

**Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2006**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78026526>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006031>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2006  
Revised 2024 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1835-1908

**Bulk Dates:** 1875-1898

**ID No.:** MSS26526

**Creator:** Hotchkiss, Jedediah, 1828-1899

**Extent:** 20,000 items

**Extent:** 74 containers

**Extent:** 29.6 linear feet

**Extent:** 61 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78026526>

**Summary:** Confederate army officer, topographical and mining engineer, and historian. Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, subject files, writings, financial papers, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous printed material relating principally to Hotchkiss's service with the Confederate army as a topographical engineer in Virginia and his involvement with various land and mining schemes in West Virginia, especially the Gauley Coal Company, Guyandot Coal Land Association, and North Flat-Top Land Association. Includes genealogical papers relating to the Hotchkiss and Beecher families, copies of William Barton Rogers's notebooks for his geological survey of Virginia, and papers of Hotchkiss's wife, Sara Anne Comfort Hotchkiss.

**Online Content:** The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000034>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.*

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Allan, William, 1837-1889--Correspondence.

Beecher family.

Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence.

Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.

Dabney, Robert Lewis, 1820-1898--Correspondence.

Daniel, John W. (John Warwick), 1842-1910--Correspondence.

Early, Jubal Anderson, 1816-1894--Correspondence.

Elkins, Stephen B. (Stephen Benton), 1841-1911--Correspondence.

Gordon, John Brown, 1832-1904--Correspondence.

Hotchkiss family.

Hotchkiss, Jedediah, 1828-1899.

Hotchkiss, Sara Anne Comfort. Sara Anne Comfort Hotchkiss papers.

Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863--Correspondence.

LeConte, Joseph, 1823-1901--Correspondence.

Lee, Fitzhugh, 1835-1905--Correspondence.

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870--Correspondence.

Mahone, William, 1826-1895--Correspondence.

McClure, S. S. (Samuel Sidney), 1857-1949--Correspondence.

McGuire, Hunter, 1835-1900--Correspondence.

Moody, Dwight Lyman, 1837-1899--Correspondence.

Pelham, John, 1838-1863--Correspondence.

Rogers, William Barton, 1804-1882. William Barton Rogers notebooks. 1835-1841.

Stuart, Jeb, 1833-1864--Correspondence.

Tucker, Henry St. George, 1853-1932--Correspondence.

Wise, Henry A. (Henry Alexander), 1806-1876--Correspondence.

### **Organizations**

Confederate States of America. Army.  
Gauley Coal Company.  
Guyandot Coal Land Association.  
North Flat-Top Land Association.

### **Subjects**

Coal mines and mining--West Virginia.  
Geology--Virginia.  
Land companies--West Virginia.  
Land use, Rural--West Virginia.  
Military topography--Virginia.

### **Places**

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Maps.  
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Maps.

### **Titles**

*Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers at the Library of Congress*

### **Occupations**

Army officers, Confederate.  
Civil engineers.  
Historians.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss, topographical and mining engineer, Confederate army officer, and historian, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1948. A small addition to the papers was purchased in 1958.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss were arranged and described in 1978 by David Alsobrook and Paul Ledvina. The collection was microfilmed in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2003 by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodaca.

## **Transfers**

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Photographs and other pictorial material have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers. Artifacts have been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Jedediah Hotchkiss is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on sixty-one reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

## Online Content

The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000034>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.*

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1828, Nov. 30	Born, Windsor, Broome County, N.Y.
1846	Graduated from Windsor Academy, New Windsor, N.Y.
1846-1847	Taught school, Lykens Valley, Pa.
1847	Walking tour, Cumberland Valley of Maryland and Pennsylvania and Shenandoah Valley, Va. Tutored in home of Daniel Forrer, Luray, Va. Founded Mossy Creek Academy, Augusta County, Va.
1853	Married Sara Anne Comfort
1858	Resigned as headmaster of Mossy Creek Academy, Augusta County, Va., and organized Loch Willow School for Boys at Churchville, Augusta County, Va.
1861	Reported for military duty as topographical engineer with the Army of Northwest Virginia near Parkersburg, Va. Engaged in mapping operations in vicinity of Rich Mountain, W. Va.
1862	Assigned as topographical engineer with Stonewall Jackson's staff near Woodstock, Va.; began mapping Shenandoah Valley from Potomac River to Lexington, Va. Guided Jeb Stuart's troops from Sharpsburg to Shepherdstown, Va.
1862, Dec.	Staff duty at Fredericksburg, Va.
1862-1863	In winter quarters with Stonewall Jackson at Moss Neck, Va.
1863, Apr-May	Night reconnaissance and mapping operations for Chancellorsville; assigned to staff of Richard Ewell after death of Stonewall Jackson,
1863, July	Observed troop movements from Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg, Pa.
1864, Mar.-May	Engaged in mapping duties during Wilderness Campaign and Second Cold Harbor
1864, Oct.	Drew maps for Cedar Creek engagement against Philip Sheridan
1864-1865	In winter quarters at Staunton, Va.
1865	Paroled in Staunton, Va. Organized "select school for sons of fellow soldiers," Churchville, Va. Established office as mining engineer, Staunton, Va.

1867	Published with William Allan <i>The Battle-Fields of Virginia. Chancellorsville...</i> New York: D. Van Nostrand
1870-1871	Acting superintendent of schools, Augusta County, Va.
1872-1875	Spent winters in England and Scotland
1873	Began survey of Great Flat-Top Coal Range in West Virginia
1876	Published <i>Virginia; a Geographical and Political Summary</i> , Richmond, Va.: R. F. Walker, Superintendent of Public Printing
1877	Published <i>Hotchkiss' Geography of Virginia</i> , Richmond, Va.: A. Hoen
1878	Appointed expert special agent of the census for Virginia
1880	Began six-year publication of <i>The Virginias</i> , a periodical promoting the state's resources
1882	Purchased large coal tract on Cabin Creek, Kanawha Valley, W. Va.
1884	Served as Virginia commissioner at World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, La. Ran as independent Congressional candidate from 10th District of Virginia
1893	Served as judge for mining exhibits at World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
1894	Headed antisaloon campaign, Staunton, Va.
1899, Jan. 17	Died, Staunton, Va.
1899	Posthumous publication of <i>Virginia</i> , [Atlanta]: Confederate Publishing Company, Vol. 3 of <i>Confederate Military History</i>

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss (1828-1899) span the years 1835-1908, with the bulk of the material dating from 1875 to 1898. The papers reflect his varied activities as a student, geologist, lecturer, school teacher, engineer, soldier, and historian. Hotchkiss's Civil War diaries, notebooks, and journals describe troop movements and battles and reveal a topographer's keen eye for the physical lay of the land. In addition to the original diaries, there are handwritten and typewritten copies or extracts which either vary somewhat from the originals or contain additional information.

Some of Hotchkiss's most informative letters are to his wife, Sara Comfort Hotchkiss, and his brother, Nelson Hotchkiss, during his military duty, 1861-1865. These letters, with variant copies, are in the [Family Correspondence](#) series. Other family correspondence includes Hotchkiss's letters to his wife and children, 1872-1875, while he was touring England and correspondence of Sara Hotchkiss, 1853-1903.

The [General Correspondence](#) series, the largest in the collection, includes personal and business correspondence, many of which relate to Hotchkiss's involvement with various land and mining ventures in West Virginia, particularly with the Gauley Coal Company, the Guyandot Coal Land Association, and the North Flat-Top Land Association. Between 1875 and 1899, much of the correspondence is concerned with details of Civil War engagements and the publication of Hotchkiss's books. He corresponded frequently with former staff officers of Stonewall Jackson, such as William Allan and Hunter McGuire. There is also correspondence with Jubal Anderson Early, John Brown Gordon, and Fitzhugh Lee. Other correspondents include James Gillespie Blaine, William E. Chandler, Robert Lewis Dabney, John W. Daniel, Stephen B. Elkins, Stonewall Jackson, Joseph LeConte, Robert E. Lee, William Mahone, S. S. McClure, Dwight Lyman Moody, John Pelham, Jeb Stuart, Henry St. George Tucker, and Henry A. Wise.

The [Subject File](#) reflects Hotchkiss's entrepreneurial and scholarly interests and includes drafts and notes of his writings and newspaper clipping files on diverse subjects. The Subject File also includes copies of William Barton Rogers's notebooks concerning his geological survey of Virginia, 1835-1841. There is no material in this collection associated with Hotchkiss's political activities as an independent Congressional candidate in 1884.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains genealogical records of the Hotchkiss and Beecher families. This series also contains financial records in the form of account books, canceled checks, bank notes, and bills and receipts.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diaries, 1845-1899
- Notebooks, 1866-1893
- Family Correspondence, 1853-1903
- General Correspondence, 1846-1899
- Subject File, circa 1835-1899
- Writings File, circa 1846-1899
- Miscellany, circa 1846-1908

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-3	<b><u>Diaries, 1845-1899</u></b> Bound diaries and loose diary pages, with transcripts and extracts of diary entries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6 REEL 4	<b><u>Notebooks, 1866-1893</u></b> Mining field notes, work logs, and coal analyses. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7-8 REEL 4-5	<b><u>Family Correspondence, 1853-1903</u></b> Correspondence of Jedediah Hotchkiss, Sara Anne Comfort Hotchkiss, and other members of Hotchkiss family. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 9-32 REEL 5-34	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1846-1899</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-47 REEL 35-44	<b><u>Subject File, circa 1835-1899</u></b> Correspondence, maps, tracings, sketches, notes, printed matter, and legal documents. Arranged alphabetically by name of company or subject of research.
BOX 48-60 REEL 44-51	<b><u>Writings File, circa 1846-1899</u></b> Books, articles, essays, speeches, lectures, book reviews, and notes. Arranged in three groups: books, other writings of Hotchkiss, and writings by others.
BOX 61-74 REEL 52-61	<b><u>Miscellany, circa 1846-1908</u></b> Scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, genealogical and autobiographical material, financial records, printed matter, and legal papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder by subject or chronologically.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,917

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-5 REEL 1-3</b>	<b>Diaries, 1845-1899</b> Bound diaries and loose diary pages, with transcripts and extracts of diary entries. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	1845, July 4-Sept. 23 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1846, June 19-Sept. 10 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1847, Apr. 26.- Aug. 2 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1847, Aug. 3-1848, Mar. 3 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1848, Mar. 5-Apr. 23 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1848, Apr. 16-May 28 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1850 (weather and flower tables) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1851, July 1-Dec. 30 (with miscellaneous notes, 1852-1853) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1851 (almanac/notebook) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1859, June 13-Nov. 26 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861, June 26-Sept. 17 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861 (miscellaneous fragments); Mar. 14-May 7; 1862, Oct. 6-19 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861, June 15-1862, May 16 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861, June 15-1862, May 24 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861, Dec. 9-1862, Mar. 31 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1861, Dec. 14-31 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1862, Mar. 27-May 19 (extracts/variants) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1862, May 4-Dec. 14 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
<b>BOX 2 REEL 1</b>	1862, May 20-Dec. 16 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>



## Diaries, 1845-1899

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	1862, Mar. 10-May 12 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1863, Jan. 1-Nov. 28 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1863, Apr. 29-Nov. 28 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1863, Oct. 24-1864, Apr. 30 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1864, May-June (miscellaneous notes) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2 REEL 2	1864, May 1-Dec. 23 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1864, Nov. 9-1865, May 8 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3 REEL 2	1861, June 15-1865, Dec. 23 (extracts) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4 REEL 2	1870 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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	1874-1875 (miscellaneous fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1874-1876 (miscellaneous fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1876 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4 REEL 3	1876-1877 (miscellaneous fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1878-1890 (diary/notebook miscellany) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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## Diaries, 1845-1899

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	1892 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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<b>BOX 6 REEL 4</b>	<b>Notebooks, 1866-1893</b> Mining field notes, work logs, and coal analyses. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 6 REEL 4</b>	General 1866, Oct.-Nov. (“Journal of Operations, etc. Top. Eng. Office”) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1869 (fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1878 (fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1891-1892 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1893 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Undated (1 of 2) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Undated (2 of 2) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Geological 1880-1883 (fragments) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> 1887 <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Undated (1 of 2) <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Undated (2 of 2) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
<b>BOX 7-8 REEL 4-5</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1853-1903</b> Correspondence of Jedediah Hotchkiss, Sara Anne Comfort Hotchkiss, and other members of Hotchkiss family. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
<b>BOX 7 REEL 4</b>	Hotchkiss, Jedediah

## Family Correspondence, 1853-1903

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	To Nelson H. Hotchkiss (brother), 1855 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	To Sara Anne Comfort Hotchkiss (wife) 1861 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1862 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1863 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1864-1865 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1870-1875 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	Undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	Letterbooks 1861, June 27-1864, Dec. 30 , typed copies of letters to Sara A. C. Hotchkiss and Nelson H. Hotchkiss <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1861-1864 , variant copies of same <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
<b>BOX 8 REEL 5</b>	Hotchkiss, Sara Anne Comfort 1853-1875 ,1885 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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	1900 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	1901-1903, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	Howison, Allan M., and Anne Lydia Hotchkiss, letters of condolence upon death of Jedediah Hotchkiss, 1899 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	McCullough, Ellen Hotchkiss, 1874-1875 , 1899-1901 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
	Miscellany, 1854-1863 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
<b>BOX 9-32 REEL 5-34</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1846-1899</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
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## General Correspondence, 1846-1899

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BOX 9 REEL 6	1869 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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BOX 10 REEL 6	1873, Jan.-May <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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BOX 19 REEL 13	1896, Sept. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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BOX 21 REEL 14	1897, Aug. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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	1897, Dec. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>

## General Correspondence, 1846-1899

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	1898, June <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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BOX 23 REEL 15	1898, Sept. <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
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Canceled checks and stubs

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