

**WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM**

**30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts**

ARCHIVES

Torrey Collection No.2

2002.20

Processed by Lee Ann Amend
January 24, 2002

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Collection Information

Abstract : Miscellaneous materials from J. R. Torrey including, aeronautics certificates, Letters Patent and a bound ledger from the Torrey Razor Company, History and photograph album of the “Special School,” a day school for retarded children which Belle M. Torrey ran from their home, newspaper clippings and advertisements for E.W. Vaill patented folding chairs.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance :Unknown.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Historical/Biographical Notes

The J.R. Torrey Razor Company was established in Worcester in 1858 by Joseph R. Torrey, and manufactured straight razors for over 90 years until it ceased operations in 1952. The company was located on Chandler Street at Piedmont Street. Operating at the same time in the same

location was J.R. Torrey & Co., manufacturers of razor strops and other accessories. Production peaked during the World War I years, and the company employed some 350 hands. The development of the safety razor, and later the electric razor, dramatically reduced the demand for straight razors, and by mid-twentieth century remaining business did not warrant continuing the business.

Scope and Content

The collection includes, letters patent, product descriptions to letters patent, aviation certificates and newspaper clippings describing the Torrey family and company, also a personal history of J.R. Torrey & Co. , chair advertisements for E.W. Vaill patented folding chairs, inventory ledger and also a photo album and short history of the day school for retarded children that Belle M. Torrey operated from their home. Photocopies are available for series 1.

Series Descriptions

<u>Series 1:</u> Letters Patent	(26 items)
<u>Subseries 1:</u> Letters Patent, product descriptions	(25 items)
Series 2: Advertisements, Razor Strops	(2 items)

Series 3:	Photographs, Special School	(68 items)
Series 4:	E.W. Vaill, Products	(4 items)
Series 5:	Aeronautics	(6 items)
Series 6:	Clippings	(6 items)
Series 7:	Ledger, 1906-1920	(1 item)
Series 8:	Photographs, Miscellaneous	(31 items)
Series 9:	History, J.R. Torrey & Co.	(1 item)
Series 10:	Miscellaneous	(8 items)

Torrey Collection No.2
2002.20
Series 1, Letters Patent

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2002.20.1.1	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R.Torrey, 1889.

1	2	2002.20.1.2	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R.Torrey, 1890.
1	3	2002.20.1.3	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R.Torrey, 1877.
1	4	2002.20.1.4	Letters Patent, Razor Blade holders, J.R. Torrey, 1908.
1	5	2002.20.1.5	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R.Torrey, 1882.
1	6	2002.20.1.6	Letters Patent, Razor Strop & Toilet Care, J.R.Torrey, 1881.
1	7	2002.20.1.7	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R. Torrey, 1882.
1	8	2002.20.1.8	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R. Torrey, 1883.
1	9	2002.20.1.9	Letters Patent, Devices for Sharpening Razors, Peter John Caesar, 1894.
1	10	2002.20.1.10	Letters Patent, Razor Sharpeners, Peter J. Caesar, 1894.
1	11	2002.20.1.11	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, Warran Harthan, 1909.
1	12	2002.20.1.12	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, Warren Harthan, 1912.
1	13	2002.20.1.13	Letters Patent, Devices for Sharpening Razors, Peter John Caesar, 1888.
1	14	2002.20.1.14	Letters Patent, Double Razor Strops, J.R. Torrey, 1882.
1	15	2002.20.1.15	Letters Patent, Razor Strops, J.R. Torrey, 1883.

Series 1, continued

1	16	2002.20.1.16	Letters Patent, Improvement in Razor Strops, J.R. Torrey, 1880.
1	17	2002.20.1.17	Letters Patent, Razor Strops, william Ogden Britten, 1902.
1	18	2002.20.1.18	Letters Patent, Suspension Hooks, Lewis H. Torrey, 1904.

1	19	2002.20.1.19	Letters Patent, Swing Strop, J.R. Torrey, 1901.
1	20	2002.20.1.20	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R. Torrey, 1901.
1	21	2002.20.1.21	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R. Torrey, 1883.
1	22	2002.20.1.22	Letters Patent, Razor Strop, J.R.Torrey, 1884.
1	23	2002.20.1.23	Letters Patent, Razor Stroping Devices, J.R. Torrey, 1908.
1	24	2002.20.1.24	Letters Patent, Suspension Devices, Lewis H. Torrey, 1918.
1	25	2002.20.1.25	Letters Patent, Hooks, Lewis H.Torrey, 1916.
1	26	2002.20.1.26	Letters patent, Razor Stropps, John A. Wilson, 1886.

Series 1, Subseries 1, continued

1	27	2002.20.1.1.1	Razor Strop, Charles L. Holland, Patented Feb.24,1891, No. 447,184.
1	27	2002.20.1.1.2	Razor Strop, Charles L. Holland, Patented July 8, 1890. No. 431,696.
1	27	2002.20.1.1.3	Razor Strop, John Lamont, Patented Apr.30, 1889. No. 402,461.
1	27	2002.20.1.1.4	Razor Strop, Arthur Lawrence, Patented June 23, 1891. No. 454,483.

1	27	2002.20.1.1.5	Letter of Patent consideration, Oct.27,1950.
1	27a	2002.20.1.1.1a-5a	Typescripts of patents in Folder 27.
1	28	2002.20.1.1.6	Safety Razor, Vincent Modzelewski, Patented Apr.30,1946. No. 2,399,552.
1	28	2002.20.1.1.7	Patent pending, mustache groomer, Vincent Modzelewski, ca 1946.
1	28	2002.20.1.1.8	Letter regarding Modzelewski's invention (see above entry). Nov.11, 1950.
1	28	2002.20.1.1.9	Letter for the improvement of Barber Tools, Edward Hill, ca 1950
1	28	2002.20.1.1.10	Letter of Patent Specifications, S. Bell-Clifford Industrial Research, May 23, 1950.
1	28a	2002.20.1.1.6a-10a	Typescripts of patents in Folder 28.
1	29	2002.20.1.1.11	Razor Strop, John Lucas, Patented Dec.23, 1873. No. 145,742.
1	29	2002.20.1.1.12	Razor Strop, Joseph Fisher, Patented Dec.25,1877. No 198,592.

Series 1, Subseries 1, continued

1	29	2002.20.1.1.13	Razor Strop, Lewis Tower, Patented Oct.15,1889. No. 412,938.
1	29	2002.20.1.1.14	Razor Strop, Howard Emerson, Patented Jan.10,1882. No. 252,199.
1	29	2002.20.1.1.15	Razor Strop, Austin Sprague, Patented Nov. 19,1878. No. 210,161.
1	29a	2002.20.1.1.11a-15a	Typescripts of patents in Folder 29.
1	30	2002.20.1.1.16	Razor Strop, Benjamin Badger, Patented

Feb.24,1885. No. 312,603.

1	30	2002.20.1.1.17	Razor Strop, Rachel Smith, Patented June 3, 1884. No. 299,865.
1	30	2002.20.1.1.18	Razor Strop, George Cook, Patented Aug.28, 1883. No. 283,862.
1	30	2002.20.1.1.19	Razor Strop, Alfred Brokhahne, Oct.8,1878. No. 208,670.
1	30	2002.20.1.1.20	Razor Strop, Alfred Brokhahne, July 16, 1878. No. 206,081.
1	30a	2002.20.1.1.16a-20a	Typescripts of patents in Folder 30.
1	31	2002.20.1.1.21	Razor Strop, Charles Shafer, Patented Dec.14, 1880. No. 235,577.
1	31	2002.20.1.1.22	Razor Strop, John Maxon, Patented Nov.30, 1875. No. 170,635.
1	31	2002.20.1.1.23	Razor Strop, Edward Haff, Patented Feb.1,1881. No. 237,180.
1	31	2002.20.1.1.24	Razor Strop, Oliver Howard, Patented June 9, 1874. No. 5,910.
Series 1, Subseries 1, continued			
1	31	2002.20.1.1.25	Razor Strop, A.H. Hill, Patented July 17,1839. No. 1,248.
1	31a	2002.20.1.1.21a-25a	Typescripts of patents in Folder 31.
1	32	2002.20.1.1.26	Razor Strop, John Maxon, Patented Nov.13,1877. No. 196,985.
1	32	2002.20.1.1.27	Razor Strop, Oliver Howard, Patented July 25,1871. No. 117421.
1	32	2002.20.1.1.28	Razor Strop, John Lucas, Patented May 20,1873. No. 139,011.
1	32	2002.20.1.1.29	Razor Strop Letter, Aaron Hill, Patented July

17,1839. No. 1248.

1 32 2002.20.1.1.26a-29a Typescripts of patents in Folder 32.

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2002.20
Series 2

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	33	2002.20.2.1	Advertisement for a new type of Dry Shaver written to J.R. Torrey Co., April 2, 1951.
1	33	2002.20.2.1a	Typescript for Dry Shaver advertisement.
1	33	2002.20.2.2	Advertisement for the patent of the "Taperline Clipper Blade" by Edward Hill, ca 1950.
1	33	2002.20.2.2a	Typescript for "Taperline Clipper Blade".

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 3, Photographs, Special School

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession#</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	34	2002.20.3.1-67	Photographs of the Students attending the “Special School”, a private day school for retarded children ages 8 to 16. The School, 19 Westland St. Worcester, MA. Was the home of the Torrey family, operated by Belle M. Torrey. ca 1940's.
1	35	2002.20.3.68	School history, author unknown, describes the daily schedule of the children, its purpose and challenges.

Torrey Collection No.2
2002.20
Series 4, E.W. Vaill, Products

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	36	2002.20.4.1-4	Clippings and informational card on Edward W. Vaill's Patented Folding Chairs. ca 1890.

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 5, Aeronautics

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	37	2002.20.5.1a	J.R.Torrey's framed membership certificate in the "Lighter Than Air Society" as honorary life member. No date.
2	37	2002.20.5.1b	Aviator's Certificate to Aero Club of America, J.R.Torrey, 1892.(Cert. # 608)
2	37	2002.20.5.1c	Aviator's Certificate to Aero Club of America, J.R. Torrey, 1892. (Cert # 577)
2	37	2002.20.5.2	Newspaper article "Hardy Chutists Soar In Foggy Sky at Rally". An article about J.R. Torrey in his first balloon flight since 1918. Sept. 5, 1960.
2	37	2002.20.5.3	Newspaper article, "Man, 84, Remembers Being an Early Bird", (J.R. Torrey), February 22, 1977.
2	37	2002.20.5.4	Newspaper article, "City Wrote Chapter In Aviation History", J. R. Torrey, Dec.12, 1953.

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 6, Clippings etc.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	38	2002.20.6.1	Clipping, "Where Will Tomorrow's Opportunities Be?", American Institute For Economic Research, Great Barrington, MA., January 22, 1949.
2	38	2002.20.6.2	Clipping, "Retiring Letter Carrier Rich in Reminiscences". Second Negro in Worcester, Mass to be appointed to the Postal Service, Benjamin Clough, 1929.
2	38	2002.20.6.3	Clipping, "Old-time Warmth in Store". An ornate stove from the Torrey Razor Factory is featured.
2	38	2002.20.6.4	"Finland- The Crown of Tragedy of a Brave and Decent People". Installment II. An article describing the events of the Russian invasion of Finland by Anna Kivimaki. June 1, 1941.
2	38	2002.20.6.5	"Growing up in Worcester: A turn-of-the Century Portrait". Worcester city native, Marion Torrey recalls "carriage rides and secret picnics".
2	38	2002.20.6.6	A portion of an article describing how J.R. Torrey

2nd. represented Massachusetts in a National Balloon race at St. Louis, Missouri in 1919.

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 7, Ledger

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	39	2002.20.7.1	Ledger, bound volume from the Torrey Razor Co., 1906-1920.

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 8, Photographs Miscellaneous

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 unknown	40	2002.20.8.1	Unidentified woman : daguerreotype print / photographer, ca 1850.
1	40	2002.20.8.2	Unidentified woman : studio portrait / White, New York, ca 1920.
1	40	2002.20.8.3	J.R. Torrey : Photographic print / Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Worcester, 1977.
1	40	2002.20.8.4-7	Miscellaneous and various sized photographic prints of razors.
1	40	2002.20.8.8-25	Miscellaneous and various sized photographic prints of cases.
1	40	2002.20.8.26	Unknown house : colored photographic print, ca 1950.
1	40	2002.20.8.27	Second Courthouse : photographic print, 3 ½ x 5 ½ in., Description on back.
1	40	2002.20.8.28	Unknown house : photographic print, 2 ½ x 4 ½ in., ca 1950.
1	40	2002.20.8.29	Unknown house : photographic print, 2 ½ x 4 ½ in.,

ca 1950.

1	40	2002.20.8.30	J. R. Torrey : cdv, albumin print / unidentified photographer, ca 1880.
1	40	2002.20.8.31	Unidentified house : silver gelatin snapshot, nd, 2 ½ x 3 ½ in.

Torrey Collection Number 2
2002.20
Series 9, History, J.R. Torrey & Co.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	41	2002.20.9.1	History of the life of Joseph Rice Torrey, author unknown.

Torrey Collection Number 2
 2002.20
 Series 10, Miscellaneous

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	42	2002.20.10.1	Greeting card, no identification
2	42	2002.20.10.2	Time management, calendars
2	42	2002.20.10.3	Valentines Card (1991 made by Shackman & Co., NY.)
2	42	2002.20.10.4	List of WWI Honor Roll Members employed at Torrey Razor Co.
2	42	2002.20.10.5	Railroad map, showing Great Northern Railway System: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. System. Pool Bros., Chicago, Ill. ca 1880-1910.
2	42	2002.20.10.6	Highway map, National Highways Association, Dec. 1915. (Note: has a gold seal).
2	42	2002.20.10.7	Advertisement for Special School nd.
2	42	2002.20.10.8	Advertisement for Special School nd.