

of *Philadelphia* (1846), he is described as “Son of the late David Lapsley; made his money in the carpet business chiefly, and obtained some by marriage; now retired” with an estate of \$100,000. Joseph married Sarah F. (Sally) Carson (1791-1866) in 1818. Letters in Series I, as well as his passports and merchandise invoices in Series II, show that he traveled overseas at least twice, and functioned as a purchasing agent for the family.

David Lapsley Jr. (1792-1859) was married in 1827 to Anna Welsh (1797-1879), the daughter of prominent Philadelphia shipping and commission merchant John Welsh, who was active with his sons in the West Indies trade; her brother John (1805-1886) was also Minister Plenipotentiary to England and a civic leader in Philadelphia. Lapsley also featured in the volume, *Memoirs and Auto-biography of Some of the Wealthy Citizens of Philadelphia* (1846), where he is described as “Son of David Lapsley, Senr., made the chief of his money in the carpet business; received something handsome from his father’s estate, and obtained some by marriage” and worth \$100,000.

In a letter in Series I, Joseph Lapsley, writing from London in 1815 to David Lapsley Jr., hints at a family dynamic unavailable in the published records:

My greatest concern is about your brother John - & David I must now beg of you to interest yourself abt him – you know we are all able to get along in business excepting him & it is our duty to assist him all in our power. I hope sincerely. . .that he will commence the same business as Wm. both carpets & cloths & let him try & get consignments from New York. Mr. Cranston [New York merchant Alexander Cranston] no doubt will get him some, he certainly can support his family genteely by the business & Father I have no doubt will go to his store instead of Wms & assist or countenance him.

Further business bonds can be discerned from the directory listings from 1801 through 1821:

- 1801 Lapsley, David, merchant, 18 South Second
- 1804 Lapsley, David, merchant, 18 South Second
- 1805 Lapsley, David & Son, merchants, 23 South Second
- 1806 Lapsley, David & Son, merchants, 23 South Second
Lapsley & Ikin, merchants, 26 Chesnut
- 1807 Lapsley, David & Son, merchants, 23 South Second
Lapsley, John, merchant, 36 Walnut
Lapsley & Ikin, merchants, 26 Chesnut
- 1808 Lapsley, David, late merchant, 23 South Second
Lapsley, John, merchant 46 Walnut
Lapsley, Joseph B., merchant, 23 South Second
Lapsley, William M. merchant, 23 South Second
Lapsley & Ikin, merchants, 26 Chesnut