

HARAI ROBINSON PAPERS

Mss. 488

Inventory

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY 3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE 4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE 5
INDEX TERMS 6
CONTAINER LIST 7

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size	1 volume.
Geographic Locations	New Orleans, Louisiana; Rhode Island; New York; Panama; Barranquilla, New Granada (Columbia)
Inclusive Dates	1861-1889
Bulk Dates	1864-1866
Languages	English
Summary	Bound typewritten volume of correspondence, special orders, official papers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets pertaining to the military record of Colonel Harai Robinson during the Civil War and his employment with the Central Pacific and Mexican International railroads.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on access.
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation	Harai Robinson Papers, Mss. 488, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location	H:13

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Harai Robinson was a colonel in the First Louisiana Cavalry Volunteers, U.S. Army, under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1863, the remainder of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry was assigned to Robinson's command. Upon receipt of the order, the Second Rhode Island Cavalry revolted, and Robinson had two men shot for refusing to obey orders. Robinson was commissioned as a colonel in January 1864. He retired from field service because of wounds received during the Red River campaign and was promoted to provost marshal general of the Department of the Gulf in August 1864.

In February 1865, Robinson was arrested by order of a special military commission and held without charges being brought against him. He wrote a petition to President Abraham Lincoln, and the suit brought against Robinson was dismissed by the Circuit Court for lack of jurisdiction. Robinson was mustered out of service in September 1865 and was remanded to civil authorities for trial, but he was released for lack of charges against him. He tried for several years to get a claim paid and gathered several testimonial letters as evidence of his service to the government.

After the Civil War, Robinson worked for the Central Pacific and Mexican International railroads. He died in Panama in 1889. His wife, Mrs. Jane Robinson, sought to have his effects forwarded to her and attempted to secure his pension from the government after his death.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers are bound typewritten copies of correspondence, special orders, official papers, and pamphlets pertaining to the military record of Colonel Harai Robinson. These typewritten copies were created in 1939 from the original papers. The original papers were returned to the donor.

Among the papers are a letter of appointment (September 1861) of Harai Robinson as vice consul at Barranquilla, New Granada (Columbia); a letter (November 1862) signed by Mayor George Opdyke of New York and various officers of the New York National Guard requesting that Robinson lecture on cavalry tactics at the Cooper Institute; and an appointment and oath of office (1863) as major in the First Louisiana Cavalry.

Items concerned with the Second Rhode Island cavalry mutiny affair (August 1863-January 1864) include the order for consolidation, clippings from Rhode Island newspapers telling about the executions, the state of affairs in the regiment prior to its transfer, the extract of an order appointing an examining committee, the report of the committee justifying Robinson's conduct, and an order transferring the men back to the Third Rhode Island Cavalry.

Legal documents concerning the investigation of Robinson's order to shoot two soldiers and the lawsuits brought against him are included, as are the letters of endorsement regarding his military service and his petition to President Abraham Lincoln.

Additional items include a history of Robinson's service in the U.S. Army; his commission, discharge, and pension papers; and items related to his employment with the Central Pacific and Mexican International railroads.

Later correspondence is from Robinson's widow, Mrs. Jane Robinson, of New York attempting to have his effects forwarded to her and attempting to secure his pension from the government after his death.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Robison, Harai, -1887?
United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

CONTAINER LIST

Note: Several items listed below are accompanied by additional correspondence, military records, and military court records within the volume.

Stack

Location Contents with dates

Volume 1:

H:13 Appointment by George W. Jones, minister to New Granada (Columbia), of Harai Robinson as vice-consul to the Port of Barranquilla, September 19, 1861 (page 1).

Letter of introduction from A. A. Burton, minister to Columbia, to his friends in the U.S. Congress, January 24, 1862 (page 2).

Letter to Major Harai Robinson from the mayor of New York and others to deliver a lecture on the cavalry branch of the service at the Cooper Institute, November 10, 1862 (page 4).

Commission of Harai Robinson as major of the First Louisiana Cavalry, January 20, 1863 (page 6).

Muster in roll: Colonel Harai Robinson, First Louisiana Cavalry, August 14, 1863 (page 9).

General Orders No. 46: Headquarters defenses of New Orleans, Louisiana regarding the creation of a military commission to inquire into the conduct of Colonel Harai Robinson, September 4, 1863 (page 12).

Report of military court of inquiry convened at Camp Hubbard, Louisiana, to investigate the cause and course of mutiny in the Second Rhode Island Cavalry, October 24, 1863 (page 14).

Enlisted men of the Second Rhode Island Cavalry transferred to the First Louisiana Cavalry by Special Order No. 209, January 14, 1864 (page 23).

Special Orders No. 13: Headquarters of the Department of the Gulf regarding orders to summon Colonel Harai Robinson into service as colonel of the First Louisiana Cavalry, January 15, 1864 (page 25).

Muster out roll of Colonel Harai Robinson of the First Louisiana Cavalry, January 14, 1864 (page 26).

Special Orders No. 20: Companies A, B, C, and D of the Louisiana Cavalry to be organized into the First Battalion of the First Regiment of the Louisiana Cavalry with Major Harai Robinson commanding, January 20, 1863 (page 28).

Stack

Location Contents with dates

- H:13** Letter from Major General Nathaniel P. Banks endorsing Colonel Harai Robinson, June 28, 1864 (page 36).
- Special Orders No. 146: Headquarters of the Military Division of West Mississippi regarding an announcement of a report of the Board of Examiners, October 30, 1864 (page 38).
- Petition of the Louisiana governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the Louisiana legislature that Colonel Harai Robinson be commissioned as brigadier general of volunteers, December 25, 1864 (page 42).
- Application of Colonel Harai Robinson for the military orders establishing a military commission to investigate military conditions in Mississippi, February 16, 1865 (page 47).
- Petition to President Abraham Lincoln by Colonel Harai Robinson, March 2, 1865 (page 56).
- Copy of the judgment in the case of the Circuit Court, United States vs. Harai Robinson, No. 3760, November term, 1865 (page 74).
- Judgement in the case of the Circuit Court, United States vs. Harai Robinson, No. 3762, March 14, 1866 (page 76).
- Testimony signed by the chief clerk of the Third Auditor's Office of the U.S. Treasury Department stating that Colonel Harai Robinson is not charged on the books, April 24, 1865 (page 78).
- Part of a letter from Colonel Lucas concerning activities of the First Louisiana Cavalry during the illness of Colonel Harai Robinson due to wounds, August 5 or 15, 1865 (page 79).
- U.S. War Department orders for Colonel Harai Robinson to be mustered out of service and to be turned over to civil authorities for trial, August 28, 1865 (page 82)
- Muster out roll of Colonel Harai Robinson, August 28, 1865 (page 84).
- Copy of a letter from the provost marshal to the U.S. Marshal at New Orleans, Louisiana, turning over Harai Robinson to be tried, September 1, 1865 (page 89).
- U.S. Marshal at New Orleans, Louisiana, acknowledging receipt of Sherman's letter, September 1, 1865 (page 92).

Stack

Location Contents with dates

H:13 Copy of a letter to Harai Robinson from the U.S. Ordinance Office regarding payment of sabers bought by the U.S. government, November 28, 1865 (page 94).

Letter to Colonel Harai Robinson from the assistant adjutant general informing Robinson that some items of expenditure in the provost marshal fund will not be approved in their present form, December 9, 1865 (page 95).

Paymaster General's Office: Statement that Colonel Harai Robinson had no stoppages against his pay, April 20, 1866 (page 97).

Statement by the commissary general to the effect that Colonel Harai Robinson owed nothing for supplies, April 20, 1866 (page 98).

Letter from W. H. Emory to Edwin Stanton, U.S. Secretary of War, endorsing Colonel Harai Robinson, April 26, 1866 (page 99).

Letter from George W. Jones to Edwin Stanton, U.S. Secretary of War, endorsing Colonel Harai Robinson, April 27, 1866 (page 101).

Military history of Colonel Harai Robinson, May 1, 1866 (page 104).

Letter from General Burbidge to Edwin Stanton, U.S. Secretary of War, mentioning services and merits of Colonel Harai Robinson, June 12, 1866 (page 105).

Certificate of honorable discharge of Colonel Harai Robinson, May 14, 1866 (page 107).

Letter from George W. Jones to President Andrew Johnson relates to the standing of Colonel Harai Robinson at the outbreak of the Civil War, May 1, 1866 (page 110).

Statement of U.S. Treasury Department that Colonel Harai Robinson had no unsettled clothes or ordinance returns in that office, October 28, 1866 (page 114).

Endorsement of Colonel Harai Robinson by Governor Andrews of Massachusetts, General Nathaniel P. Banks, and Honorable George Opdyke on a petition to President Andrew Johnson, September 14, 1866 (page 115).

Letter from C. J. Wilder, freight auditor of the Central Pacific Railroad, to Colonel Harai Robinson, December 8, 1882 (page 118).

Stack

Location Contents with dates

H:13 Receipt of a month's dues from Colonel Harai Robinson in the Grand Army of the Republic, August 14, 1883 (page 119).

Certificate of recommendation for Colonel Harai Robinson from the Mexican International Railroad Company, May 23, 1884 (page 120).

Request by Colonel Harai Robinson to have his pension payment transferred from a San Francisco agency to an agency in Knoxville, Tennessee, June 18, 1884 (page 121).

Copy of Panama consul's first letter to Mrs. Jane Robinson concerning information about her husband, July 1, 1888 (page 122).

Mrs. Jane Robinson: Copy of Harai Robinson's pension check, March 4, 1887 (page 124).

Copy of Panama consul's second letter to Mrs. Jane Robinson concerning the return of Harai Robinson's effects from Panama, July 1, 1888 (page 125).

Act to grant a pension to Mrs. Jane Robinson, October 5, 1888 (page 127).

Statement by the U.S. Department of the Interior to the effect that Mrs. Jane Robinson's pension had been approved, February 11, 1889 (page 128).