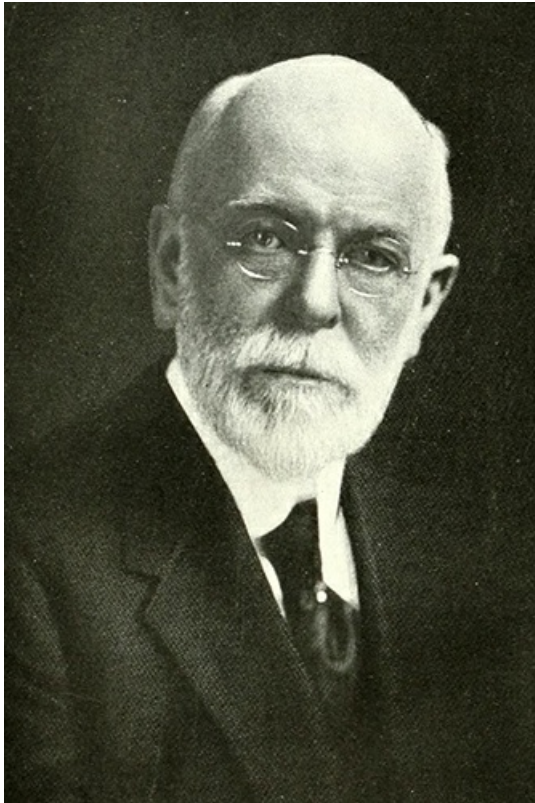


Briggs, Thomas Henry ^[1]

Briggs, Thomas Henry

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 1979

9 Sept. 1847–7 May 1928



Thomas Henry Briggs (1847-1928). Image from the Internet Archive.

^[3]Thomas Henry Briggs, merchant, banker, and religious leader, was born in [Raleigh](#) ^[4], the son of Thomas Henry and Evelina Norwood Briggs. He attended [Lovejoy Academy](#) ^[5] and was graduated from [Wake Forest](#) ^[6] College in 1870. In that year he and his brother joined as copartners the wholesale and retail hardware business that their father had established in 1865. The firm, [Thomas H. Briggs & Sons](#) ^[7], is still operated by the Briggs family in its original building on Fayetteville Street, Raleigh. Young Briggs became active in community development and was one of the organizers of the local [YMCA](#) ^[8]. He also assisted in organizing and became secretary and treasurer of the Wake County Cattle Club. He was an organizer of the Commercial National Bank and president of the Wake County Savings Bank, treasurer and trustee of [Wake Forest College](#) ^[6], a trustee of the [Agricultural and Mechanical College](#) ^[9], Greensboro, and a member of the Raleigh School Committee. He spent a great deal of time in religious work, particularly in organizing Sunday schools and in extension work with the [Baptist](#) ^[10] church.

Briggs married Sarah Grandy on 21 Oct. 1874; they were the parents of [Willis Grandy](#) ^[11] and Elizabeth Norwood. Briggs was buried in [Oakwood Cemetery](#) ^[12], Raleigh.



Briggs Hardware Building, from NC Office of Archives and History.

^[13]References:

History of North Carolina, vol. 4 (1919).

North Carolina: The Old North State and the New, vol. 3 (1941).

Additional Resources:

Willis G. Briggs Papers, 1764-1954 (collection no. 03077). The Southern Historical Collection. Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Briggs,Willis_G.html ^[14] (accessed April 19, 2013).

Image Credits:

"Thomas H. Biggs." *History of North Carolina* volume 4. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1919. Internet Archive. <https://archive.org/stream/historyofnorthca04conn#page/n29/mode/2up> ^[3] (accessed September 19, 2013).

Historic view of the Briggs Hardware Building Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Courtesy of the National Park Service. Available from <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/raleigh/bri.htm> ^[13] (accessed April 19, 2013).

Subjects:

[Biographies](#) ^[15]

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Origin - location:

[Raleigh](#) ^[18]

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[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[19]

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