

# **Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78026526>

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Revised by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodaca

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers

**Span Dates:** 1835-1908

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1875-1898)

**ID No.:** MSS26526

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

**Extent:** 20,000 items ; 74 containers ; 29.6 linear feet ; 61 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**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.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### 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.

**Occupations**

Army officers, Confederate.  
Civil engineers.  
Historians.

## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance**

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. The collection was microfilmed in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

**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.

**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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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 *Virginia; a Geographical and Political Summary*, Richmond, Va.: R. F. Walker, Superintendent of Public Printing
- 1877 Published *Hotchkiss' Geography of Virginia*, Richmond, Va.: A. Hoen
- 1878 Appointed expert special agent of the census for Virginia
- 1880 Began six-year publication of *The Virginias*, 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 *Virginia*, [Atlanta]: Confederate Publishing Company, Vol. 3 of *Confederate Military History*

## 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*

BOX 1-5  
REEL 1-3

### *Series*

#### **Diaries, 1845-1899**

Bound diaries and loose diary pages, with transcripts and extracts of diary entries.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 6  
REEL 4

#### **Notebooks, 1866-1893**

Mining field notes, work logs, and coal analyses.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 7-8  
REEL 4-5

#### **Family Correspondence, 1853-1903**

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  
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#### **General Correspondence, 1846-1899**

Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 33-47  
REEL 35-44

#### **Subject File, circa 1835-1899**

Correspondence, maps, tracings, sketches, notes, printed matter, and legal documents.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of company or subject of research.

BOX 48-60  
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#### **Writings File, circa 1846-1899**

Books, articles, essays, speeches, lectures, book reviews, and notes.  
Arranged in three groups: books, other writings of Hotchkiss, and writings by others.

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#### **Miscellany, circa 1846-1908**

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-5</b> <b>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</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1845, July 4-Sept. 23  1846, June 19-Sept. 10 1847, Apr. 26.- Aug. 2 1847, Aug. 3-1848, Mar. 3 1848, Mar. 5-Apr. 23 1848, Apr. 16-May 28 1850 (weather and flower tables) 1851, July 1-Dec. 30 (with miscellaneous notes, 1852-1853) 1851 (almanac/notebook) 1859, June 13-Nov. 26 1861, June 26-Sept. 17 1861 (miscellaneous fragments); Mar. 14-May 7; 1862, Oct. 6-19 1861, June 15-1862, May 16 (extracts) 1861, June 15-1862, May 24 (extracts) 1861, Dec. 9-1862, Mar. 31 (extracts) 1861, Dec. 14-31 1862, Mar. 27-May 19 (extracts/variants) 1862, May 4-Dec. 14
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1862, May 20-Dec. 16 (extracts)  1862, Mar. 10-May 12 (extracts) 1863, Jan. 1-Nov. 28 1863, Apr. 29-Nov. 28 (extracts) 1863, Oct. 24-1864, Apr. 30
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1864, May-June (miscellaneous notes)  1864, May 1-Dec. 23 1864, Nov. 9-1865, May 8 (extracts)
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1861, June 15-1865, Dec. 23 (extracts)
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## Diaries, 1845-1899

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<b>BOX 7-8</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1853-1903</b>
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## Family Correspondence, 1853-1903

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	Howison, Allan M., and Anne Lydia Hotchkiss, letters of condolence upon death of Jedediah Hotchkiss, 1899
	McCullough, Ellen Hotchkiss, 1874-1875, 1899-1901
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## Subject File, circa 1835-1899

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	Central Coking Coal Land Association, 1887
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## Subject File, circa 1835-1899

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