

SAWYER FAMILY COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Sawyer Family, especially Janet Sawyer Appleyard
- Title:** Sawyer Family Collection
- Dates:** 1826 -- 2018
- Abstract:** This collection contains information about the Sawyer and allied families, including Annesley, Bark, Patterson and Fairbanks, and about the firm of J.E. Sawyer, of Glens Falls, NY, which was owned and operated by the Sawyer family for over 100 years. For a complete list of families, see below.
- Quantity:** 7.5 cf
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

HISTORICAL NOTE

J.E. Sawyer & Co. was founded in 1883, when Joseph Edward Sawyer bought out his employer, the Glens Falls Hub and Spoke Co., for \$7,459.88. He had been the bookkeeper and salesman for the company, which was located on Lower Warren St. in Glens Falls. The company moved to a larger building at 26 Warren, where it stayed until 1894. At this time Mr. Sawyer's brother-in-law, James M. Patterson, joined the firm. In 1894 the firm moved to 88 Glen St., the corner of Glen and Park streets. They moved again to 30 Warren Street, next door to the previous site, and in 1914 the company made its last move, to the top of Glen Street Hill. In 1917 the business was incorporated. The Board of Directors were: Mr. Sawyer, William Gleason, and Robert E. Patterson, another brother-in-law. A major addition was added in 1971 to the main 4 story building to house increased steel, warehousing and shipping and receiving facilities.

In 1992 the owners of the company agreed to sell it to their employees, over a 15 year time span .By 1999, the employees had bought out the company. In 2009 they considered selling the building and moving the hardware and plumbing division to leased

space elsewhere in Warren County, but that plan did not come to fruition.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Joseph Edward Sawyer was born in Pottersville, Warren County, NY, March 31, 1851, to Milton and Thankful Sawyer. Milton Sawyer ran a series of tanneries in the North Country.

Joseph Sawyer came to Glens Falls as a young man, working first for Russell Hollis and then for the Glens Falls Hub and Spoke factory. When he purchased that business from his employer, the firm of J.E. Sawyer was created. He remained at the helm of the firm until his death in 1919, and members of the family continued to own and operate the firm after his death.

In 1877, Joseph Sawyer married Mary Patterson, a daughter of Rev. Robert and Sarah Patterson. They were the parents of (at least) four children. Their first child, Harold Annesley Sawyer, died of scarlet fever at the age of two, in May 1883. He was being cared for by his grandparents, Rev. Robert Patterson and his wife Sarah, probably because his mother, Mary, had given birth to twins, Charles and Dwight, on February 28th of that year. Their last child, Margery, was born May 30, 1892.

The Sawyers were members of Christ Church, Methodist, in Glens Falls. In addition to being president of J.E. Sawyer and Co., Joseph Sawyer was a Director of the Glens Falls Trust Company.

He died at the age of 68 at his summer home at Pilot's Knob on Lake George, August 23, 1919. He is interred in the Sawyer family plot in Glens Falls Cemetery. The bearers at his funeral, which took place from his home at 155 Ridge Street, were his brother Dwight H. Sawyer; his brothers-in-law Charles R. Patterson, Robert E. Patterson, and Dr. William A. Patterson, and his nephews Arthur Sawyer and Rev. Fred Sawyer.

All of his children graduated from college and both sons became medical doctors. Both attended Wilbraham Academy and Wesleyan University. Charles went to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dwight to Johns Hopkins. Both moved to Yonkers, New York, and both also served as president of J.E. Sawyer & Co. Margery graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore, and returned to live in Glens Falls, and work in the family firm. Like her brothers, she was president of J.E. Sawyer & Co, at the time of her death in 1971.

Margery was succeeded in the presidency by Charles Appleyard, the husband of Janet Fairbanks Sawyer Appleyard, the daughter of Dr. Charles R. Sawyer. Janet, the gatherer of this collection, retired as Corporate Secretary of J.E. Sawyer, the firm her grandfather founded.

Janet Sawyer Appleyard was born May 27, 1929, in Yonkers, NY, the daughter of Dr. Charles R. and Marion (Bark) Sawyer. She was educated at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, and graduated from Finch College. She married Charles H. Appleyard on September 12, 1953, in Yonkers. Janet and Charles Moved to Glens Falls in 1960, when Charles went to work at J.E. Sawyer.

The Appleyards had two children, Suzanne and James. The family belonged to the First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls. Janet was a member of the Jane McCrea Chapter of the DAR, serving as registrar for many years. Janet died on September 24, 2018.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

This collection contains information about the Sawyer and allied families, including Annesley, Bark, Patterson and Fairbanks, and about the firm of J.E. Sawyer, of Glens Falls, NY, which was owned and operated by the Sawyer family for over 100 years. For a complete list of families, see below. It includes genealogical research done by Janet Sawyer Appleyard, photographs, diaries, correspondence, published works, artifacts and ephemera.

INDEX TERMS

- Places:** Yonkers, Westchester, NY
Glens Falls, Warren, NY
- Subjects:** J.E. Sawyer Company
Sawyer Family
Genealogy
- Important People:** Sawyer, Joseph E.
Sawyer, Charles
Sawyer, Dwight
Sawyer, Janet
- Form/Genre:** Photographs; Journals/ Diaries/ Autograph books/ Baby books;
Published works; Letters; Framed Prints; artifacts.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Sawyer Family Collection
The Folklife Center at
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated to the Folklife Center by members of the Sawyer family April 10, 2019.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2020.
Inventory by Dana Stimpson, 2019.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Series 1: Genealogy

This series contains folders of genealogical information compiled by Janet Sawyer Appleyard. Items date from 1902 – 1999, with the bulk of the material from the 1980s. The folders include Family Group Sheets, a few photographs, clippings and copies from newspapers and genealogy periodicals, and correspondence, including responses to queries Mrs. Appleyard submitted to genealogy periodicals. Mrs. Appleyard kept carbon copies of her letters, along with the letters she was answering. She used whatever paper was handy for her carbon copies, so a 1985 letter may be on the back of a 1965 Trust Account statement.

Folders are arranged alphabetically, in 3 document boxes.

Box 1

- Annesley
- Annesley Bible Records
- Barghousen/Bark
- Barsham
- Beaman
- Billings
- Capen
- Collins
- Davis
- Drake
- Fairbanks (2 folders)
- Fisher
- French
- Frost
- Fuller

Box 2

- Gates
- Gay
- Hapgood
- Harwood

Haynes
 Heald/Held
 Houghton
 Howe
 King
 LaCasse
 Linton
 Mallinson
 Merriam
 Norcross
 Noyes
 Patterson (4 folders)

Box 3

Perry (includes photos)
 Prescott
 Rice (Beaman)
 Sawyer – (5 folders) includes some personal family correspondence and pictures
 Sawyer Bible Records
 Treadway/Haynes/Harwood
 Waters
 Wheeler
 Whitcomb
 White
 Wilder
 Willard
 Various and miscellaneous families
 Vital records copies

Box 4

Two binders of Family Group sheets and 15 generation pedigree chart for Janet Fairbanks Sawyer.
 Box of "Sawyer Records with Gravestones [photos]"

Series 2: Photographs (largely from boxes 3 and 4 of inventory)

Box 1

3 Nineteenth Century photo albums, with pictures of members of the Sawyer, Patterson, LaTourette, Annesley and other families, almost all identified.

1) 10.5 inches x 8.5 inches x 2.5 inches; green velvet cover, original latch is missing. Photos are Cabinet size or smaller.

2) 6 inches x 5 inches by 2 inches, green leather cover, missing latch. Carte de visite size photos.

3) same as above, only it has its latch.

13 cased photographs (tintypes or daguerreotypes).

Small box of negatives

Box 2

18 1-gallon plastic bags of photographs, from Inventory Box 4.

Box 3 – Folders

Annesley, Isaac
Bark
Bark Mantels
Color prints with negatives
French
Patterson

Box 4 – Folders

Sawyer – 3 folders
Unidentified

Box 5

Folder of oversize photos of R.P.Patterson
2 envelopes of oversize color photos – Sawyer house and store
3 albums
 Binder (candy apple cover): copies of tintypes
 Album (red cover) 1960s and 70s
 “Photographs” green cover 1929 - 1963

Series 3: Journals/Diaries/Autograph Books/Baby books

Box 1:

Sarah Annesley, 1825 – 27, 1837
Marguerite Annesley, Albany, NY 1826
Sarah Annesley 1837
Marguerite Annesley, Albany, NY 1858
Henry H. Patterson 1871
West Sand Lake M.E. Church subscription book 185_; & Schroon
Lake 1878
“Sundry Accts” and “One Day Mrs. Kirkbride”

Box 2:

Rev. Robert Patterson’s Journal 1881
J[oseph] E[dward] Sawyer, Glens Falls, NY, Daily Diary 1883
?Mary Sawyer/ 1884
Insurance Book 1862 and “Recollections of Harold. . .1887” Note:
Harold was the son of J.E. and Mary who died at age 2 in 1883.
Memories of Harold
“1904, Nov. 1 My Dear Father’s birthday...”
Margery A. Sawyer, 155 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY 1909
Margery Annesley Sawyer, 155 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY, 1910

Box 3 (flat box):

Scrapbook, brown cover, 12 inches x 12.5 inches. The life and achievements of Charles H. Appleyard.

Janet's baby book

Jim's baby book

Series 4: Correspondence

Binder: 7.5 inches x 10 inches containing typed paraphrases of family letters. On the first page: "Each paragraph is one letter. No 1912 letters. There were many letters written by both Dwight [Sawyer] and Margery [Sawyer], but only the ones by Charles [Sawyer] were read and paraphrased."

Bags:

Letter to Milton Sawyer re deed.

Annesley letters 1830s and 1840s

Family letters 1850s

Family letters 1870s

Sawyer letters 1880s

Sawyer letters 1890-1899

Family letters 1900-1909

Sawyer letters 1910 – 1919

Sawyer letters 1920s

Sawyer letters 1930s

Letters to Margery Sawyer 1940s

Sawyer letters 1950s

Sawyer letters 1960s

Janet to Aunt Margery

Janet to Charles Appleyard

Series 5: Art - Primarily framed prints

1. "Glenns Falls/ No. 6 of the Hudson River Port Folio." Published by Henry G. Megary, New York. Painted by W.G. Wall. Engraved by I. Hill.
23.5 inches x 29 inches (14 inches x 20.75 inches).
Colored engraving showing the falls and the wooden bridge across the falls.
2. "Bridge at Glens Falls (on the Hudson)", painted by W. H. Bartlett, engraved by F.W. Topham. 11 inches x 13 inches (7 inches x 9 inches). Framed, colored print. This is the print from which the painting by John Broadhead Crandell, hanging in the Folklife Center reading room) is taken.
Pencilled note on the back says: "Allen and Robert Patterson's maternal grandmother was the last person to cross this bridge before it collapsed. Bridge erected in 1790."

3. Framed photograph of the 1884 bridge across the Hudson at Glens Falls. 10 inches x 12 inches (5 inches x 7 inches). Pencilled note on the back: "Old wood covered bridge at Glens Falls, NY. 1884. From Walt Munger and Ed Van Deusen, Sept. 11, 1935."
4. Framed colored print of a photograph. 8.75 inches x 11.75 inches (image 4.5 inches x 7.5 inches). Printed below the image: Original Home of J.E. Sawyer Co. 1883.
5. Framed print, color, in art deco style, of a woman holding a sheaf of wheat and a jug, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Old Print Shop, 1902, Annesley & Co., Albany. Signed by S.L. Huntley, 1901. Lists proprietors of the shop.
6. Matted but not framed: watercolor 7.5 inches x 9.75, including matte. The painting shows a laborer wearing blue pants and a cream shirt carrying two baskets of fruit hanging from a shoulder yoke. Penciled in lower left corner "Pernambucano." On verso, upper right "No. 13."
7. Painting on lace 4 inches x 5.75 inches. Five Medieval-looking laborers with 2 large jugs and a barrel.

All of the above are shelved in the ART section of the archives storage room.

Series 6: Published works

- A. An Erlanger's box full of 1976 magazines, which Janet Appleyard intended to be saved until 2076.
The following have been discarded: *Reader's Digest*, *Life*, *Modern Maturity*, *Woman's Day*, *Time* (2 issues), *National Geographic*, *Burpee Seeds* (catalog)
The following have been retained (for the time being): Old Farmer's Almanac [added to the Almanac Collection], the Glens Falls phone book and the St. John's Church (Yonkers) Bicentennial Fair booklet.
- B. Carter, Amory. Sawyers in America, or, A History of the Immigrant Sawyers. 1883. Shelved in reading room.
- C. Sawyer, Fred E. (compiler) Genealogical Index of the Sawyer Families of New England Prior to 1900. 1983. Shelved in reading room.
- D. Stoddard's Illustrated Auto-Road Map of the Adirondacks. 1911. Added to Folklife Center map collection.
- E. Stoddard, S.R. Lake George, Illustrated. 1884. Added to "Guides" collection.
- F. Possons, Chas. H. A Short Talk About Glens Falls, 1892. 2 copies. One says "Compliments of J.E. Sawyer" on cover.
- G. The Battle of Lake George (from Holden's History of Queensbury). Pamphlet. N.d., n.p.
- H. Season's Greetings – 1983 100 years of J.E. Sawyer & Co. Xerox of typescript.
- I. World War I Memoirs of Robert P. Patterson, 2012

- J. Memoire of Robert P. Patterson from the New York City Bar Association
- K. Memoire of Robert P. Patterson
- L. Catalog of the Fort Edward Institute, 1859 – 1860
- M. Buchman, Sunny with Paul Buchman. Precious Window of Time, 2011
- N. Catalog J.E. Sawyer, No. 6. (ca. 1889?)
- O. Book of Common Prayer, 1816; owned by Joseph Sawyer 1817, and Aaron Sawyer 1839.
- P. Glens Falls phone book 1975-76
- Q. Bicentennial Fair program, St. John's Church, Yonkers, NY, 1975

Series 7: Textiles – moved to Folk Art & Artist Collection

Lace handkerchief, 10 inches x 10 inches; carried at the weddings of 1) Marion Bark, age 24, marrying Charles R. Sawyer, age 35, on December 12, 1918; and 2) Janet F. Sawyer, age 24, marrying Charles H. Appleyard, age 26.

Quilt, multicolored, log cabin design n red backing, 39 inches x 71 inches; made by Sarah Patterson.

Quilt, appliqued pink and green flowers on white backing, 67 inches x 92 inches; made by Harriet Perry Bark (1868-1948).

Quilt, patchwork, multicolored square pieces 3 ¼ inches x 3 ¼ inches) on pink backing. & 0 inches x 70 inches; made by Harriet Perry Bark (1868-1948).

Hooked rug, pink, blue, purple, yellow, green flowers in black background, 34 inches x 49 inches.

Hooked rug, pink, blue, purple, yellow, green flowers in black background, 30 inches x 49 inches.

Series 8: Ephemera and Miscellaneous

2 empty shirt boxes, flattened. One from Fowler's and one from Erlanger's, both well-known clothing stores in Glens Falls.

Memo pad from J.E. Sawyer & Co.

Leather postcard with lobster

Flat felt "doll"

An-Historical Guide to Glens Falls and Vicinity, 1931

Menu from reception for Floyd Bennett (signed)

Folder of misc. letters and newsclippings

Box: 4 inches x 4 inches x 1.5 inches containing artifacts from the vicinity of Fort William Henry. Rough identification by John Schroeter, May 1, 2019:

1. Rosehead Wrought Nail, whole, 7 cm
2. Rosehead Wrought Nail, fragment, 6.3 cm.
3. Rosehead Wrought Nail, fragment, 4.6 cm
4. Rosehead Wrought Nail, fragment, 1.3 cm
5. Unidentified wrought nail fragments (2)
6. Scrap lead (2)
7. Iron open thimble (no top?)
8. Scabbard holder, fragment, 4.5 cm
9. Spoon fragment (missing most of handle) probably pewter,
7.5 cm
Let 18th- early 19th century
10. Folded ferrous strapping pieces
11. Slag
12. Non-ferrous metal fragment
13. Stemmed projectile point fragment, 8 cm, stem missing.
Probably Woodland Period (1000 – 1500 AD)
14. Ferrous, possible lock part, 6.5 x