

TITLE: George J. Henry papers

DATE RANGE: 1882-1940

CALL NUMBER: MS 0349

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear ft. (3 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by John W. Lee in 1941 and 1988

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CREDIT LINE: George J. Henry papers, MS 0349, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: Marie Darmer in July 1989.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: George J. Henry was born in Akron, Ohio on December 14, 1864. He enlisted in the Fifth Cavalry of the regular army when he was eighteen years of age. In 1883, he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, where he helped to erect the first permanent barracks. He also served in the San Carlos area in 1890, Tombstone in 1892 and Fort Grant in 1894. During this time he participated in numerous campaigns against Apaches in Arizona and New Mexico. Sergeant Henry was an expert rifleman and won many gold medals while touring the United States with a select group of sharpshooting soldiers.

In the course of his years in the military he served twice in Cuba and twice in the Philippines. During his second term of service in Cuba, Sergeant Henry was assigned to the Engineering division of the army and assisted in the mapping and surveying of the island. In 1909, at the close of this enlistment, he retired with a pension, having served nearly thirty years in the United States Army.

After his retirement, Sergeant Henry remained on the island of Cuba for a year or more as a manager of a hotel on a large sugar plantation. He resigned his position in Cuba in 1909 and returned to the United States, to a remote spot on the Black River in Arizona near Fort Apache. He later moved to Fort Apache itself, working as a carpenter. In 1922, when the Fort was closed, he was hired as a caretaker. In 1924 he moved to his last home at Rock Creek Ranger Station. Here he was in charge of the fire station and fire-fighting equipment.

The early part of 1940 brought a decline in Sergeant Henry's health. He refused to move to a lower altitude or the comforts of a military hospital, preferring to remain in his chosen solitude. On June 12, 1940 he died of natural causes at the age of 76.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection provides a glimpse of Arizona between 1911 and 1940, during which time Sergeant Henry took up residence in the state. It consists primarily of outgoing and incoming correspondence, both personal and business in nature. Through this correspondence, insights into the political, commercial and personal concerns of the period are provided. The collection is valuable for the documentation it provides through Sergeant Henry's letters and memos, about the closing of Fort Apache in 1922, and the years following, when he

was caretaker. The collection is arranged in two record groups: the papers of Sergeant George J. Henry and the papers of Sergeant Joshua D. Vincent. The papers of Sergeant George J. Henry have five series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1903-1934 is divided into incoming and outgoing general correspondence, which is personal, job related and commercial in nature. The incoming correspondence is arranged chronologically as well as by type (personal, commercial, etc.). It contains letters written from friends, relatives and fellow soldiers from Cuba, the Philippines and many parts of the United States. There are letters from the National Republican Committee regarding support for Coolidge for President, as well as printed material advocating a “yes” vote on the constitutional amendment providing Workmens’ Compensation to employees’ of the state of Arizona. Many of the letters are responses by commercial firms to Sergeant Henry’s inquiries about health-related materials, foodstuffs, clothing and household goods.

The outgoing is arranged chronologically by year and includes a diversity of subject matters. Sergeant Henry kept carbon copies of most of his correspondence, so there is a fairly complete record of his interests and involvements during these years, primarily 1914 through 1936. They cover a broad range of topics, including personal letters to friends and family, business correspondence relating to his job as caretaker at Fort Apache, inquiries regarding problems with mail service and other problems he observed, as well as commercial mail orders. Since he was so isolated, it was necessary for him to obtain much through the services of mail order companies.

Series II: Biographical Material, 1882-1940 consists of two folders. The first of these is a previously-processed collection, under the same number, donated to the Arizona Historical Society by John W. Lee in 1941. Included are various army documents and correspondence as well as a three-page essay written by an unidentified author. This was written in George Henry’s honor at the time of his death in 1940. The other folder contains primarily autobiographical notations by Henry, and other army materials.

Series III: Legal Documents, 1920-1928 consists of three insurance policies with Aetna, National Casualty Company and General Exchange Insurance Corporation.

Series IV: Financial Documents, 1911-1936 contains five folders and consists primarily of mail order receipts, general receipts, and bills and receipts related to the Fort Apache Rifle Club. Sergeant Henry was the president of this organization for a period of time.

Series V: Printed Material, 1913-1934 consists of five folders of printed material relating to health matters, such as treatment for rattlesnake bites, catarrh and pyorrhea. Among the pamphlets are The U.S. Marine Corps Score Book, 1913 and The History of Our Flag, 1925. Sergeant Henry kept a recipe book with many clippings from newspapers and magazines.

The papers of Joshua D. Vincent has only one series of incoming correspondence, from 1909-1919. It contains letters and greeting cards from family members as well as a letter from the Treasury Department regarding insurance. There is also a certificate appointing him a sergeant, dated September 30, 1919.

The connection between Joshua D. Vincent and George J. Henry is not clear, other than that they both served in the U.S. Army. However, these papers were included with Henry's papers and for this reason have been retained.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
		Record Group 1 - George J. Henry papers	1903-1940
		Series I: Correspondence	
1	1	Incoming Correspondence - Personal from Cuba	1903-1923
	2	Personal	1911-1918
	3	Job related	1915-1922
	4	Commercial material	1915
	5	Bridges	1916
	6	Commercial material	1916-1918
	7	Health-related material	1917-1924
	8	Greeting cards and post cards	1918-1926
	9	Miscellaneous	1920-1925
	10	Commercial material	1920-1923
	11	Personal	1922-1926
	12	Miscellaneous	1922-1924
	13	Job related	1923-1926
	14	Commercial material	1923-1926
2	15	Rifle Club - Fort Apache	1923-1924
	16	Miscellaneous	1924-1926
	17	Rifle Club - Fort Apache	1925-1926
	18	Health-related material	1926-1931
	19	Miscellaneous	1927-1928
	20	Spring water	1927
	21	Commercial material	1928-1929
	22	Outgoing Correspondence - Miscellaneous	1914-1922
	23	Reports on Fort Apache	1921-1923
	24	Closing of Fort Apache	1922
	25	Miscellaneous	1923-1925
	26	Miscellaneous	1926
	27	Miscellaneous	1927-1928
	28	Miscellaneous	1929
	29	Miscellaneous	1930
	30	Miscellaneous	1931
	31	Miscellaneous	1932-1936
		Series II: Biographical Material	1882-1940
3	32	Army material	1882-1940
	33	Personal memoranda	1908-1929
		Series III: Legal Documents	1908-1929
	34	Insurance papers	1908-1929

		Series IV: Financial Documents	1911-1939
	35	Receipts	1911-1939
	36	Mail order receipts	1915-1922
	37	Mail order receipts	1923
	38	Rifle Club - bills and receipts	1923-1926
	39	Mail order receipts	1924-1928
		Series V: Printed Material	1913-1939
	40	Pamphlets	1913-1934
	41	Miscellaneous	1914-1926
	42	Health-related material	1922-1926
	43	Art prints	1923-1938
	44	Recipe book	1924-1939
	45	Rifle Club certificate (Oversized)	1923
		Record Group 2 - Joshua D. Vincent papers	1909-1919
	46	Personal and Army related correspondence	1909-1919