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MUSEUM**

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Torrey Collection
No. 3

2003.22

Processed by Lee Ann B. Amend
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Series | | Page | Box |
|--------|---|------|-----|
| | Collection Information | 3 | |
| | Historical Background | 4 | |
| | Scope and Content | 4 | |
| | Series Description | 4 | |
| 1 | Letters Patent and Product Descriptions | 6 | |
| 2 | Scrapbooks | 9 | |
| 3 | Genealogies and History | 10 | |
| 4 | Correspondence, Vaill Family | 11 | |
| 5 | Photographs | 12 | |
| 6 | Miscellaneous | 15 | |

Collection Information

Abstract: This collection includes Letters Patent and product descriptions from the Torrey Razor company from 1881 to 1911. Torrey family scrapbooks and photographs comprise the bulk of this collection. There are genealogies and family histories for the Torrey, Rice, Snow, Vaill and Gov. William Bradford families. This collection also includes correspondence between Henry Vaill to his daughter Annie E. Vaill pertaining to a Vaill family genealogy. The photograph collection of the Torrey family includes childhood through adulthood photographs as well as the two homes they owned on Elm Street and on Airport hill in Worcester, Massachusetts.

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

Preferred Citation: Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Louise Erskine, Worcester

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

Torrey, Joseph R.
Torrey, Belle M.
Rice,
Snow,
Vaill, Henry and Annie
J.R. Torrey Razor Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
J.R. Torrey & Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
Razor industry
Razors
Industries, Massachusetts, Worcester
Photographs

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 St. 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 350 people. The Torrey family home was at 52 Elm Street in Worcester, Mass., and they had a summer home on Airport hill that was torn down when Worcester Airport was built.

Scope and Content

The collection includes Letters Patent and product descriptions of razor strops and other accessories. There are also two scrapbooks, portions of family histories of the Torrey, Snow, Rice, Vaill and Gov. William Bradford. Correspondence between Henry Vaill and Annie Vaill regarding Vaill family genealogy and several photographs of the Torrey family from childhood to adulthood.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Letters Patent and Product Descriptions

Series 2: Scrapbooks

Series 3: Genealogies and History

Series 4: Correspondence, Vaill Family

Series 5: Photographs

Series 6: Miscellaneous

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22
Series 1, Letters Patent and Product Descriptions

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 2003.22.1.1 | Razor Strops, Joseph R.Torrey, no. 447,213 1891. |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.22.1.2 | Razor Strops, John A. Wilson, no. 288,389, 1883. |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.22.1.3 | Letter from John A. Wilson to Commissioner of Patents and receipt with Seal, October 1883. |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.22.1.4 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 240,342, April 19, 1881. |
| 1 | 4 | 2003.22.1.5 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 281,418, July 17, 1883. |
| 1 | 5 | 2003.22.1.6 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 304,032, August 26, 1884. |
| 1 | 6 | 2003.22.1.7 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 347,831, August 24, 1886. |
| 1 | 7 | 2003.22.1.8 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 402,461, April 30, 1889. |
| 1 | 8 | 2003.22.1.9 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 405,961, June 25, 1889. |
| 1 | 9 | 2003.22.1.10 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 639,545, December 19, 1899. |
| 1 | 10 | 2003.22.1.11 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 478,946, July 12, 1892. |
| 1 | 11 | 2003.22.1.12 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 551,331, December 10, 1895. |
| 1 | 12 | 2003.22.1.13 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 554,867, February 18, 1896. |

Series 1, Letters Patent and Product Descriptions, continued.

| | | | |
|---|----|--------------|--|
| 1 | 13 | 2003.22.1.14 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 572,784, December 8, 1896. |
| 1 | 14 | 2003.22.1.15 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 589,805, September 14, 1897. |
| 1 | 15 | 2003.22.1.16 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 620,273, February 28, 1899. |
| 1 | 16 | 2003.22.1.17 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 650,713, May 29, 1900. |
| 1 | 17 | 2003.22.1.18 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 667,905, February 12, 1901. |
| 1 | 18 | 2003.22.1.19 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 686,549, November 12, 1901. |
| 1 | 19 | 2003.22.1.20 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 712,384, October 28, 1902. |
| 1 | 20 | 2003.22.1.21 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 724,337, March 31, 1903. *Note: no diagram included. |
| 1 | 21 | 2003.22.1.22 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 734,771, July 28, 1903. |
| 1 | 22 | 2003.22.1.23 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 746,334, December 8, 1903. |
| 1 | 23 | 2003.22.1.24 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 776,213, November 29, 1904. |
| 1 | 24 | 2003.22.1.25 | Product Description for Letters Patent no. 807,965, December 19, 1905. |
| 1 | 25 | 2003.22.1.26 | Blueprint for a razor strop, no.17,281, July 22, 1897. |
| 1 | 25 | 2003.22.1.27 | Illustration of a razor strop, 1899. J.R. Torrey & Co. |

Series 1, Letters Patent and Product Descriptions, continued.

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 26 | 2003.22.1.28a-d | Application for Letters Patent by George Beston of Ireland to the U.S. Patent office for a machine for stropping razors. July 22, 1897. |
| 1 | 27 | 2003.22.1.29a-c | Application letter from W.P. Harthan to Commissioner of Patents for a razor strop March 16, 1909. Serial no. 483,793. |
| 1 | 27 | 2003.22.1.31a-e | Receipt of Petition for patent from U.S. Patent office to W.P. Harthan, October 14, 1911. Serial no. 654,714. |
| 1 | 27 | 2003.22.1.31 | Blueprint of Item 30. |

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22
Series 2, Scrapbooks

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 | 28 | 2003.22.2.1 | Scrapbook, Torrey Family |
| 2 | 28 | 2003.22.2.2 | Scrapbook, Torrey Family |

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22
Series 3, Genealogies and History

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.3 | Typescript: handwritten Genealogy starting with Marion Torrey, Date of birth, July 5, 1891. Unknown compiler. |
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.4 | Typescript: handwritten; Rice and Torrey family genealogy. Unknown compiler. |
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.5 | Typescript: handwritten; Snow and Torrey family genealogy. Unknown compiler. |
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.6 | Typescript: handwritten; Ancestry of Marion Torrey's mother. Unknown compiler. |
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.7 | Typescript: handwritten genealogy; Governor William Bradford, Torrey and Vaill families listed. Unknown compiler. |
| 2 | 29 | 2003.22.3.8 | Typescript: history of Joseph Rice Torrey, n.d. Unknown compiler. |

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22.
Series 4, Vaill Correspondence

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 2 | 30 | 2003.22.4.9a-k | Letters and replies between Henry H. Vaill and Miss Annie E. Vaill, regarding the writing of the family Genealogy. March 4, 1902 – Jan. 29, 1903. (11 letters) |
| 2 | 30 | 2003.22.4.10 | Application for membership to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maine, Annie Elizabeth Vaill n.d. Traces the genealogy from Governor William Bradford to Annie Vaill. |

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22
Series 5, Photographs

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| PGF (Washburn & Moen) | | 2003.22.5.1 | Photograph, inside office of South Works (Washburn Moen Co.), 1919. |
| PGF (Moen, Alice) | | 2003.22.5.2 | Photograph, Alice Moen (daughter of Philip L. Moen) 5 ½ x 4 on 6 ½ x 4 ½ “ matted. Photographer: Milton T. Carter, Worcester, Ca 1915. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.3 | Photograph of Mrs. Charles Merrill, 5 ½ x 3 ¾ in. on a 6 ½ x 4 ¼ in mat. Photographer: Davis, Worcester, ca 1915. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.4 | Photograph: Frank Morse? 5 ¾ x 4 in on a 6 ½ x 4 ¼ in mat. Photographer: Warren Portraits, Washington Street, Boston, MA ca 1915 |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.5a-b | Adelia Lewis Torrey, copy of photograph given to the Westminster Historical Society, 4 x 6 in. Photographer: unknown, n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.6 | Photograph of Marion, Belle and Joe Torrey 3 x 3 ¼ in on 5 x 5 in mat. Photographer unknown, n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.7 | Print: Belle Vaill Torrey, 7 x 4 ¾ in. Photographer: Bushong, Worcester, ca 1919. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.8 | Photograph of Mary Coes, CDV Photographer: Theo N. Gates, Westboro, MA n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.9-13 | Photographs – unknown individuals relating to the Torrey family. |

Series 5, Photographs continued

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.14 | Postcard, group picture of soldiers from the "Squad at Plattsburg", n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.15 | Postcard of unknown soldier, n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.16 | Photograph of 3 gentlemen, center picture is of Joseph Torrey, 6 ½ x 4 ½ in on folded mat. Photographer: Louis Fabian Bachrach, Worcester, n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.17 | Photograph of Joseph Torrey / 9 ½ x 7 in. on folded mat. Photographer: unknown, n.d. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.18 | Photograph of Joseph Torrey as a child / 5 x 3 ½ in. matted. Photographer: Schervee, ca 1890-1900 |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.19 | Photograph of Frances Torrey as a child / 5 ½ x 4 in. matted. Photographer: unknown, ca 1900. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.20 | Print of Marion Torrey in the studio of Miss Whitcomb, Oxford Street, Worcester, MA / 5 ½ x 4 ½ in. Photographer: unknown, ca 1926. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.21 | Print of Marion Torrey at Miss Whitcomb's Studio on Oxford Street, Worcester. / 6 ¼ x 4 ¾ in. Photographer: unknown, ca 1926. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.22 | Photograph of "Mr. Burbank" / 5 ½ x 3 ¾ matted. Photographer: Holden, Main St. Worcester, MA Ca 1892-1897. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.23 | Photograph of "Dr. Gage" / 5 ½ x 3 ¾ in matted. Photographer: Frank H. Rice, Main St. Worcester, Ca 1889-1900. |
| 2 | 31 | 2003.22.5.24 | Print of Torrey home, 52 Elm St. Worcester, MA / 5 x 7in. Photographer: unknown, n.d. |

- 2 31 2003.22.5.25 Print of Torrey Summer home, Airport Hill,
Worcester, MA Photographer: unknown, n.d.
- 2 31 2003.22.5.26 Print of Torrey Summer home, Airport Hill
Photographer: unknown, n.d.
- 2 31 2003.22.5.27-28 Typescript , handwritten, includes notes
describing the history of the summer house,
n.d.

Torrey Collection No.3
2003.22
Series 6, Miscellaneous

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 2 | 32 | 2003.22.6.1 | Artifact: Razor Blades from Torrey Razor Co. n.d. |
| 2 | 32 | 2003.22.6.2 | Memorial – death for Augustus George Bullock, 1847-1926. |
| 2 | 32 | 2003.22.6.3 | Booklet, “ We are People Too” by Marion Torrey, (booklet written about cats). |

