

Collections of the Grand Rapids Public Museum

Henry J. Northrup Family Collection

Finding Aid

Archive #166

Accession # (Various) including: 135356-135432, 141291, 141292



Public Museum of Grand Rapids

## ARCHIVAL COLLECTION FINDING AID – Part 1

Archive Collection Number: 166  
Accession Number: **Various** and including:  
135356-135432, 141291, 141292  
Source: Museum Collection  
Date Acquired: Unknown  
Span Dates: 1858-1907  
Size: <1 linear foot  
Processor(s): Stacey Burns and Paul Christians  
and Jeanne Larsen

**Register of:** Henry J. Northrup Family Archival Collection

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**ABSTRACT:** (*curator completes a brief description of the collection and a summary of its contents*)

This collection consists of a wide variety of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century paper materials of Lieutenant Henry J. Northrup, and his family. It includes: orders, paperwork, and other documents pertaining to Henry Northrup's service as Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the 118<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Regiment during the American Civil War; government-related, insurance, will and estate, Saginaw postmaster, and miscellaneous other business documents; and a range of personal correspondence to and from relatives, friends, and acquaintances. Also present are a number of newspaper clippings, some papers on the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, two wedding poems, an 1861 diary, and an unknown photograph.

**HISTORY:** (*if known, & if relevant, curator provides a general introduction to the person or co. that generated the material*)

Henry J. Northrup was born in the state of New York in the first half of the 1800s. He remained there until the early years of the Civil War, when he joined the 118<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Regiment, part of the Union's Army of the James. Commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, he was eventually promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the regiment; he also attained a brevet captaincy in said unit. After the war ended and he was discharged from the military, he moved to Saginaw, Michigan. There he founded the wholesale grocery Northrup, Wells, and Co. in 1867. After selling his investment in the company in 1869, it was renamed Wells, Stone, and Co. Northrup remained in its employ until July of 1880, when he was appointed United States postmaster of Saginaw. He served as postmaster until 1887, after which he took a bookkeeper position for Buttman and Rusk, Co. In subsequent years he also worked in similar capacity in Troy and Detroit, Michigan. At an unknown time he married Miss Catherine A. Burns of Detroit, and they had several children. Finally, Henry Northrup was a trustee and longtime treasurer of Saginaw's 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of two veterans' fraternal orders: a companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and commander of J.N. Penoyer Post #90, Grand Army of the Republic.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** (*curator gives an insight into the contents of the collection for research potential; for smaller collections this section may be exact duplication of the "Abstract" section above*)

The Henry J. Northrup Family Archival Collection contains a diverse array of print records relevant to several types of inquiry. First, several dozen quartermaster documents provide an interesting sample of the every day work of running a United States Army regiment during the Civil War, as well as copies of orders and directives from the War Department and other military units at various stages in the chain of command. Correspondingly, the documents provide a partial history of the 118<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Regiment. Second, the significant number of papers, registers, work records, and newspaper clippings relating to Northrup's tenure as Saginaw's postmaster may answer research queries into 19<sup>th</sup> century postmasters and similar government-appointed civilian jobs. Third, correspondence and business records help trace the history of the Northrup family in the context of the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. Fourth, to a lesser extent the collection may also be useful in tracing a Civil War veteran's civilian business career in Southeast Michigan, or for finding information on the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, Michigan.



## Archival Collection Finding Aid – Part 3

Collection Number: 166 Register of: Henry J. Northrup Family Archive Collection

**CONTAINER LIST:** (*collection management prepares an organized inventory listing of series, folders, and items inside each container*)

<i>Container</i>	<i>Folder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Description of Contents</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Count</i>
1	1	1	Quartermaster correspondence and war documents of Lt. Henry J. Northrup, 118 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers	1863-1865	83
1	2	1	Commission papers and commission papers reissue request for Lt. Henry J. Northrup	1861, 1887	4
1	3	2	U.S. tax collector receipt; government pension claim legalica for Catherine Northrup	1869, 1907	11
1	4	2	Documents, orders, correspondence, appointment papers, salary lists, and employment registers of Henry Northrup as postmaster of Saginaw, Michigan	1880-1888	30
1	5	2	Receipts, contracts, documents, business cards, etc. relating to Henry Northrup's business ventures in Saginaw, Michigan	1868-1907	53
1	6	2	Henry Northrup's insurance policies, papers, and premium receipts for the Equitable Life Assurance Company and the Home Insurance company	1868-1903	19
1	7	2	Wills, estate documents, legal correspondence, and related materials for Martha Bingham and several other relatives of Henry Northrup	1894, 1898	8
1	8	3	1861 diary of Henry J. Northrup; miscellaneous papers that specifically accompanied that diary	1861-1862	17
1	9	3	Documents and dues receipts for the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Commandery of Michigan	1891-1895	15
1	10	3	Two wedding poems and a wedding announcement for Henry J. Northrup and Catherine A. Burns		3
1	11	4	Letters between Henry J. Northrup and various family members and relatives	1858-1889	77
1	12	4	Letters between Henry J. Northrup and friends, associates, and other non-relatives	1858-1892	17
1	13	5	Newspaper clippings dealing with Henry J. Northrup and his family	1885-1907	18
1	14	5	Newspaper clippings relating to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, Michigan	1892-1902	15
1	15	5	Newspaper clippings relating to Henry J. Northrup as Saginaw postmaster, and to other area postmasters	1885-1888	9
1	16	6	B&W photograph of an unknown man, possibly Henry J. Northrup		1

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Folder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Description of Contents</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Count</i>
2	1	1	Diary	1865	1
2	2	1	Certificate of Military Appointment for Henry J. Northrup	1862	1
2	3	1	Discharge for reason of promotion; discharge from military service	1864;1865	2
2	4	1	Letters/envelopes between Henry Northrup and his family and/or friends	1862	[81]
2	5	1	Letters/envelopes between Henry Northrup and his family and/or friends	1862-1864	[75]
2	6	1	Letters/envelopes between Henry Northrup and his family and/or friends	[1861-1862]	[96]
2	7	1	Letters/envelopes between Henry Northrup and his family and/or friends; Report from Quartermaster's for Dept. 118 <sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York State Volunteer Infantry; Circular from Ordnance Office; Special Requisition; short hand-written history of service duty and after by Henry Northrup	1864-1865;1870s	[76]
2	8	1	Quartermaster General's Office document for final Return of Property	1865	1
2	9	1	Letters/envelopes between Henry Northrup and his family and/or friends	1862-1863	[86]
2	10	5	Photocopies of newspaper articles re. Civil War service	1890s	5