



Finding Aid for

STICKLEY FAMILY COLLECTION, 1879-1978
Accession 1624

Finding Aid Published: May 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1624

TITLE: Stickley family collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1879-1978

BULK DATES: 1900-1957

QUANTITY: 13.67 linear ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Gustav, Leopold, and John George Stickley along with two other brothers were furniture craftsman in New York in the early 1900s. The collection, which contains correspondence, financial records, photographs and printed material, primarily documents the work of Leopold and John George Stickley.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** The collection was acquired by The Henry Ford in 1982.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1624, Stickley Furniture records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford in 1982.

Included in the Stickley collection were three bound volumes of Youth's Companions, (1889, 1890 and 1891). These were added to the Research Center Library periodical holdings.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** The original collection inventory and finding aid were prepared and published by staff of The Henry Ford in 1982. The finding aid was reformatted, revised to include Overview, Administrative information, and access terms, and republished in May 2011.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Leopold and Barbara Stickley were the parents of eleven children. Five of these children were sons, Gustav (1857-1942), Leopold (1869-1957), Charles, Albert and John George (1871-1921). During the 1870's the father apparently abandoned his wife and children in Osceola, Wisconsin. Barbara Stickley and her children moved to Brandt, Pennsylvania, in 1875 at the invitation of her brother, Schuyler C. Brandt, who operated a small chair factory. Gustav worked for the Brandt Chair Company, and in 1884 moved to Binghamton, New York. Gustav, Charles and Albert joined forces to establish the Stickley Bros. Company. This wholesale and retail furniture store was financed by their uncle, Schuyler C. Brandt. At one time, all five brothers worked in Binghamton.

Gustav established the Gustav Stickley Co. in 1899 and reached the height of his achievement in "Arts & Crafts" in 1913 when he opened The Craftsman Building, a twelve story building in New York City. However, by 1916 he was bankrupt because he had over-extended his business enterprise.

In 1900 Leopold and John George moved to Fayetteville, New York, and formed Stickley's Handcraft. Their company followed Gustav's "Arts & Crafts" theme while creating designs of their own. By the 1920's, "Colonial" furniture dominated production, and L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. responded with their Cherry Valley furniture.

Leopold died in 1957, and his widow ran the business for several years. In 1974, she sold the firm, Stickley Furniture Company, to Alfred Audi, the current president.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The major part of the collection follows the work of Leopold and John George Stickley in the manufacture of furniture from 1900-1957. A minor amount of the collection relates to their brother Gustav, and his development of Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman.

Series I, Manuscripts, includes all the manuscripts contained in this collection. The first section is business manuscripts including income and expense ledgers, patents, minutes, insurance information and other papers from the Stickley Manufacturing Co., Inc. A few manuscripts relate to Gustav Stickley and The Craftsman. Of particular interest, in Box 7, are two autobiographical/oral history documents. The first is a letter between George F. Clingman (Tobey Furniture Co.) and Leopold Stickley written on May 26, 1911. The second document is from a Kenneth L. DuPrey, Sr., who was Leopold Stickley's 1st Attendant". He recounts Leopold Stickley's biography, as was related to him by Mr. Stickley. Family papers follow the business section and include Leopold Stickley's passport, wedding invitation to Marie Louise Bowman (1935), and mementoes from his death.

Series II, Photographs, contains images of furniture and family related subjects. The first eleven boxes contain photographs of furniture items produced in the various Stickley

Collections. Each item was given a collection number when produced, and the photographs are placed in folders, labeled and arranged in numerical order. One box contains photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Stickley at various dinner parties during the 1950's. Portraits have been arranged together, and family photographs are arranged as a group. No effort has been made to identify the individuals unless the photographs were previously labeled.

Series III, Catalogs, includes all the various catalogs from the 1920's through the Cherry Valley collection in the 1950's.

Series IV, Renderings, is made up of a series of boxed printed renderings from Handcraft Furniture, L. & J. G. Stickley, Inc. A large floor map featuring a sketch of the "old" and "new" floor plans is included.

Series V, Publications, includes news releases and newspaper accounts of the activities of the Stickley's from 1915 to 1978. Many of the newspaper articles are undated and unidentified; however, they relate to interesting facets of their personal and business life. The second part of this series includes publications (books, booklets and brochures) produced by the Stickley's. Mostly they describe the use and care of furniture in the home. The Story of a Developing Furniture Style was produced in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Stickley firm.

Finally, **Series VI, Miscellaneous Items**, consists of personal items belonging, to Leopold Stickley, including his pipe, pipe cutter and business cards.

ARRANGEMENT

Series Description:

- Series I: Manuscripts
 - Subseries IA: Business
 - Subseries IB: Family
 - Subseries IC: Miscellaneous
- Series II: Photographs
- Series III: Catalogs
- Series IV: Renderings
- Series V: Publications
 - Subseries VA: News Releases and Newspaper Articles
 - Subseries VB: Stickley Produced Publications
- Series VI: Miscellaneous Items

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Stickley family
Stickley, Gustav, 1858-1942
Stickley, John George, 1871-1921
Gustav Stickley Co.
Stickley & Associates
Stickley Bros. Co.
L. and J. G. Stickley Inc.

Subjects

Furniture industry and trade
Furniture workers
Furniture, Mission
Arts and crafts movement.

Genre and Form

Advertisements
Design drawings
Financial records
Minutes
Oral histories
Patents
Photographs
Sales catalogs
Trade catalogs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no. **Description**

SERIES I - MANUSCRIPTS

Business Manuscripts

Box 1

1. Expense Ledger, April 1929-December 1935
2. Journal Income/Expense Entries, Stickley Estate, Inc., 1941-1968

Box 2

1. Patent #221,307, Improvement in Drawer Supports, 1879 (copy)
2. Patent #62,578, Trade Mark for Certain Furniture, 1907
3. Canadian Patent #103,471, Chairs and Settees, 1907
4. Patent #879,690, Drawer and Drawer Support, 1908 (copy)
5. Patent #1,210,362, Drawer Slide, 1916 (copy)
6. Patent #1,684,851, Convertible Beds, 1928
7. Patent #1,700,520, Springs, 1929
8. Patent #1,734,651, Cabinets, 1929
9. Canadian Patent #304,726, Cabinets, 1930
10. Patent #1,927,282, Extension Leaf Table, 1933
11. Patent #327,738, Trade Mark, 1933
12. Patent #2,053,382, Wood Joint Construction, 1936
13. Patent #2,179,138, Furniture Construction, 1939
14. Patent #2,257,822, Drawer Guide, 1941
15. Patent #2,628,143, Center Extension Serving Table, 1953
16. Patent #3,092,048, Adjustable Table, 1963

Box 3

1. Minute Book IV, 1918-1937
2. Minute Book, 1937-1948
3. Minutes, 1946-1967
4. Minutes - Stickley Estate, Inc., 1931-1957

Box 4

1. Insurance Summary of Workshops of Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman, Inc., June 1, 1914
2. Cost of Reproduction New of Stickley Workshops Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., June 1, 1914
3. Sound Values of Stickley Workshops Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., June 1, 1914
4. Appraisal of Workshops of Gustav Stickley Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., June 1, 1914
5. Appraisal Summaries of Gustav 'Stickley, The Craftsman Inc. workshops, Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., June 6, 1914
6. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Standing as of Close of Business, Notes Outstanding, January 21, 1920

Box 4 (continued):

7. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Statement Of Appraised Values Prepared by Insurance Division, The American Appraisal Co.
8. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Cost of Reproduction New Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., May 13, 1920
9. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Sound Values Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., May 3, 1920
10. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Appraisal Certificate Prepared by The American Appraisal Co., August 5, 1920
11. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Appraisal Statement of Plant Investment Accounts Prepared by the American Appraisal Co., September 30, 1920 to August 1, 1921
12. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Correspondence with the American Appraisal Co., November 20, 1920 to August 24, 1921
13. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Insurance Summary by the American Appraisal Co., August 1, 1921
14. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Bulletin: Explanatory of the Use of "Plant Report Sheets" Prepared by the American Appraisal Co.

Box. 5

1. Stickley and Simonds Co. - Warranty Deed, July 14, 1892
2. Gustav Stickley and New York Central & Hudson Railroad Co.- Deed, December 21, 1899
3. Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman Cash Receipts, 1915
4. Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman Cash Receipts, 1916
5. Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman Cash Receipts, 1917
6. Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman Cash Receipts, 1918
7. The Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. and Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman - Mortgage Correspondence with The Metropolitan Trust Co., 1915-1919
8. Gustav Stickley, The Craftsman, Inc. - Mortgage with The Metropolitan Trust Co., 1918-1919
9. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Plant Report Sheet May 13, 1920 to March 31, 1921
10. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Invoices from Yates- American Machine Co., 1928
11. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Invoices from Empire Blower Co., Inc., 1931
12. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Invoices from New York Central Railroad, 1934

Box 6

1. Uncashed checks, 1945, Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. to Louise B. Stickley
2. Uncashed checks, 1946, Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. to Louise B. Stickley
3. Uncashed checks, 1947, Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. to Louise B. Stickley
4. Uncashed checks, 1948, Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. to Louise B. Stickley
5. Uncashed checks, 1949, Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. to Louise B. Stickley
6. Uncashed checks, 1946-1949 Manufactures Trust Co. and L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. to Louise B. Stickley

Box 7

1. Autobiographical/Oral History Document Correspondence: George F. Clingman (Tobey Furniture Co.) and Leopold Stickley, May 26, 1911
2. John George Stickley Loan to Heiser Property Co. for \$2000.00, 1913
3. L. & J. C. Stickley, Inc. - Antique and Shipping Invoices from England, 1928-1929
4. L. & J. G. Stickley, Inc. - Agreement with American Hospital Supply Corp., 1939
5. Louise B. Stickley Correspondence with Clifford Swick, September 25, 1952
6. Congressional Record (House), September 15, 1977 - "A Tribute to Stickley" - Reprint
7. L. & J. C. Stickley, Inc. - Stock Sheet, 1977
8. L. & J. C. Stickley, Inc. - Price List, 1956-1958
9. Stickley Mfg. Co., Inc. - Price List, 1960
10. L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. - Price List, 1962
11. L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. - Price List, 1977
12. L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. - Price List, 1978
13. Leopold Stickley - Cartoon Drawing
14. Autobiographical Oral History Document - Leopold Stickley Biography As Told to His "Attendant" Kenneth L. DuPrey, Sr.
15. House & Garden Advertisement - "Stickley Cherry Valley Workshops"
16. Postcards - Stickley's Furniture Factory
17. Furniture Finish Oil Recipes
18. Catalog: A Note on the Work of the Martin Bros. - Handwritten note on envelope

Family Manuscripts

Box 8

1. Marie Louise Bowman - Church Membership Certificate, 1912
2. Leopold Stickley Sales of Stock to Grace S. Stickley, 1926
3. C. N. Bowman - Business Card and Membership Cards, 1926-1928
4. Leopold Stickley - Passport, 1928
5. Laura Virginia Stickley - Cemetery Marker, 1932
6. Leopold Stickley and Marie Louise Bowman - Marriage Invitation, September 3, 1935
7. Leopold Stickley and Marie Louise Bowman - Wedding Book, 1935
8. Leopold Stickley - Hotel Touraine Credit Card, 1951
9. Leopold Stickley - Hilton Hotels Credit Card
10. Leopold Stickley - Register of Death, November 1, 1957
11. Leopold Stickley - Memorial Book, 1957
12. Letters - Death of Leopold Stickley, 1957
13. Telegrams - Death of Leopold Stickley, 1957
14. Leopold Stickley - Last Will and Testament (dated 1929)
15. Address Book

Miscellaneous Manuscripts/Items Not Directly Related to Stickleys

Box 8 (continued):

1. Booklet: Three Historic Towns - Dewitt, Manlius, Cazenovia
2. Woolson Spice Co. - Advertisement
3. Mikimoto Pearls - Mount Vernon Reproduced
4. First National Bank, Stillwater, Minnesota - Christmas Club Membership
5. Thomson & Taylor Spice Co. - Booklet "The Bull Chief"
6. Bus Schedule - Hotel Astor Terminal, 1933
7. Buckley High School Book, 1907
8. Theater Programs
9. "Alka-Seltzer Song Book", 1931

SERIES II – PHOTOGRAPHS

The following ten boxes contain photographs of furniture items produced in the various Stickley collections. Each item was given a collection number when produced. The photographs are placed in folders using the collection number and arranged in numerical order.

Box 10

Collection Items 1-342

Box 11

Collection Items 376-524

Box 12

Collection Items 529-622

Box 13

Collection Items 623-804

Box 14

Collection Items 805-953

Box 15

Collection Items 954-1356½

Box 16

Collection Items 1357-1922

Box 17

Collection Items 1924-2315

Box 18

Collection Items 2338-3147

Box 19

Collection Items 3202-9044

Box 20

1. Photographs - Room Settings
2. Photographs - Room Settings
3. Photographs - Room Settings (color)
4. Miscellaneous Photographs - Multi-Item and Mis-numbered photographs
5. Photographs - Series 2800, Multi-item photographs
6. Photographs - Plate Numbers 100-123
7. Photographs - No Collection Number
8. Stickley Advertisement with Joan Crawford

Box 20 (continued):

9. Stickley Advertisement with Alexis Smith
10. Stickley Advertisement with Dorothy Malone
11. Stickley Advertisement with Jane Wyman
12. Stickley Advertisement with Doris Day

Box 21

1. Stickley Dinner, January, 1953
2. Stickley Dinner, 1954
3. Stickley Dinner, 1954
4. Stickley Dinner, May, 1957
5. Stickley Dinner
6. Stickley Dinner
7. Stickley Dinner

Box 22

1. Three Tin-Type Photographs
2. Portraits - 2 inch x 4 inch cards
3. Portrait - Cats
4. Portraits - Children
5. Portraits - Couples
6. Portraits - Women
7. Portraits - Women
8. Portraits - Men

Box 23

1. The Stickley Co-Mingle Photographs
2. Stickley Family, 1920
3. Miscellaneous Stickley Family Photographs (black & white)
4. Miscellaneous Stickley Family Photographs (color)
5. White House Farm - Schroon Lake, N.Y. (color)
6. Tannenwald Lodge - Schroon River, N.Y.
7. Constalenne, N.Y., 1940
8. Lake Placid, N.Y., 1956
9. Pratts Falls, 1956
10. Farm
11. Stickley Backyard
12. Homes
13. Graveside
14. Stickley Furniture - Aerial View
15. "Stickley of Fayetteville" Building, 1960
16. Stickley Factory
17. Amelia Ahl at Business College in Stillwater, Minnesota, 1890-1899
18. Ahl Family
19. Bowman Cottage, Stillwater, Minnesota
20. Bowman Family
21. Gladys Reutiman
22. Sally Rue and Grandmother Clarke, 1936
23. Ausable Club, St. Huberts, N.Y.

Box 23 (continued):

24. Two Women

Box 24

1. Stickley Furniture at Syracuse University
2. Family Photographs
3. Family Photographs

Box 25

Negatives (Note: this box contains photographic negatives, most are from photographs contained in boxes 10-19)

SERIES III - CATALOGS

Box 26

1. L. & J.G. Stickley Catalog, 1925 (1 copy)
2. L. & J.G. Stickley Catalog, 1928 (2 copies)
3. L. & J.G. Stickley Catalog, 1930 (2 copies)
4. L. & J.G. Stickley Catalog, with price list, 1930 (1 copy)

Box 27

1. Catalog: The Work of L. & J.G. Stickley, Fayetteville, N.Y. (four copies)
2. Catalog: Quaint Furniture with letter from Stickley Bros. to Mrs. N.H. Ahl, January 7, 1928
3. Catalog: Stickley of Fayetteville (six copies)
4. Catalog: Handcraft Furniture, L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. (one copy)

Box 28

1. Catalog: A Living American Tradition1 Stickley Cherry Valley Furniture (13 copies)
2. Catalog: Stickley Furniture Cost Less Per Year (16 copies)
3. Catalog: The Cherry Valley Collection by L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. (2 copies)
4. Artist Cover Rendering of Catalog

Box 29

1. Catalog: Cherry Valley Collection by Stickley (6 copies)
2. Catalog: Cherry Valley Furniture, Stickley, Living American Tradition (one copy)

Box 30

- Catalogs - Cherry Valley Collection
- Loose leaf supplement, 1980
 - Catalog paste-up, undated (2 copies)
 - Catalog, circa 1955 (10 copies in soft cover bindings)
 - Catalog, undated (7 copies in multi-ring binders)

SERIES IV - RENDERINGS

Box 31 (This box contains a series of boxed printed renderings from Handcraft Furniture, L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc. They have been placed in numerical order.)

1. Furniture Style Numbers 1-99
2. Furniture Style Numbers 200-299
3. Furniture Style Numbers 300-399
4. Furniture Style Numbers 400-499
5. Furniture Style Numbers 500-599

Box 31 (continued):

6. Furniture Style Numbers 600-699
7. Furniture Style Numbers 700-799
8. Furniture Style Numbers 800-899
9. Furniture Style Numbers 900-999
10. Furniture Style Numbers 1050-1323
11. Furniture Style Numbers unnumbered
12. Box Cover

Box 32

Floor Plan Map (Contains a large floor plan map featuring the “old floor plan” and a “sketch of the new floor plan”)

SERIES V - PUBLICATIONS

News Releases and Newspaper Articles

Box 33

1. News Release: Stickley Tradition Based on ‘Husband ‘and Wife ‘Search for “American Spirit” in Furniture, 1959
2. News Release: Stickley’s New Collection Highlights Important New Decorative Trends, 1959
3. News Release: Superb Stickley Furniture Result of Travel, Research, 1959
4. News Release: The Remarkable Story Behind the New “Cherry Valley Collection” by Stickley
5. Newspaper: “American Embassy in Russia to Have Stickley Products”
6. Newspaper: “Creditors Force Gustav Stickley into Bankruptcy”, 1915
7. Newspaper: The Manlius Eagle, 27 February 1930, “Business Review of Prominent Fayetteville Houses”
8. Newspaper: Articles on Stickley Marriage and Wedding Trip, 1935
9. Newspaper Photograph: Leopold Stickley
10. Newspaper: “A Leader in Craftsmanship” (Gustav Stickley death), 1942
11. Newspaper: “Property Deal Involves Four Retail Firms”, 30 March 1946
12. Newspaper: Herald 9/17/1958 “Bank Takes Over Estate”
13. Newspaper: Syracuse Herald-Journal, 3 October 1958, “Furniture Maker Gets Injunction”
14. Newspaper: “Legal Fight Ended on Stickley Estate”, 1959
15. Newspaper: “Stickley Estate Dispute Settled Out of Court”, 1959
16. Newspaper: Eagle-Bulletin, 8 July 1965, “Stickley Does Million Dollar Business in Fine Furniture”
17. Newspaper: Syracuse Herald-Journal, 18 March 1969, “Stickley to Close City Plant”
18. Newspaper: Herald-Journal, 22 January 1973, “Show Includes Local Arts, Crafts”
19. Newspaper: “Stickley Sold to Audi”, 1974
20. Newspaper: “Stickley Firm Makes Comeback”, 1975
21. Newspaper: Sunday News, 8 June 1975, “The Past is Seen in the Present for Much of Today’s Furniture”

Box 33 (continued):

22. Newspaper (copy): The New York Times, 9 July 1978, "The Master of Mission"

Stickley Produced Publications

Box 34

1. Brochure: A Few Facts That Should Be of Help to the Salesman in Selling Stickley Furniture
2. Brochure: The Adaptability of Early American as Demonstrated by Stickley House
3. Brochure: Early American, built by Stickley of Fayetteville
4. Brochure: Beautiful Historic Cherry Valley, New York State
5. Brochure: Early American Furniture, L. & J. G. Stickley, Inc.
6. Advertisement: John A. Colby & Sons, Cherry Valley Furniture
7. Booklet: Fayetteville Has Plans For Your Future, 1948
8. Booklet: Household Furniture Its Origin From the Bed and the Chest by Irene Sargent, 1926
9. Book: "The Story of A Developing Furniture Style, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1950 (seven copies)

SERIES VI – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Box 35

1. Pipe
2. Pipe Cutter
3. Passport Wallet
4. Letter Opener
5. Business Cards of Leopold Stickley (2 boxes)
6. Lapel Buttons with Various National Flags

Box 36

1. Decorative Photo Album - No Photographs
2. Two Frames
3. Four Empty Stickley Folders
4. Stickley "Monthly Statement" Pad of Paper

Box 37 Oversize

1. Map: An Historical Map of the Central Mohawk Valley
2. Map: The Mohawk Valley in 1757
3. Photograph: Large Group of Men Gathered Outside Factory
4. Photograph: Men at Work inside Factory
5. Birthday Album for Leopold Stickley, January 15, 1955