

A Guide to the Papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss

Papers of Jedediah Hotchkiss

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Descriptive Summary

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Language

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Collector

William P. Tannehill

Physical Characteristics

ca. 1550 items (8 Hollinger boxes, ca. 3 linear feet)

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical/Historical Information

One of the most famous mapmakers of the Civil War was Major Jedediah Hotchkiss, a topographical engineer on Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's staff. Some historians believe that Hotchkiss' accurate maps ensured the success of Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign.

Born in New York in 1828, Jed Hotchkiss moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia in 1847 where he earned his living as a schoolteacher. Hotchkiss also supplemented his income as a mining geologist and - though never formally trained as a cartographer - by making maps. He married a Pennsylvanian named Sara Ann Comfort in 1853 and they had two daughters. In 1859, Jed Hotchkiss and his brother Nelson founded the Loch Willow Academy, a school for boys, in Churchville.

Hotchkiss closed his school in June 1861 and began his military career drawing maps for Confederate General Robert Garnett in western Virginia. In 1862, he secured an appointment on Jackson's staff. "I want you to make me a map of the Valley, from Harpers Ferry to Lexington," Jackson ordered Hotchkiss, "showing all the points of offence and defence in those places." There were very few maps for Hotchkiss to use as a base for his own work, and he usually rode out on horseback to survey the land himself. The Hotchkiss-Jackson combination bred success, for the general's lightning strikes depended heavily on making the most of the terrain. After Jackson's death in 1863, Hotchkiss continued as a topographical engineer with the Confederate forces, traveling with General Richard Ewell to Gettysburg and then, back in Virginia, serving under General Jubal Early. It was one of Hotchkiss' maps that enabled Early to surprise the Federals at Cedar Creek in October 1864.

After the war ended in 1865, Hotchkiss returned to the Shenandoah Valley, opening an engineering firm and teaching school in Staunton, Virginia. In 1867, he wrote a book with a friend, Jackson's former chief of ordnance William Allen, entitled *The Battlefields of Virginia: Chancellorsville*. Hotchkiss died in January 1899 after a successful post-war career as a geologist and engineer.

Scope and Content

The papers of Jedediah "Jed" Hotchkiss contain ca. 1550 items (8 Hollinger boxes, ca. 3 linear feet), and consist largely of personal correspondence, bound volumes, and business records dating from 1846 to 1912. Included in the collection is material pertaining to Hotchkiss' career as a teacher and schoolmaster, his period of service under General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson as a scout and map-maker during the Civil War, his later involvement in the mapping and development of West Virginia coalfields, and the settling of his estate. The collection also includes material pertaining to Hotchkiss' son-in-law, Samuel Thomas McCullough, who was a noted veteran of the Confederate States of America Army. These documents include correspondence, notes, and a set of diaries detailing McCullough's experiences in the Civil War. Other subjects of possible interest include the papers of the Confederate Monument Association of Staunton, Virginia and Augusta County, Virginia documents concerning a 1746 exploration of the Shenandoah Valley, and papers pertaining to Loch Willow School and Mossy Creek Academy.

Early correspondence in the collection is chiefly from members of Hotchkiss' immediate family, who remained in Windsor, New York, when he came to Virginia in 1847. In these letters, his mother and sisters discuss family matters and frequently express their disbelief that Hotchkiss could enjoy his life as a private tutor in the "uncivilized" South. Also among the early correspondence are several poems written by Hotchkiss, dated January 1, 1847; 1854; 1858; and August 7, 1859. The poems appear to be original, and are often addressed to friends.

In 1853, Jedediah Hotchkiss opened a private school in Augusta County, Virginia called Mossy Creek Academy, and married Sarah Comfort. In 1855 Ellen May "Nellie" Hotchkiss was born, and Anna Lydia

Hotchkiss followed in 1857. Hotchkiss seems to have maintained a close relationship with his daughters (particularly with Ellen May, called Nellie) throughout his life. In September of 1859, Hotchkiss opened a second academy, Loch Willow School, near Staunton, Virginia. Correspondence and other records from this period are somewhat scanty, although some documents pertaining to Mossy Creek Academy and Loch Willow School have survived and may be found in a single folder along with other school records.

In June of 1861, Hotchkiss volunteered for the Confederate army, but was forced to return home a few months later when he became ill with typhoid. When, by March of 1862, he was recovered, Hotchkiss volunteered his services as a scout and map-maker to General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Correspondence of the Civil War period is limited mostly to letters written by Hotchkiss to his young daughter Nellie. Of particular interest is a letter dated December 17, 1862, in which Hotchkiss describes the Battle of Fredricksburg and includes a detailed map of troops and terrain. Other letters written to Nellie during the war vividly describe life in the Confederate camps, and are dated January 25, March 27, and October 25, 1863. Included in the collection is a letter written to Brigadier General Edward Johnson by General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, dated May 4, 1862 and dealing with map-making commissions. Also included in the correspondence is a copy of a set of field notes made by Captain J. K. Boswell of the Confederate Army on May 1, 1863, at the Battle of Chancellorsville. These notes were taken from Boswell's body by Hotchkiss after the officer was killed in the fighting.

After the war, Hotchkiss returned to his family and briefly re-opened Loch Willow School, also teaching at Augusta Female Seminary, before becoming involved in business ventures involving the development of rich coal-fields in West Virginia. Hotchkiss also published a mining journal, *The Virginias*, in the hopes of generating interest in the natural resources of the region.

Later correspondence includes many letters to his daughter Nellie, as well as letters from friends and associates concerning his great interest in geology and geography. It was during this period that Hotchkiss was commissioned to make maps for many government and private organizations. Three letters from General Robert E. Lee, dated December 16, 1868; October 20, 1869, and December 24, 1869 are included in this material. They deal with Hotchkiss' maps of areas in Virginia. Later private correspondence often deals with reminiscences of the Civil War, and a letter dated July 5, 1895, written by Hotchkiss to the widow of "Stonewall" Jackson, concerns a biography of the late General. Also relating to the Civil War is an extensive series of correspondence between Hotchkiss and fellow veteran Dr. Hunter McGuire. These letters were mostly written between 1893 and 1898, and often deal with books and articles on Civil War battles, especially those in which General Jackson's forces were involved. This correspondence has been grouped together into one folder.

Other correspondence includes that of the family of Hotchkiss' second daughter Anna Lydia Hotchkiss, who married Allan M. Howison. Cards, some limited correspondence, various theatrical programmes, and two certificates, dated July 2, 1879 and June 7, 1881 concerning Howison's military career, make up this series. Allan Howison was later employed by Hotchkiss' mining company, "The Grottoes." Jed Hotchkiss died on January 17, 1899, and the final group of correspondence deals with the settlement of his estate.

The financial and legal records of the Hotchkiss papers consist largely of documents pertaining to post-war business ventures, including map-making commissions, attempts to open up the coal regions of West Virginia, involvements in The Grottoes Company, two business trips to England in 1872 and 1873, *The Virginias* journal, and the settlement of Hotchkiss' estate, as well as general records of purchases and sales.

One folder contains the records of the Confederate Monument Association of Staunton and Augusta County. This group was organized in 1906 with the purpose of establishing a memorial to local men who had been killed in the Civil War. Hotchkiss' daughter Anna Lydia was the recording secretary for the organization. The records include a 1906 circular letter explaining the purposes of the group, pamphlets of by-laws, various advertisements from monument companies and masons, and letters and souvenirs concerning fundraisers and statue unveilings. Photographs of Confederate monuments and statues, possibly from the organization's files, are located in a separate folder.

The Hotchkiss papers also includes a typed transcript entitled "Running the line from the head of the Rappahannock to the head of the Potomac" of the 1746 diary of Thomas Lewis concerning the establishment of the Fairfax line. There is a note by Hotchkiss signed and dated Oct. 1889 that states the transcription was "copied and verified from original." The papers include a letter from William Cabell Rives, 1883 April 27, to Hotchkiss discussion Thomas Walker's journal; there is also a document [in Rives' hand?] summarizing Walker's journal from March 16 though July 12, 1750. There is also a typescript of a speech by Col. Stoddard Johnston on Walker's journal read before the Filson Club November 3, 1893.

One folder contains miscellaneous historical essays and speeches which appear to have been written mainly by Jed Hotchkiss and Dr. Hunter McGuire on such topics as "Stonewall Jackson's Cap," "The Seven Day's Fighting Around Richmond," *The Shenandoah Valley*, *The Form of Government in Virginia - A Geographical and Political Summary*, and a memorial address delivered at London Park Cemetary, Baltimore, Maryland in 1875.

Two folders contain miscellaneous school and lecture notes for classes taught by Hotchkiss at Mossy Creek and Loch Willow schools. These are undated and deal with a wide variety of subjects. Also included are

lectures for Sunday School classes and sermons. A third folder contains school records and related material, including documents pertaining to the education of Jed Hotchkiss at Windsor Academy in New York, and of Sarah Comfort Hotchkiss at the Wyoming Seminary. Also included are papers concerning Hotchkiss' career as a schoolmaster.

Photographs are to be found in two folders, one of which consists mostly of pictures of family members. The second folder contains photographs of statues and monuments associated with the Confederate Monument Association. Additional photographs (often of better quality) are located in the Prints File under such categories as "Hotchkiss," "Staunton" and "Augusta County." Of special interest are photographs, of Hotchkiss, his wife and daughters, their Staunton home "The Oaks", Loch Willow School, Mossy Creek Academy, and the Augusta Female Seminary, and a daguerrotype of Hotchkiss and his two daughters.

Material relating to Confederate soldier Samuel Thomas McCullough is to be found among the collection's correspondence and bound volumes. The correspondence has been grouped into one folder and dates from 1862 to 1865. This material consists largely of letters written by Lieutenant McCullough of Company D, 2nd Maryland Infantry Regiment, to his father and brother during his service in the Confederate Army and while a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island Prison in Ohio. Also included are items such as pay-master's receipts, authorization for leaves of absence, and documents from the prison on Johnson's Island. In addition to this material, the collection also includes a seven-volume set of diaries, which record McCullough's experiences as a soldier from August 11, 1862 to June 22, 1865. These diaries have been microfilmed (M-2373), and a separate, more detailed guide is available. Also in the collection are three small notebooks in which McCullough details an 1878 expedition to revisit many of the campsites and battlefields of his Civil War days. These notebooks are among the bound volumes of the Jed Hotchkiss papers.

Bound volumes make up a large percentage of the collection, consist mainly of miscellaneous hand-written notes. Three large letter-press books include business correspondence from 1891 to 1898. Four volumes of map-making notes, including a report on Buffalo Creek, Fayette County, West Virginia, and a book of maps of Augusta County, Virginia are included. Seven books contain business-related notes, and two of these volumes consist of subscription lists for *The Virginias*, ca. 1882. Eight additional bound volumes include personal notes such as diaries for the years 1845, 1895, and 1897, as well as Hotchkiss' Index Rerum (ca. 1854) and a notebook detailing the building of an addition to "The Oaks" in 1888. Six scrapbooks are part of the collection, and include a pressed-flower album, a forestry album, a small booklet of Virginia railway charts, and an album of newspaper clippings dating from approximately 1864 to 1885. Other scrapbooks include two albums belonging to Hotchkiss' wife Sarah Comfort Hotchkiss, and his daughter Nellie Hotchkiss McCullough. The former volume consists mainly of pictures and newspaper clippings, while the latter is an album of embroidery patterns. The seven Samuel Thomas McCullough Civil War diaries and three notebooks of his 1878 battlefield tour are among the bound volumes of the Hotchkiss collection.

An oversize folder contains several items related to the collection, including blueprints of Hotchkiss' Staunton home, "The Oaks," architectural drawings, maps, large documents, and broadsides. A complete listing appears later in this guide.

Items of memorabilia include twenty-three souvenir ribbons relating to Confederate Veteran's Association functions and other events. Other items include an 1866 watercolor paint box belonging to Nellie Hotchkiss McCullough, a souvenir spoon from the birthplace of "Stonewall" Jackson, the Confederate belt-buckle and spur of an unidentified soldier killed at Fisher's Hill, Virginia, a pocket-knife used by Jed Hotchkiss from 1862 to 1868, an embroidered handkerchief belonging to Sarah Comfort Hotchkiss, and a lapel-pin featuring a mining symbol. The remainder of the memorabilia in the collection consists of eleven souvenir coins and medals ranging in date from 1883 to 1898. These coins and medals are from events such as Confederate monument unveilings and World's Fairs. A complete listing appears later in this guide.

Arrangement

The Jed Hotchkiss and Samuel Thomas McCullough papers from collection 2907 have been interfiled in collection 2822. The material is arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically within individual folders. Bound volumes are boxed with the collection and are organized by subject matter and date.

Contents List

Miscellaneous 1846-1906

"The Autumn Wreath" - Windsor Academy Student Literary Publication (Jed Hotchkiss, ed.)

Unit Date 1846, n.d.

Container Box 1

Confederate Monument Association Papers

Unit Date ca.1906, n.d.

Container Box 1

Correspondence

Correspondence

Unit Date 1846-1913, n.d.

Container Box 1

Extent

(5 folders)

Correspondence - Howison Family

Unit Date 1872-1897, n.d.

Container Box 1

Correspondence - Samuel Thomas McCullough

Unit Date 1862-1865, n.d.

Container Box 1

Correspondence - Dr. Hunter McGuire

Unit Date 1893-1898

Container Box 1

Financial and Legal Records

Unit Date 1853-1882

Container Box 1

Extent

(5 folders)

Financial and Legal Records

Unit Date 1883-1896

Container Box 2

Extent

(12 folders)

Financial and Legal Records

Financial and Legal Records

Unit Date 1897-1912, n.d.

Container Box 3

Extent

(10 folders)

Financial and Legal Records - West Virginia Coal Lands

Unit Date 1889-1895, n.d.

Container Box 3

Miscellaneous, 1883-1897

Materials concerning the journals of Thomas Lewis (1746) and Thomas Walker (1750) - including a transcript of Lewis' journal, a summary of part of Walker's journal, and correspondence

Unit Date 1883-1889

Container Box 4

Samuel Thomas McCullough Civil War Diaries

Unit Date 1862-1865

Container Box 4

Extent

(7 volumes)

Miscellaneous Historical Essays and Speeches

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date ca. 1865-1899

Container Box 4

Photographs

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Photographs - Confederate Monument Association

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

School and Lecture Notes

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Extent

(2 folders)

School Records and Related Material

Unit Date 1850-1866

Container Box 4

Scope and Content

Includes seven copies of two different original color prints of "Mossy Creek Academy"; original pen sketch of the Mossy Creek House; and a photograph of the Hotchkiss house, 346 E. Beverly St., Staunton, Va.

Letter-press Books - Business Correspondence

Unit Date 1891-1898

Container Box 5

Extent

(3 volumes)

Map-making Notes

Unit Date 1867-1868

Container Box 6

Map-making Notes - Maps of Augusta County, Virginia

Unit Date 1868-1869

Container Box 6

Map-making Notes

Unit Date 1870

Container Box 6

Map-making Notes - Report on Buffalo Creek, Fayette County, West Virginia

Unit Date 1879

Container Box 6

Samuel Thomas McCullough - Notes of a Civil War Battlefield Tour

Unit Date 1878

Container Box 6

Extent

(3 volumes)

Business Notes

Unit Date ca.1854

Container Box 6

Business Notes

Unit Date 1867-1869

Container Box 6

Business Notes - Subscriptions to "The Virginias"

Unit Date 1882, n.d.

Container Box 6

Extent

(2 volumes)

Business Notes

Unit Date 1890-1895

Container Box 6

Business Notes

Unit Date ca. 1891

Container Box 6

Business Notes

Unit Date 1891-1892

Container Box 6

Personal Notes - Diary

Unit Date 1845

Container Box 7

Personal Notes - Index Rerum

Unit Date ca. 1854

Container Box 7

Personal Notes

Unit Date 1885

Container Box 7

Personal Notes

Unit Date 1885-1887

Container Box 7

Personal Notes - Building of an Addition to "The Oaks"

Unit Date 1888

Container Box 7

Personal Notes - Diary

Unit Date 1895

Container Box 7

Personal Notes

Unit Date ca. 1897

Container Box 7

Personal Notes - Diary

Unit Date 1897

Container Box 7

Scrapbooks

Scrapbook - Flower Album

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 7

Scrapbook - Sarah Comfort Hotchkiss

Unit Date ca. 1850-1859

Container Box 8

Scrapbook - Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date ca. 1864-1885

Container Box 8

Scrapbook - Nellie Hotchkiss McCullough Embroidery Patterns

Unit Date ca. 1875

Container Box 8

Scrapbook - Forestry Album

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 8

Scrapbook - Virginia Railway Charts

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 8

Oversize

"Design B for a Model Cottage" Hotchkiss and Wilkinson, Architects

Unit Date 1868

Extent (plans and color elevation)

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Map of Shenandoah Valley by Jed Hotchkiss

Unit Date 1875

Physical Location OS Tray 2

map drawn by Jed Hotchkiss, "Subdivision of Oak Hill Estate of J. Hotchkiss and B. Sears," Staunton, Virginia

Unit Date Jan. 4, 1878

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Broadside: sale of real estate for non-payment of taxes 1891-1893, Staunton, Virginia

Unit Date Aug. 1, 1895

Physical Location OS Tray 2

United Confederate Veterans commission to Jed Hotchkiss as Chief of Engineers

Unit Date June 30, 1896

Physical Location OS Tray 2

United States Geological Survey: Mineral Products of the United States 1890 - 1899

Unit Date ca. 1899

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Blueprints for Hotchkiss home "The Oaks," Staunton, Virginia, Winslow and Wetherell, Architects

Unit Date n.d.

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Architectural drawing exercises

Unit Date n.d.

Extent

(6 sheets)

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Broadside: General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's warhorse exhibited

Unit Date n.d.

Physical Location OS Tray 2

Memorabilia

Souvenir Ribbons - Confederate Monument Unveilings and Confederate Veterans Association Functions

Extent

(10 items)

Souvenir Ribbons - Miscellaneous

Extent

(13 items)

Watercolor Paint Box - Nellie Hotchkiss 1866

Souvenir Spoon - Birthplace of General "Stonewall" Jackson

Physical Location OS box AB-9 cell K

Confederate Belt-Buckle and Spur (of a soldier killed at Fisker's Hill, Virginia)

Physical Location OS box AB-22 cells B-C

Pocket-Knife used by Jed Hotchkiss 1862-1868

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell F

Embroidered Handkerchief of Sarah Comfort Hotchkiss

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell U

Lapel-pin with Mining Symbol

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell E

Souvenir Coins and Medals

1.25 inch souvenir coin - R. E. Lee Camp #1 C. V.

Unit Date April 1883

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1.75 inch souvenir coin - Unveiling of Robert E. Lee Statue

Unit Date June 28, 1883

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1 3/8 inch souvenir coin - World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition

Unit Date 1884-1885

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1.5 inch souvenir coin - Liberty Bell on Exhibition

Unit Date 1885

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1 inch souvenir coin - Unveiling of Robert E. Lee Monument

Unit Date May 29, 1890

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

2.5 inch souvenir coin - Unveiling of Robert E. Lee Monument

Unit Date May 29, 1890

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1.5 inch souvenir coin - Unveiling of Robert E. Lee Monument

Unit Date May 29, 1890

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

1 1/8 inch souvenir coin - World's Columbian Exposition

Unit Date 1893

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

Annual Celebration of General Robert E. Lee's Birthday Medallion

Unit Date Jan 19, 1898

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

Ribbon-pin with Mining Symbol

Unit Date n.d.

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T

A.N.V. medal with Confederate Flag - engraved "Hotchkiss" reverse

Unit Date n.d.

Physical Location OS box AB-21 cell T