

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Comey Family, Civil War Papers, 1859; 1861-1932

**LOCATION:**

Mss. boxes "C"  
Oversize mss. boxes "C"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize folder (3 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographic information on Henry Newton and Manlius Comey, see *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War* (1931-1937), v. I, p. 114 and v. V, p. 601. For the history of Henry Newton Comey's regiment, see Alonzo H. Quint's *Records of the Second Massachusetts Infantry, 1861-65* (Boston: James P. Walker, 1867). For biographic information on Grenville M. Dodge and George H. Thomas, see *DAB*.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Mrs. Margaret Jaquith, 1980

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Henry Newton Comey (1840-1932), the son of Elbridge Gerry and Abigail Pierce Comey, was born at Woodville, Mass., in the town of Hopkinton. He received his early education at the public schools in Holliston, Mass., and later studied at Phillips Exeter Academy in Andover, Mass. In 1861 he enlisted in the Second Massachusetts Infantry. Although wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, Comey served for the duration of the war, rising to the rank of captain. After the Civil War, Comey married Augusta Wood ( ) of Woodville, Mass., attended and graduated from Eastman College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and settled into an active business career in the Boston area. He retired from business shortly after the first World War. Comey devoted his later years to activities associated with such organizations as the Massachusetts Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Massachusetts Commandery of the Loyal Legion, and the Petersburg National Military Park Commission. He died at Lexington, Mass., on 14 April 1932.

Manlius Comey (1843-1864), younger brother of Henry Newton, served in the Civil War with the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Petersburg, and died of illness and starvation on board the steamer *New York* en route north, an exchanged prisoner of war, on 3 December 1864.

Letters written by Henry Newton and Manlius Comey between 1861 and 1865 are a major portion of the collection. Most of these were addressed to their parents and to their sister, Mary. Henry N. wrote especially frequently and his letters contain details of the activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry and of the area of the country in which they traveled: Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Georgia.

In addition to these letters, the collection contains letters, copied by Henry N., written by other members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry; Henry N. Comey's diary for 1863 which includes entries through July 3<sup>rd</sup> describing the weather and regimental activities; manuscript letters and documents relating to Henry N. Comey's  
(cont.)

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION (cont.):**

participation on the Petersburg National Military Park Commission, and with other military and historical organizations; and a narrative by Morton Jaquith, a descendant, which compiles information from Comey's letters and notes.

The oversize folder contains a photograph of a "Group of officers of 2d Mass. Inf. at City Hall Atlanta Ga."; a rotogravure from the Boston Herald, dated June 21, 1931, of Dr. Henry N. Comey processing with his class from Phillips Exeter Academy for that institution's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and a certificate from the National Historical Society.

See Contents List.

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Contents List

Manuscript Box

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Folder 1	Checklist of letters from HNC
Folder 2	Unidentified fragments; Letters from HNC, 1861
Folder 3	Letters from HNC, 1862 January - February
Folder 4	Letters from HNC, 1862 March - May
Folder 5	Letters from HNC, 1862 June - July
Folder 6	Letters from HNC, 1862 August - December
Folder 7	Letters from HNC, 1863 January - April
Folder 8	Letters from HNC, 1863 May - June
Folder 9	Letters from HNC, 1863 July - September
Folder 10	Letters from HNC, 1863 October - December
Folder 11	Letters from HNC, 1864 January - April
Folder 12	Letters from HNC, 1864 May - June
Folder 13	Letters from HNC, 1864 July - August
Folder 14	Letters from HNC, 1864 September - December
Folder 15	Letters from HNC, 1865 January - May
Folder 16	Letters from HNC, 1865 June - November
Folder 17	Transcripts of HNC letters, 1861-1863
Folder 18	Transcripts of HNC letters, 1864
Folder 19	Correspondence of HNC, 1859; 1918-1932
Folder 20	Unidentified fragments; Letters from MC, 1862
Folder 21	Letters from MC, 1863
Folder 22	Letters from MC, 1864
Folder 23	Transcripts of MC letters, 1862-1864
Folder 24	Copies of letters from Charles Reddington Mudge, William Cogswell, Horatio D. Jarvis, and Charles J. Mills, 1861-1863
Folder 25	HNC, Diary, 1863
Folder 26	Manuscript transcript of HNC's diary for 1863

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Folder 1	Narrative of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry by Edward Augustus Phalen, corrected by HNC
Folder 2	Records and documents relating to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry
Folder 3	General accounts of HNC's Civil War experience
Folder 4	General accounts of HNC's Civil War experience
Folder 5	Camp Andrew to Chancellorsville, 1861-1863
Folder 6	Beverly Ford and Gettysburg, 1863
Folder 7	Raccoon Ford to Atlanta, 1864
Folder 8	Trial of Lincoln conspirators and mustering out, 1865
Folder 9	Narrative of HNC's Civil War experience, by Morton Jaquith
Folder 10	Biographical sketch of Grenville Mellen Dodge (1831-1916)
Folder 11	Biographical sketch of Charles Reddington Mudge (1839-1863)
Folder 12	Biographical sketch of George Henry Thomas (1816-1870)
Folder 13	Letters and documents pertaining to the Petersburg National Military Park Commission
Folder 14	Writings on military history by HNC
Folder 15	Miscellaneous and unidentified writings
Folder 16	Comey Family history
Folder 17	Photograph, "Battle Flag of Second Massachusetts Infantry Photographed on Court House Portico, Atlanta, Georgia, September, 1864"
Folder 18	Photograph, "Camp of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mass. Inf. Vols. at Atlanta before the march to the sea" (2 copies)
Folder 19	Photograph of plaque, "Service of Eight First Cousins Eligible for Duty 1861-1865"
Folder 20	HNC, Miscellaneous Civil War papers, n.d.; 1865-1885