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### H88-0009. Beck, Theodoric Romeyn (1833-1896). Papers, 1862-1921. 0.50 linear ft.

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**H88-0009.** Beck, Theodoric Romeyn (1833-1896).  
Papers, 1862-1921. 0.50 linear ft.



### Abstract

Chaplain during the Civil War for the Thirteenth (13th) New Jersey Volunteers, Hope College professor of classics and religion (1863-1885), and head of Government College, Yamaguchi, Japan (1888-1894). Collection includes correspondence, a scrapbook of Beck's articles, and Beck family photographs.

Accession No: H88-0009  
Provenance: Theodoric Romeyn Beck  
Donor: Lewis B. Sebring, Jr. (1976)  
Photographs: 18 images  
Processed by: Rebecca A. O'Shesky, June 1992  
Jenifer A. Smith, October 1993

### Biography

Theodoric Romeyn Beck was born in Albany, New York, on April 19, 1830. He later received both his B.A. degree (1849) and his M.A. degree (1852) from Rutgers University. From 1852-1858, he studied and practiced law in Chicago. After graduating from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1862, Beck was appointed Chaplain to the Thirteenth (13th) New Jersey Volunteers, a position he held until 1864.

In 1864, the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America appointed Beck to the faculty of Hope Academy. Beck taught a variety of subjects, including Latin and Greek, biblical criticism and philology, Hebrew, Sacred Exegesis, and other courses in religion. He resigned from the faculty in 1885.

In 1888, Beck was appointed by the Japanese Government to found a college based on the American system in the southern cities of Japan. Remaining in Japan until 1894, when American missionaries were no longer welcomed, Beck then returned to California where he wrote religious articles on Japan until his death in Oakland, California, on May 22, 1896.

### Scope and Content

The Theodoric Romeyn Beck Papers have been arranged alphabetically by topical heading. The Civil War papers are primarily photocopies which have been reproduced from the collection at the National Archives. Photographs are primarily of the Beck family, although pictures of Beck's Japanese students are also included. The scrapbook contains news clippings of articles which Beck wrote after his return from Japan.

### Container List

Biography, n.d., 1883  
Book, *Paley's Oral and Political Philosophy*, by A. J. Valpy, 1838

Civil War Papers

1862-1863, 1913 (photocopies; originals in National Archives)

Reunion of the Thirteenth (13th) New Jersey Volunteers, 1893 (2 images)

Correspondence

General, 1890-1893

Irene Whittaker Beck, 1892-1916

Re: Mrs. Beck's Death, 1921

Photographs (1 folder)

Irene Whittaker Beck, n.d., 1908 (4 images)

T. Romeyn Beck, n.d. (6 images)

Mrs. Lewis C. Beck (T. R. Beck's mother), n.d. (1 image)

General Synod of the RCA, 1884 (1 image)

Japanese Students

July 17th, 1894 (1 image)

1889-1890 (1 image)

n.d. (1 image)

Unidentified (Man and House), n.d. (1 image)

Scrapbook (contains articles), 1883-1906

Silver Napkin Ring, n.d.