



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 224 Maus Collection

Date of Records: 1872-1940

Size: 1 cubic foot, 2 boxes

Finding Aid: by Eric W. Boyle (2014)

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Biographical Note: Colonel Louis Mervin Maus was born in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 8, 1851. He was educated at St. John's College in Maryland, received his medical degree from the University of Maryland before studying at the Pasteur Institute in France and attending medical clinics in London, Berlin, and Vienna, and subsequently was married to Anna Page Russell of Kentucky. He was appointed First Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon of the U.S. Army on November 10, 1874, after having successfully passed the Army Medical Board in New York City. The first three years of his service were passed in the Department of the South, then under the command of Major General Irwin McDonald, and principally at Selma and Demopolis, Alabama, Atlanta, Georgia, Frankfort, Kentucky, and Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee. A portion of this time was with the troops in the field. In the spring of 1877, he was ordered to the Department of Dakota, then under the command of General Terry, and stationed at Standing Rock Agency, where he remained until June 1881. While at this post, he participated in several expeditions against the Sioux, and for especially meritorious and gallant services was recommended by his commanding officer, General Carlin, then Lt. Col. of the 17th Infantry, for a medal of honor. From 1881 to 1889 he served in various medical departments east and west of the Mississippi.

When the war with Spain was declared, he was at once ordered by the Secretary of War to report to the Governor of New York as mustering surgeon for that state. During this period, over 18,000 men passed through his hands before the quota of 12,000 men was obtained. While on mustering duty, he was appointed Lt. Col. and Chief Surgeon of Volunteers. At the conclusion of his work in New York, he was ordered to report to Florida, where his ability as an organizer and administrative officer was recognized by the military authorities. The success which attended the care of the sick of that large army was reportedly regarded as due to his tireless energy and zeal. Maus then joined the Seventh Army Corps in Havana, Cuba, where his reportedly judicious command of sanitary precautions played an important role in the return of the men of this command to the United States in excellent condition.



Shortly thereafter, Maus was ordered to the Philippine Islands and on arrival there was attached as Chief Surgeon to the Second Division of the Eighth Army Corps then in the field, under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur. Subsequently, he served as Chief Surgeon of the Department of Northern and Southern Luzon and Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Philippines. On the organization of the civil government in 1901, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Health for the Philippines. During his administration, bills regulating the practice of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine were passed, as were laws for the organization of provincial and municipal boards of health, compulsory vaccination against smallpox, and other measures affecting the sanitary condition of the Philippines overall. A census of the lepers of the Archipelago was also taken under his administration, and steps for their segregation on a distant and isolated island taken. He was believed to be the first medical officer of the Army to inaugurate a campaign against venereal disease during and following the Spanish-American War, and devised a system of venereal prophylaxis for the Army, with positive effects. Colonel Maus was also credited with eradicating bubonic plague from the city of Manila, and reportedly carried out successfully a campaign against Asiatic Cholera which had invaded the islands during the latter part of his administration. After his return to the United States in 1902, he was placed in charge of the medical supply depot in San Francisco before being appointed Post Surgeon at Fort Riley, Kansas. Maus was made Colonel and Assistant Surgeon General in 1907 and Colonel of the Medical Corps in 1908, and subsequently served as Chief Surgeon in Texas, Manila, St. Paul, Chicago, and New York before initially retiring in 1915. He was recalled to active duty in 1917 and was on temporary duty in Washington DC and San Francisco until 1919. Colonel Maus died August 3, 1939 in Rockville, Maryland.

Series/Scope and Content Note: This collection focuses on the medical and army career of Colonel Maus. The document collection is mostly a chronological survey of Maus's career and includes orders, correspondence, commendation letters, notices of court-martial hearings for deserters (Maus was on hearing boards), and Congressional acts and bills relating to Maus. Letters from William Jennings Bryan, Woodrow Wilson, John Harvey Kellogg, and Joseph M. Daniels are included. Slides and photographs by or about Maus show Cuba, the Philippines, and Ft. Lincoln. The reprints folder contains some pamphlets and articles written by Maus. A copy of *The Soldier's Medical and Surgical Emergency Handbook* and *An Army on Leave in Japan* are also part of the collection, as are a number of clippings related to Maus and his career. A scrapbook includes a collection of newspaper articles and ephemera mentioning Maus and his work.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

- 00001: Collection Background and Content Notes
- 00002: Brief Outline of the Military Service of Lt. Col. L.M. Maus
- 00003: Document Collection (1872-1897)
- 00004: Document Collection (1898-1909)
- 00005: Document Collection (1910-1938)
- 00006: Circulars and Clippings (Misc., no dates)



00007: Maus Reprints

- “The Ethics, Scope and Prerogative of the Army Medical Officer,” *The Military Surgeon* (1911)
- “Does the Moderate Use of Alcohol Lower Health and Efficiency, and Should It Be Prohibited Among Officers and Officials of the Military, Naval and Civil Services?,” *Journal of the Military Service Institution* (1912)
- “The Sanitary Conquest of the Philippine Islands,” *Medical World* (Dec. 7, 1912)
- “Heredity and Eugenics,” *The Medical Times* (Aug. 1913)
- “Report of the Medical Intelligence Bureau Since Its Organization: With Suggestions and Recommendations,” *The New Era* (Dec. 31, 1924)
- “Hydrology in the Treatment of Diseases, Injuries, and Disorders Incident to Military Service,” *The Medical Herald and Physiotherapist* (1924)
- “A Sketch of the Hot Springs of Arkansas: America’s National Health Resort,” *Arkansas Medical Journal* (August 1924)
- “The Effects and Uses of the Radio-Active Waters of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, in the Treatment of Diseases,” *Proceedings of the Connecticut State Medical Society* (1925)

00008: Photographs and Slides

- Dakota Territory (ca. 1879)
- Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur and Staff, Philippines (ca. 1903)
- Habitat of Col. Maus in the Philippines (sketch, ca. 1900)
- General Fitzhugh Lee and Staff of the Army Corps, Spanish-American War (ca. 1898)
- General Lee and Col. Maus in Havana (ca. 1898)
- Unidentified Group Photo, possibly WH Taft (n.d.)
- Victory Celebration in the Philippines (n.d.)
- Fort Lincoln Post Hospital (ca. 1880s)
- Hospital #9 in the Philippine Islands (ca. 1900)
- Gen. Lee and Staff on Parade in Jacksonville, FL (ca. 1899)
- Association of Military Surgeons (1912)
- Board of Health Group Photo, Philippines (ca. 1902)
- Surgeon General Sternberg with Col. Maus (n.d.)
- Col. Maus and Group of Moros Cajajan de Jolo, Philippines (ca. 1901)
- Col. Maus and other officer, possibly Gen. Pershing (n.d.)

00009: “The Soldier’s Medical and Surgical Emergency Hand Book, Designed for the Use of Troops, Companies and Detachments, Unprovided with Medical Officers, and Especially Addressed to Accompany the Company Emergency Pannier,” by Louis Mervin Maus (1892)

00010: “Manual of Instruction and Nursing for the Hospital Corps and Company Litter Bearers, Prepared for the Use of the United States Army and the National Guard,” by Louis Mervin Maus (1892)

Box 002:

000011: Scrapbook (1898-1938)