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NORTH AND SAVAGE COLLECTION

Papers, 1823-1869

3.33 linear feet

The North and Savage Collection consists of materials from the armament business interests operated by the North and Savage families in Connecticut during the nineteenth century. While the firm name of North and Savage is the only company name which is specified in the papers, the materials also cover the time period of the earlier firearms manufacturing interests begun by Simeon North in 1799. The North and Savage Co. fulfilled the government arms contracts following the death of Mr. North in 1852, and the Savage Revolving Arms Co. formed in 1860 was its successor.

Simeon North (1765-1852) became the first producer of pistols in large numbers for the Government. He was born in Berlin, Connecticut and in 1795 built a mill and forge on a farm he purchased there. He secured his first government contract in October 1798 for 500 flintlock horse pistols. This was followed by a succession of War Department contracts for arms over the next fifty years, among them the 1808 Navy model flintlock pistol. In 1812 the government awarded him a contract for 2,000 of the pistols and urged Mr. North to expand his plant. He built a larger, three story brick facility in Middletown, Connecticut. The Berlin factory continued in operation, manufacturing forgings for the new facility, under Simeon's eldest son, Reuben (1786-1853).

In 1813, North signed a government contract to manufacture 20,000 pistols with completely interchangeable parts. This represented a milestone in the development of armory practice. In carrying out this contract, North pioneered an entirely different approach to arms manufacture which helped set American manufacturing on the road toward mass production. In 1823 North received his first contract for the manufacture of standard Model 1822 muzzleloading flintlock rifles, the result of his own proposal to the Ordnance Department. The company ended production of pistols in 1828 and in that year began the manufacture of the Harper's Ferry Model Hall breech-loading flintlock rifles. Manufacture of smaller model flintlock carbines began in 1833. With completion of the 1839 contract, North ended production of flintlock arms.

The Ordnance Department accepted Col. North's design for an improvement on the breechloader in 1843. The patent for this new design was issued jointly to Simeon North and Edward Savage, (1802-~) whose association with the company began in the 1830s, possibly as a bookkeeper.

North's final government contract was issued in 1850 and completed in 1852, the year of the founder's death. Simeon's son James North (1788-1869) and Edward Savage, joined by Henry S. North (1811-1886), James' son, fulfilled the last government contract. On its completion, the men set up their own company, identified as North and Savage, making both long arms and pistols at the Staddle Hill factory. At the beginning of the Civil War, North and Savage obtained a large contract for rifles made to the Remington design. Requiring more space and financial assistance, the men formed a new company in 1860 under the name The Savage Revolving Arms Co. The firm continued to produce a variety of arms until it closed following the Civil War.

This collection consists of business and personal bills, receipts and correspondence dating from 1823 to 1869. The materials relate to Simeon and James North, but are predominantly those addressed to Edward Savage, both personally and as an officer of the companies. Among the correspondence are brief letters from notables such as Samuel Colt, Eli Whitney, and Remington & Sons Co. Of special interest are letters from John Stowell, an inventor who worked with the North and Savage Co. on gun improvements, some of which he patented. Also included in the collection are several ledgers and day books recording business accounts and employee records, some from early businesses which do not appear related to the arms industry.

The provenance and date of acquisition of this material are unknown. The collection is arranged in four series: the combined business and personal papers of Edward Savage general North and Savage business papers North and Savage business papers in their original order and ledgers and day books. Each of the first three series consists predominantly of bills and receipts with a small amount of correspondence.

**Series I
Administrative Files
Box 1**

Materials relating to Edward Savage's personal affairs and business interests other than the arms industry. The series includes family accounts for such things as food and household supplies, clothing, medical and dental bills and bills for the education of his children. There are numerous receipted bills for day work performed by farm and cartage workers, for lumber, plaster, hardware and other sundry supplies. Also included here are some account records which begin in the 1820's seeming to indicate that Mr. Savage was engaged in a general store and cartage business. Notices to stockholders meetings reveal he held shares in American Car Co., Suwanee Mining Co., and others.

The papers are arranged by type, then chronologically.

| | | | |
|-------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| BOX 1 | 1-1 | Bills, Receipts | 1830-1835 |
| | 1-2 | " " | 1837-1839 |
| | 1-3 | " " | 1840-1841 |
| | 1-4 | " " | 1841-1846 |
| | 1-5 | " " | 1846-1847 |
| | 1-6 | " " | 1848-1853 |
| | 1-7 | " " | 1851 |
| | 1-8 | " " | 1854 |
| | 1-9 | " " | 1855 |
| | 1-10 | " " | 1855-1856 |
| | 1-11 | " " | 1856 |
| | 1-12 | " " | 1857-1859 |
| | 1-13 | " " | 1860-1865 |
| | 1-14 | " " | 1866 |
| | 1-15 | " " | n.d. |
| | 1-16 | Correspondence~ | Business, 1844-1845 |
| | 1-17 | " | Business, 1846-1847 |
| | 1-18 | " | Griswold, Mary Ann, 1855-1856 |
| | 1-19 | " | Personal, 1840-1858 |
| | 1-20 | Customer Accounts~ | 1823-1842 |
| | 1-21 | Education Bills~ | 1845-1856 |
| | 1-22 | Photographs~ | unidentified, n.d. |
| | 1-23 | Proxy~ | 1854 |
| | 1-24 | Stockholders Notices~ | 1853-1863 |

Series II
North and Savage Business Papers
Boxes 2-3

These North and Savage business papers date from 1838 through 1866 and consist of bills and receipts, cancelled checks, contracts correspondence, patent materials, and promissory notes. There are invoices from parts suppliers such as Canfield and Robbins Co. of Falls Village, Connecticut and lumber suppliers S.S. Losee and Co. of Albany, New York. Included also is business correspondence from Samuel Colt, Remington and patent solicitors Munn and Co. The letters from inventor John Stowell (1854-1856) to Edward Savage concerning arms improvements, patents, and government tests are of special interest.

The materials are arranged by type, then chronologically.

BOX 2 2-1 Bills, Receipts~ 1838

2-2 " " 1839-1840
2-3 " " 1841-1842
2-4 " " 1848-1849
2-5 " " 1850-1851
2-6 " " 1852-1853
2-7 " " Jan-Jun, 1854
2-8 " " Jul-Dec, 1854
2-9 " " 1855-1856
2-10 " " 1857-1858
2-11 " " 1859-1860
2-12 " " 1863-1864
2-13 " " 1865-1866
2-14 " " Miscellaneous n.d.
2-15 Cancelled Checks 1852-1853
2-16 " " 1854-1855
2-17 " " 1856-1857
2-18 " " 1858-1859
2-19 " " 1860-1861

BOX 3 3-1 Circular~ Springfield Armory, 1841

3-2 " Patent Procedures, 1845
3-3 Contract~ Labor, 1850
3-4 Contract Form~ Land, ca. 1855
3-5 Correspondence~ Barry, E1iza, 1850-1852
3-6 " Business, 1841-1843
3-7 " Business, 1845-1846
3-8 " Canfield and Robbins, 1846-1849
3-9 " Business, 1847-1849
3 10 " " 1850
3 11 " " 1851
3 12 " " Letter to executors Reuben and James North, 1852
3-13 Correspondence~ Business, 1853
3 14 " " 1854
3 15 " " 1855
3 16 " " 1856 1857
3-17 " " , 1858
3-18 " " , 1859
3-19 " " , 1860-1863
3 20 " " 1865
3 21 " " n d.

Series II (cont'd)

North and Savage Business Papers (cont'd)

Box 3 (cont'd)

- 3-22 " Colt, Samuel, 1861
- 3-23 " Government, 1840
- 3-24 " Government, 1856-1861
- 3-25 " Hull, Stephen, 1853
- 3-26 " Losee and Co., 1841-1842
- 3-27 " Munn & Company, 1852-1860
- 3-28 Correspondence~ Remington & Son, 1848-1852
- 3-29 Correspondence~ Stowell, John, 1854-1856
- 3-30 Correspondence~ Ward, J.N., 1856-1858
- 3-31 Correspondence~ Whitney, Eli, 1854
- 3-32 Cost Estimates n.d.
- 3-33 Financial Statements~ n.d.
- 3-34 Financial Notices~ 1842-1844
- 3-35 Inspection Report~ Firearms, 1818
- 3-36 Inspection Reports~ Firearms, 1850-1851
- 3-37 Inventories~ Machinery, n.d.
- 3-38 Journal~ Benjamin Savage, ca. 1858
- 3-39 Legal Document~ Agreement, 1842
- 3-40 Order. Firearms Parts, 1847
- 3-41 Patent Assignment~ 1850
- 3-42 Patent Materials~ S. North, E. Savage, 1843-1844
- 3-43 Patent Materials~ U.S. Patent Office, 1856
- 3-44 Promissory Notes~ 1837-1859
- 3-45 Rejected Parts 1865
- 3-46 Stockholders Notices~ 1852-1853
- 3-47 Time Book 1 Hubbard, Jeremiah, 1839-1842
- 3-48 Fragments~ n.d., 1834, 1837

Series III

North and Savage Business Papers in Original Order

Boxes 4-6

This series of North and Savage business papers consists of two groups of materials, each arranged in its original order. The first group of bills, receipts, invoices and workman's bills dates from 1835 through 1868. Each folder is labeled the same way the originator labeled his tied packets. Where the dates of the materials included in each packet differ from the label, the actual dates are placed in brackets beneath his designation on the folder. These are arranged chronologically.

The second group of the series is also in its original order, but the packets were not identified except for the dates, which range from 1824 through 1864. They are foldered as Miscellaneous Bills and Receipts, and Miscellaneous Promissory Notes, followed by the dates, and arranged chronologically.

- BOX 4
- 4-1 Bills and other to North and Savage~ 1835-1846
 - 4-2 Bills for 1842 & 1843
 - 4-3 Bills for 1845
 - 4-4 Bills and receipts paid in 1848 & 1849
 - 4-5 Bills & drafts & letter from E. Remington & Son, 1849
 - 4-6 Bills for 1849 & 1850 in full

Series III: North and Savage Business Papers in Original Order (cont'd)

Box 4 (cont'd)

- 4-7 Bills for 1850
- 4-8 Workmen's bills paid up to March 23, 1850
- 4-9 Bills and payroll for May 16, 1850
- 4-10 Bills for 1850
- 4-11 Notes - bills and receipts for 1850, 1851
- 4-12 Bills filled [sic] without reference to date
- 4-13 Workmen's bills for June 16, 1851 with payroll
- 4-14 Workmen's bills to Nov 2, 1852
- 4-15 Bills of 1852
- 4-16 Private bills paid in 1852
- 4-17 Workmen's bills to Feb 25th 1853
- 4-18 Bills paid for 1853
- 4-19 Invoices principally steel stock

BOX 5 5-1 Bills for 1854

- 5-2 Freight bills New York Guns Capt. J.N. Wards
- 5-3 Bills on which is (sic) charged orders against N.S. North
- 5-4 Bills, receipts and notes paid and to be paid for 1857
- 5-5 Bills 1857
- 5-6 Bills 1858
- 5-7 Statements of labor a/c of Wards Hammer a/c to June 1858
- 5-8 Railroad receipts 1858, 1859
- 5-9 Bills January 1st 1859
- 5-10 Bills paid 1859
- 5-11 Bills paid in 1860
- 5-12 Bills for 1861 & 1862
- 5-13 Bills and papers from 1861-1870
- 5-14 Bills and receipts for 1861 paid 1862
- 5-15 Bills paid 1862
- 5-16 Bills of 1864-1865
- 5-17 Bills paid for 1866
- 5-18 Bills paid in 1868

BOX 6 6-1 Misc. bills and receipts~1824-1840

- 6-2 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1824-1842
- 6-3 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1834-1846
- 6-4 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1839-1847
- 6-5 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1839-1849
- 6-6 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1841-1842
- 6-7 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1843-1846
- 6-8 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1844-1846
- 6-9 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1844-1859
- 6-10 Misc. bills and receipts. 1846-1854
- 6-11 Misc. workmen's bills~ 1849
- 6-12 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1849-1850
- 6-13 Misc. bills, notes and receipts~ 1850-1861
- 6-14 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1850-1862
- 6-15 Misc. bills and receipts, bills of lading~ 1851-1852
- 6-16 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1852
- 6-17 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1853-1858
- 6-18 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1856-1864
- 6-19 Misc. bills and receipts~ 1857-1859

**Series IV
Ledgers and Account Books
Boxes 7-10**

This group of North and Savage ledgers, 1823-1858, consists of a variety of record books which include account books, factory books, and day books. The earliest ledgers appear to be from Edward Savage's businesses outside the arms business. Two books record food, cattle, cartage, timber and day work. Another, 1830-1832, appears to be an account of piece work by numerous women for making clothing articles such as pants, vests and jackets. Also of interest is a small account book marked "Account of dues for Slip Rents and Parsonage Rents", 1839-1844. Factory day books record piece work by the arms factory workers, attendance records and general accounts with individuals and a few companies. Included in the series is a letter press book, 1858-1860, with copies of business correspondence from Edward Savage.

The ledgers are arranged chronologically.

BOX 7 7-1 Account book~ Edward Savage, 1823-1832
7-2 Account book~ clothing piece work, 1830-1832
7-3 Account book~ 1831-1837
7-4 Ledger~ 1831-1833
7-5 Factory bookl 1839-1843
7-6 Account book~ Slip and Parsonage rents, 1839-1844

BOX 8 8-1 Ledger~ 1839-1851
8-2 Work bookl 1842-1858

BOX 9 9-1 Day book~ 19 Jul 1842 - Jul 1846
9-2 Account ledger~ 1846-1850
9-3 Day book~ 1846-1854

BOX 10 10-1 Journal~ 1850-1858
10-2 Ledger. 1850-1858
10-3 Letter press~ 1858-1860
10-4 Ledger~ clothing, n.d.