

## **Starr Family Papers, 1889-1992**

### **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

- Creators:** Starr, James, 1870-1948  
Starr, Sarah Logan Wister, 1873-1956  
Glinske, Anna B.
- Dates:** 1889-1992 (bulk 1950s)
- Extent:** 3 boxes; 1 oversized file (1 linear foot)
- Repository:** La Salle University. Connelly Library. Department of Special Collections.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Sarah Logan Wister Starr (1873-1956), daughter of John Wister (1829-1900) and Sarah Tyler Boas Wister (1842-1922) was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. John Wister's family lived at "Belfield" from 1895 to 1922. Sarah Logan Wister married James Starr (1870-1948) at "Belfield" in 1901. She would later inherit the house (a national historic landmark now owned by La Salle University) from her mother, Sarah Tyler Boas Wister, upon her death in 1922. The Starrs—both descendants of William Penn's colonial secretary, James Logan—were the third generation of Wister descendants to live at "Belfield." They had one child, daughter Sarah Logan Starr, who married Dr. Daniel Blain in 1936.

Sarah Logan Wister Starr was very active in public service activities, serving—among much else—as the State Vice-Chairman of the World-War-One-era National League for Woman's Services and from 1921-1941 as president of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Her historical interests are reflected in her pamphlets about ancestral homes "Belfield" (1934) and "Stenton" (1938). James Starr, a Spanish-American War veteran, was a mining engineer and eventually Secretary and Director of Purchases at Madeira, Hill & Co., a coal-mining firm then headquartered in Philadelphia's Atlantic Building. Like his wife, he was involved with many Philadelphia clubs and societies; he also published a work on Chinese stamps, based in part on his own world-class collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These papers are chiefly concerned with the running of “Belfield,” with family financial matters and wills, and with the various activities and interests of the Starrs. There is also a full inventory of the contents of “Belfield” at the time of Mrs. Starr’s death in 1956.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Provenance:**

These papers come from the estate of Anna B. Glinske, once secretary to James Starr and—after his death—overseer of many of the day-to-day operations at “Belfield.” She continued in that role until January 1959. The room-use sketch of “Belfield,” stored in this collection’s oversize file, was acquired separately from a dealer by Dr. James A. Butler, Curator of the Wister Family Collection at La Salle University. That item was added to these papers in 2014.

### **Processing Information:**

These papers were acquired and arranged by Dr. James A. Butler, Curator of the Wister Family Collection at La Salle University. The papers were reprocessed in 2014 by Sarah Seraphin, Special Collections Librarian.

### **Access:**

There are no special restrictions to access of this collection. It may be examined by library patrons under the normal rules and conditions of the Department of Special Collections.

### **Use of Materials:**

The following is the acceptable citation for publication: Starr Family Papers, Department of Special Collections, Connelly Library, La Salle University.

## **CONTENTS**

### **Box 1**

- 1:1 Letter from Pennsylvania Senator James D. Cameron to John Wister, January 7, 1889
- 1:2 Sarah Logan Wister Starr—Stocks and Bonds

- 1:3 Correspondence to and from Sarah Logan Starr Blaine, much of it with Anna B. Glinske, agent for Sarah Logan Wister Starr and “Belfield”
- 1:4 Letter from Frederick B. Tolles to Sarah Logan Wister Starr, 12 January 1953
- 1:5 Documents Relating to Operation of “Belfield” as a Farm (1955-1957)
- 1:6 Operation of “Belfield” from 1953-1956
- 1:7 Auction of Possessions (personal and at “Belfield”) of Sarah Logan Wister Starr, 1957
- 1:8 Contents of Various Barrels and Boxes from “Belfield” (Items to be Sold by Freeman’s of Philadelphia), together with Day List of Activities of “Belfield” agent Anna B. Glinske from September 3, 1957, to January 6, 1959 (when First Pennsylvania Bank took over as agents of the Estate of Sarah Logan Wister Starr)
- 1:9 Extensive records of stocks and bonds owned by Starr Family (Folder 1 of 4)
- 1:10 Extensive records of stocks and bonds owned by Starr Family (Folder 1 of 2)
- 1:11 Extensive records of stocks and bonds owned by Starr Family (Folder 1 of 3)
- 1:12 Extensive records of stocks and bonds owned by Starr Family (Folder 1 of 4)

## **Box 2**

- 2:1 Estate of James Starr (1870-1948), Deceased: First and Final Account of Sarah Logan Wister Starr, Executrix—May, 1949
- 2:2 Will of Sarah Logan Wister Starr (1873-1956) —July, 1946
- 2:3 Will of John Wister (1829- 1900) —April 19, 1898
- 2:4 Will of Sarah Logan Fisher Wister(1806-1891) —December 31, 1891
- 2:5 Deed of Gift: Property of Sarah Tyler Boas Wister assigned to her daughters: Elizabeth Wister Wurts, Sarah Logan Wister Starr, Margaret Wister Meigs—June 2, 1920
- 2:6 Copy of Will of Maria Dickinson Logan (1857-1939), April 7, 1934. Filed with a letter to the National Bank of Germantown & Trust Co., April 7, 1934, about delivering a number of family pieces to historic house “Stenton” upon Maria Dickson Logan’s Death.
- 2:7 Inventory and Appraisalment of Personal Property at “Belfield,” Wister Street and Clarkson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, in the Matter of Sarah Logan Wister Starr, Guardian

Estate (Samuel T. Freeman and Company, Auctioneers and Appraisers, February 25-26, 1954) [2 copies]

- 2:8 [Removed from folder 3:7 for preservation] Newspaper clipping: “The Philadelphia Scene: Party Makes it Official- ‘Belfield’ is a Landmark,” *The Sunday Bulletin*, Philadelphia, October 23, 1966.

### **Box 3**

- 3:1 Anna B. Glinske’s Partial Inventory of Papers
- 3:2 Front Door Key to “Belfield,” ca. 1950s
- 3:3 Copy of Deed, Two Surveys, Correspondence: Wister’s (then Starr’s) House in Chester, Nova Scotia
- 3:4 Wedding Photographs (5) of James Starr and Sarah Logan Wister, “Belfield,” October 15, 1901 together with photographs (7) of Margaret Wister Meigs and her extended family, some in costume for Fort Hunter postcards together with photographs (6) of Dr. Daniel Blain, Sarah Logan Wister Blain, Daniel Blain, Jr., Dale Van Sciver Blain, Stacy Wister Blain together with photograph of Anna Glinske (Belfield agent) together with photographs (3, two the same) of the wedding of Sarah Logan Starr and Daniel Blain
- 3:5 Postcards of Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania, where Sarah Logan Wister Starr was President
- 3:6 John S. Cope, “Lines Written to Sarah Wister [later Starr] on her Engagement” [ca. 1901]; 2 copies.
- 3:7 Newspaper Clippings About “Belfield,” “Stenton,” “Grumblethorpe,” “Fort Hunter,” James Starr (1870-1948), Sarah Logan Wister Starr (1873-1956) [including typed copy of her obituary], Sarah Logan Starr Blain (1903-1978), Dr. Daniel Blain (1898-1981), Daniel Blain, Jr., Frances (Fanny) Kemble Wister Stokes (1901-1992). [See folder 2:8 for separated material]
- 3:8 Legal Case Involving Magna Charta Historical Society and Sarah Logan Wister Starr, Mary Stuart Hoge Houston, Ethel M. Dorrance, and Winifred M. M. Porter v. John Wurts, April Term, 1940
- 3:9 Income and Expenditures—Sarah Logan Wister Starr and “Belfield,” 1951-54
- 3:10 Insurance on “Belfield” Properties (ca. 1954)

- 3:11 Legal Papers (1952) on Ownership and Condition of Cottage Lane, near “Belfield,” Germantown together with receipts for renting 2118 Cottage Lane from Sarah Logan Wister Starr.
- 3:12 Financial records (1953), including Dues from Various Clubs
- 3:13 Application of Sarah Logan Wister Starr to be listed in “Blue Book of Foremost Families,” 1950
- 3:14 Payroll Book for Employees of “Belfield”, 1948-1953, kept by Sarah Logan Wister Starr
- 3:15 Correspondence in regard to James Starr’s Stamp Collecting
- 3:16 Publications:
- *History of Belfield*, by Sarah Logan Wister Starr [1934] (4 copies)
  - *History of Stenton*, by Sarah Logan Wister Starr, 1938 (2 copies)
  - *True Tales at Fort Hunter*, by Margaret Wister Meigs, 1933
  - Typescript copy of *History of Stenton*, by Sarah Logan Wister Starr
- 3:17 “The Bride’s Gift Book,” register of gifts, Sarah Logan Starr, 1936 [wedding of Sarah Logan Starr to Dr. Daniel Blain]
- 3:18 “Wedding Gifts,” register of gifts, Sarah Logan Starr, October 15, 1936 [wedding of Sarah Logan Starr to Dr. Daniel Blain]

**Oversized File:**

*[Please note, these documents are diazotype prints and should not remain exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time]*

- Item 1: Room-use sketch of “Belfield.” George B. Roberts, Architect, 1820 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dated April 20, 1956
- Item 2: Survey of “Belfield” (ca. December 1956). Prepared by C. Harry Johnson, Inc. Filed with related correspondence