

GUIDE TO THE LEIBER FAMILY PAPERS



Collection Abstract: Papers of William C. Leiber, Sr. (1870-1935) and William C. Leiber, Jr. (1908-1987) families, consisting primarily of family photographs. Also includes many photographs of the Port Washington, New York waterfront, boating and model boats, over 300 post cards, diaries, memorabilia, and artifacts.

Collection Title: LEIBER FAMILY PAPERS

Inclusive Dates: CA. 1904-1956

Size: 5 Boxes & 1 oversize photo (2.5 l.f.)

Source: Gift of William Leiber, Jr., 1987

Prepared by: Francesca Pitaro, 2004

Repository: Port Washington Public Library Local History Center

LEIBER FAMILY PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

William C. Leiber, Sr. (1870-1935) and Emma Louise Knauth were married on June 8, 1902. William Leiber, Sr. made his living in the tile business in New York City. A newspaper clipping from 1909 notes that he was the head of the firm of Leiber, Schrenkeisen & Nobbe. The Leibers purchased their home at 44 Second Avenue (Port Washington, New York) in 1903 and made it their permanent residence in 1911. An active member of the Port community, Leiber was a member of the Knickerbocker Yacht Club and the Atlantic Hook and Ladder Co.

William C. Leiber, Jr. (1908-1987) was born in Brooklyn and moved to Port Washington with his parents in 1911. A longtime employee of the Grumman Corporation, Leiber, Jr. had a talent and enthusiasm for ham radios, steam engine construction and boat building. Several of his designs were published in *The Modelmaker* and the *Model Craftsman* magazines. Leiber was an avid boater and speedboat racer, and belonged to the Port Washington Yacht Club and Mill Pond Model Boat Club. He took first place in the Harwood Trophy Race around Manhattan in 1951 and 1952, and also took first place in the Ocean City yacht club race in 1953. At the age of fifty-five, Leiber, Jr. added a new hobby - flying. William C. Leiber Jr. died on June 14, 1987. He was married to June Marguerite Erickson who died in December of 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Leiber Family Papers are made up primarily of photographs including approximately 380 images of the Leiber family, the Port Washington waterfront, boating, and model boats. The collection also contains clippings, post cards, memorabilia, artifacts, articles by Leiber, Jr. (b.1908) and diaries documenting various aspects of the Leiber family's history. The collection includes over 300 post cards dated between 1908 and 1930. The majority of these are greeting cards. Other images include military subjects, ships and miscellaneous travel cards. There are also a few images of New York City and Long Island.

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is arranged into 6 series:

- SERIES I** William & Emma Leiber
- SERIES II** William Leiber, Jr.
- SERIES III** Photographs
- SERIES IV** Postcards
- SERIES V** Miscellaneous
- SERIES VI** Artifacts

OTHER SUBJECTS:

Photographs:

Aviation

Boating

“City of Rayville” (American Pioneer Line)

Model boats

Port Washington, NY

“S.S. President Wilson” (Dollar Steamship Lines)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and BOX LIST

Series I William & Emma Leiber Papers, 1919-1942 (2 folders)

Series includes one letter from Paul Leiber to his brother, William, two notes from Emma Leiber in making donations to the Atlantic Hook and Ladder and the Protection Engine Company. Also included are obituaries and a memorial notice for William Leiber.

Box 1

Folder	Contents
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Emma and William Leiber correspondence, 1919-1942 (3 items) |
| 2 | William C. Leiber, Sr. – obituaries and memorial notice, 1935 |

Series II William C. Leiber Jr. Papers, 1903-1956 (8 folders, 1 artifact)

Includes correspondence, clippings, a diary, a sketch, articles by William C. Leiber, Jr., and “Leiber’s Lightning Navigator”. The “Navigator” is a paper chart with a paper overlay, taped to a wooden board. It also has typewritten instructions. The diary documents Leiber’s tour of duty on the “City of Rayville” and the “S.S. President Wilson” in 1930. Clippings document Leiber’s efforts to rescue his employer after the boat he was piloting was caught in a storm off the coast of New Jersey in 1936, and also report on trophies and awards won by Leiber. Works by Leiber appeared in the *Model Craftsmen* and other publications. Photos of the illustrations from some of his technical pieces can be found in the folder of photographs on Model Boating (Box 2, folder 6). A scrapbook (described below) which was kept by Leiber and his father has also been included in this series.

Folder	Contents
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|---|---|
| 3 | Correspondence – letter from Uncle Paul Leiber, 1948 |
| 4 | Clippings:
Rescue in New Jersey, 1936
<i>Model Craftsman</i> , Jan. 1934 – mention p. 13
<i>Model Craftsman</i> , Sept. 1937 – p. 49
<i>Motor Boat</i> , Oct. 1952: Cover and story on Harwood Trophy |
| 5 | Diary, 1930 (including some loose items) |
| 6 | Diary – Loose pages |

Series II (continued)

Folder	Contents
7	Writings: <i>Mechanical Models</i> , Jan. 1932 <i>The Model Maker</i> , Nov. 1932 and June 1934
8	Writings: <i>The Model Craftsman</i> , March 1934: April 1934
9	Writings: <i>The Model Craftsman</i> , Nov. 1934; Oct. 1935; Sept. 1937
10	Calendar with sketch by Leiber, 1923
11	Scrapbook (1903-1956) Book kept by both Leibers, father and son. Includes clippings, poems and articles by Leiber, Sr. (b. 1870), wedding announcements, obituaries and local news items regarding Port Washington. The scrapbook also includes many news items regarding the Leiber family and their relatives and acquaintances. The paper published notices of William Jr.'s birth and illnesses, the family's vacations, visitors to the Leiber's home, etc. It also includes account of Leiber Jr.'s rescue off the coast of New Jersey in 1936, after the boat he was piloting was damaged in heavy seas.

Box 2

Unfoldered "Leiber's Lighting Navigator"

Map Case – Oversized A-L

Barometer recordings of four major hurricanes: 1938; 1954 (Carol); 1954 (Edna); 1960 (Donna)

Series III Photographs, ca. 1898-1955 (8 folders; 4 albums)

Most of the photographs are dated and identified and housed in original albums which are described below. The loose images have been sleeved and organized by subject.

Photographs include family photographs, images of Port Washington, especially the waterfront and boating activities. Among the family photographs are images of Paul Leiber who was a career Army officer. The images include Army training scenes. The Model boat folder includes images from Port Washington as well as images used to illustrate Leiber Jr.'s articles in various publications.

Folder	Contents – Loose Photographs
1	Aviation, ca. 1920's (10 photos)
2	William Leiber, Jr., ca. 1908-1936 (14 photos)
3	Leiber family members, ca. 1898-1934 (52 photos)
4	Leiber home, 44 Second Ave, Port Washington, ca.1914-1934 (5 photos)
5	Leiber trophies, ca. 1939; 1950's (3 photos)
6	Model boats, undated (19 photos)
7	Port Washington shore and boating, ca. 1912-1930's (39 photos)
8	Travel, 1913-1929 (4 photos)

Series III (continued)

Map Case

(Drawer 2) Group photo "C.M.T.C./July 1927/COE" (20 inches x 8 inches)

Box 3

Album 1 (1904-1932): Approximately 50 photographs including relatives, Port Washington scenes, Ryder Beach, and the Leiber home. Includes two whale photos dated 1907, but not identified by location. Most of the photos are captioned and dated, probably by Leiber (b. 1870). (8 by 6 inches). Many loose pages.

Album 2 (1916-1924): Approximately 100 small photographs on heavy black paper. Many Port Washington scenes, family and vacation photos. (7 ½ by 6 inches). Loose pages.

Album 3 (1920-1927): Approximately 45 small photos on black paper. Photos of cats, boats, William Leiber, Jr. (b. 1908) and Port Washington scenes. (6 by 7 inches). Album contains blank pages.

Album 4 (1908-1913) Approximately 45 photos (4 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches) documenting the infancy and childhood of Leiber, Jr. (b. 1908). Contains photos of the extended Leiber family, friends the Leiber home. Also includes a clipping from the Port Washington paper announcing the birth, with a poem by Leiber, Sr. (b. 1870). (6 by 7 ½ inches)

Series IV Postcards (ca 1908-1930), 1 box (approximately 300 postcards)

Cards are arranged by holiday or subject. Most of the cards were written to Leiber Jr., with a few addressed to his parents. Correspondents include Aunt Kitty and Uncle Charles, Uncle Paul (Leiber), Aunt Kate, Grandma Herzog and Gussie (cousin). A few were written by William Leiber, Jr. to his mother. Although the cards have been removed from their original album, the album, inscribed from Emma to her son William in 1908, has been retained as part of the collection (in Box 5).

Box 4

Postcard collection

Series V Miscellaneous 1 box

Includes original album from which postcards have been removed, and captions for which no photographs were found.

Box 5

Empty album

Miscellaneous captions

Series VI Artifacts (1935-1953) 6 items

- 1) Silver Trophy (cup and base on black plastic pedestal) - 37 cm. high; 15 cm. in diameter. Reads: "Model Craftsmen Cup/World Record/Class C/Wm. C. Leiber/'Peanut' / 24.32 M.P.H./1935" (Nautical artifacts box/compact shelving)
- 2) Scallop-Shaped Sterling Silver Commemorative Plaque – 23 cm. in diameter. Reads: "Indian Harbor Yacht Club/Gold Cup Regatta/August 17, 1940/Class K runabouts/Third Prize/Davey (sic) Jones" (Nautical artifacts box/compact shelving)
- 3) Model Boat, ca. 1940's – 27 cm. long. Hand – built by William Leiber, Jr. Made of metal, with real bullet casings used as pistons. (Nautical artifacts box/compact shelving)
- 4) Copper Footed Bowl – 36 cm. in diameter. Reads: "Ocean City Yacht Club/Class K National Championship/ September 5, 1953/ Davy Jones" (Compact shelving)
- 5) Sterling Silver Trophy (cup and base) – 31 cm. high; 13 cm. in diameter. Reads: "New York Championship/K Inboard Runabouts/Northport Yacht Club/Donated by /William K. Vanderbilt/1939/Winner/Davy Jones" (LHC Display case)
- 6) Round Sterling Silver Commemorative Plaque -23 cm. in diameter. Reads: "Albany-New York Race/1939/Class H-I-K Inboard Runabout/ Fourth Place/ Davy Jones" (LHC Display case)