

# GEORGE H. CATLIN PAPERS

## FINDING AID

### DESCRIPTION

Title	George H. Catlin Papers
Repository	Lackawanna Historical Society
Accession no.	
Dates	1830–1949; bulk 1865–1935
Extent	3 boxes
Aid prepared by	Jonathan W. Wilson, 2019

### BIOGRAPHY

George Henry Catlin (b. Shoreham, Vt., Aug. 26, 1845; d. Scranton, Pa. June 8, 1935) was an attorney, banker, and philanthropist. (He was a cousin of the more famous George Catlin, a painter of the American West, who was born in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, in 1796.) His home in Scranton, the George H. Catlin Memorial House at 232 Monroe Avenue, was bequeathed to the Lackawanna Historical Society in 1942. It houses the society's offices, collections, and records.

Catlin received his early education at Newton Academy in Shoreham, Vermont, and at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts (class of 1863). In New York, he attended Union College before enrolling at Albany Law School, where he was listed in the 1865-1866 class. He received an M.A. degree from Lafayette College in 1867. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from Middlebury College in 1920.

Following admission to the New York bar in 1867, he joined the New York City law firm of Pope, Thompson, and Catlin. The same year (Sept. 4, 1867), he married Mary Wodrow Archbald, the sister of one of his Union College friends, at her parents' home in Scranton. A Presbyterian minister solemnized the marriage, although George had been an Episcopalian. Mary was the daughter of Augusta Frothingham Archbald and James Archbald, who was the chief engineer of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) Railroad. The couple moved to Scranton in 1870 at Mary's request, moving into the Archbald family home on Ridge Row near Monroe Avenue.

In Scranton, Catlin became, in 1872, one of the incorporators and original directors of the Third National Bank, which he served as vice president for 25 years. He also became a director of the Scranton Savings Bank, the Scranton Street Railway Company, the Erie and Wyoming Valley Railroad Company, and the Crown Point Iron Company, among other business concerns. In addition, he became one of the largest shareholders in the DL&W Railroad.

In 1912, Catlin built a new fifteen-room home, designed by the architect Edward Langley, on three lots of the Archbald homestead on Monroe Avenue. Occupying three and a half acres in all, the new mansion faced the home of Joseph Hand Scranton (now the Scranton Estate, owned by the University of Scranton).

As a philanthropist, Catlin supported a number of charitable and recreational associations in the Scranton area and elsewhere. He served as a trustee of Scranton's First Presbyterian Church, where he was a congregant, and served as a philanthropic patron of his parents' Congregationalist town church in Shoreham. In politics, he was a longtime supporter of the Republican Party, opposing labor activism and the New Deal.

On January 10, 1904, following Mary's death (April 26, 1902), George married Helen Walsh, who lived until April 15, 1942. There were no children from either marriage. George died on June 8, 1935. His will directed that upon Helen's death (in 1942), their home be given to the Lackawanna Historical Society as the George H. Catlin Memorial for the benefit of the people of Scranton.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The collection comprises papers left at George H. Catlin's death, including miscellaneous family records, personal correspondence, property ownership records, and assorted business and charitable records. Except for the accounts of Bellemead Farm, which have been retained in the order of original fastened bundles (including some date discrepancies), no original order is known.

#### INVENTORY

##### **Box 1**

##### *Family Papers*

##### **Family History, Genealogy, and Biography**

Folder 1: Catlin family coat of arms (n.d., 1972)

Folder 2: List of books from "Grandmother's Library" (n.d./early 19<sup>th</sup> cen.)

Folder 3: Sketches of Mary Archbald's family tree (n.d./19<sup>th</sup> cen.)

Folder 4: Notes on Catlin family history in Connecticut (n.d.)

Folder 5: Stationery and note on the Catlin family crest (n.d.)

Folder 6: Catlin genealogical manuscript fragments (n.d.)

Folder 7: Newspaper clippings on prominent Catlins (n.d., 1906-1972)

- Folder 8: Wodrow family genealogy (1870)
- Folder 9: George H. Catlin genealogy (1885, ca. 1905)
- Folder 10: Correspondence about Catlin coat of arms (1885, 1886)
- Folder 11: Letter from L. Catlin to George H. Catlin (1886)
- Folder 12: Invoice for genealogical research services (1886)
- Folder 13: Correspondence with "Cousin Lucia" about family history (1886)
- Folder 14: Note on origin of Catlin name and arms (ca. 1874-1895)
- Folder 15: Letters from George L. Catlin to George H. Catlin, and genealogy of George Lynde Catlin (1893, 1895)
- Folder 16: Letter from William Ten Eyck Hardenbrook (1897)
- Folder 17: Handwritten Catlin genealogy (1913)
- Folder 18: Obituary of Sen. Sterling Ross Catlin (1919)
- Folder 19: Description and engraving of powder horn attributed to painter George Catlin (1929)
- Folder 20: Letter from Emma Toedteberg, Long Island Historical Society, to S. Fletcher Weyburn (1930)
- Folder 21: Letter from Margaret Kanaly, Vermont Historical Society, to S. Fletcher Weyburn (1930)
- Folder 22: Letter from Esther Jerabek, Minnesota Historical Society, to S. Fletcher Weyburn (1930)
- Folder 23: Letter from Mrs. B. Lien, Easton, Minnesota, to S. Fletcher Weyburn (1948)

## **Marriage**

- Folder 24: Letter from Mary to George H. Catlin (1865)
- Folder 25: Wedding invitations for Mary Archbald and George H. Catlin (1867)
- Folder 26: Marriage certificate for Mary Archbald and George H. Catlin (1867)
- Folder 27: Letter from Theodore Hopkins, Vermont Episcopal Institute, to George H. Catlin (1867)

## **Personal Correspondence**

- Folder 28: Three calling cards for George and “Mrs.” Catlin (n.d.)
- Folder 29: Letter from Lucy A. Frayer to Mary Catlin (n.d.)
- Folder 30: Letter from Fannie R. Weeks to “Mrs.” Catlin (n.d.)
- Folder 31: Letter from Washington Frothingham to George H. Catlin (n.d.)
- Folder 32: Ten letters from M. A. Archbald to her son James Archbald (1830-1835)
- Folder 33: Letter from James Archbald to “my dear Augusta” (1855)
- Folder 34: Letter from L. A. F. Archbald to her children (1873)
- Folder 35: Two letters from Albert L. Catlin to “my dear nephew” (1876, 1878)
- Folder 36: Letter from “Cousin George” to Mary Catlin (1877)
- Folder 37: Letter from Albert L. Catlin to “my dear niece Mary” (1879)
- Folder 38: Two letters from “Aunt Jennie” to “my dear nephew” (1883, 1889)
- Folder 39: Three letters from Austin Holden to George H. Catlin (1885, 1889)
- Folder 40: Two letters from Lucy A. Frayer to Mary Catlin (1887, n.d.)
- Folder 41: Letter from “Grandma” to Mary Catlin (1888)
- Folder 42: Letter from R. B. Grinnell to George H. Catlin (1888)
- Folder 43: Letter from Davis Jones to George H. Catlin (1890)
- Folder 44: Letter from Clara Barton, American Red Cross, to Lucy Frayer (1890)
- Folder 45: Letter from James Jeffries, former La. governor, to George H. Catlin (1898)
- Folder 46: Letter from Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler to George H. Catlin (1899)
- Folder 47: Letter from Bessie Archbald to “Uncle Catlin” (1900)
- Folder 48: Letter from E. F. Bradley to George H. Catlin (1900)
- Folder 49: Partial Itinerary of European and Middle Eastern Tour (1908)
- Folder 50: Two letter fragments from Sicily, Italy (1908)

Folder 51: Letter from Alfred Twining to George H. Catlin (1915)

Folder 52: Letter from Judge Alonzo T. Searle to George H. Catlin (1920)

Folder 53: Four letters from John M. Thomas to George H. Catlin (1921-1932)

Folder 54: Three letters to or from H. Everett Hull, with certificate of appointment (1923)

Folder 55: Letter from James Archbald to George H. Catlin (1929)

### **Catlin House Bequest**

Folder 56: Provisions of codicil to George H. Catlin will, with duplicates (1935)

### **Box 2**

#### *Shoreham, Vt., Papers*

Folder 1: Map of Catlin homestead, Shoreham, Vt. (n.d.)

Folder 2: Shipping receipts for granite from R. B. Anderson (1876)

Folder 3: Receipt for payment of freight charges, White Star Line (1876)

Folder 4: Receipt for purchase of granite headstone from R. B. Anderson (1876)

Folder 5: Five letters from R. B. Anderson to George H. Catlin (1876)

Folder 6: Letter from William Alexander Smith and Co., bankers, to George H. Catlin (1876)

Folder 7: Photographic print of the Congregational Church of Shoreham (1894)

Folder 8: Letter from Rev. S. B. Dunn, Congregational Church, to George H. Catlin (1895)

Folder 9: Letter from Clayton N. North to George H. Catlin (1895)

Folder 10: Handbill for a lecture by Rev. S. B. Dunn (1895)

Folder 11: Letter from the Congregational Church of Shoreham to George H. Catlin and Ella Catlin (1904)

Folder 12: Letter from T. A. Carlson to George H. Catlin (1904)

Folder 13: Notice of a town meeting about the donation of a town clock by George H. Catlin (1905)

Folder 14: Letter from Anne B. North, Daughters of the American Revolution, to George H. Catlin (1910)

Folder 15: Letter from "Ed" to George H. Catlin (1916)

Folder 16: Letter from Richard H. Preble to George H. Catlin (1917)

Folder 17: Two letters from J. L. DeWitt, Simonds Lodge No. 59, to George H. Catlin (1925, 1926)

Folder 18: Letter from Florence Howard Wetherell to George H. Catlin (1930)

### *Educational Papers*

#### **Phillips Academy Andover**

Folder 19: Letter from Carl W. Hamilton to George H. Catlin (1925)

Folder 20: Donation acknowledgment from Phillips Academy to George H. Catlin (1931)

#### **Union College**

Folder 21: Two letters from Midshipman C. Belknap, U.S. Naval Academy, to George H. Catlin (1865)

Folder 22: Season ticket for Union College athletic games (1916)

Folder 23: Letter from Rev. George Alexander, First Presbyterian Church, N.Y., to George H. Catlin (1921)

Folder 24: Letter from J. Newton Fiero, N.Y. state reporter, to George H. Catlin, with enclosed partial list of surviving Union College classmates (1928, 1930)

Folder 25: Letter from Frank P. Day, president of Union College, to George H. Catlin (1932)

Folder 26: Letter from C. N. Walden, Union College Graduate Council, to George H. Catlin, with photograph of Union College garden (1934)

#### **Albany Law School**

Folder 27: Placeholder folder: George H. Catlin autograph book, Albany Law School (original located in second floor library bookcase), with catalogue description and three photographs (1866)

Folder 28: Email from Lisa Suto, Albany Law School Library, to Lackawanna Historical Society: with photocopied records of George H. Catlin's education at Union College and Albany Law School (1866-2016)

Folder 29: Letter from J. Newton Fiero, dean, Albany Law School (1923)

Folder 30: Announcement for Seventy-Ninth Year, Albany Law School (1929)

### **Lafayette College**

Folder 31: Letter from Rev. W. C. Cattell, president of Lafayette College, to George H. Catlin (1868)

Folder 32: Draft partial fundraising letter for Scientific School of Lafayette College (n.d.)

Folder 33: Letter from Dorothy Allen, Lackawanna Historical Society, to the dean of academic affairs, Lafayette College (1986)

### **Middlebury College**

Folder 34: Letter from E. W. Drinker to George H. Catlin (1920)

Folder 35: Letter from Walter B. Vincent, associate justice, Supreme Court of Rhode Island (1920)

Folder 36: Letter from Harry C. Trexler to George H. Catlin (1920)

Folder 37: Two letters from C. N. Walden, Union College Graduate Council (1920)

Folder 38: Letter from Paul D. Moody, president of Middlebury College, to George H. Catlin (1934)

### *Business Papers*

#### **Legal Profession**

Folder 39: Seven business cards for Pope, Thompson & Catlin (n.d.)

Folder 40: Model text for wills, firm of Pope, Thompson & Catlin (1860s)

Folder 41: Letter from John T. Pope, of Pope, Thompson & Catlin, to George H. Catlin (1867)

Folder 42: Receipt for payment of federal occupation tax (1868)

#### **Banking and Shareholding**

- Folder 43: Records of the Third National Bank (n.d., 1872-1928)
- Folder 44: Handwritten notes on banking transactions (n.d., 1880, 1890)
- Folder 45: Two-dollar bank note, Lowell's College Bank, Binghamton, N.Y. (1877)
- Folder 46: Statement to depositors and stockholders, Scranton Savings Bank (1878)
- Folder 47: Eight letters from Crown Point Iron Co. to George H. Catlin (1880-1883)
- Folder 48: List of Crown Point Iron Co. shareholders, and two receipts for shares (1883-1893)
- Folder 49: Letter from John B. Smith, Pennsylvania Coal Co., to George H. Catlin (1885)
- Folder 50: Statement of condition of Merchants' National Bank, N.Y. (1898)
- Folder 51: Statement of condition of National City Bank, Ottawa, Ill. (1905)
- Folder 52: Postcard from H. S. Hopewell to George H. Catlin (1916)
- Folder 53: Notice of annual meeting, Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. (1923)

### **Property and Housing**

- Folder 54: Winter photograph of George H. Catlin house (n.d.)
- Folder 55: Records of property on Monroe Ave. and Ridge Row (n.d.)
- Folder 56: Letter from W. H. Atwood to George L. Catlin (sic) (188—)
- Folder 57: Plan of the George H. Catlin property on Monroe Ave. (1882-1924)
- Folder 58: Letter from H. Humphrey Moore to George H. Catlin, with sketch of a proposed "Moorish" painting (1884)
- Folder 59: Letter from George H. Catlin to James Hardy and Co., Edinburgh (1904)
- Folder 60: Seven letters or fragments between Scranton Dept. of Public Works and George H. Catlin (1905-1906)
- Folder 61: Notice from Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas to Sarah Archbald (1906)
- Folder 62: Estimate from W. & J. Sloane to G. W. Watkins (1908)



Folder 63: Letter from John Wanamaker to George H. Catlin, and print of dining room (1908, n.d.)

Folder 64: Blueprint diagram of Catlin farm, Shoreham, Vt. (1911)

Folder 65: Estimate for an iron fence from Scranton Iron and Steel Co. (1917)

Folder 66: Notes on purchases of land and *Catlin v. Robinson* (1934)

Folder 67: Plans for remodeling of Catlin house (1949)

### **Farm Accounts**

Folder 68: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (1912-1914)

Folder 69: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Jan.-May 1913)

Folder 70: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (May-July 1913)

Folder 71: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (June-Aug. 1913)

Folder 72: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Aug.-Oct. 1913)

Folder 73: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Oct.-Nov. 1913)

Folder 74: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Nov.-Dec. 1913)

Folder 75: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Nov. 1913-Mar. 1914)

Folder 76: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Mar.-Apr. 1914)

Folder 77: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Apr.-June 1914)

Folder 78: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (June 1914)

Folder 79: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (June-July 1914)

Folder 80: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Apr.-July 1914)

Folder 81: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (July-Sept. 1914)

Folder 82: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Aug.-Sept. 1914)

Folder 83: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Oct.-Dec. 1914)

### **Box 3**

#### **Farm Accounts (Cont.)**

- Folder 1: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Jan.-May 1915)
- Folder 2: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (May-July 1915)
- Folder 3: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (July-Aug. 1915)
- Folder 4: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Aug.-Sept. 1915)
- Folder 5: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Sept.-Dec. 1915)
- Folder 6: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Dec. 1915-Mar. 1916)
- Folder 7: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Mar.-Apr. 1916)
- Folder 8: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Mar.-June 1916)
- Folder 9: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (June-July 1916)
- Folder 10: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt. (Sept.-Nov. 1916)
- Folder 11: Accounts of Bellemead Farm, Shoreham, Vt.: Misc. (1870-1915, n.d.)

### **Miscellaneous Business Papers**

- Folder 12: Empty envelope addressed to Charles D. Havens (n.d.)
- Folder 13: Notes on the charter of the Northern and Southern West Virginia Railroad Co. (c. 1870)
- Folder 14: Notes and blank legal forms regarding stocks and bonds (1870s, 1897)
- Folder 15: Correspondence and receipts from Smith & Hedges (1874-1894)
- Folder 16: Dissolution notice of the Little Kanawha and Elk River Petroleum and Mining Company (1884)
- Folder 17: Letter from Crown Point Iron Co. to George H. Catlin (1890)
- Folder 18: Letter from E. F. Bradley to George H. Catlin (1900)
- Folder 19: Check for £50 from Brown, Shipley and Co., London (1904)
- Folder 20: Photocopy of cartoon of George H. Catlin from the *Scranton Truth* (1906)
- Folder 21: Invitation card to Charles of London exhibition in New York (1910)
- Folder 22: Christmas card to George H. Catlin from Brooks and Co. (1917)

Folder 23: Letter from H. Everett Hull to George H. Catlin (1923)

Folder 24: Certificates of life insurance for George H. Catlin, through the Lackawanna Motor Club (1931, 1932)

Folder 25: Booklet by Myron C. Taylor, U.S. Steel, based on the radio talk "A Few Observations on Unemployment" (1931)

Folder 26: Letter from H. E. Paine, Home Fire and Marine Insurance Co., to George H. Catlin (1934)

Folder 27: Invoice from Matthews Brothers to Mrs. George H. Catlin (1942)

### *Civic Organizations and Clubs*

#### **Memberships**

Folder 28: Letter from Frances Watkins, Daughters of the American Revolution, to George H. Catlin (n.d.)

Folder 29: List of officers, Scranton Auxiliary McAll Mission, including Mrs. George H. Catlin (n.d.)

Folder 30: Perpetual membership card, Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, and letter from George H. Catlin to S. Fletcher Weyburn (n.d., 1921)

Folder 31: Letter and invitation from Longfellow National Memorial Association to George H. Catlin (1908)

Folder 32: United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, Scranton Camp No. 63, vote of appreciation to George H. Catlin (1913)

Folder 33: Philadelphia clubhouse privilege card of the International Motor Club (1916)

Folder 34: Life honorary membership card, Scranton Canoe Club (1917)

Folder 35: Membership card, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (1920)

Folder 36: Membership certificates and correspondence, Roosevelt Memorial Association, for Mr. and Mrs. George H. Catlin (1920)

Folder 37: Membership card, Scranton Aero Association (1920)

Folder 38: Membership cards, Junger Maennerchor (1920, 1935)

Folder 39: Membership cards, Lake Champlain Club and American National Red Cross, and bail bond card, Lackawanna Motor Club (1922, 1927, 1933)

Folder 40: Membership card and donation receipt for the American Red Cross and Community Chest of Scranton and Dunmore (1929, 1930)

Folder 41: Membership dues receipts and brochure, Old Constitution House Association of Vermont (1931)

Folder 42: Membership card, Scranton Chamber of Commerce (1932)

Folder 43: Membership card, Wyoming Historical and Genealogical Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (1934)

### **Donations**

Folder 44: Letter from Batterson, Canfield & Co., Hartford, Ct., to George H. Catlin (1873)

Folder 45: Donation receipt from Lackawanna Institute of History and Science (1887)

Folder 46: Donation receipt from Admiral George Dewey Home Fund (1899)

Folder 47: Letter of appeal from Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute, to George H. Catlin (1904)

Folder 48: Donation receipt and acknowledgment letter from Longfellow National Memorial Association (1909)

Folder 49: Donation acknowledgment from Scranton Canoe Club (1918)

Folder 50: Donation acknowledgment from Masonic Temple Building Fund (1927)

Folder 51: Fundraising letter and donation receipt from National Save Old Ironsides Committee (n.d., 1929)

Folder 52: Newspaper clippings on George H. Catlin's donations: Old Ironsides bookends to Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Charter Oak toddy stick to Lackawanna Historical Society, and book of Robert Wodrow sermons to Middlebury College (1929-1933)

### *Miscellaneous*

Folder 53: Envelope addressed to George H. Catlin, with fragment regarding Seventh Ward (n.d.)

Folder 54: Map print, "The Territory of the City of Scranton Prior to September 1840," E. Merrifield (n.d.)

Folder 55: Manuscript copy of anonymous poem "What Then?" (n.d.)

- Folder 56: Unused monogrammed notecards, initial C (n.d.)
- Folder 57: Handwritten notes on European history and art (n.d.)
- Folder 58: Unused letterhead, Fairlawn Coal Company (187—)
- Folder 59: Unused telegram form, printed in Italian (190—)
- Folder 60: “En Voyage,” anonymous manuscript poem sent to George H. Catlin, S.S. *Deutschland*, Hoboken, N.J. (1904)
- Folder 61: Typescript quotation on “The Winter Solstice” (from *The Bride of the Misteltoe* by James Lane Allen, 1909) (n.d.)
- Folder 62: Unused Christmas postcard from Arizona (n.d.)
- Folder 63: Letter from L. A. Mickey to “Mary” (1879)
- Folder 64: Invitation to Shakespeare recital, Catlin house, Scranton (1886)
- Folder 65: Letter from James Forrest, Institution of Civil Engineers, London (1889)
- Folder 66: Religious tract, “The Prayer That Has Power,” by Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler (ca. 1893)
- Folder 67: Subscription advertisement and sample from *Financial New York* (1897)
- Folder 68: Brief manuscript history of Kells, Ireland (ca. 1901)
- Folder 69: Letter from B. M. Winton to George H. Catlin (1906)
- Folder 70: Letter from J. H. Fisher to George H. Catlin (1910)
- Folder 71: Western Union collect telegram authorization card (1914)
- Folder 72: Poetry by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, from the guest book of the president of the University of Chicago (1915)
- Folder 73: Letter from McBride, Nast & Co. (ca. 1915)
- Folder 74: Letter from Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Riverside Church, N.Y., to George H. Catlin (1931)
- Folder 75: Letter from W. J. Parks, Bank of Meta, Missouri, to George H. Catlin (1931)
- Folder 76: Payment receipt from Coursen’s Store, Scranton (1942)