



**OLD COLONY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

**William T. and Mary L. Hurley  
Library  
Finding Aid**

**MSS-02-010  
Henchy Family**

**Historical & Biographical Note:** John Francis Henchy was born in 1924 to Edward and Mary Henchy. A lifelong resident of Taunton, John Henchy lived at 182 Whittenton Street and graduated from Coyle High School. After graduating, he studied at the University of Notre Dame until February 24, 1943 when he decided to join the service during the Second World War. In the service, he traveled with the Signal Corps and served for two years in China. On October 1, 1945, he wrote to his family that he was finally coming home, but he never returned from China. His family began frantically and persistently writing letters to many high ranking U.S. and foreign officials, but to no avail. John Henchy was pronounced dead on August 11, 1947.

**Scope & Content Note:**

The Henchy Family papers consist of 4 boxes and 349 folders, which include the Henchy family's letters to and from various friends, family, and teachers; John Henchy's letters to and from his family during World War II; letters from John's fellow soldiers, letters from his mother, Mrs. Mary Henchy and his sister, Eileen Henchy to and from U.S. and foreign officials in Washington D.C., magazines, calendars, target practice papers, essays, scrap papers, newspaper clippings, telegrams, University of Notre Dame bulletins, pamphlets, Alumni fund checks, and a leather-bound book certifying John Henchy's membership of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association.

**Series Description:**

**Box 1** -- April 17 1939 - April 15 1968

Letters to and from the Henchy family and various friends, relatives, teachers, and schools and letters to and from John Henchy and the Henchy family while he was serving

**Box 2** --July 9 1940 – October 18 1946

Letters, envelopes, target practices, magazines, and calendars to and from the Henchy family and John during his time in the war.

**Box 3** – March 8 1945 – November 10 1948

Letters and envelopes to and from Mrs. Mary Henchy and Eileen Henchy and U.S. and foreign officials, friends, family, and John's fellow soldiers with whom he served.

**Box 4** --December 29 1937 –December 5 1974

Miscellaneous envelopes, letters, certificates, checks, luggage tags, essays, magazines, receipts, brochures and pamphlets before and after John Henchy's time in the war.

## Inventory:

### BOX 1:

Folder:	Contents:
1	Letter to Miss Eileen Margaret Henchy
2	University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin
3	"to Our Lady" Prayer card
4	Envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Henchy
5	Newspaper clipping of Richard Sullivan by James V Cunningham
6	Envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from University of Notre Dame
7	Letter to "Father" from Eddie Harrigan
8	Envelope to Mr. Edward Henchy from University of Notre Dame
9	Letter & envelope to Eileen Henchy from Charlotte
10	Letter to Mrs. Reggini from Mrs. Edward Henchy
11	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from Brother Paulus, The Vincentian Institute
12	Letter & envelope to miss Eileen Henchy from Sgt. Glenn M. Dunnigan
13	Letter & envelope to Mrs. E.J. Henchy from Mrs. Hawkins
14	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from Theresa Lynch
15	Letter to "Gentlemen" from Eileen Henchy
16	Letter & envelope to Eileen Henchy from John Kearney
17	Letter to Dean [ILLEGIBLE] from Helen
18	Newspaper clipping of Monsignor and Bishop
19	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from Brother Paulus
20	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mae Henchy from Gene
21	Letter to Mrs. Henchy & Eileen from Brother Thaddeus
22	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mae Henchy from Gene (Sgt. E. McMann)
23	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from

	B. Kaeph (?), St. Edwards High School
24	Letter & envelope to Mae and Eileen
25	Letter & envelope to Mae Henchy from Blanche Hust (?)
26	Letter to Mae Henchy from Blanche
27	2 letter cards & envelope to Mrs. M. and Eileen Henchy, Holy Cross High School
28	2 page letter & envelope to Mrs. M. and Eileen Henchy from B. Raeph (?)
29	Letter, envelope & scrap to Mrs. Christy Whalon from Eileen Henchy
30	Letter, envelope to Mrs. E. J. Henchy from Brother Paulus
31	Bristol County Trust Company envelope
32	Small letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy & Eileen from Brother Dominic
33	Invitation card & envelope to Mrs. Mae Henchy from P.B. Fay
34	Letter to Johnnie from Eileen
35	Anniversary card to friends from James J. and Anne E. Murphy (?)
36	Mother's day card from Eileen

37	Valentine's Day card from Eileen
38	Voyage card from Mom
39	Christmas card & envelope to Eileen from Gene
40	Anniversary card & envelope to Mom & Dad from Eileen
41	Letter & envelope to Miss Florey Sousa from Fran
42	Letter & envelope to Miss Florey Sousa from Frannie
43	Letter & envelope to Miss Florey Sousa from Frannie
44	Notebook Paper
45	Letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward James Henchy from Francis
46	Easter card & envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from Frannie
47	Letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Henchy from Francis

48	Letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Francis
49	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward J. Henchy from Fran
50	Letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Francis
51	Letter to "folks" from Francis
52	Letter & envelope to the Henchy's from Francis
53	Father's day card & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
54	Letter & envelope to Mr. Edward J. Henchy from Francis
55	5 Mother's day cards & 2 envelopes
56	16 misc. post cards
57	Letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Francis
58	Letter & ticket to "Gang" from Fran
59	Letter to "folks" from Francis
60	Father's day card & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
61	Letter & 2 target practice sheets from Fran
62	Letter to "Folks" from HENCH
63	Letter to "Momsy" from Francis
64	4 pg. letter to "Everybody" from Francis
65	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Eugene Jargine (?) from Francis
66	Envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from John Henchy

## BOX 2:

1	Letter & envelope to John Henchy from Ted Draper
2	Birthday card & envelope to Mr. Jack Henchy from Mrs. B. Reginni
3	Newspaper clipping, the Missouri Legionnaire
4	Letter to Jack from Mom
5	Letter to Franny from Dad
6	Letter to Mr. John Henchy from Dorothy
7	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from

	"Satan"
8	2 pg. letter & envelope to John Henchy from Whit
9	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Johnny
10	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Bud
11	Letter, envelope & newspaper clipping to Mr. John Henchy from Dorothy
12	Letter & envelope to Mr. J. F. Henchy from Jack
13	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. Jack Henchy
14	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Jim
15	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Joe
16	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Dot
17	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from George
18	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Chuck
19	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Dot
20	Letter & envelope to Mr. John Henchy from Bill Malone
21	2 pg. letter & envelope to John Henchy from Whit
22	Card to John Henchy from James Courcy
23	2 pg. letter & envelope to John Henchy from Brother Paulus
24	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. John F. Henchy from A. Quigley
25	2 pg. letter and envelope to Mr. Jack Henchy from Mary Henchy
26	Two 2 pg. Immaculata newspapers
27	Letter & envelope to Francis Henchy
28	2 pg. letter to John from Private
29	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. Francis Henchy from Maloney
30	2 pg. letter & envelope to John Henchy from Elizabeth Maloney
31	2 pg. letter to Doctor from the Colonel
32	2 pg. Letter to John from the Colonel
33	2 pg. Letter to John from the Colonel

34	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
35	2 pg. letter to "folks" from Fran
36	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mary Henchy from Fran
37	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
38	2 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
39	3 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
40	3 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
41	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
42	2 pg. letter to "gang" from Hench
43	3 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
44	Letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
45	Letter & envelope to Ed Henchy from Fran
46	Letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
47	4 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
48	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Frannie
49	4 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
50	2 pg. letter & envelope to Eugene Sargine (?) from Francis
51	Letter & envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from Fran
52	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
53	2 pg. letter, envelope & scrap to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Hench
54	2 pg. letter from Bert to Jack
55	Letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
56	3 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
57	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran
58	2 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
59	4 pg. letter to "folks" from Fran
60	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from Fran

61	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
62	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
63	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
64	2 pg. letter to "folks" from Fran
65	3 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
66	2 pg. letter to Mom, Dad, and Eileen from Fran
67	2 pg. letter to "Ancient ones" from Fran
68	3 pg. letter & envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from Henchy
69	2 pg. letter to "Ancient ones" from Johnnie
70	Letter & envelope to Henchy family from Hench
71	Letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
72	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Fran
73	4 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
74	Letter to "oldsters" from Johnnie
75	Letter & envelope to Henchy family from Hench
76	Letter from Mrs. Reggini to Jack
77	Letter to "gang" from Hench
78	2 pg. letter to "folks" from Fran
79	2 pg. letter & envelope to Henchy family from Hench
80	3 pg. letter to Mom & Dad from Fran
81	4 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
82	2 pg. letter to "folks" from Hench
83	2 pg. letter to "gang" from Fran
84	26 misc. envelopes

**BOX 3:**

1	Letter & envelope to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henchy from Jack
2	2 pg. letter to Mrs. E. J. Henchy from Glenn
3	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from Britte McNambia (?)
4	Letter & envelope to Mrs. John E. Henchy from John Driscott
5	Letter/calendar & envelope to M. Edward Henchy from E.M. [ILLEGIBLE]
6	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from John Driscoll
7	2 pg. letter to George from Mrs. Edward Henchy
8	Letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy from "'Re' Donahue"
9	Letter to Mrs. Mary Henchy from J. O'Brien
10	Letter to Mrs. Mary Henchy from E. M. Laith (?)
11	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from the "Carmelite Sisters"
12	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mrs. E.J. Henchy from Bother Paulus
13	Letter & envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from John Lynch
14	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henchy and Eileen from Elizabeth Maloney
15	Letter & envelope to Mary E. Henchy from Aithan (?) Dolman
16	Letter to General Witsell from Mrs. Henchy
17	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy from M.J Kehoe
18	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy from M.J Kehoe
19	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy from Jack Carter
20	Letter to M.J Kehoe from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
21	Letter to Ed from Ray (?) Doyle
22	Letter to Ron (?) from Gill (?)
23	Letter to Mr. Ray Forincillo
24	Letter to Herl (?)
25	Herb Fagot's log
26	Letter to Ed from Ray Doyle



27	Letter "To Whom It May Concern" from Edward J. Henchy
28	White House envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy
29	House of Representatives envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy
30	Letter to John McCormick from Pat Carr
31	Letter to "friend Jim"
32	Unmarked War Department envelope
33	War Department envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy
34	Letter to Senator David Walsh from Pat Carr
35	Letter to Pat Carr from Senator David Walsh
36	War Department envelope
37	Letter to Joseph Martin
38	Excerpts from John Henchy's letter
39	Shorthand list of dates
40	Two page letter from Edward Henchy to Neal O'Hara
41	Neal O'Hara newspaper article
42	Letter to Joseph Martin
43	Letter to Frank from Eileen
44	War Department envelope
45	War Department envelope, casualty branch
46	House of Representatives envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy
47	Letter to Mrs. Gridley
48	Letter to Mrs. Gridley from Mrs. Edward J. Henchy
49	Letter to Mr. Kinnaly from Eileen Henchy
50	War Department envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy
51	House of Representatives envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy
52	Newspaper clipping, "Troy Seeks Court Post, Isn't Fussy About Which"
53	Book excerpts
54	7 page letter (3 typed, 4 written) from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
55	Letter to Adjutant General's office from Mrs. Mary Henchy

56	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary E. Henchy from S.H. Smith
57	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from S.H Smith
58	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from Speaker's Room secretary
59	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from Edward F. Witsell
60	5 copies of letter to Edward F. Witsell from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
61	5 copies of letter (1 written, 4 typed) to Joseph Martin from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
62	4 point list
63	3 copies (1 written, 2 typed) of 2 pg. letter to Rev. John J. Cavanaugh from Mrs. Henchy
64	War Department envelope
65	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from S.H Smith
66	Letter to Alumnus from Rev. John J. Cavanaugh
67	Letter & magazine
68	3 pg. letter to Richard B. Coombs from Mrs. Henchy
69	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from Richard B. Coombs
70	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from E.C Gault
71	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from Richard B. Coombs
72	Letter tom Mrs. McMann from Drew Pearson
73	4 copies of letter (1 written, 3 typed) to Department of the Army from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
74	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary E. Henchy from T. H Metz
75	Office of the Quarter Master General envelope
76	Letter to Joseph from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
77	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mrs. Edward Henchy from Ray Doyle
78	4 pg. letter & envelope to Mr. Ed Henchy from Ray Doyle
79	4 copies of letter to the Department of the Army from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
80	Envelope from War Department to Mrs. Mary E. Henchy

81	4 copies of letter & 2 envelopes to Mrs. Henchy from C. C Scarborough
82	Letter & envelope to "sir" (Martin) from Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Henchy
83	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from T.H Metz
84	Letter to Ray [Doyle] from Ed Henchy
85	2 pg. letter to Jack from Henchy
86	Speaker's Room envelope to Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
87	Letter to Joseph Martin Jr. from S.P Walker
88	Letter to John J. Considine from J. Smith
89	2 pg. letter to Joseph Martin Jr. from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
90	2 pg. letter to Father Donovan from Eileen Henchy
91	2 envelopes to Mrs. Mary E. Henchy from House of Representatives
92	Telegram to Mrs. Edward Henchy from Elsie Gridley
93	Letter to "friend Gene"
94	# pg. letter to General Eisenhower
95	Notre Dame envelope to Mr. Edward j. Henchy
96	War Department envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy
97	Page 3 of letter regarding John's disappearance
98	Letter to John from Father Arthur Considine
99	2 copies (1 written, 1 typed) of letter to Father Considine from Eileen Henchy
100	Envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy
101	Scrap paper to Mr. Joseph Cosgrove
102	Letter to Miss Eileen Henchy from John & Donna
103	Letter to Mr. Anderson from Edward Henchy
104	# pg. letter to "friend Ed" from Ray Doyle
105	Letter to "sir" from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
106	Letter to Father Donovan from Eileen Henchy
107	Envelope to Mr. Edward J Henchy
108	3 copies of 2 pg. letter to Joseph Martin Jr. from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy

109	3 copies of letter & one envelope to General Witsell From Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
110	2 pg. letter to Joseph Martin Jr. from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
111	Letter & envelope to Ed from Ray Doyle
112	2 pg. letter concerning John Henchy
113	Letter to Rev. John Donovan from Harold C. Roser Jr.

**BOX 4:**

1	2 pg. letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from War Department
2	Letter & envelope to Miss Eileen Henchy from John Donovan
3	2 copies of letter to Speaker Joseph Martin Jr. from Mrs. Mary E. Henchy
4	3 pg. letter & envelope to Mrs. Mary Henchy from Joseph Guiliano (?)
5	Letter to "friends" from John F. Nien
6	Letter to Joseph Guiliano
7	Envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Henchy
8	Letter to "Folks" from Fran
9	3 pg. letter concerning John Henchy
10	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from H. B Lewis
11	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from Joseph Martin Jr.
12	Letter & envelope to Mrs. Henchy from St. Malachy's Rectory
13	Letter to T. O Kraabal from c. C. Scarborough
14	3 pg. letter from Mrs. Mary Henchy
15	Letter to Mrs. Henchy from Joseph Martin Jr.
16	Department of the Army envelope
17	Letter to Mrs. Henchy fro Edward F. Witsell
18	Eileen Henchy; Application for Cable or Mail transfer
19	Envelope to Major General Edward F. Witsell
20	20 War Department envelopes
21	4 House of Representatives envelopes
22	Newspaper clippings
23	Scraps of paper
24	Notre Dame Army Football tickets pamphlet

25	University of Notre Dame envelope to Ed Henchy
26	Letter to "friend of Notre Dame" from Football Ticket committee
27	Universal Notre Dame Night RSVP
28	Letter to "Gentlemen" from Ed Henchy
29	Letter, envelope & application to Member of Notre Dame club of Boston from John V. Moran
30	2 Notre Dame alumni fund checks & envelope
31	Notre Dame pamphlet & envelope to Mr. John F. Henchy
32	Letter, envelope & receipt to John Henchy from Notre Dame
33	Letter to "sir" from Edward J. Henchy
34	Letter & envelope to Edward Henchy from Robert Cahill
35	Notre Dame newsletter
36	Notre Dame Envelope to Mr. John Henchy
37	Notre Dame Foundation envelope to John Henchy
38	Letter & envelope from Notre Dame Alumni association
39	Check, pamphlet & 3 envelopes to John Henchy
40	Pamphlet, 2 envelopes & check to John Henchy
41	Receipt to Mr. & Mrs. Ed Henchy
42	Alumni Association verification for John Henchy
43	Letter & envelope to Mr. & Mrs. Henchy from Notre Dame
44	Letter to Henchy family from James Armstrong
45	Passionist Missions in China pamphlet
46	Notre dame Scholastic newspaper
47	25 pg. "self-helps" for amateur song leaders by John R. Jones
48	Newspaper clipping
49	John Henchy employee ledger sheet
50	Letter & envelope of the Federal security agency
51	Fiske travel agency pay stub
52	Retirement & Survivor's insurance (2 pages)
53	Rashaw's Motel business card
54	Crystal spring dairy bar napkin
55	Dorado Hilton brochure
56	"He Who Laughs Last Laughs The Longest"

57	7 pg. log of wives in Taunton
58	Community chest of Taunton, inc.
59	Veteran's quarterly
60	Veteran's quarterly
61	University of Notre Dame club memo
62	"Presumed dead" application
63	Attorney general report
64	The Hostess magazine
65	Postcard to John Henchy
66	The Hostess magazine
67	Notre Dame football article
68	Map of Taunton
69	Letter to John Henchy from Elmer Noyes
70	Express motor coach route pamphlet
71	Chaucer's "O Purgatory" (?) essay by John Henchy
72	"Divine Comedy" essay by John Henchy
73	Notre Dame religious bulletin
74	John Henchy's paper on "Piers Plowman"
75	Dry Goods and Carpets receipt
76	John Henchy, 1st grade report card & envelope
77	Letter to Mr. Herbert from Eileen Henchy
78	Disabled Americans Veteran clipping
79	Community Chest pamphlet
80	Metropolitan life insurance co. 2 pg. letter & envelope
81	"Nos Missions Etrangères" French magazine
82	Christmas dance card
83	Request for W-R action
84	2 newspaper clippings mentioning the Henchy family
85	Cunard Line first class tag
86	John Henchy memorial article