

Horace Capron Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015024>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010240>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010
Revised 2022 July

Collection Summary

Title: Horace Capron Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1834-1961

Bulk Dates: 1871-1875

ID No.: MSS15024

Creator: Capron, Horace, 1804-1885

Extent: 1,800 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2.5 linear feet

Extent: 1 digital file (16.47 MB)

Language: Collection material in English and Japanese

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79015024>

Summary: United States army officer and commissioner of agriculture. Correspondence, journals, biographical material, financial records, orders for agricultural equipment and supplies, printed matter, and photographs in physical format as well as a map in both digital and physical format. Relating chiefly to Capron's role as agricultural adviser to the Japanese government in the agricultural development of Hokkaido.

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

Capron family--Correspondence.

Capron, Horace, 1804-1885.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Department of Agriculture.

Subjects

Agriculture--Japan--Hokkaido.

Agriculture--Japan.

Agriculture--United States.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Army officers.

Public officials.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Horace Capron, United States army officer and commissioner of agriculture, were given to the Library of Congress by his great-grandson, Banfield Capron, in 1964 and in 1980.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1964 and an addition to the collection was processed in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

In 2022, a digital scan of a map of Tennessee was added to the collection and the finding aid was updated. The scan was created by the Library of Congress digital scan center and received on one optical disk. The optical disk was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the file associated with the storage media. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital>.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Horace Capron 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. Access to digital content is available on-site only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice.

Technical Requirements

The papers of Horace Capron contain a scanned map in JPEG format. The file was created by the Library of Congress using Adobe Photoshop in a Windows operating system, version unknown. The file can be accessed using standard image viewers.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital IDs, Horace Capron Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1804, Aug. 31	Born, Attleboro, Mass.
1834	Married Louisa V. Snowden (died 1849)
1836-1851	Owner and superintendent of a cotton factory, Laurel, Md. Became nationally known for progressive farming techniques
1854	Married Margaret Baker
1863	Commander and lieutenant colonel, 14th Illinois Cavalry
1865	Commander and brigadier general, United States Volunteers
1866	Served in United States Army
1867-1871	Commissioner of agriculture
1871-1875	On staff of Agriculture Commission; adviser to the Japanese government
1885, Feb. 22	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Horace Capron (1804-1885) span the years 1834-1961, with the bulk of the material, dating from 1871 to 1875, relating to his experiences as an agricultural adviser to the Japanese government. Capron was given authority to develop the island of Hokkaido, on the northern perimeter of the Japanese Empire, at the time an economic and agricultural frontier. The collection contains journals, correspondence, financial records, maps, and orders for agricultural equipment, livestock, and plants that reflect an early experiment in government planning in agriculture and international cooperation. The papers are in English and Japanese.

Some material relates to Capron's service with the Union army during the Civil War and his work in the 1870s as commissioner of agriculture. The correspondence includes a few letters of Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and Horace Greeley.

Also in the collection is correspondence of other members of the Capron family, a handwritten autobiography by Horace Capron, and biographical information.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	1834-1866 (17 folders)
BOX 2	1867-1884, undated (24 folders)
BOX 3	Capron family
BOX 3	Capron, Albert B., 1868-1900
BOX 3	Capron, Albert S., 1925-1961
BOX 3	Capron, Florence S., 1926-1959
BOX 3	Capron, Horace Mann, 1925-1950
BOX 3	Capron, Margaret (wife), 1864-1890
BOX 3	"C-Y" miscellaneous, 1851-1878, 1884 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Subject file
BOX 3	Civil War, 1862-1864 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Mission to Japan
BOX 3	"Expedition to Japan" daily journal, 1871-1875 (1 vol.)
BOX 4	"Notes from the Journal of Horace Capron as Advisor & Commissioner under the Japanese Government from 1871 to 1875, Inclusive.", 1896 (1 vol.)
BOX 4	"Daily Journal of Horace Capron as Commissioner and Advisor to Kaitakushi or Colonial Department of Japan, 1871-1875", 1925 (1 vol.)
BOX 4	Memoranda and receipts, 1871-1874 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Agriculture, Department of, 1865-1870
BOX 5	Articles by Capron, 1848, 1871-1884
BOX 5	Articles by others, 1925, 1937, 1951, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Autobiographical writings, 1882, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	Biographical information, 1869-1888, 1938 (4 folders)
BOX 6	Capron, Albert Banfield (father), undated
BOX 6	Commissions, appointments, diplomas, and other documents, 1835, 1846, 1863-1871, 1884
BOX 6	Estate file, 1851, 1877
BOX 6	Inventories, Japanese art, 1880-1882
BOX 6	"Lloyd's Official Map of the State of Tennessee", 1862

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Volume, 1862
DF	Scanned map, 2008
	Digital ID: mss15024_264_001
BOX 6	Photographs, 1871, 1919, 1931