

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 46**

**Winfield C. Lash Papers**

c. 1960 – 2010

2 boxes  
1 linear foot  
Accession No. 2017.10

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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## PMM 46

# Winfield C. Lash Papers

### **Lash, Winfield C., 1918-2015**

Papers, c. 1960-2010

2 boxes (1 linear foot)

Boat designer and boat builder in Friendship, Maine.

Design notes, sketches, bills, clippings, ephemera, and personal correspondence from Winfield C. Lash of Friendship, Maine. There is fragmentary material from the Lash Brothers Boat Yard as well as personal correspondence and Lash's research into the history of Friendship and local families. Most material dates to the end of Lash's career. This is a companion collection to a larger group of plans and artifacts from Winfield C. Lash's design shop.

In English

Irving Lash; Gift; 2017; 2017.10

Finding aid available; folder level control

### **Subject Headings:**

Lash, Winfield C., 1918-2015

Lash Brothers Boat Yard

Friendship (Me.)

Boatbuilders

Naval architects

Shipbuilding—equipment and supplies

### **Local Subject Headings:**

Boat designers

### **Acquisition:**

This collection was donated by Winfield C. Lash's son, Irving Lash. It was part of a larger gift of plans, tools, and artifacts from Winfield Lash's design shop in Friendship, Maine.

### **Restrictions**

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

### **Condition:**

This collection is mostly in good condition. Some items are on unstable papers and may start to degrade.

### **Related Materials:**

These documents are part of a larger collection of plans, tools, and artifacts from Winfield C. Lash's design shop in Friendship, Maine, all cataloged with the accession number 2017.10.

### **Historical Note:**

Winfield C. Lash (1918-2015) was a boat builder and designer in Friendship, Maine, who specialized in fishing vessels. He was one of fourteen children of Robert and Levilda Carter Lash of Friendship. Lash worked in several large boatyards early in his career, including the Camden Shipyard, Waldoboro Shipyard, and the Stonington Yacht Basin (later, Billings),

building large wooden craft for the U.S. Navy. After World War II, Lash purchased his uncle's boatyard, W.S. Carter Boats in Friendship, and went into business with his brothers. The Lash Brothers Boat Yard principally built fishing boats, and were known for their large wooden druggers and trawlers. They also built smaller lobster boats, sailboats, sport fishermen, and Friendship sloops. The shipyard was destroyed in a fire in 1988, but partially rebuilt by Lash's son and grandson.

In addition to building boats, Winfield C. Lash was a prolific, and self-taught, boat designer who designed almost all of the vessels built in the Lash yard and drew designs for nearby builders, including the Harvey Gamage yard in South Bristol, Maine. As a hobby, Lash recorded lines of historic vessels from half-models and other sources. He also researched and restored antique marine engines, many of which he found in the boatyard, and maintained an interest in local history.

Lash married Barbara Fales in 1940. They had seven children; his oldest son, Wesley Austin Lash, followed his father into the boatbuilding business, operating the Lash shop after his father partially retired in 1985.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains design notes, sketches, bills, clippings, ephemera, and personal correspondence from Winfield C. Lash of Friendship, Maine, covering Lash's boatbuilding activities as well as personal affairs and research on the town of Friendship. Material is fragmentary, likely due in part to the fire that destroyed the Lash Brothers yard in 1988, but supports a larger collection of boat plans and artifacts from Winfield C. Lash's design studio.

Records from Lash Brothers Boat Yard are limited to a folder of invoices for material purchased in 1966. There is slightly more material related to Lash's design work, primarily consisting of written design notes, fragmentary sketches and comparative plans. Completed plans for many of Lash's designs, dating from the 1940s to the 1990s, are cataloged and sorted separately. A folder of geometric tables and math instructions testifies to Lash's self-taught design style. There is also ephemera from Lash's design shop, including equipment manuals and lists of telephone numbers.

Family papers consist of correspondence with Winfield Lash, most of which is social, and a few miscellaneous receipts, notes, and estate documents. The collection also contains extensive notes and articles on the history of Friendship and local families, including dozens of photocopied photographs of local people and scenes, most of which are identified.

**Box and Folder List:**

Box	Folder
	<u>Boatbuilding</u>
1	1 Lash Brothers Boat Yard, Invoices, 1966, 1987-88
	2 Winfield C. Lash, boatbuilding notes
	3 Design sketches and plans (partial), Winfield C. Lash (the plans collection is stored and cataloged separately)
	4 Sketches and plans, other designers and historic vessels
	5 Sketches, photographs, and clippings, packet MYRA J. WOOSTER
	6 Geometric tables and math study guides
	7 Phone number lists, Lash Boat Yard
	8 Equipment and tool manuals
	9 Lash Brothers Boat Yard, publicity and newspaper clippings
	<u>Personal</u>
2	1 Winfield C. Lash, personal correspondence, 1963-2003

- 2 Bills, notes, and family papers, miscellaneous c. 1983-2006
- 3 Lash and Fales family estate papers, 1966-2004
- 4 Research notes: Friendship and Waldoboro town histories
- 5 "A Century of Friendship Lobster Pounds" compiled by Maira Seely from  
oral histories of Friendship residents, 2010
- 6 Petition to install a new postmaster in Friendship, undated
- 7 Photographs of Friendship and Friendship residents (photocopies)
- 8 Maps, Friendship and surrounding area
- 9 Genealogy