

**Collection:** The Barbour Family & Industries Research Files

Accession Number: 2024.09.01

## FINDING AID

**Date Range:** 1874 – 1976**Bulk Date:** 1876-1883**Creator:** John A. Herbst of Paterson Catholic Regional H.S.**Number and Type of Containers:** 1 flip-top document box letter sized, containing 13 folders and 2 envelopes.**Storage Location:** Jasper Street-Unit A- Shelf 1**Aid Created By:** Ayah Abughoush, Intern

**Biographical Information/ Historical Information:** The Barbour family was one of Paterson's industrial families. The high-quality linen thread, twine, and flax products produced in their Paterson mills, were internationally recognized and distributed. The family trade in thread manufacturing is traced back to Scotland. Members of the family were listed by local records to have been engaged in the manufacture of linen thread as early as 1739 in their mill near Paisley, Scotland. In 1784, John Barbour immigrated to the north of Ireland and established a mill at a site located near Lisburn, where they manufactured linen and cotton thread, as well as, silk gauze. John had left his thriving business to his eldest son after his death in 1823. John's other son, William Barbour established another factory in Hilden, Germany that same year. The youngest son of William, James Dunlop, began manufacturing the machinery needed in the spinning of flax, jute, and hemp in 1854. In 1864 the decision to expand to Paterson was made.

The Paterson branch was founded by two of William's sons, Thomas and Robert Barbour, with the help of their brother James and his expertise, they were able to supply the growing mills of Paterson with the most up-to-date machinery used in linen Production. John Edwards Barbour, son of Robert Barbour, constructed and lived at *Kilbarchen*, also known as the Barbour Estate, in 1909. He operated his own thread and textile business until his death in 1941. Thomas Barbour's son, Colonel William Barbour, escorted General Grant on his visit to Paterson in 1887, and hosted President McKinley upon his attendance of Garret Hobart's funeral in Paterson, in 1899. Colonel William Barbour's son was US Senator Warren Barbour, who died in office in 1943, bringing to a close the Barbour family's dynasty in New Jersey.

**Scope and Content:** Research files used to compile the brochure "Legacy of an Urban Dynasty, The Barbour Family & Industries." The records mainly consisting of newspaper articles and clippings from The Daily Press, Paterson News, and a clipping from The American Protective Tariff League containing a portrait of Colonel William Barbour, as well as, a statement of Thomas Barbour from the N.Y Times.

**Series:** The folders were previously arranged by persons unknown. That order was maintained. During the creation of this finding aid, all metal paperclips and staples were removed, replaced with plastic paperclips, and the documents were placed in archival and acid-free folders.