

Lester Family Papers – Modified Finding Aid

Date Finding Aid Created: Unknown, circa 2008. Updated 5/6/2011 by Melissa Tacke. Updated 3/10/2020 by Marietta Carr.

Note: Original donation (series 1-5) was not assigned accession number prior to processing. Original finding aid included information about subsequent donation (accession number 2008.21). Entire processed collection has been included in PastPerfect under number 2008.21). Original donation (series 1-5) is missing as of 3/10/2020. The full finding aid describes the missing materials. The addendum described in this modified finding aid is one half-size letter document box.

Biographical Information:

David H. R. Lester:

David “Howard” Russell Lester appears to have been born in or around 1905, to parents Whittlesey D. B. Lester and Stella S. Lester, who initially lived in Coeymans, Albany, New York, before moving to Schenectady. Lester eventually became a doctor, and is pictured in the Schenectady County Medical Society’s yearbook photograph for 1937, at which time he lived at 905 State Street, Schenectady. David Howard R. Lester was in medical practice with his father, Whittlesey D.B. Lester. Whittlesey D. B. Lester lived at 1852 State Street until his death in 1941.

Catherine Garrison Lester:

Catherine Garrison was born on June 13, 1905, and died on May 14, 2000. Catherine’s mother died when she was ten years old. Catherine attended the Ellis School of Nursing. She became a Registered Nurse (R.N.), and was very involved with Ellis Hospital. She was active in the P.T.A. in the public schools. She and David Howard R. Lester were married and then divorced. She was not listed as living on State Street until the mid-1950s. David Howard R. Lester married a second time to a woman by the name of Alice. David Howard moved to Reno, Nevada.

David A.W. Lester:

David Allen Whittlesey Lester was born in 1936, the son of David H.R. Lester and Catherine Garrison Lester. After graduating from Hartwick College in 1958, he earned a Master’s degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam in 1962. Lester served as a teacher in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District for many years. He died on September 30, 2006. His life partner was Linda Post at the time of his death. His sisters were Cathy Meyers and Kimberly Lester Puglisi.

Notes taken during a phone call to Linda Post about her February 2008 donation--

Linda Post was the executor of an estate consisting of a 13-room house full of artifacts. She chose to donate to the Historical Society because the Lester family had been living in Schenectady for several generations and was prominent in the health field in the city.

Scope and Content:

These materials are comprised of an addition to the original donation. This addendum was received in February 2008. These materials include numerous photographs and photographic negatives. Most photographs are family photographs and portraits, including photographs of David H.R. Lester, David A.W. Lester, Dr. W.D.B. Lester, and Mary Whittlesey Lester (great grandmother of David A.W. Lester). Many photographs contain no identifying information or dates. In addition to photographs, the addendum to the collection contains numerous programs from musical performances at the State Street Presbyterian Church, where David A.W. Lester served as organist and choir director, and the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Junior High School, where he served as the school's vocal specialist.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1	1	Catherine Lester – Miscellany – 1935-1997
1	2	David A.W. Lester – Correspondence – 1960, 1964
1	3	David A.W. Lester – Newspaper clippings & miscellany – 1953-1962, n.d.
1	4	David A.W. Lester – Programs – Albany/Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake – 1951, 1959-1968
1	5	David A.W. Lester – Programs – Schenectady Protestant church music (First Presbyterian and First Reformed) – 1949-1969, 1980
1	6	David H.R. Lester – narrative of Vermont trip – 1940
OS	OS	David H.R. Lester – Diploma – 1954 [in Spanish]
1	7	Howard Lester, Jr. – Correspondence – 1942
1	8	Photographs – 1901-1962 & n.d. [1 of 3]
1	9	Photographs – 1901-1962 & n.d. [2 of 3]
1	10	Photographs – 1901-1962 & n.d. [3 of 3]