

Collection: Lambert Family Papers

Accession Number: 2015.028

## Finding Aid

Date Range: 1848-1971

Bulk Date: 1890-1929

Creator: PCHS

Other Numbers: 1990.19, 1995.23, 1998.4, 2004.17

Containers: 2 letter flip top boxes, 1 legal flip top box, 12 individual book boxes (Various Sizes).

Storage Location: PCHS Library and Archives

Aid Created By: Patrick Byrnes, Research Specialist

**Biographical Information:**

Catholina Lambert (1834-1923) was born in the village of Goose Eye in Yorkshire, England. At age ten he was apprenticed to the Boar's Head Mill in Darley Abbey, Derbyshire. After a seven year apprenticeship he left England for the United States.

Lambert began working for Benjamin Tilt and Walter Dexter, silk manufacturers in Boston and New York. Several years later, Tilt left the company and Dexter offered Lambert a partnership. He later bought Dexter's share of the business.

Catholina married Isabella Eldridge Shattuck (1837-1901) in 1857. They had eight children, many of whom predeceased their parents. Florence Dexter Lambert, their oldest daughter was born in 1859. Florence died of typhoid pneumonia in 1883, leaving a husband and two small children. Frederick Nelson (1861-1874) died of scarlet fever at age 13, while a student at the Poughkeepsie Military Institute. Walter Stanley (1864-1943) was born in 1864. He joined the firm of Dexter, Lambert & Co. in 1885 and was Catholina's only heir. Clifford Whitfield, born in 1869, died of cholera in 1870. Percy Russel born the next year died at age 11 of scarlet fever. Chester Nicholas born in 1872, died 17 days later. Henry (Harry) Wilson born in 1875, died of nephritis in 1885.

It is not known exactly when the family moved to Paterson. In the 1860's they purchased "Maplewood," the south Paterson estate of James Close. Through the years Lambert acquired an extensive antique and art collection. By 1892, Maplewood was no longer large enough to house his vast art collection. That year work began on a new home, "Belle Vista," now known as "Lambert Castle." In 1893, the Lamberts established residence at Belle Vista.

Isabella, for whom the luxurious Castle was named, died eight years later in 1901. Several years later Catholina married Isabella's widowed sister, Harriet Estelle Shattuck Bibby (1849-1916). Harriet also predeceased Catholina.

The labor movement of 1913 brought financial difficulties to the firm of Dexter, Lambert & Co. The firm was liquidated in 1914. Finally, it was decided to sell the art collection. An auction was conducted by the American Art Galleries in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Hotel Plaza from February 21 to 24, 1916. It is estimated the collection was sold for about one third of the real value. Catholina continued to live at the Castle until his death on February 15, 1923.

Walter Stanley Lambert (1864-1943) was born in Brooklyn, New York. In 1885, Walter joined the firm of Dexter, Lambert & Co. He was also the secretary of the Coronet Silk Manufacturing Company located in the Hamil Mill, at Mill, Market and Passaic Streets in Paterson. He married Anne Elizabeth Carpenter (1865-1903) on October 20, 1887. They had two daughters, Helen and Dorothy Annie. Anne Carpenter Lambert died on July 20, 1903. Walter then married Ida M. Batsford Lord (1867-1943) on September 7, 1904. She was the widow of Alvah D. Lord (1830-1904). They had two sons, Catholina Albert and Stanley Walter. Ida Batsford and Walter Lambert both died in 1943.

Walter's youngest son, Stanley Walter Lambert was born April 12, 1908 in Hancock, New York. Stanley resided in Calverton, New York. Throughout his lifetime, he owned several businesses, one of which was the Lambert Sales Aid Equipment Company in Wyandanch, NY. He married Marie Nelson on February 17, 1974 in Huntington, New York. He died on Nov 29, 2001 in Patchogue, New York.

### **Scope and Content:**

The Lambert Family Papers is an archival collection which focuses on the life of Catholina Lambert, his only surviving child Walter and Walter's youngest son Stanley. It also contains materials from other members of the Lambert family.

This collection consists of books, manuscript, letters, newspaper articles, legal documents, school work, patents and receipts. Catholina Lambert destroyed most of his personal papers. Some of the more noteworthy items in this collection include handwritten letters from Catholina Lambert to his son Walter and the 1916 Auction catalog and "A Selection of Masterpieces from the Collection of Catholina Lambert, Belle Vista Castle, Paterson, NJ." The letters from Catholina Lambert are rare because he had many of his papers burned.

### **Series:**

The collection is organized into folders containing like items of the same subject matter. At the writing of this finding aid, the collection had already been divided into folders. For storage purposes, the books were removed from the documents and given their own archival box. The small school books were grouped together and placed in an archival box.

This collection is a combination of materials that originated with the Passaic County Historical Society and a collection acquired from the Lord House in Lordville, NY in 1997. The two collections were merged and it is now unclear which materials belonged to which collection.

For further inquiry into the Lambert family, researchers should check the Lambert Photograph Collection (2015.027), Lordville Photograph Collection (1998.18.7.2), Lambert Research Files (2015.025) and the Dexter and Lambert Business Papers (2015.026).

