

Charles L. Patterson Family Papers, 1899?-1993?

Repository: Lawrence History Center

Accession Number: 2007.010

Creator: Patterson Family

Quantity: 1 Oversized Flat Box

Processed by: Krystal Vezina and Jennifer Williams

Access: Open for research. Some of the larger materials and negatives are fragile and have been placed in mylar enclosures. They should not be removed from them.

Provenance

This collection was created by Charles Lawrence Patterson and other members of the Patterson family while they lived in Lawrence, MA and Connecticut. The collection was donated by Charles' granddaughter, Laura LaBelle of South Windsor, CT, in 2007.

Biographical Note

Charles Lawrence Patterson was born to James and Agnes Flora (Lawrence) Patterson on April 18, 1887 in Lawrence, Mass. He had two brothers, Frank and Alfred Henry Patterson. He was a direct descendant of the John Lawrence who settled in Watertown, Mass. in the 17th century, and the family for which the city of Lawrence was named. Patterson spent his childhood in Lawrence attending the public schools. During his years at Lawrence High School he was active in the glee club and played center for the football team in 1905 and 1906. After his graduation from high school Patterson became involved in the local Grecian Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Lawrence Canoe Club. Between 1907 and 1909 he worked as a clerk in the Washington Mills. Between 1910 and 1914 he was a paymaster for the Prospect Mill.

By 1915 Patterson had moved to Ilion, New York to work for the Remington Arms & Ammunition Company as the head of the cost department. In 1916 he married Beatrice M. Parkinson, who also lived in Ilion, and the couple had three children: Margaret Lawrence Patterson, Charles R. Patterson, and William F. Patterson. In 1919, after the birth of their first child (Margaret), the couple moved from Ilion to Bridgeport, CT, where Charles continued to work for the Remington Arms & Ammunition Company as an accountant. Beginning in 1928, he became the office manager and head of accounting for the Bridgeport Housing Company. He stayed in this position until his death in 1940. Charles L. Patterson was a member of the Sixth B Republican Club and attended the Calvary Episcopal Church. He was heavily involved with both the Freemasons and Knights Templar throughout his life.

Beatrice (Parkinson) Patterson was the daughter of Robert Parkinson of Ilion, N.Y. She had a sister, Anna Parkinson, and it is unknown how many- if any- other siblings she had. Beatrice met Charles Lawrence Patterson in Ilion, N.Y., where they would eventually marry and live together. They married on October 9, 1916, at 6:00 PM in St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Beatrice is described in local papers as popular, which "was attested by many pre-nuptial events" and presents. Her first home with her husband was located at 18 Grove Street in Ilion. She had three children with Charles: Margaret, Charles, and William. She lived with Charles in Bridgeport until his death. She is not listed as having an occupation outside the home. Her exact dates of birth and death are unknown.

For more information see the family tree attached to this collection guide.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection is comprised of photographs and revolves around the life of Charles Lawrence Patterson. The subjects of these photographs include sports clubs, social events, Patterson family members, the Lawrence Canoe Club, and portraits of the entire Lawrence High School graduating class of 1906. They date between 1906 and 1918 (approximately). Also included in the collection are printed materials, including the Lawrence, Mass. Grecian Lodge Bylaws as well as diplomas and certificates awarded to Charles L. Patterson by the social and educational institutions with which he was affiliated. These materials are dated between 1899 and 1942. There are also undated genealogical notes tracing Charles L. Patterson's family lineage between 1609 and 1993, as well as wedding announcements, letters, and obituaries related to Charles Patterson and his wife that date between 1916 and 1940.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into the following three series:

- Series I. Family Records, 1916-1993?
- Series II. Printed Materials, ca. 1899- 1942
 - Subseries 1. Grecian Lodge By-Laws, 1899
 - Subseries 2. Diplomas and Certificates, 1906- 1942
- Series III. Photographs, 1906? - 1918?
 - Subseries 1. Class of 1906, 1906
 - Subseries 2. Negatives, 1918
 - Subseries 3. Miscellaneous, undated

Series I. Family Records, 1916-1993?

Box 1, folder 1

This series consists of photocopies of records relating to Charles Lawrence Patterson's lineage and family life. It includes notes tracing his family tree as far back as 1609, revealing him as a descendant of John Lawrence of Wisset, England. The notes end with the birth of Marjorie Claire LaBelle in 1993. The creator of these notes is unknown. There are also newspaper clippings discussing the marriage of Charles L. Patterson to Beatrice Parkinson in 1916 as well as Charles Patterson's death in 1940. Finally, there is a handwritten letter to Charles Patterson from his mother, which is dated July 26, 1925. Agnes Patterson mostly focuses on the goings-on of the Patterson family and their friends.

Series II. Printed Materials, 1899-1942

Subseries1, Grecian Lodge By-Laws, 1899

Box 1, folder 2

This subseries consists of a single book, *Grecian Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Lawrence, Mass. By-Laws and List of Officers and Members* from 1899. It includes not only the bylaws, but also the names and positions of every officer of the Lodge between the years of 1826 and 1899. It also contains a list of current and previous members from Methuen and Lawrence, including the date each person joined the organization. Charles L. Patterson is not listed as a member.

Subseries, Diplomas and Certificates, 1906-1942

Box 1, unfolded

This subseries contains seven diplomas and certificates awarded to Charles L. Patterson from

several of the social and educational institutions with which he was affiliated. Included are his 1906 Lawrence High School Diploma, three certificates from the Freemasons awarded between 1910 and 1916, two certificates from the Knights Templar awarded in 1914 and 1916, and one certificate from the National Machine Tool Builders Association awarded in 1942.

Series III. Photographs, 1906? - 1918?

Subseries 1, Class of 1906, 1906

Box 1, folder 3

This subseries consists of 36 senior portraits from the Lawrence High School class of 1906. This was Charles L. Patterson's graduating class, and his portrait is included. The majority of the photographs are identified, with some of the names including Arthur H. Rooney, L. H. Lawlor, Horace M. Lawrence, Helen Rollins, Florence L. Steele, and Alice C. Dorman. The originals have been removed to the Lawrence Photograph Collection for proper preservation, but photocopies are available in the collection.

Subseries 2, Negatives, 1918

Box 1, folder 4

This subseries contains original negatives from A. F. Ryder Druggist, at the corner of Essex Street and Broadway in Lawrence, Mass. As indicated on the envelope containing them, the film was developed in 1918 and cost \$1.35. The envelope contained a total of six images (as well as one blank), mostly of an unidentified baby and his/her family.

Subseries 3, Miscellaneous, undated

Box 1, folder 5

This subseries includes an assortment of undated photographs. They depict mostly social events and clubs, such as the Lawrence Canoe Club, sports groups, and a costume party, all of which Charles L. Patterson took part in. He is unidentified, but present, in the group photographs. There are also two portraits in this subseries, one of W. J. Lawrence and the other of an unidentified toddler. The originals have been removed to the Lawrence Photograph Collection for proper preservation, but photocopies are available in the collection.