

Title: Palmer, Henry L. Papers

Reference Code: Mss-2407

Inclusive Dates: 1884 – 1969

Quantity: 0.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss

Abstract: Henry L. Palmer was born in 1819 in Pennsylvania and was admitted to practice law in New York. Poor health compelled him to move to Milwaukee in 1849, where he continued his law practice. Palmer immediately became a prominent political, business, judicial and civic figure in the city. He was elected Milwaukee City Attorney in 1851 and 1859 and served in both houses of the Wisconsin State government, though he had unsuccessful runs as the Democratic candidate for governor. He served as president of Milwaukee's school board from 1865-1868 and was elected Milwaukee County judge in 1873. Palmer was very involved with the establishment of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company in Milwaukee in 1859, and in 1874, he became the company's president, a position he held until 1908. He also was very involved in the Masonic movement, rising through the ranks and was elected grand master of the U.S. in 1865. In addition, he was a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and advanced to the 33rd degree. He passed away in May 1909.

Scope and Content: The collection contains newspaper clippings and biographical information about Palmer and his business career and Masonic activities. Also included are personal recollections by Palmer's grandson in Northwestern Mutual's employee publication *New Life News*.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English