



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Arthur E. Newkirk papers ARL.017

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on November 05, 2019.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Adirondack Research Library

897 St. David's Lane
Niskayuna, NY 12309

arl@union.edu

URL: <https://www.union.edu/adirondack-research-library>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee Records	6
Correspondence	7
Research Files	8
Court Records	10

Summary Information

Repository:	Adirondack Research Library
Creator:	Newkirk, Arthur E., 1914-2006
Creator:	Nature Conservancy (U.S.). Eastern New York Chapter
Source:	Newkirk, Jeanne
Title:	Arthur E. Newkirk papers
ID:	ARL.017
Date [inclusive]:	1903-2004
Date [bulk]:	1942-2004
Physical Description:	3.33 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	6 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Arthur E. Newkirk papers consist of 3.3 cubic feet of records and date from 1903 to 2004. The collection includes Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee records, correspondence, writings, and other materials documenting Newkirk's conservation work in the Adirondacks.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Arthur E. Newkirk (1914-2006) was an environmental conservationist and longtime member of both the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Nature Conservancy. He served as president of the Adirondack Mountain Club and chairman of the Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee from 1955 until 1982. Born August 7, 1914 in Jersey City, New Jersey, he graduated from Glens Falls High School in 1931. He received a B.S. degree in 1936 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1940 from Cornell University. He worked as a research chemist for General Electric and was the holder of eight patents. Outside of his work for General Electric, he participated in numerous environmental causes including significant work with John S. Apperson on monitoring water levels and preventing erosion on Lake George. He was also involved in numerous other campaigns in the New York State Forest Preserve as well as projects with the Niskayuna Conservation Advisory Council and the Schenectady Museum Nature Preserve. He was a trustee of the Schenectady Museum and Mohawk Valley Library Association. In 1980, Newkirk received the Oak Leaf

Award from the Nature Conservancy for his work. He lived in Schenectady, New York, for 49 years and also owned a camp on Lake George. In 1993 he and his wife relocated to Blue Hill, Maine, where he died in 2006.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative History

In 1936, John S. Apperson purchased Dome Island on Lake George to protect it from development and to preserve its wilderness character. He agreed to donate the Island to the Nature Conservancy provided an endowment fund could be raised. The idea was initiated by Dr. Alvin G. Whitney, retired from the New York State Museum and founder of the New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. On December 13, 1956, John S. Apperson executed the deed conveying Dome Island to the Nature Conservancy. A maintenance fund of \$20,000 accompanied this gift with the stipulation that it be used expressly for the Island's protection, scientific study, and education. This act created the Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee whose main goals were to implement the wishes of Apperson's will. At the time of its inception, the committee also focused on protection, surveillance, vehicle and visitor control, education, recreational use, shoreline restoration and scientific research.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Arthur E. Newkirk papers date from 1903 to 2004, with the bulk of the materials from 1942 to 2004. The collection consists of Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary records, research files, correspondence, writings, publications, photographs and other materials which document Newkirk's environmental conservation activities within the New York State Forest Preserve with a special emphasis on Lake George.

Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee records, which date from 1917 to 2004, include chronological materials relating the origin of the Nature Conservancy's committee to protect Lake George and contain scientific reports, planning summaries, articles, project descriptions, research proposals, correspondence, minutes and financial records.

Correspondence, which dates from 1945-2004, details Newkirk's outreach and advocacy efforts in exchanges of information relating pending legislation and environmental issues along with comments on drafts of articles and other sundry matters. Many of the letters contain discussions of the proposed Adirondack Northway and various matters concerning Lake George.

Research files, covering the years 1903 to 2004, document various conservation activities, projects and information regarding environmental protection in New York State. Material types include reports,

studies, postcards, publications, articles, maps, newspaper clippings and other printed materials. The series also contains writings by Newkirk including an unpublished biography of John S. Apperson.

Court records, which span the years 1942 to 1947, contain transcripts, briefs and decisions from a New York Supreme Court case of the People of the State of New York against System Properties, Inc. and the Lake George Association. The case concerned a dam on the Ticonderoga River.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

Series 1, Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee Records, 1917-2004

Series 2, Correspondence, 1945-2004

Series 3, Research Files, 1903-2004

Series 4, Court Records, 1942-1947

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Adirondack Research Library

897 St. David's Lane
Niskayuna, NY 12309

arl@union.edu

URL: <https://www.union.edu/adirondack-research-library>

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Jeanne Newkirk, July 2012.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Conservation of natural resources -- Public relations
- Environmental degradation -- Lake George (N.Y.)
- Lake conservation
- Lake George (N.Y. : Lake)
- Nature conservation -- New York (State) -- Adirondack Park
- Water levels
- Newkirk, Jeanne

Collection Inventory

Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee Records, 1917-2004

Physical Description: 0.75 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series contains records of the Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary Committee and includes scientific reports, planning summaries, news clippings, articles, project descriptions, research and grant proposals, correspondence, minutes, annual reports, proposed budgets and financial records. Records also contain historical files relating the origins of the Nature Conservancy and contain copies of John S. Apperson letters. The records and kept in their original order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dome Island scientific reports and working copies, 1961-1998	box 1	folder 1
Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary projects and long range summary, 1977-1995	box 1	folder 2
Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary committee records, 1917-2004	box 1	folder 3-5
	box 2	folder 1-3
Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary financial records, 1960-1977	box 2	folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Correspondence, 1945-2004

Physical Description: 0.76 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, mostly of a professional nature, sent to various conservationists, politicians and environmental groups regarding changes in conservation policy, information regarding pending legislation, and comments on drafts of various articles written by Newkirk. Major themes include the proposed route of the Adirondack Northway and various matters concerning Lake George. The series is arranged alphabetically by name.

Title/Description	Instances	
Beetle, David H., 1955-1957	box 2	folder 5
Begley, Owen, 1959-1964	box 2	folder 6
Brandborg, Stewart M., 1965-1968	box 2	folder 7
Byrne, Wayne H., 1953-1954	box 2	folder 8
Button, Daniel E., 1967-1969	box 2	folder 9
Coggeshall, Almy D., 1970	box 2	folder 10
Crosby, Eleanor, 1959	box 2	folder 11
Ham, Philip W., 1953-1988	box 2	folder 12
Jamison, John, 1954-1980	box 3	folder 1
Kelsey, Frederick T., 1956	box 3	folder 2
Lamb, John Jr., 1953-1957	box 3	folder 3
Lamb, John Jr., 1953	box 3	folder 4
Lowe, John T. Carr, 1954	box 3	folder 5
Mahoney, T. K., 1955	box 3	folder 6
Marshall, George, 1954-1972	box 3	folder 7
Mauhs, Sharon J., 1957-1964	box 3	folder 8
McCullogh, David G., 1969	box 3	folder 9
Miller, P. Schuyler, 1945-1975	box 3	folder 10
Mills, Borden H., 1954-1963	box 3	folder 11
Milmoe, Wheeler, 1953-1956	box 3	folder 12
Minty, R. J., 1958	box 3	folder 13
Nixon, Edgar, 1954-1960	box 3	folder 14
Pomeroy, Robert W., 1956-1965	box 3	folder 15
Porter, Morgan L., 1960-1962	box 3	folder 16
Schaefer, Paul, 1945-1958	box 3	folder 17

Smiley, Daniel, 1957-1963	box 3	folder 18
Vorbeck, Frederic L., 1959-1960	box 3	folder 19
Welch, Fey, 1954-1984	box 3	folder 20
Wemple, Clark, 1967-1971	box 3	folder 21
Whitney, Alvin G., 1954-1965	box 3	folder 22
Young, Henry L., 1957-1961	box 3	folder 23
Zahniser, Howard, 1958	box 3	folder 24
General, 1956-2004	box 3	folder 25

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Research Files, 1903-2004

Physical Description: 1.62 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Files created and maintained by Newkirk documenting various conservation activities and specific projects regarding environmental protection in New York State. Material types include reports, studies, photographs, postcards, publications, articles, maps, newspaper clippings and other printed materials. Newkirk also maintained copies of various lectures and addresses he gave while president of the Adirondack Loj Committee. As part of his outreach efforts on behalf of the Forest Preserve, he also regularly contributed articles to various magazine and newsletters. Other writings include an unpublished biography of John S. Apperson.

Title/Description	Instances	
"A skeleton biography of John Samuel Apperson," typescript, 1997	box 4	folder 1
Adirondack Northway, 1958-1965	box 4	folder 2
Adirondack postcards, 1907-1910	box 4	folder 3
Adirondack Research Center, 1980-1990	box 4	folder 4
Addresses and lectures delivered by Arthur Newkirk, 1954-1956	box 4	folder 5
Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, 1990-2003	box 4	folder 6
Dome Island, animals, 1977	box 4	folder 7
Dome Island, aquatic features, 1950-1994	box 4	folder 8
Dome Island, climate, 1961-1994	box 4	folder 9
Dome Island, erosion, 1992-2001	box 4	folder 10
Dome Island, general, 1962-2004	box 4	folder 11
Dome Island, ground penetrating radar survey, 1997-2002	box 4	folder 12
Dome Island, invasive species, 1978-1993	box 4	folder 13

Dome Island, photographs and negatives, 1981-1990	box 4	folder 14
Dome Island, plants, 1975-1988	box 4	folder 15
Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, 1949-1956	box 4	folder 16
Environmental articles, reports and papers, 1965-1990	box 4	folder 17
Forests, 1939-1998	box 4	folder 18
Forest fires, 1903-1990	box 4	folder 19
Forest Preserve Association, 1934	box 4	folder 20
John S. Apperson research and writings, 1931-2003	box 4	folder 21-22
Lake George, erosion and water levels, 1945-1958	box 4	folder 23
Lake George, general, 1940-1991	box 4	folder 24
Lake George, islands, 1920-1955	box 4	folder 25
Lake George, land grants, 1947-1948	box 4	folder 26
Lake George, photographs, 1957-1961	box 4	folder 27
Lake George, pollution, 1949-1960	box 4	folder 28-29
Lake George, summaries and reports, 1985	box 4	folder 30
Maps, 1949-1979	box 4	folder 31
Moose River Plains, 1946-1963	box 4	folder 32
Mining, undated	box 4	folder 33
The Nature Conservancy, Eastern New York Chapter newsletters, 1994-1996	box 4	folder 34
Nature preserve planning, 1959-1975	box 4	folder 35
New York State, barge canal, 1959-1960	box 4	folder 36
New York State, history, 1935-1974	box 4	folder 37
New York State, Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, 1954-1963	box 5	folder 1
Plotter Kill State Preserve, 1970	box 5	folder 2
Schenectady Museum Nature Preserve, 1987-1997	box 5	folder 3
Soil erosion and watershed protection in the Adirondack region, 1935-1936	box 5	folder 4
Tribute to David Newhouse, typescript, 1980	box 5	folder 5
Water Pollution Control Board, 1952-1953	box 5	folder 6
Whiteface Mountain, 1941-1963	box 5	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Court Records, 1942-1947

Physical Description: 0.58 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Copies of transcripts, briefs and decisions from a New York Supreme Court case of the People of the State of New York against System Properties, Inc. and the Lake George Association. Plaintiffs included Irving Langmuir, Katheryn Starbuck and John S. Apperson. The People's complaint alleged that both Lake George and Ticonderoga River are public navigable waters of the State of New York, that the operation of the dam had damaged and destroyed property of both the State and private owners in and along Lake George and has interfered with navigation and enjoyment of the lake's waters, resulting in a public nuisance.

Title/Description	Instances	
New York Supreme Court records regarding case against Lake George Association, record on appeal, 1942-1947	box 5	folder 8
	box 6	folder 1-3
Brief on behalf of defendant, 1942-1947	box 6	folder 4
Reply briefs, 1942-1947	box 6	folder 5
Briefs for plaintiff, 1942-1947	box 6	folder 6
Case decision, 1947	box 6	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)