting in Narragansett Bay." Shortly after Davis retired, an annual Jeff Davis Trophy race between Brown University and University of Rhode Island was established. It was held for at least a decade.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection includes notebooks and scrapbooks which include newspaper and magazine clippings, manuscript and ephemeral material, and photographs documenting the history of yachting in Rhode Island as well as its coverage in Providence newspapers.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I: Scrapbooks of Davis *Providence Journal* clippings (1921-1947, organized chronologically)

Series II: Scrapbooks of *Providence Journal* clippings (1948-1953, organized chronologically)

Series III: Scrapbooks of other material (Creator-numbered volumes are in original order. All following volumes are in no apparent order.)

Series IV: Notebooks (original order)

Loose items not found near related material in Series I and II scrapbooks are in Box 13, Folder 69.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I: Scrapbooks of Davis *Providence Journal* clippings, 1921-1947

Includes scrapbooks that are predominantly clippings of Davis' writing for the *Providence Journal*. Also included are ephemera, photographs, correspondence, and various other writings by Davis. Topics of interest include news of area races including collegiate, juniors, and America's Cup; yacht clubs; particular yachts; Herreshoff boatbuilding company; and World War II maritime happenings

Title	Date	Box	Folder
"Providence Journal / Narragansett Bay Yachting / 1921" Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two invitations from Rhode Island Yacht Club about the visiting schooner yacht <i>America</i> 	1921	1	1-2
"Providence Journal / Yachting - 1922 / Narragansett Bay" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First "Yachting Gossip" column "Galyards and Gaskets" columns Original photographs: Cranston Girl Scouts troop (two); Ladies' Day at Fall River Yacht Club 	1922	1	3-4
"Providence Journal / Yachting, 1923, Narragansett Bay" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence from yacht owner thanking Davis for accurate article about the craft Davis' invitation to go on a U.S. Navy submarine dive in Providence Harbor Original photographs of Block Island 	1923	1	5
"Providence Journal / Narragansett Bay Yachting / 1924" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full page of yacht photos titled "Narragansett Bay's Busiest Yachting Season" Several articles about women/girls in yachting Coverage of craft missing in North Atlantic carrying <i>Motor Boat</i> editor, William Washburn Nutting, who had recently spoken at the Edgewood Yacht Club 	1924	1	6
"Providence Journal & Bulletin / Narragansett Bay Yachting / 1925" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of founding of North American Yacht Racing Union Continued search for Nutting's craft 	1925	1 2	7 8
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1926 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full page of photos titled "Famous Herreshoff Shipbuilding Shops, Bristol, Abuzz with Activity for Record Yachting Season of '26" [torn along the folds into four pieces] Coverage of Rowe B. and Mary Sewall Metcalf's expedition in 	1926	2	9-12

their schooner, <i>Sachem</i> , to the Arctic with explorer Donald B. MacMillan			
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1927	1927	2	13
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1928 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of bylines and illustrated header for "Yachting Gossip", though neither are used comprehensively. There are still articles without bylines and columns without illustrated headers. 	1928	3	14
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1929	1929	3	15
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1930 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Column "Yarns from the Dog Watch" Columns "Yacht Club Notes" and "Yacht Yard Notes", both by Frank [illegible last name --Ames?] Profile of 75-year-old Herb Salisbury, fourth-generation Rhode Island boatbuilder Coverage of the <i>Sprite</i>, believed to be oldest existing Herreshoff boat, shipped to Henry Ford's museum Profile of Herreshoff boatbuilders 	1930	3	16-17
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1931 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of founding of the Association of Rhode Island Yacht Clubs, Business and Civic Organizations Portrait in headers gains glasses and smoking pipe 	1931	3	18
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1932 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article from the "Junior Journal" 	1932	4	19
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1933 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full page of photos titled "The Frostbiters", documenting preparation for a race off Poppasquash Point, Bristol Article about formation of Narragansett Bay Allowance Classes Association, which Davis was elected secretary-treasurer of 	1933	4	20
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1934 Folder 22: Original order is not chronological. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Seaman's Glossary Yachting Terms" 	1934	4	21-22
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1935 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humorous report by Davis on steamer cruise to Nassau, Miami, and Havana, accompanied by cartoon. Start of book reviews by Davis Coverage of yacht race from Newport to Norway Coverage of search for treasure on sunken ship off Delaware, headed by men from Attleboro and Providence 	1935	4	23

Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1936 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction of formal resolution from the Rhode Island Yacht Club to Charles F. Tillinghast, Jr. making him an honorary member in appreciation of his efforts aboard a disabled yacht during the race from Newport to Norway the previous summer. • Report of Davis's address to meeting of Kearney Sea Scouts of Bristol • Coverage of search for treasure on sunken ship off Delaware, headed by men from Attleboro and Providence 	1936	5	24
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1937 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What It's All About" article by Davis about history of America's Cup seemingly pulled from a larger booklet. Loose and undated. • "What Do You Know of Sails and Yachting Terms?" glossary by Davis • Review of Davis book "Jeff Davis's Log" • Profile of Herb Salisbury, "dean of Rhode Island Yacht Builders" 	1937	5	25-26
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1938 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article on changes in area clubs and yachts in preceding 50 years • Memorial to Nathanael Greene Herreshoff • Photo of Davis in rainsuit • Coverage of effects of hurricane on yachts and clubs • Humorous report of Davis's vacation to New Orleans 	1938	5	27
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1939 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature on YMCA Camp Fuller at Point Judith Pond switching to nautical theme 	1939	5	28
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1940 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full page of photos titled "Most Popular Types of Boats to be Seen on Narragansett Bay" 	1940	6	29
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1941 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New column "Marine Notes" • Article about women's colleges competing with male crews in regatta on the Seekonk • Article about and photo of post-hurricane home of the Rhode Island Yacht Club • Description and map regarding restrictions in lower Narragansett Bay due to Naval activities • 11-part series on based on John Brown Herreshoff's 19th-century yachting scrapbook 	1941	6	30
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1942 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article on the uncertain future of Rhode Island boat yards • tribute to William Upham Swan, yachting advocate and writer 	1942	6	31

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description and map regarding restrictions in lower Narragansett Bay due to military activities • Article about and photo of first group of men to be sworn into the Coast Guard at the new recruiting station at 15 Exchange Street, Providence. • Article about enforcement by Coast Guard of order banning navigation at night • Article about and photos of Coast Guard barracks in a converted school house on Prairie Avenue, Providence 			
<p>Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1943</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article on construction of Liberty Ships • Photo of Victory Garden at Coast Guard barracks • Original photographs of groups of people on a boardwalk. Most have labels on the scrapbook pages and are stamped "U.S. Naval Advance Base Depot / Davisville, RI" on the back. 	1943	7	32
<p>Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1944</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obituary of Herbert D. Salisbury, veteran Rhode Island boat builder • Article on role of Rhode Island yacht builders in war • Two editions of "Daily-Until-Victory Letter to 'Out There'" • Map and description of changed torpedo range in the bay 	1944	7	33
<p>Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1945</p>	1945	7	34
<p>Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1946</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obituary of Ernest L. "Pop" Arnold, dean of Rhode Island yachting 	1946	7	35
<p>Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1947</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage by a few reporters of the New York Motor Boat Shows • Coverage of testimonial dinner in honor of Davis at Edgewood Yacht Club 	1947	8	36

Series II: Scrapbooks of *Providence Journal* clippings, 1948-1953

Includes scrapbooks of materials collected by Davis after his retirement in 1948 from the *Providence Journal*. Topics include news of area races including collegiate, juniors, and America's Cup; yacht clubs; particular yachts; and Herreshoff boat building company and individuals involved in the yachting community.

Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1948 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Yachting Gossip" columns by George Dunn • Article announcing Davis to be honored at Words Unlimited dinner; includes profile and photo. • Article about 16 Latvians refugees who sailed across the Atlantic the previous year • Coverage of Pawtuxet Cove dredging project • Davis articles from <i>The 'Gansett Clipper</i> newsletter 	1948	8	37
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1949 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Yachting Gossip" columns by George Dunn • Coverage of Pawtuxet Cove dredging project • Davis letter to <i>Vineyard Gazette</i> editors praising coverage of race • Article about the two model-yacht clubs in Rhode Island 	1949	8	38
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1950 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Yachting Gossip" columns by John Maynard • Article about project to extending the Inland Coastal Waterway from Long Island to Narragansett Bay • Tributes to Hookon Norgaard, one of Narragansett Bay's best known yachtsmen • Article about and photo of the new Rhode Island State College boat house • Spread in <i>Providence Sunday Journal</i> titled "Sailfish are Spawning" 	1950	9	39
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1951 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Yachting Gossip" renamed "Spindrift" • Formation of Block Island Yacht Club • Obituary for William Parker Paine, veteran sailmaker for Herreshoff 	1951	9	40
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1952 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article about visit of C. Sherman Hoyt (later inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame) to Brown University • Coverage of 1,750-pound leatherback sea turtle beached at Point Judith 	1952	8	41
Providence Journal & Bulletin, Narragansett Bay Yachting, 1953 Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article about Commander Donald B. MacMillan's theory about 	1953	9	42-43

future weather trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of oil pollution in Narragansett Bay • Article about four boats sinking in Narragansett Bay by electrical storm • Coverage of two Bristol fisherman missing at sea • Profile of Joseph W. Appleton, builder of yacht models 			
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

Series III: Scrapbooks of other material

Includes scrapbooks related to boating as well as a variety of other topics. Included are clippings from multiple publications, photographs, and correspondence. The materials are not restricted to Rhode Island topics.

Title	Date	Box	Folder
"Scrap Book Number 1" Title page: Old Rhode Island Yachts Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1947 letter from Rear Admiral T.R. Cooley, USN, Newport Naval Base (44:38) • Material about presidential yachts (44:40, 42) • Material about sailing on Boston's Charles River (45:50-51) • Wartime holiday postcard from Narragansett Electric Company (45:penultimate page, no number) 	undated	10	44-46
"Scrap Book Number 2" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of contents • Report of the Regatta Committee, Edgewood Yacht Club, October 8, 1934 (46:101)Glossary of nautical terms by Davis (47:50) • "Provisions of Agreement between 'S' Boat Class Owners and Narragansett Bay 'S' Boat Crewmen's Benevolent, Protective and Uplift Association acting for itself and in behalf of its affiliated union, Printed August 15, 1948" (47:71) • Clipping about Arthur W. Davis, July 13, 1937 (47:85-86) • "Important Notice: The Clam Eating Code" (47:unnumbered between 100 and 101) 	undated	10	47-49
"Scrap Book Number 3" Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article about launch of boat named <i>Jeff Davis</i> in Florida [49:30] • Article about Kate A. Sutton, head of Providence Tugboat Company and inspiration for movie <i>Tugboat Annie</i> (online sources say otherwise) [49:38] • Obituaries for Joseph Coldwell, labor activist [49:44-47] • Full-page titled "Birth of a PT", Feb 27, 1944 [49:50] • Article about World War II military slang, Feb 4, 1944 [50:69] • Profile of Leonard M. Fowle, father of Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association 	undated	8 12	50 51

<p>"Scrap Book Number 4"</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of contents • Five of a series of six 1935 Rhode Island waterfront scenes (Old Fishermen's Village, Pawtuxet; Old Scalloptown at East Greenwich; Along the shorefront at Apponaug; Apponaug; and Lobster Docks, Stonington) drawn by Whitman Bailey and published in a newspaper [51:3,7,8] • Columns on boating by Boake Carter, late 1930s [51:29,30,47,48] • Article with illustration about the origins of the Block Island double-ended fishing boat aka the Blocker Islander [52:73-75] • "The World's Craziest Sailors" article in <i>Collier's</i>, March 1, 1947 with typed notes "Hole's in Collier's Frostbite story" [52:107-110] • Photographs of yachts and ships [52:135-end of folder] 	undated	12	52-53
<p>"Scrap Book Number 5"</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of contents • "Old Rhode Island Ships" series in <i>The Evening Bulletin</i>, a collaboration between Davis and artist George Gale, July-September 1936 [53 entirety] • Article about and 1936 photos of the new use of the <i>Pocahontas</i>, first vessel built as America's Cup defender, as a breakwater at Wickford Yacht Club on Cornelius Island [54:52-54] • "Famous Yachts of Yesteryear" series by Carlos Hanks [54:62-67] • "Longshore in Rhode Island -- As Drawn by Loring" series in <i>The Evening Bulletin</i>. Illustrations by Paule Loring and text by Davis except in a handful of cases. February-March 1937. [54:77-55:109] • "A Dash of Salt": eight-part glossary, <i>Motor Boating</i> magazine, July 1948-February 1949 [55:unnumbered] • "Where They Learn to be Tough" article by Critchell Rimington about the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center, Melville, RI [55:unnumbered] 		11	54-56
<p>"Traditions and Memories of American Yachting by William P. Stephens (From Motor-Boating)"</p> <p>83-part series in <i>Motor Boating</i> magazine, June 1939-July 1946 includes "The Herreshoffs of Bristol", September 1942-February 1943, July 1943 (Parts 40-45, 50).</p>		11	57-59
<p>"Herreshoff History"</p> <p>Typed pages and printed material (much not attached to scrapbook pages) including 43-page booklet titled "Voluntary Liquidation Sale by Absolute Auction of the Plant of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, Inc." (1924)</p>		12	60
<p>Miscellaneous boating material, volume A</p> <p>Mostly printed materials and mostly loose materials not adhered to scrapbook pages</p>		13	61

Miscellaneous boating material, volume B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two pages are a table of contents • Mostly printed materials and mostly loose materials not adhered to scrapbook pages 		13	62-63
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	----	-------

Series IV: Notebooks

Includes notebooks related to specific yachting races and yacht clubs.

Title	Date	Box	Folder
<p>"NB - ISCYRA / Edgewood Champs"</p> <p>Narragansett Bay Fleet of the International Star Class Yacht Racing Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution and By-Laws, 1922 • Handwritten membership lists, 1922-49. <p>Edgewood Yacht Club champions, 1938-1949</p>	1922-1949	13	64
<p>"Junior Championships / Women's Championships"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two black-and-white photographs of sailboats • Typed history of Junior Championships Sears Cup, 1921-1936 • Two sets of typed histories of Women's Championships Hodder Cup and Mrs. Charles Francis Adams Cups, 1924-1935 • Instruction Sheet for 1937 Rhode Island Junior Championship Regatta at Watch Hill Yacht Club 	1921-1937	13	65
<p>"Allowance and One Design Classes 1935"</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists of yachts organized in a few ways • Race reports and scores 	1935	13	66
<p>Writings</p> <p>Typed manuscripts in notebook labeled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narragansett Bay 1939-1948 • America's Cup -- Yacht Clubs • Ocean Racing • Bermuda Races 	undated	13	67
<p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence • Race results • One black-and-white photograph of a sailboat • Pages from first few issues of <i>The Narragansett Bay Yachtsman</i> periodical 	undated	13	68