

Guide to the Horace Capron Papers

MS 128



compiled by Thomas J. Connors

February 1979

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 128

CREATOR: Capron, Horace, 1804-1885

TITLE: Horace Capron papers

DATES: 1837-1884

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Mainly correspondence between U.S. and Japanese officials dealing with the business of the Kaitakushi (of which General Capron was commissioner and adviser), a department of the Japanese Government in charge of the settlement of Hokkaido. Persons prominent in the collection include David Amomen, Thomas Antisell, Murray S. Day, Joseph Henry, Thornton A. Jenkins, Governor K. Kuroda, Benjamin S. Lyman, Henry S. Monroe, George M. Robeson, John R. Rogers, William Tecumseh Sherman, and James R. Wasson.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0128>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0128>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Albert S. Capron, 1950.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Horace Capron Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Horace Capron: worked in cotton manufacturing, 1829-1834; in 1834 commissioned colonel of the 32nd Regiment of Maryland Militia; opened a cotton factory, 1836; active in progressive farming and agricultural societies; from 1852-1854 special agent over certain Indian tribes in Texas; served in the Civil War, attaining rank of Brigadier-general in the Illinois cavalry; in 1867 appointed U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture, remaining until 1871, when he was appointed by the Japanese government as commissioner and chief advisor to the Kaitakushi Department in the development and settlement of Hokkaido; returned to the U.S. in 1875.

Scope and Contents

The Horace Capron Papers consist of twenty inches of correspondence and business papers spanning the period 1837 to 1884, with the bulk of material falling in the years 1872-1874 and 1877-1880.

The correspondence consists largely of Capron's communications with the Japanese "Kaitukushi" or "Commissioner for opening up and developing" regarding the agricultural modernization of the island of Yesso, now Hokkaido. Other correspondence, between Capron and various assistants and Japanese or American officials, also relates to the development of Yesso. The letters are catalogued by Capron's correspondents under their names and under his name in the manuscript catalog.

The business papers consist largely of receipts and orders for farm equipment, plants and livestock from the United States, and of telegrams confirming their shipment to Japan. There are also several memoranda concerning relations between Japanese and American officials, plus several contracts and leases.

The miscellaneous papers consist of two articles written by K. Kuroda, Governor of Yesso, for the *Japanese Gazette*: an article(?) by Benjamin Smith Lyman on the Japanese climate; a handwritten list of Japanese-name plants with their English and botanical equivalents; and miscellaneous notes, addresses, and newspaper clippings.

The Horace Capron Papers were given to Yale University Library by Albert S. Capron in 1950.

Collection Contents

b. 1	Correspondence	1868 January 29 - 1873 December 28
b. 1, f. 3	1871 Nov 3 - 1872 Jan 29 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1871 November 3-1872 January 29
b. 1, f. 6	1872 May 1 - 31 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1872 May 1-1872 May 31
b. 2	Correspondence	1874 January 9 - 1875 December 14
b. 3	Correspondence	1877 February 6 - 1883 June 18, undated
b. 3	Letterbook	1873 April 12 - 1874 June 13
b. 4	Business	1837, 1869 January 17 - 1884 November 12, undated
Miscellany		
b. 4	List of Japanese-name plants with English and botanical equivalents plus growth information	undated
b. 4	"Copy of article furnished by press by Governor Kuroda" English	1874 March
b. 4	"Governor Kuroda's proposed reply to certain strictures... not published by my advice" English	1874 January
b. 4	<i>The Climate of Japan</i> by Benjamin Smith Lyman	undated
b. 4	Miscellaneous materials re: gardening and agriculture	1871 - 1872, undated
b. 4	Miscellaneous notes, addresses, and newspaper clippings	undated

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.

Subjects

Agriculture

Geographic Names

Asia

Hokkaido (Japan)

Japan -- Economic policy

Occupations

Agriculturists

Public officers

Soldiers

Names

Amomen, David

Antisell, Thomas, 1817-1893

Capron, Horace, 1804-1885

Day, Murray S.

Henry, Joseph, 1797-1878

Jenkins, Thornton A. (Thornton Alexander),
1811-1893

Kuroda, Kiyotaka, 1840-1900

Lyman, Benjamin Smith, 1835-1920

Monroe, Henry Smith

Robeson, George M. (George Maxwell),
1829-1897

Rogers, John Rankin, 1838-1901

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

Wasson, James R.