Collection Summary

Title: Horace Capron Papers
Span Dates: 1834-1961
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1871-1875)
ID No.: MSS15024
Creator: Capron, Horace, 1804-1885
Extent: 1,800 items
Extent: 6 containers
Extent: 2.5 linear feet
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 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--United States.

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

Occupations
Army officers.
Public officials.

Provenance
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. The finding aid was revised in 2010.
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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Horace Capron is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>General</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 1     | 1834-1866  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 2     | 1867, Apr.-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  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 3     | “C-Y” miscellaneous |
| BOX 3     | Subject file  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 3     | Mission to Japan  
(1 vol.) |
| BOX 4     |  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Miscellany |
| BOX 5     | Articles by Capron |
| BOX 5     | Autobiographical writings  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Biographical information  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Photographs |
| BOX 6     | Commissions, appointments, diplomas, and other documents |
| BOX 6     | General  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 6     | Maps |