

Collection: Dexter Lambert Business Files

Accession Number: 2015.026

## Finding Aid

**Date Range:** 1853-1923**Bulk Date:** 1860-1910**Creator:** PCHS**Containers:** One Letter size box, one legal size box, two boxes of books**Storage Location:** PCHS Library and Archives**Aid Created by:** Helen F. Berkenbush, Volunteer**Biographical/Historical 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. Originally a dress fittings company, Dexter, Lambert and Co. expanded within the silk manufacture industry to become one of the largest businesses operating in Paterson during its "Silk City" era.

The labor movement of 1913 brought financial difficulties to the firm of Dexter, Lambert & Co. The firm was liquidated in 1914. Catholina continued to live at the Castle until his death on February 15, 1923. At the time of this writing, it is commonly accepted that Catholina Lambert requested his papers be destroyed upon his death. While this request cannot be officially confirmed, the small quantity and scattered nature of the known documents seems to confirm this theory.

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.

**Scope and Content:**

The business records within this collection relate to both Dexter Lambert and Co. projects in Paterson, as well as the annex mills owned by the company in Pennsylvania (Honesdale and Hawley). While all of the records within this collection relate to Dexter Lambert and Co. business matters very few of the individual items have a relationship with each other. Bank drafts and checks are present but it was unknown how they related to invoices or bills that were to be paid.

Also included are several company ledgers or journals, including inventories of materials and machinery, plus receivables and/or payables. Dates are the late 1880's to 1914.

Most noteworthy are some materials related to 1913, which was a monumental year in the labor history of Paterson, New Jersey and the United States.

One file has personal items such as Walter Lambert's son sending a card to his mother. There are a few items in the personal file (#26).

**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. Some of the documents were included in the group of documents retrieved from the former home of Walter Lambert in Lordville New York in the 1990s. When acquired, these documents were interfiled by subject with the existing Lambert material within PCHS holdings, and no "Lordville" or "Walter Lambert" collection exists as such at this time.

For storage purposes, the books were removed from the documents and given their own archival boxes. The books, a gift of the Passaic County Park Commission in the 1930s, was accessioned at the time of their arrival and are therefore listed in PastPerfect as books by accession number. Their inclusion in this box list is just to provide researchers with a full picture of the Dexter Lambert and Co. records in PCHS holdings.

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 Family Papers (2015.028).