



Decker, Lenox, 1888-1936. Scrapbook, 1921-1935.

Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute

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**Decker, Lenox, 1888-1936. Scrapbook, 1921-1935.
0.3 cubic ft.**

Lenox Decker was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 12, 1888. He was married to Mabel E. Davis (1888-1980), and they had one daughter Winifred (Decker) Morley (1915-1997). The Deckers resided in Locust Valley, N.Y.

Decker was a staff photographer for the *New York Times* and a contributing photographer for a number of other publications, including the *Oyster Bay Enterprise & Pilot*, *Glen Cove Echo*, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, *Vogue*, *Long Island Sketch* and *Spur*. Among the subjects he photographed were society events, scenes of life and beauty, politicians, and prominent citizens of the North Shore, many of whom were members of the richest families in the world. Much of his work was done at his studio in Glen Cove, which he later moved to Locust Valley.

The photograph that apparently launched his career was one he took of a derelict schooner that washed ashore in Bayville. He managed to catch the exact moment that the ship was blown up by members of the Coast Guard, and, according to one newspaper account, that image was published in “every newspaper in the world.”

Decker was also a court clerk in the justices’ court of Oyster Bay, Locust Valley and Hicksville, and he served as a Republican county committeeman from the 8th District in the Town of Oyster Bay.

After an illness of several months, Decker died on December 10, 1936, at North Country Community Hospital in Glen Cove. He had photographed the cornerstone laying ceremony for the hospital ten years earlier.

The scrapbook, which spans the years 1921-1935, is made up mostly of newspaper clippings of Decker photographs that appeared in the *New York Times*, *Long Island Sketch* and various other publications. Also included are letters from clients, magazine publishers and politicians; two items of Herbert Hoover political ephemera; newspaper clippings about the Taxpayer League’s suggestion to abolish three court clerk positions, including the position held by Decker; and, a local election certification document.

Noteworthy among the material in the collection is a letter dated December 10, 1934, from Congressman Robert L. Bacon of Old Westbury, N.Y., in which he expressed his sincere appreciation for the work that Decker had done in his district on behalf of Bacon and the entire Republican ticket.

Another notable item is a typed, signed letter dated November 23, 1921, from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., complimenting Decker on the quality of a certain photograph he had taken of his children.

SUBJECTS

Names:

Decker, Lenox, 1888-1936.

Subjects:

Portrait photography--New York (State)--Long Island.

Upper class--New York (State)--Long Island--Pictorial works.

Places:

Glen Cove (N.Y.)

Locust Valley (N.Y.)

Long Island (N.Y.)

Oyster Bay, (N.Y.)

Form and Genre Terms:

Scrapbooks.

Occupational terms:

Photographers.

Decker, Lenox, 1888-1936. Scrapbook, 1921-1935.

Box and Folder Listing

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title/Inclusive dates</u>
1-1	Lenox Decker Scrapbook, 1921-1935 Loose items
1-2	Unidentified portrait photographs of two different women, c.1930s. (3 items)
1-3	Hoover poster (created by Decker) and accompanying letter from Republican National Committee, 1928
1-4	Certificate of Notary Public for Lenox Decker, County Clerk's Office, Nassau County, 1930