



Library and Research Center

p: 717.684.8261 • f: 717.684.0878 • [www.nawcc.org](http://www.nawcc.org)

NAWCC, Inc. • 514 Poplar St. • Columbia PA 17512-2130

## Henry Abbott Collection, 1869-1943

### Overview/Collection Description

- **Title:** Henry Abbott Collection
- **Dates:** 1869-1943
- **Creator:** Henry Abbott
- **Call Number:** MG 035
- **Language:** English
- **Extent:** 1 box

### Conditions of Access

- **Restrictions:** These records are open to researchers for personal or scholarly research. Most of the records in the collection are available for photocopy, depending on the preservation needs of the material as well as other variables not specified here. Researchers, however, are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use materials and documents. These records are part of the permanent collection in the archives of the Library & Research Center of the National Watch and Clock Museum and researchers are required to comply with the Archive Rules when using the collection.

### Biographical/Historical Sketch

- **Biographical History:** Henry G. Abbott was born June 24, 1850, in Waterbury, CT. He is best known as the inventor, manufacturer, and salesman of his 1895 invention, the calculagraph, which was a machine used to record elapsed time. It went on to have many applications but was an especially a prominent device

used in the long-distance telephone industry. Abbott also invented the watch stem-winder, patented over 50 improvements to various facets of watch manufacture, and manufactured interchangeable watch parts.

In his youth, Abbott worked under Edward Howard, the “19th century father of the watch industry” and eventually became the owner of a watch and clock repair shop in Maiden Lane, NY. He became a jeweler as well as a watchmaker, did some work for Tiffany & Co., and over the course of his life was President of the Jeweler’s Security Alliance as well as Director, Treasurer, and Vice President of the National Association of Manufacturers.

In his personal life, Abbott was married to Laura De Camp. They had one daughter, Elsie Abbott Blake, and one grandson, Cpl. Henry Abbott Blake. Henry Abbott died December 19, 1943 in East Orange, New Jersey, at the age of 93, after suffering from influenza.

### **Content & Structure**

- **Scope & Content:** Collection of New York City inventory and raconteur. Included in this collection are a book of Abbott’s patents, correspondence, and a printing block of his nameplate.