

**Guide to the  
Michael Jacobs Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Katherine Downton  
October 2009**

## **MS – 107: Michael Jacobs Collection**

(2 boxes, .54 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1863 - 1864

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### **Provenance**

Given to Gettysburg College in 1958 by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia where it was originally part of the H. Eyster Jacobs papers.

### **Biography**

Michael Jacobs was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania on January 18, 1808. He attended Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania from 1823 – 1828 and moved to Gettysburg, PA shortly thereafter to teach at the Gettysburg Gymnasium, a school founded by his brother David. In 1832, the Gymnasium became Pennsylvania College (later Gettysburg College) and Michael Jacobs was elected to the position of Professor of Mathematics, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy. The following year, he married Julia M. Eyster of Harrisburg. Professor Jacobs was a devoted Lutheran who studied theology independently and was licensed by the West Pennsylvania Synod in 1832. He served as a clergyman at the Pennsylvania College church. Jacobs taught at the College until 1866, when he retired as a result of poor health. He died in 1871.

Michael Jacobs was present at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during the battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 2, and 3, 1863 and wrote and published an account of his personal observations in *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863* (J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1864), one of the first books published about the battle.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The collection consists primarily of letters about the publishing, distribution, and sale of Michael Jacobs' book *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863* (J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1864) from sales agents, his publisher, family members, and other individuals interested in the book. The letters date from September 22, 1863 – March 4, 1864. They were later transcribed with a typewriter and the transcriptions are included. Other items in the collection include lecture notes and other notes about the battle (partially transcribed), a photograph of Michael Jacobs, biographical information, testimonials and promotional materials about the book, and a later edition of the book (4<sup>th</sup> edition, revised, published by "Star and Sentinel" Printer, 1884).

The letters focus primarily on the business and commercial aspects of the book's distribution. Many are from the publisher, J.B. Lippincott & Co., regarding the printing, shipping, and pricing of the book. A number of others are from sales agents reporting on sales, requesting copies of books, disputing price, and complaining about other agents competing for sales within a geographic region. The letters will be most useful to a researcher interested in sales, product distribution, and publishing in the 1860s.

Although Jacobs' book was about the battle of Gettysburg, the collection contains a minimal amount of documentation about the battle or the Civil War. However, the book and notes may be of value to researchers with an interest in personal accounts of the battle.

### **Series Description**

This collection consists of two boxes and is divided into four Series: **Series 1** – Correspondence, **Series 2** – Notes, **Series 3** – Publications, **Series 4** – Ephemera.

### **Box 1**

1-1 Finding aid and provenance

1-2 Biographical information

Notes about Michael Jacobs by unknown author.

Copy of biography about Michael Jacobs from *The Pennsylvania College Book, 1832-1882*, E.S. Breidenbaugh, editor (Philadelphia, Lutheran publication society, 1882).

Article by Tom Horn, great-great grandson of Michael Jacobs, from *American Philatelist* magazine.

Article by Peter C. Vermilyea, "The Professor and the Major: A Gettysburg Controversy," from *The Gettysburg Magazine*, Issue 37, July 2007

### **Series 1 - Correspondence**

1-3 Correspondence: September 22, 1863 – October 3, 1863

September 22, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, mentioning the book introduction, proof of the book, and pricing

September 29, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, about the proof of a map that will be included in the book

- October 3, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, mentioning book distribution and the printing process
- 1-4 Correspondence: October 7, 1863 – October 10, 1863
- October 7, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, about book shipment
- October 9, 1863 – Letter from unidentified sender to Michael Jacobs, regarding sales of book
- October 10, 1863 - Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about payment, book production, and shipment
- 1-5 Correspondence: October 12, 1863 – October 15, 1863
- October 12, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, regarding shipping of books
- October 12, 1863 – Notice from Sam L. Smedley of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to inform Michael Jacobs that he has been elected a member
- October 15, 1863 – Letter from C.W. Smith (Boston, MA) to Michael Jacobs, inquiring about his “paper description of the battle”
- 1-6 Correspondence: October 16, 1863 – October 19, 1863
- October 16, 1863 – Letter from Charles Kelly (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, expressing interest in acquiring the book
- October 16, 1863 – Letter from Hiram Young (York, PA) to Michael Jacobs, requesting copies of the book to sell
- October 19, 1863 – Letter from nephew D. Jacobs to Michael Jacobs, primarily to suggest an agent for sales
- 1-7 Correspondence: October 20, 1863 – October 21, 1863
- October 20, 1863 - Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, enclosing check and providing information on distribution of book
- October 20, 1863 – Letter from John N. Paxton and his father W.W. Paxton (Chambersburg, PA), expressing interest in serving as a sales agent
- October 21, 1863 –Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs with enclosed invoice (dated October 16, 1863) listing cost of book production
- 1-8 Correspondence: October 21, 1863 – October 23, 1863
- October 21, 1863 – Letter from C.W. Smith (Boston, MA) to Michael Jacobs requesting a copy of the book
- October 22, 1863 – Letter from Dr. E. T. (Washington, DC) to Michael Jacobs requesting a copy of the book

- October 23, 1863 – Letter from Rev. I. J. Stine (Shippensburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs, discussing sale of the books and negotiating retail price  
 October 23, 1863 - October 16, 1863 –Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, regarding distribution of books for sale and the retail price
- 1-9 Correspondence: October 24, 1863 – October 26, 1863
- October 24, 1863 – Letter from Hiram Young (York, PA) to Michael Jacobs, about imperfect copies of book and asking that a competing agent sell in places other than York  
 October 24, 1863 – Letter from Theo. F. Rudolf (La Crosse) to Michael Jacobs requesting a copy of the book  
 October 26, 1863 –Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs requesting payment and inquiring about pricing
- 1-10 Correspondence: October 26, 1863 – October 28, 1863
- October 26, 1863 – Letter from S. C. Clark (Lake Village, NH) requesting a copy of the book and inquiring about wholesale prices  
 October 27, 1863 – Letter from Benj. Bahner (Sunbury, PA) to Michael Jacobs inquiring about percentage of sales given to agents selling the book  
 October 27, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about imperfect books, printing additional copies, and price discounts
- 1-11 Correspondence: October 28, 1863 – October 30, 1863
- October 28, 1863 – Letter from I. Roths (Chambersburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs commenting on sales, requesting copies of book, and expressing concern about another sales agent competing for sales in the area  
 October 30, 1863 – Letter from Francis Bourns, M.D. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, commenting on the book and sending a Melainotype photograph “taken from the hands of a dead soldier” (photograph not in the collection)  
 October 30, 1863 - Letter from Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about book price and pending corrections to the map and text
- 1-12 Correspondence: October 31, 1863 – November 5, 1863
- October 31, 1863 –Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding proof of map for book  
 November 2, 1863 - Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about book shipment and wholesale price of book  
 November 5, 1863 – Letter from J.M. Bancroft (Washington, DC) to Michael Jacobs requesting copy of book
- 1-13 Correspondence: November 7, 1863

November 7, 1863 - Letter from Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding book shipment  
November 7, 1863 – Letter from Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding book shipment  
November 7, 1863 – Letter from J.F. Houck (Herdlersburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs inquiring about price of maps

1-14 Correspondence: November 9, 1863 – November 13, 1863

November 9, 1863 – Letter from William Keckler (Waynesboro, PA) to Michael Jacobs regarding sales of the book  
November 9, 1863 – Letter from Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about book payment and shipment  
November 13, 1863 – Letter from S. Oswald (York, PA) to Michael Jacobs regarding sales of the book

**Box 2**

2-1 Correspondence: November 13, 1863 – November 16, 1863

November 13, 1863 – Letter from Luther E. Albert (Germantown, PA) to Michael Jacobs, about sales and pricing of the book  
November 14, 1863 – Letter from Joseph R. Culley (Phoenixville, PA) to Michael Jacobs, expressing concern about another sales agent competing for sales in the area  
November 16, 1863 – Letter from Martin R\_\_\_\_\_ (Philadelphia, PA) to Michael Jacobs, requesting an autographed copy of the book  
November 16, 1863 – Letter from L.J. Bell (Barren Hill, PA), nephew of Michael Jacobs; personal letter with references to the book

2-2 Correspondence: November 14, 1863 – November 17, 1863

November 14, 1863 – Letter from Hiram Young (York, PA) to Michael Jacobs regarding pricing and sales  
November 14, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about book shipment  
November 17, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs about book shipment

2-3 Correspondence: November 20, 1863 – November 28, 1863

November 20, 1863 – Letter from F. Benedict (Bedford, PA) to Michael Jacobs, requesting a shipment of books to be sold

- November 20, 1863 – Letter from C. Roths (Chambersburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs, sending payment  
November 28, 1863 – Letter from Chas F. Harvey (Mechanicsburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs, requesting copies of the book to be sold
- 2-4 Correspondence: November 28, 1863 – November 30, 1863
- November 28, 1863 – Letter from E.S. German (Harrisburg, PA) to Michael Jacobs, sending payment  
November 30, 1863 – Letter from H. Coppee (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, requesting an article about the battle for a magazine  
November 30, 1863 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding receipt of payment
- 2-5 Correspondence: December 2, 1863 – December 5, 1863
- December 2, 1863 – Letter from E.A. Carman (Headquarters 13 Regt N.J. Vols., Puck Run, TN) to Michael Jacobs, asking for copy of Jacobs' notes about the battle [see folder 2-11 for the Carman's annotated copy of *Notes*]  
December 2, 1863 – Letter from H. Edwin Tremain (New York) to Michael Jacobs requesting copy of his "memoranda of the battle" on behalf of General Sickles  
December 5, 1863 – Letter from H. Coppee (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, thanking him for article
- 2-6 Correspondence: December 19, 1863 – February 9, 1864
- December 19, 1863 – Letter from H. Coppee (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, asking him to send article to be published in magazine  
January 4, 1864 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs, about shipment of books, distribution of the book in New England, and possible enlargement of the book  
February 9, 1864 – Letter from E. Breidenbaugh to Michael Jacobs
- 2-7 Correspondence: February 16, 1864 – March 4, 1864
- February 16, 1864 – Letter from John S.C. Abbott (New Haven, CT) to Michael Jacobs, commenting on the book and requesting a copy of the map contained in the book  
February 17, 1864 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding shipment of books  
March 4, 1864 – Letter from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia) to Michael Jacobs regarding payment for books
- Account statement for Michael Jacobs from J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Philadelphia)

Five envelopes addressed to Michael Jacobs

### **Series 2 – Notes**

- 2-8 Lecture recounting the battle of Gettysburg, with typed transcript
- 2-9 Notes recounting the battle of Gettysburg, with incomplete typed transcripts

### **Series 3 – Publications**

- 2-10 Published copy of *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863*, by Michael Jacobs (4<sup>th</sup> edition, revised, published by “Star and Sentinel” Printer, 1884).
- 2-11 Published copy of *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863*, by Michael Jacobs. Belonged to and annotated by E.A. Carman (13<sup>th</sup> NJ Volunteers). [see folder 2-5 for Carman’s letter to Jacobs]

First edition published copy of *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863*. Accompanied by an explanatory map, by Michael Jacobs. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1864.

- 2-12 Book promotion and testimonials

From “American Literary Gazette” (Philadelphia), commentary on *Notes on the Rebel Invasion* by Michael Jacobs

“Testimony of T.H. Burrows”, commenting on the *Notes on the Rebel Invasion*

Newspaper or magazine clipping with advertisement for *Notes on the Rebel Invasion*

- 2-13 “Rules and Regulations of the Gettysburg Gas Company”; Michael Jacobs, President

### **Series 4 – Ephemera**

- 2-14 Ephemera

Print of a portrait of Michael Jacobs

Slip of paper with title, “Members of the ‘Botany class’” followed by list of names. Attached note states that it was found in book with Michael Jacobs’ signature on flyleaf.

Flyleaf from a book with handwriting, "David Jacobs, Jefferson College, Canonsburg, 1825" and later notes, "M. Jacobs" and "Prof. of Chem at Gettysburg early years"

**For more information about the Michael Jacobs Collection**

Jacobs, Michael. Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864. Location: Special Collections Civil War, Special Collections Gettysburgiana E475.51 .J17

Jacobs, Michael. Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863. Gettysburgh, Pa.: Times Printing House, 1909. Location: Special Collections Oversize E475.51 .J19

Jacobs, M., and Henry Eyster Jacobs. Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863. 7th rev a enl ed. Alexandria, PA: Horn-Jacobs Society, 1988. Location: Special Collections Gettysburgiana E475.51 .J33 1988z

Jacobs, Michael. Correspondence between Michael Jacobs and General O. O. Howard concerning the Battle of Gettysburg. 1864. Photocopies from originals in Bowdoin College Library-9pp. Location: CWVFM-47

Jacobs, Henry Eyster. Letter from Henry E. Jacobs (son of Michael Jacobs) containing his remembrances of Lincoln. Also, a manuscript from H.E. Jacobs. Some excerpts from the manuscript were published in Dr. Jacob's book, "Lincoln's Gettysburg World Message" in 1919. ALS-3pp. MS-39pp. Location: VFM-79