

## Guide to the Berry Family Papers, 1862-1930

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Berry Family Papers, 1862-1930

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2022.075

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Sandra L. Wheeler

**Creator:**

Berry, Alonzo Freeman, 1846-1929

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Berry Family Papers center around Alonzo Freeman Berry (1846-1929), who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War. His brother, Albert H. Berry (1845-1864), was in the 12<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, and step brother, George Washington Dame (1842-1863), in the 13<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers. Neither Albert nor George survived the war, and the collection contains many letters from Alonzo but only a few from Albert and one from George. There is also ephemera about Alonzo's involvement in the post-war Grand Army of the Republic fraternal organization, but almost nothing except a few scattered letters of family members about his post-war life.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Berry Family Papers were purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society in 2022.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in August 2022. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in August 2022. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Berry Family Papers, 2022.075. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.  
Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Alonzo Freeman Berry (1846-1929) was one of three children born into a farming family in Strafford, New Hampshire. After his father, Ezekiel (1817-1849) died, his mother, Mary (Hayes) Berry (1811-1891), married Asa Dame (1818-1862).

Asa Dame enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Union Army in 1861 and died of an unidentified disease in 1862 at Camp Parapet, LA. Dame's son, George Washington Dame (1842-1863), and Mary's sons Alonzo and Albert (1845-1864), also served in the Union Army during the Civil War: Albert in the 12<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, Alonzo in the 8<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, and George in the 13<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers. It appears from military records that Alonzo served in the same sector and at the same time as his step-father, and that he re-enlisted after Asa's death. Only Alonzo survived the war. He returned to farming in Barrington, New Hampshire, married Olive Brown (1848-1889) on August 29, 1866 at Barrington, and had several children: Charles (1876-1905), Warren (1887-1955), and Mary Berry Conway (1871-1961).

Olive died at Barrington on June 23, 1889. Alonzo died there on May 10, 1929.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Berry Family Papers primarily contain the Civil War letters of Alonzo Freeman Berry (1846-1929), though there are also a few letters from his brother Albert (1845-1865) and step-brother George Dame (1842-1863). Alonzo Berry was in the 8<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, an infantryman who served in Mississippi and Louisiana. His letters describe long marches but only one battle, perhaps that at Georgia Landing in October 1862. He became ill and spent about six months (June 1863-January 1864) hospitalized in Baton Rouge; part of that time he describes working as a helper in the hospital. His letters focus on his desire for news from home and his health, with little in the way of descriptions of the countryside, fellow soldiers, or local people and customs. He was discharged in October 1864 and mustered out in January 1865.

Neither Albert Berry nor George Dame survived, both dying of illness before entering battle. As noted above, their father and stepfather, Asa, enlisted in 1861 and died in Louisiana in 1862. It appears that Alonzo was in the same unit as his step-father and re-enlisted after his death. None of this is mentioned in Alonzo's letters (or any in this collection), but it probably explains why all three young men were concerned about sending money to their mother.

Albert Berry, serving with the 12<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, wrote from Point Lookout, MD, the letters are in several hands, but the reason for this is unstated. His death is documented only by a note from a surgeon in the hospital in which he died telling his mother that he left no effects.

George Dame, serving with the 13<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, is represented by two letters, both written from Washington, DC. He reports on battles he has heard about but states little about his own activity. There is a letter from his commanding officer describing his death from diphtheria and telling his family where he was buried.

The remainder of the collection consists of ephemera from the fraternal organization Grand Army of the Republic; some masonic items perhaps belonging to Alonzo Berry's son, Charles (1875-1905); and a few other scattered letters from other family members. The materials in this collection date from 1862 to 1924.

**Arrangement:**

Materials in this collection are organized alphabetically by name, then by subject and chronologically.

**Contents List**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1      Berry, Albert, correspondence, 1862-1864
- Folder 2      Berry, Alonzo, correspondence, outgoing, 1862-1863
- Folder 3      Berry, Alonzo, correspondence, outgoing, 1864, undated
- Folder 4      Berry, Alonzo, correspondence, incoming, 1893-1923

- Folder 5 Berry, Alonzo, correspondence, incoming, *National Tribune*, 1921-1930
- Folder 6 Berry, Alonzo, ephemera, 1886-1918, 1929, undated  
 Grand Army of the Republic Fraternal Organization  
 List of battles of 8<sup>th</sup> NH Volunteers  
 Brochure re Berry's coffin
- Folder 7 Berry, Alonzo, financial papers, 1870-1919  
 Insurance policies, receipts
- Folder 8 Berry, Alonzo, financial papers re pension, 1903, 1908, undated
- Folder 9 Berry, Charles, correspondence, Masonic ephemera, receipts, 1903-1904, undated
- Folder 10 Berry, Warren, financial papers, 1929-1930
- Folder 11 Brown, Nate and Emma, correspondence, outgoing, 1903-1926, undated  
 [includes Alonzo Berry's guardianship of Emma Brown and letters written for Nate by his wife]
- Folder 12 Conway, Mary Berry, correspondence, outgoing, 1916-1917
- Folder 13 Dame, George W., correspondence, outgoing, and notice of his death, 1862-1863
- Folder 14 Dame, Mary, correspondence, incoming, 1862
- Folder 15 Ephemera, scattered dates 1912-1924  
 Memorial Day programs, E. Barrington, NH, 1912-1924  
 Greeting card postcards to various Berry family members, 1920-1923, undated  
 Newspaper clippings, undated  
 Plow catalog, 1924
- Folder 16 Unidentified, 1896, 1902, undated  
 Unidentified and undated photograph of two men in Civil War uniforms  
 Lizzie to Father re Eddie's death, 1892  
 Two letters re land in Mexico, 1902

## Subject Terms

### People:

- Berry, Albert H., 1845-1864
- Berry, Alonzo Freeman, 1846-1929
- Berry, Mary, 1811-1891
- Dame, George Washington, 1842-1863

### Organizations:

- Grand Army of the Republic
- United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> (1861-1864)
- United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 12<sup>th</sup> (1862-1865)
- United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 13<sup>th</sup> (1862-1865)

### Subjects:

- Correspondence
- Insurance policies
- Photographs
- Receipts (Acknowledgements)
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

**Locations:**

Baton Rouge, LA  
Carrollton, LA  
Camp Parapet, New Orleans, LA  
Camp Stevens, LA  
Point Lookout, MD  
Strafford, NH  
Washington, DC

**Occupations:**

Soldiers