

Index	Digitized File Name	Accession #	Donor	Donation Date	Date of Writing	Title	Written By	Written to/ For	Locations Mentioned	Handwritten or Typed	Descriptive Notes	Additional Names/ Signatures	Date Indexed	Initials
D11.1	D11.1 Newspaper Clipping Henry Sawyer at Libby Prison	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	May 29, year unclear- 1864 or later	Lots Drawn for Death	Unclear	Newspaper Article	Cape May County	Typed	A newspaper article recounting the tale of how Henry Washington Sawyer was scheduled to be executed, but survived. President Lincoln was informed of this, and he sent word to Jefferson Davis, who is allegedly the one who prevented the execution from happening. The newspaper is ripped, falling apart, and burned in many areas.	General Fitzhugh Lee, General Winder	9/12/2025	RIC
D11.2	D11.2 1863 Letter from Col. Henry Sawyer, Libby Prison	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	October 12, 1863	N/A	Henry W. Sawyer	Mrs. T Eldridge	Cape Island	Handwritten	A handwritten letter from Henry W. Sawyer to his sister before his scheduled execution. He states in the letter that at this point, he is fairly confident they will release him along with the other generals that are alongside him. He says that he hopes to see his family soon.	Mother, Deborah, Daniel, Mary, Harriet- likely all family members of Henry W. Sawyer	9/12/2025	RIC
D11.3	D11.3 Typed info about Henry Sawyer	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	27-Jan-40	N/A	Unclear	General information/ unclear	Pennsylvania, Cape Island, Washington	Typed	Typed information about Henry W. Sawyer's life. It includes how he volunteered for the Civil War and was wounded twice. It also includes how he was held in Libby Prison for 9 months, drawn by lot to be shot, and then released. The North bargained for his survival by threatening to kill Robert E. Lee's son if Sawyer wasn't released. He was Superintendent of the U.S. Life Saving Service on the Jersey Coast at one point. He died in 1893.	Albert Walker, Joanna Walker, Samuel Eldredge Douglass, Henry Washington Sawyer, General Burnside, General Lee, General Robert E. Lee	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.4	D11.4 Photo of Libby Prison	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Undated	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Richmond, Virginia, Libby Prison	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Infamous C.S.A Prison for Union Officers at 20th and Cary Sts. Richmond, VA". The Confederate Govt. commandeered the building owned by William Libbey and son who operated it as a warehouse for their ship chandlery business. "Henry Washington Sawyer then Captain (of) Company K, 1st Regiment New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry was imprisoned here from June 1863 to March, 1864. Courtesy National Archives, C.T. Donlin Collection. Photo by Matthew Brady Studio"	William Libbey and son, Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.5	D11.5 Henry Washington Sawyer	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	1873	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	N/A	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Lt. Col. Henry Washington Sawyer Circ. 1873, C.T. Donlin Collection"	Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.6	D11.6 Henry Washington Sawyer and Staff	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	November 1864	N/A	(photographed by) Alexander Gardner	N/A (photograph)	Washington, D.C.	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Major Henry Washington Sawyer (seated center) and staff, November 1864, Washington, D.C., Original photograph by famed civil war photographer Alexander Gardner"	Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.7	D11.7 Home of HW Sawyer's Second Wife	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Benton Ave, Cape May	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Home of H.W. Sawyer's widowed second wife Mary Emma MacKissie Sawyer, Benton Ave, Cape May City"	H.W. Sawyer, Mary Emma MacKissie Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.8	D11.8 Henry Washington Sawyer Gravestone	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Cold Spring, NJ	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Tombstone of Lt. Col. Henry Washington Sawyer in cemetery of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church on Seashore Road, Cold Spring, NJ, C.T. Donlin Collection"	Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.9	D11.9 Building that Henry Washington Sawyer died in	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Cape May City	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: Lt. Col. H.W. Sawyer died in this building October 16, 1893 after claiming to the druggist that he was ill. At that time it was the pharmacy of Drs. Marcy and Mecray. Location: Corner of Washington and Decatur Sts, Cape May City, C.T. Donlin Collection"	Henry Washington Sawyer, Dr. Marcy, Dr. Mecray	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.10	D11.10 Pharmacy where Henry Washington Sawyer died	N/A	Jim Campbell	Unknown	Late 1990's	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Cape May	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Central Pharmacy Washington Street Cape May, Late 1990's, Donated by Jim Campbell"	N/A	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.11	D11.11 Farmhouse of Henry Washington Sawyer	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	Cold Spring, NJ	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Farm house of Lt. Col. Henry Washington Sawyer, Seashore Road, Cold Spring, NJ, C.T. Donlin Collection"	Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.12	D11.12 Building purchased by Henry Washington Sawyer	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A (photograph)	N/A (photograph)	West Cape May	Photograph, handwritten	Transcription of description: "Built circ. 1820, Lt. Col. H.W. Sawyer purchased this house at 616 Broadway in West Cape May, C.T. Donlin Collection"	Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.13	D11.13 Henry Washington Sawyer Speech	N/A	Clark T. Donlin	27-Apr-99	1880	"The Lottery of Death: A Narrative of the War"	Henry W. Sawyer, C.T. Donlin	Speech, CMCHGS	Cape May	Typed	An envelope that contains an excerpt of a speech that Henry Washington Sawyer reportedly gave hundreds of times from 1880 to 1893. In the speech, he discusses how women have been excluded from the narrative of history. He expresses his belief that he thinks they deserve equal credit with men. Included is a note from the donor, sharing that he was 'ahead of his time' and held many other progressive views.	Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale, Henry Washington Sawyer	9/25/2025	RIC
D11.14	D11.14 Henry Sawyer and the Lottery of Death	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	22-Feb-96	"Henry Sawyer and the Lottery of Death"	Claire E. Lang	Unclear	Cape May, Washington D.C.	Typed	A summary of Henry Sawyer's experience with almost dying by lottery. The events are as follows: He was being held at Libby Prison after being injured. The South gathered all the Northerners in one room and drew two names to be executed, including Sawyer's. Sawyer was allowed to contact his wife, who brought it to the attention of President Lincoln. He declared William Lee, the son of Robert E. Lee to be captured and Lincoln had declared that if Sawyer was killed, then so would William. Sawyer was soon released.	Capt. John M. Flinn, Sawyer's wife, President Lincoln, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee, Gov. Joel Parker, General Grant	9/25/2025	RIC

D11.15	D11.15 Sketch of Major Henry Washington Sawyer	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	"Sketch of Major Henry Washington Sawyer: First Regiment, Cavalry, New Jersey Volunteers"	Dr. C.E. Godfrey	General information/ book	Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, Cape May, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland,	Typed	A summary of Henry Sawyer's life and experience with almost dying by lotter. Henry Sawyer was shot twice, in the thigh and in the cheek. He was taken to Libby Prison by Southerners. The Southerners had decided to kill two of the Northern generals in retaliation. Sawyer's name was the first one drawn. He had written a letter to his wife. His wife brought it to the attention of President Lincoln. He declared William Lee, the son of Robert E. Lee to be captured and Lincoln had declared that if Sawyer was killed, then so would William. Sawyer was soon released. He had been kept in Libby prison for approximately nine months.	Henry Washington Sawyer, Governor Olden, Colonel Robert Ould, Captain John M. Flinn, Sawyer's wife, President Lincoln, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee	9/25/2025	R/C
D11.16	D11.16 The 48th Pennsylvania Infantry Article	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	18-Jul-08	"The 48th Pennsylvania Infantry: A First Defender's Medal"	John David Hoptak	Article	Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.	Typed	An article about how the Pennsylvania State Legislature called for medals of honor to be presented to the "First Defenders", those who were among the first to volunteer for the north in the Civil War. Each was engraved with the soldier's name. Part of the article is illegible due to a photo covering the text on the second page.	President Lincoln, Emmanuel Saylor	10/2/2025	R/C
D11.17	D11.17 Henry Washington Sawyer Medal	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	First Defenders Medal- Civil War	Unclear	Article	Pennsylvania	Typed	A photo that illustrates Henry Washington Sawyer's medals of honor that he received for being one of the first defenders.	N/A	10/2/2025	R/C
D11.18	D11.18 Henry Washington Sawyer Reenactment	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	8-Oct-08	"Clark Donlin: Henry Sawyer expert leaves lasting legacy"	R.E. Heintz	Newspaper Article	Pennsylvania, Cape May	Typed	An article is about Clark Donlin, a Henry Washington Sawyer expert and reenactor. This article was published due to his death in 2008. Included is his obituary, a photo of one of his reenactments, and his business card.	Clark Donlin, Henry Washington Sawyer	10/2/2025	R/C