
Guide to the Harold Thaxter Lumsden Collection

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Collection number: MS 129

African American Museum & Library at Oakland
Oakland, California

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Sean Heyliger

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Harold Thaxter Lumsden collection

Dates: 1899-1996

Collection number: MS 129

Creator: Lumsden, Harold Thaxter.

Collection Size: .1 linear feet (1 box)

Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612

Abstract: The Harold Thaxter Lumsden collection includes photographs, biographical material, sympathy card, and a pamphlet, *We also serve: 10 per cent of a nation working and fighting for victory*, related to African American workers in the San Francisco Bay Area during World War II. The collection consists of portrait and family photographs of Harold Thaxter Lumsden, a reproduction of his birth certificate, and his obituary and funeral program.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

Access Restrictions

Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish from the Harold Thaxter Lumsden Collection must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

Preferred Citation

Harold Thaxter Lumsden collection, MS 129, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library.
Oakland, California.

Processing Information

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Biography / Administrative History

Black labor leader Harold Thaxter Lumsden (1899-1996) was born on November 24, 1899 in Hagley Gap St. Thomas, Jamaica to Edward Lumsden and Dorcas Thaxter. He was raised in rural Jamaica before moving to Columbia during his teenage years to live with his uncle. In 1916, he went to sea as a ship steward surviving the sinking of two merchant vessels by German U-boats before settling first in Baltimore, Maryland and then in San Francisco, California in 1921. While San Francisco, he began taking classes in 1923 at Lincoln University School of Law while working construction, eventually graduating with a law degree in 1930. Beginning in the 1930s, Lumsden worked as a labor organizer for Union Local 261, unionizing workers at Hamilton Field in 1933 and shipyard workers at Bethlehem Shipyards in Alameda and Hunters Point Naval Shipyards in San Francisco, and as a business agent with Shipyard Laborers Local #886 during World War II. Following the war, he worked as laborer in the shipyards and was elected as Local 886's union representative to the San Francisco Labor Council and the California Federation of Labor. Lumsden served on the Executive Committee of the San

Francisco Labor Council and served as recording secretary of the Shipyard Laborers Local #886 until his retirement in 1983.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Harold Thaxter Lumsden collection includes photographs, biographical material, sympathy card, and a pamphlet, *We also serve: 10 per cent of a nation working and fighting for victory*, African American workers in the San Francisco Bay Area during World War II. The collection consists of portrait and family photographs of Harold Thaxter Lumsden, a reproduction of his birth certificate, and his obituary and funeral program.

Arrangement

Series I. Biographical Series II. Photographs Series III. Printed material

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

African American labor leaders.

African American labor union members.

World War, 1939-1945 Participation, African American.

Biographical material

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes Harold Thaxter Lumsden's birth certificate, obituary, and funeral service program.

Arrangement

Arranged by format.

Box 1:1

Birth certificate 1899

Box 1:1

Funeral program 1996

Box 1:1

Obituary 1996

Photographs

Physical Description: 12 photographs

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes 12 portraits and family photographs of Harold Thaxter Lumsden.

Arrangement

Arranged by photograph identification number.

Box 1:2

Portrait of Harold Lumsden, Bachmann Studio, G.E. 14th St., N.Y. [001] circa 1920s

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden standing outside next to table with hat and plant, inscribed: 'Jojo Amores 1.933' [002] undated

Box 1:2

Portrait of Harold Lumsden, Bachmann Studio, G.E. 14th St., N.Y. [003] circa 1920s

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden standing outside next to chair [004] circa 1910s

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden standing next to car parked on street [005] 1948

Box 1:2

Portrait of Harold Lumsden in suit and boater hat [006] circa 1910s

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden and four men and women standing in front of Wawona tree, reverse: 'Yosemite Park & Curry Co.' [007] circa 1920s

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden sitting at dining room table, reverse: 'Lumsden Christmas 1981' [008] 1981

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden holding baby boy, caption: 'Mr. Lumsden & John 16 mos.' [009] circa 1967

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden at graduation ceremony of John [-] [010] 1983

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden at graduation ceremony of John [-] [011] 1983

Box 1:2

Harold Lumsden and two women attending graduation ceremony, reverse: 'Lumsden, Nana, Grandmommy 6/83 John's graduation' [012] 1983

Printed material

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes the pamphlet, *We also serve: 10 per cent of a nation working and fighting for victory*, on African American shipyard workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and a sympathy card by California State Senator, Milton Marks, honoring Harold Lumsden in the California State Senate.

Arrangement

Arranged by format.

Box 1:3

***We also serve: 10 per cent of a nation working and fighting for victory*, Tilghman Press 1944**

Box 1:3

Milton Marks sympathy card California State Senate adjourned in honor of Harold Lumsden 1966