

Guide to the Thomas Leiper Kane Papers

WA MSS 279



by Beinecke staff

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS 279

CREATOR: Kane, Thomas L. (Thomas Leiper), 1822-1883

TITLE: Thomas Leiper Kane papers

DATES: [1846?]-1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.2 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Thomas Leiper Kane Papers consist of reports, drafts of speeches, and letters by Colonel Thomas Leiper Kane, as well as letters written to him. The latter are chiefly by the leaders of the Mormon Church and describe conditions in Utah and the relations between federal officials, the army, and the Mormons.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kane>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kane>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Thomas Leiper Kane Papers collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Leiper Kane Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections [as they are acquired], and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid, created before the advent of computer-generated files, has been converted into a ASCII data file by means of scanning and Optical Character Recognition software. While attempts have been made to retain the complete information from the original document a number of format changes have been made to present the structure of this archive in accordance with current practice.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Thomas Leiper Kane (1822-1883)

Thomas Leiper Kane was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 27, 1822. He was educated in Philadelphia and, as a young man, traveled to Europe. For some years, he resided at Paris. After returning to Philadelphia, Kane studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1846. In that year, Kane visited Nauvoo and the Mormon camp at Council Bluffs. Although apparently never a Mormon himself, Kane was sympathetic to the Mormons and became a friend of Brigham Young. As a result, in 1858, Kane visited Salt Lake City with special instructions from President Buchanan and was instrumental in preventing a clash between the army and the Mormons. Kane served with distinction in the Civil War, retiring in 1863 with the rank of major-general. After his retirement, Kane resided in Pennsylvania and worked for a number of charitable causes. He died in Philadelphia in 1883.

Scope and Contents

The Thomas Leiper Kane Papers consist of reports, drafts of speeches, and letters by Colonel Thomas Leiper Kane, as well as letters written to him. The latter are chiefly by the leaders of the Mormon Church and describe conditions in Utah and the relations between federal officials, the army, and the Mormons.

The papers are arranged chronologically and are accompanied by a copy of *The Collector*, December 1944-January 1945, which contains a description of the Haiken Benjamin collection of Kane manuscripts offered for sale by Mary A. Benjamin. The remaining items are from the collection of the late Guido Bruno.

Collection Contents

WA MSS 279: Papers

47 pieces. 142 pp. 13½ - 110 cm.

Papers and correspondence relating to the Mormons. [1846 ?]-1853, 1856-1860, 1884. With copies of *The Mormons* and *The Private Papers of Thomas Leiper Kane*.

Colonel Kane became interested in the Mormons in 1846 when he visited Nauvoo and the Mormon camp at Council Bluffs. In 1858 he visited Salt Lake City with special instructions from President Buchanan and was instrumental in preventing a clash between the army and the Mormons.

The papers consist of reports, drafts of speeches and letters by Colonel Kane; and letters to him written chiefly by the leaders of the Mormon Church describing conditions in Utah and the relations between the federal officials and the army and the Mormons.

The following letters and papers are included in the collection:

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Account of the inhuman treatment of the anti-Mormons in Illinois [in 1846]. 3 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Report on the "Half breed track" of Indian land and the Mormons in Nauvoo [1846]. 3 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Report to Hon. William Medill, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, April 21, 1847. A signed copy in Kane's hand. 3pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Notes for an address on the Mormons introducing Elders Benson and Little as speakers at a meeting, probably in New York in the spring of 1848. 1 p.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Draft of a letter to President Buchanan. December 31, 1857. 1 p.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Cipher message to his father, Judge Kane. February 4, 1858, with added notes and postscript on verso [not in cipher], 2 pp. and translation [not in Kane's hand]. 1 p.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Draft of a letter to Brigham Young. August 25, 1858. 2 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Draft of a letter to Mrs. Cumming. August 25, 1858. Signed with initials. 2 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Draft of a letter to Colonel William Cumming. August 28, 1858. Signed with initials. 2 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. Draft of a letter to Governor Cumming. March 22, 1859. Signed. 2 pp.

APPLEBY, WILLIAM I. Two letters to Colonel Kane. April 17, 1848, August 30, 1852. 4 pp.

APPLEBY, WILLIAM I. Certificate that James Ferguson on the 18th day of November, 1851, was admitted by the Hon. Judge Snow to practice law in the Territory. W. I. Appleby, clerk. A true copy. 1 p.

APPLEBY, WILLIAM I. Certificate that James Ferguson, on the fifth day of December, 1853, was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States. December 5, 1853, W. I. Appleby, clerk. 1 p.

BERNHISEL, JOHN MILTON. Two letters to Colonel Kane, listing proposed appointees for Utah. September 11, 1850, July 17, 1852. 2 pp.

BOLTON, CURTIS E. Deposition concerning R. Keith Johnson and Justice Eckels. June 21, 1860. 1 p.

BROWN, THOMAS D. Letter to Colonel Kane. February 14, 1859. 1 p.

CANNON, GEORGE QUAYLE. Letter to Mrs. Kane after the death of her husband. January 25, 1884. 3 pp.

ECKELS, DELANO R. Copy of a letter to Lieutenant Bennett. August 12, 1858. Attested a true copy by H. B. Clawson and James Ferguson. 1 p.

HAIGHT, ISAAC CHAUNCEY. Letter to Colonel Kane requesting seeds. December 31, 1858. 1 p.

HARVEY, THOMAS H., Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Letter to William Medill [December 3, 1846]. Extract in Kane's hand. 2 pp.

JOHNSON, LUKE S. Letter to Blair & Firkson. Signed by James Jordan, clerk, Luke Johnson, judge [n.p., n.d.], enclosing, on second leaf, an affidavit of John D. Peters, Shamship County, May 12, 1860, signed by Peters, Luke Johnson, judge, James Jordan, clerk. Letter and affidavit in James Jordan's hand. 2 pp.

PHELPS, WILLIAM WINES. Two letters to Colonel Kane. June 25, 1852, February 10, 1859, enclosing signed copies of a petition to the Hon. Aaron V. Brown, Postmaster General, for the removal of H. F. Morrell, and affidavits of Joseph Horne, Henry E. Phelps, and John G. Lynch, February 9, 1859 before Jeter Clinton, J.P. 17 pp.

PRATT, ORSON. Letter to Colonel Kane. May 12, 1853. 2 pp.

RICHARDS, FRANKLIN DEWEY. Letter to the Company of Latter-day Saints on board the Enoch Train for Boston, appointing James Ferguson to preside and E. Ellsworth and D. D. McArthur counselors on the journey. Liverpool, March 22, 1856. 2 pp.

RICHARDS, SAMUEL WHITNEY. Letter to Colonel Kane. September 16, 1857. 4 pp.

RICHARDS, WILLARD. Two letters to Colonel Kane. August 31, 1851, May 4, 1852. 3 pp.

ROCKWELL, ORRIN PORTER. Letter to Colonel Kane. November 20, 1858. 1 p.

SMITH, GEORGE ALBERT. Two letters to Colonel Kane. September 11, 1858, January 14, 1859. Signature only. 13 pp.

SMOOT, ABRAHAM OWEN. Petition to His Excellency, James Buchanan, to remove from office Chief Justice Eckels and other officials . . . Great Salt Lake City, June 25, 1858. Signed by A. O. Smoot, Mayor; J. C. Little, Marshal; Robert Campbell, City Recorder; and 57 other citizens. 3 pp.

TAYLOR, JOHN. Letter to his nephew, George [Q. Cannon]. January 12, 1859. Copy with a note added and signed J.T. 12 pp.

WELLS, DANIEL HANMER, and TAYLOR, JOHN. "Copy. Memorial for the admission of the State of Deseret. To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled." Signed by Daniel H. Wells, President of the Council, John Taylor, Speaker of the House of Representatives. January 14, 1859. 1 p.

WOODRUFF, WILFORD. Letter to Colonel Kane. March 8, 1859. Signature only. 4 pp.

YOUNG, BRIGHAM. Letter to Senator Stephen A. Douglas, introducing Dr. John M. Bernhisel. May 2, 1849. Signed also by Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards. 1 p.

YOUNG, BRIGHAM. Five letters to Colonel Kane. January 7, 1857-November 22, 1858. Signatures only. 24 pp.

YOUNG, BRIGHAM. Extract copied in an unknown hand from a letter to Horace S. Eldredge. November 20, 1858. Unsigned. 2 pp.

YOUNG, BRIGHAM. Copies of two letters to George Q. Cannon. November 21, December 24, 1858. The second signed. 12 pp.

"Statistics—Comprising the necessary outfit to assist the emigrating Mormons now stationed at Mt. Pisgah—consisting of 200 Families including the widows and orphans . . ." [n.d.] 2 pp.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. *The Private Papers and Diary of Thomas Leiper Kane, A Friend of the Mormons*. Edited with an introduction by Oscar Osburn Winther, San Francisco, 1937.

KANE, THOMAS LEIPER. *The Mormons. A Discourse Delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania: March 26, 1850, Philadelphia, 1850.*

b. 1, f. 1	<i>The Collector</i> Contains a description of the Haiken Benjamin collection of Kane manuscripts offered for sale by Mary A. Benjamin.	1944-1945
b. 1, f. 2	Letters and Documents	1846-1852
b. 1, f. 3	Letters and Documents	1853-1857
b. 1, f. 4	Letters and Documents	January-September 1858
b. 1, f. 5	Letters and Documents	November-December 1858
b. 1, f. 6	Letters and Documents	1859-1860, 1884

b. 1, f. 7	<i>The Mormons</i> . A Discourse Delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1850.	March 26, 1850
b. 1, f. 8	<i>A Friend of the Mormons: The Private Papers and Diary of Thomas Leiper Kane</i> . Edited with an introduction by Oscar Osburn Winther, San Francisco.	1937

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Mormons -- History -- 19th century

Occupations

Public officers -- Utah

Names

Kane, Thomas L. (Thomas Leiper), 1822-1883
Young, Brigham, 1801-1877

Corporate Body

Utah Expedition (1857-1858)