

# Horace Capron Papers

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



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CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2010

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010240>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015024>

Prepared by Grover Batts

## 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 ; 6 containers ; 2.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and Japanese

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

**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 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

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.

## Administrative Information

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Horace Capron is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General
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
BOX 3	“C-Y” miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 3	Subject file
BOX 3	Civil War (3 folders)
BOX 3	Mission to Japan (1 vol.) (6 folders)
BOX 4	
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