

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Frederick J. Lawrence Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Frederick J. Lawrence Papers

Call Number: FM 845

Creator: Frederick J. Lawrence

Inclusive Dates: 1842-1972

Bulk Dates:

Abstract:

Quantity: 5 linear inches, 1 box

Administrative Information

Custodial History:

Preferred Citation: The Frederick J. Lawrence Papers 1842-1904, FM 845. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #:

Accession Date:

Processing Information:

Processed by Name; completed on Date.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access:

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Lawrence, Frederick Joseph, 1826-1904; Ham, John; Palmer, Erastus D.; Twitchell, Asa; Rogers, Elizabeth (Eliza) Jane, 1832-1899; Lawrence, Herbert Myron, 1851-; Lawrence, Jennie Elizabeth, 1854-; Lawrence, Annie Louise, 1859-; Palmer, Walter Launt, 1854-1932; Talmadge, Grace; Talmadge, Edward II; Beardsley, Anna Raymond, 1881-; Lawrence, Marianna Moore; Lawrence, Beardsley; Talmadge, John Gregory Raymond, 1851-1915; Talmadge, Raymond Lawrence, 1886-; Gobel, Nellie; Talmadge, Edward Chapman, II, 1888-; Talmadge, Edward Chapman, I, 1855-1947;

Organizations

New York Central Railroad Company, Tiffany Company, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Albany, NY), Knight Templar,

Subjects

Carriages and carts; coaching; Albany (New York); Choirs (Albany, N.Y.); Needleworkers; Artists; Actors; Badges; Banners; Decoration and ornament; Paint; Painters; Posters; Photographs; Textiles, Singer, Mason, Amateur theater, Inks, Varnishes, Culinary, Medicinal recipes, White House redecoration,

Places

Albany (New York); London (England); Worcester (Mass.); White House, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

Document Types

Drawings, Sketches, Inking, Photographs, Papers, Newspapers,

Titles

Biography/History of

Frederick Joseph Lawrence (1825-1904) was a prominent decorator and coach painter who resided in Albany, New York from 1863 until his death in 1904. Mr. Lawrence was born in London, England on April 7, 1825 and came to America in 1842. He was an apprentice to a Mr. John Ham of Worcester, MA as a coach painter. He

worked at this trade in Worcester until 1863, when he came to Albany. From 1864 to 1869 Lawrence worked as a decorator for the New York Central Railroad Company.

It was during the 1870's and 1880's that Mr. Lawrence built his reputation as a skilled artist and decorator, primarily by his designs of banners, badges and display posters for various private and public organizations. He also had a significant role in the redecoration of the White House in 1882, under the auspices of the Tiffany Company. Lawrence worked in several mediums, ranging from textiles to paint. The Institute's Textile Dept. has seven examples of needlework badges by Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence was also an accomplished singer and member of the choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Albany for 28 years. He was also a longtime Mason (Knight Templar) and member of an Albany amateur theater group. Erastus D. Palmer and Asa Twitchell were contemporaries and associates of Lawrence. Lawrence married Elizabeth Jane Rogers on November 6, 1850. They had three children: Herbert Myron Lawrence, b. November 19, 1851; Jennie Elizabeth Lawrence, b. June 24, 1854; and Annie Louise Lawrence, b. August 7, 1859. Herbert Myron Lawrence became a well known artist in his own right and was a friend and associate of Walter Launt Palmer, who was best man at his wedding.

Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection

Lawrence's business papers include his naturalization decree (1851), his indenture of apprenticeship (1843), a household notebook containing recipes for paints, inks, and varnishes used in Lawrence's craft, as well as some 19th century culinary and medicinal recipes. There are also numerous newspaper clippings describing Lawrence's work on banners and badges, his role in the White House redecoration, and other projects. Included are numerous rough drawings, sketches and inkings by Lawrence.

Personal items of note include two letters Lawrence's mother (1840's), a letter to his wife written in poetic verse (1875), two Valentine's to the future Mrs. Lawrence (1840's), and wedding announcements from son Herbert's and daughter Annie's weddings. There are four photographs (most likely Daguerreotypes) in velvet lined metal cases that appear to date from the late 19th century and are unidentified.

Mr. Lawrence's papers eventually wound up in the hands of Grace Tallmadge, wife of Edward Tallmadge II, Lawrence's grandson by his daughter Annie. There is a folder containing papers of the Tallmadge family dating from the first half of the 20th century, along with genealogical information on the Rogers and Bishop families (Lawrence's wife's antecedents).

Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection

- Box 1, Folder 1. Business Papers, 1843-1904.
- Folder 2. Personal Papers, 1842-1904.
- Folder 3. Edward Tallmadge Papers, 1900-1972.
- Folder 4. Four Daguerreotypes, with one loose photograph

Folder 5. Five newspapers – late 19th century

Related Material

N/A

Separated Materials

N/A

Other Finding Aids

Previous finding aid exists (from which information for biography and scope and contents notes was taken).

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series #	Box	Folder	Series Title
1	1	1	Business Papers, 1843-1904
2	1	2	Personal Papers, 1842-1904
3	1	3	Edward Tallmadge Papers, 1900-1972.
4	1	4	Four daguerreotypes in metal cases and one loose photograph.
5	1	5	Newspapers – late 19 th century