



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 199.5 Jacobs (Horace Greeley) Collection

Accession number(s): (2011.0012)

Date of Records: 1862-1910

Size: 1 box, 2 linear feet

Finding Aid: by Laura Cutter (2010)

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Biographical Note: Horace Greeley Jacobs was born in Washington, D.C. on March 30, 1845. He entered military service on April 29, 1861 at Cherryfield, ME (Company G, 6th Maine infantry). Jacobs participated in the battles of Warwick's Creek, Williamsburg, Golding's Farm, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, and Antietam, South Mountain, Fredericksburg (first and second). In the retreat from Salem Church, following Marye's Heights, Jacobs' company participated in the fight at Banks's Ford. It was then that Jacobs earned his commission as second lieutenant when he and the first sergeant rallied the company after a night attack and returned it to the regiment, as the captain was killed and the second lieutenant wounded.

His next engagement was at Gettysburg, then Bristoe station, followed by Rappahannock Station, where he was shot in the arm, but continued firing until a second wound shattered his left shoulder, permanently disabling his arm. He was sent to Washington, D. C. for treatment and after two months was given leave to return home. Though he tried to return to the Army, his wound was too severe and he was mustered out on May 24, 1864.

After leaving the Army at the age of 19, Jacobs resumed his studies for a short time, then returned to Washington, DC where he was appointed clerk in the office of Commissary-General of Subsistence and was a student at the Spencerian Business College and the Columbian (now George Washington) University. After completing his business course, Jacobs assumed a position in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury where he remained until 1884. In 1884 Jacobs accepted the position of General Manager at Woodward & Lothrop's, the first department store in Washington, DC. He was forced to resign two years later due to pneumonia but remained a close friend of Samuel Walter Woodward throughout his life.



Upon relocating to Los Angeles, CA for his health, Jacobs accepted a position under the Supervising Architect of the Treasury as the Superintendent of Construction and Inspector of Buildings. He held this position in Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco until 1894. Jacobs returned to Washington and resumed his position with Woodward & Lothrop until 1897 when he accepted the position of Superintendent of Buildings and of Construction at Des Moines, IA. Jacobs died on August 31, 1910 in Minneapolis, MN and is buried there at Lakewood Cemetery.

Adapted from *The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States 1861-65 – Records of the Regiments in the Union Army – Cyclopaedia of Battles – Memoirs of Commanders and Soldiers*. Vol. VIII Madison, WI: Federal Publishing Company, 1908.

Series/Scope and Content Note: This collection contains 25 documents relating to the life of Horace Greeley Jacobs. The earliest, and perhaps most notable items relate to Greeley's service to the Union during the Civil War, including a letter home to his mother and a brief narrative entitled "Thoughts on the Battlefield." Other materials include certificates and letters of commendation, appointment, promotion, and discharge (both military and civilian) throughout his life. Pension claim and certification is also included, as well as Greeley's will and notice of death.

Associated material:

- "Excised head and portion of shaft of left humerus, comminuted by a musket ball." SP 103. Surgical Photographs. National Museum of Health and Medicine.
- "Horace G. Jacobs." CP 1669A. Contributed Photographs. National Museum of Health and Medicine.
- "Horace G. Jacobs." CP 1669B. Contributed Photographs. National Museum of Health and Medicine.
- Humerus of Horace Greeley Jacobs. AFIP 0384696. Anatomical specimen. National Museum of Health and Medicine.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001:

- Letter to Mother, Camp 19, May 31, 1862
- Thoughts on the Battle Field, c. 1864
- Letter to Horace Greeley, March 17, 1864
- Notice of discharge, May 28, 1864
- Letter of recommendation/introduction from James Miliken to Rev R.W. Jackson, December 20, 1864
- Clerk appointment, March 1, 1865

00002:



- Clerk designation, May 22, 1869
- Clerk promotion, June 7, 1869
- Letter of application for clerk position, December 31, 1874
- Chief clerk promotion certificate, March 9, 1875
- Pension claim form, August 23, 1878
- Chief clerk compensation form, June 21, 1881

00003:

- Last Will and Testament, August 29, 1882
- Letter of reference/introduction from S.W. Woodward to Joseph Robinson, November 12, 1887
- Discharge forwarding letter, November 17, 1887
- California appointment, March 30, 1889
- California position revocation & replacement, May 10, 1890

00004:

- California position duties, May 12, 1890
- California designation change, September 6, 1892
- S.W. Woodward letter to President on behalf of Jacobs, June 17, 1893
- Pension certification, May 15, 1903
- Notice of death, Calvary Baptist Church bulletin, September 4, 1910

00005:

- Certificate of appointment to 2nd Lieutenant, July 8, 1863

00006:

- 1st Lieutenant Brevet Certificate, May 13, 1865

00007:

- Joshua Chamberlain Testimonial Certificate, July 4, 1868