Guide to the Filmore J. Columbe Business Records, 1886-1928

2013.2

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By
Dr. Gordon Pollard,
September 2013

Title: Filmore J. Columbe Business Records
Dates: 1886-1928
ID: 2013.2
Creators: Filmore J. Columbe
Extent: 1.67 linear feet
Language of Material: English
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Beverage industry--New York (State)--Plattsburgh
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Cigar makers--New York (State)--Plattsburgh
Automobile dealers--New York (State)--Plattsburgh
Plattsburgh (N.Y.)--Industries
Biographical Note

Filmore J. Columbe (1857-1932) was born in Redford, N.Y. His career as a businessman in Plattsburgh, New York began in the late 1880s. Columbe's earliest documented enterprise, as evidenced in this collection, was the sale of groceries up to 1888 (location unknown). By June of that year he had switched to the making and selling of cigars. His store was located at 44 Bridge Street, Plattsburgh, New York, at least as early as 1892. By 1896 Columbe had added the bottling of carbonated sodas and mineral water to his business, along with the sale of liquor and beer. His store and bottling works moved to 14 River Street, Plattsburgh (now City Hall Place) by the year 1900, and then to 22 River Street in 1906. Columbe was involved in several other enterprises, including the City Bakery at 20 River Street, which was eventually run by his brother Allie E. Columbe in 1909. Filmore retired from the bottling and liquor business in 1911 or 1912, but in 1913 bought the American Hotel on River Street and converted it to the Columbe House, run by brother Allie. A final venture for Filmore, in conjunction with his sons, was the taking over of the Ford car dealership on River Street in Plattsburgh in 1925. This lasted only until 1928.

Scope of the Collection

The collection consists of one oversize box and includes a variety of ledgers and documents that reflect the range of business ventures with which Filmore J. Columbe was involved between 1886 and 1928. These include six sales accounting books and approximately 85 receipts and other individual items related to Columbe's businesses. There are also two account books that pertain to Columbe's serving as executor for the estates of John Baby, George Peltier, and Celina Tulipp.

Container List

Box 1

Vol. 1. Ledger, October 1886 - October 1897, F.J. Columbe

Account book of sales to named individuals and companies. Sales up to ca. June 1888 are nearly entirely of groceries. Sales for late 1888 up to ca. 1892 are almost exclusively of cigars, at which point beer, ale, and sodas become the predominant sales items.

Vol. 2. Ledger, October 1901 - February 1910, F.J. Columbe

Account book of sales to named individuals and companies. Entries pertain almost exclusively to transactions involving sodas, seltzer, beer, gin, bottles, stoppers, etc., with only rare mention of cigars and confectionaries.
Vol. 3  Cash book, May 1900 - February 1909
- Debit and credit entries

Vol. 4  Day Book, January 1912 - July 1916, F. J. Columbe
- Account book of cash sales, 1912-13
- Stock inventory, Sept. 29, 1913
- Income and expenses, 1914-1916.

Vol. 5  Accounts ledger

Initial entries are accounting for two estates, F. J. Columbe executor:
- Estate of John Baby 1914, including payments for Mrs. Margaret Baby (widow), 1913-1923
- Estate of George Peltier, payments to and for Mary Peltier (widow), 1913-1920. [note: George & Mary were the parents of F.J. Columbe’s wife Bertha.]

Entries in the back of the ledger are accounting of the income and expenses of F.J. Columbe, January 1917 - January 1922.

Vol. 6  Coverless account sheets (cord bound) of unspecified sales to named individuals by check, cash, or credit, 1922-1924

- Cash debit and credit entries, the latter to named individuals and companies.
- Month/day entries without year specification, except for the last entry that was on Oct. 31, 1928. [note: Celina Tulipp was F.J. Columbe’s sister; she died August 25, 1926]

Vol. 8  Small notebook with miscellaneous notations, 1906-07, 1926, 1928: cartage; baseball association; lists of individuals; articles received; etc.

Folder 1  F.J. Columbe letterhead “Statement” slips/receipts for his various businesses, including
- Manufacturer of Cigars
- Cream Soda and Mineral Water, 1896-99
- City Bakery, 1904
- Wholesale and Retail Liquor Dealer, 1910s
- Ford Dealership, 1927-28

Also a packet of real estate transaction documents

Folder 3  Miscellaneous receipts, bank notes, water bill receipts, city tax receipts, 1890s-1920s.

Folder 4  Filmore J. Columbe obituary, from *Plattsburgh Daily Republican*. 