Collection Summary
Title: August V. Kautz Papers
Span Dates: 1846-1939
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1890)
ID No.: MSS28250
Creator: Kautz, August V. (August Valentine), 1828-1895
Extent: 500 items ; 9 containers plus 1 oversize ; 4.0 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: United States army officer. Diaries, memoirs, scrapbooks, military orders, correspondence, newspaper clippings, topical files, and miscellaneous material relating chiefly to Kautz's military service in the Civil War and during Indian conflicts in the West before and after the war.

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.

People
Allen, John B.--Correspondence.
Babcock, Orville Elias, 1835-1884--Correspondence.
Kautz family.
Kautz, August V. (August Valentine), 1828-1895.
Kelton, J. C. (John Cunningham), 1828-1893--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.
Sheridan, Michael V. (Michael Vincent), 1840-1918--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Organizations
United States Military Academy.
United States. Army.

Subjects
Indians of North America.

Places
Pacific Area--History.
Samoan Islands--History.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
West (U.S.)--Description and travel.

Occupations
Army officers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of August V. Kautz, United States army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Austin Kautz in 1937 and received as transfers from the United States Army War College, 1945-1955. An addition was transferred from the U. S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in 1985.
Processing History

The papers of August V. Krautz were arranged and described in 1955. The collection was expanded and the finding aid revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of August V. Krautz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of August V. Krautz are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, August V. Krautz papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

1828, Jan. 5  Born, Ispringen, Baden, Germany
1828  Immigrated with his parents to Baltimore, Md
1832  Relocated with his parents to Brown County, Ohio
1846  Enlisted in 1st Infantry Regiment of Ohio Volunteers and participated in the Mexican War
1848-1852  Attended United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1852  Commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned to 4th Infantry Regiment, Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory
1855  Wounded twice in campaigns against Puget Sound Indians
1861-1862  Promoted to captain and assigned to 6th United States Cavalry in which he served through the Peninsular Campaign
  Promoted to colonel and given command of 2nd Ohio Cavalry Regiment
  Commanded Camp Chase in Ohio
1863  Commanded First Cavalry Brigade and assisted in the capture of Confederate cavalry raider John Hunt Morgan
  Published The Company Clerk. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott
1864  Breveted successively to brigadier-general and major-general
  Served as chief of cavalry for XXIII Corp, Army of the Ohio, and in this position participated in the East Tennessee campaign, including the battle of Knoxville
  Published Custom of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers. Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott
  Commanded cavalry division of the Army of the James and in that position participated in intense action directed at Petersburg, Va.
1865  Enter Richmond, Va. at the head of the XXV Corp, United States Colored Troops  
Served as a commissioner on military court that convicted the accused conspirators in the  
assassination of Abraham Lincoln  
Married Charlotte Tod  

1866  Reverted to regular army rank of lieutenant-colonel  
Published *Customs of Service for Officers*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott  

1869  Served with 15th Infantry Regiment in campaigns against the Mescalero Apaches  

1872  Married Fannie Markbreit  

1874  Promoted to colonel and given command of 8th Infantry Regiment  

1874  Promoted to brigadier-general and assigned command of the Department of the Columbia  

1891  Retired from the army  

1892  Died, Seattle, Wash.  

Scope and Content Note  
The papers of August Valentine Kautz (1828-1895) span the years circa 1846-1939, with the bulk of the material from the years 1860-1890. His papers relate primarily to military activity during and after the Civil War and to Indian affairs in the same period.  
The papers consist of Diaries, Biographical Material, Military Orders, Scrapbooks, Memorabilia, Miscellany, Addition, and Oversize series. The collection includes some papers of Kautz’s brother, Albert Kautz (1839-1907), naval officer.  
The Diaries span the years 1853-1895 and constitute the bulk of the collection. A faithful diarist, August Kautz commented about life at home and at the barracks, his health, the weather, and his military duties. His most interesting commentary in later years usually occurs with the December 31st entry as he evaluates his annual accomplishments and those of his family. There is a notable lack of information concerning national events and politics in Kautz’s daily entries. The material contained in Kautz’s autobiography and memoirs in the Biographical Material series is richer in historical content.  
The Military Orders series in the collection includes correspondence and transcripts of diary entries.  
Of special interest are Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings from 1884-1891. Often arranged by subject, clippings are taken from different newspapers of the period. Kautz annotated some of the clippings with the title of the paper and date of publication when this information could not be secured in print. One scrapbook relates to world events during the early part of World War II.  
Memorabilia includes a small amount of correspondence spanning the years 1848-1890 and a letter dated 1877 to his wife, which was neither signed nor sent. Correspondents include John B. Allen, Orville Elias Babcock, John Cunningham Kelton, Michael Vincent Sheridan, and William Tecumseh Sherman.  
The Addition is a photocopy of Kautz's diary for 1863.  
The Oversize comprises a map of the Military Department of Oregon and editions of *Truth Teller*, a newspaper Kautz published in 1858 that was occasioned by the trial and execution of Leschi, a Nisqually chief. Kautz argued that Leschi was engaged in combat when he killed a militiaman in Washington Territory and should therefore be treated as a prisoner of war rather than tried for murder.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- Diaries, 1853-1895
- Biographical Material, circa 1846-1865
- Military Orders, 1860-1892
- Scrapbooks, circa 1858-circa 1939
- Memorabilia, 1848-1895
- Miscellany, 1858-circa 1907
- Addition, 1863
- Oversize, 1858
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-3   | **Diaries, 1853-1895**  
Holographic, typescript, and published diaries.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 4     | **Biographical Material, circa 1846-1865**  
Autobiography and memoirs.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 4     | **Military Orders, 1860-1892**  
Military orders, military correspondence, and fragmentary typescript of diary entries dating from 1862.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 5-6   | **Scrapbooks, circa 1858-circa 1939**  
Scrapbooks.  
Arranged by volume number or chronologically. |
| BOX 7     | **Memorabilia, 1848-1895**  
Correspondence, commissions, awards, topical files, and miscellaneous material.  
Arranged by topic or type of material. |
| BOX 8     | **Miscellany, 1858-circa 1907**  
Topical files, newspaper clippings, maps, notebooks, and other miscellaneous material.  
Arranged by topic or type of material. |
| BOX 9     | **Addition, 1863**  
Photocopy of diary. |
| BOX OV 1  | **Oversize, 1858**  
Arranged according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
## Container List

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td><strong>Diaries, 1853-1895</strong>&lt;br&gt;Holographic, typescript, and published diaries.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Diary, photocopies of printed matter from <em>Washington Historian Journal</em>, 1853, 1857-1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Diary, 1857-1870&lt;br&gt;(5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1871-1884&lt;br&gt;(6 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1885-1895&lt;br&gt;(3 volumes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td><strong>Biographical Material, circa 1846-1865</strong>&lt;br&gt;Autobiography and memoirs.&lt;br&gt;Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Autobiography, circa 1846-1862&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Memoirs</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Holographic, 1861-1865&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Transcribed, 1861-1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Fragmentary, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td><strong>Military Orders, 1860-1892</strong>&lt;br&gt;Military orders, military correspondence, and fragmentary typescript of diary entries dating from 1862.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Military orders, 1860-1892&lt;br&gt;(8 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5-6</td>
<td><strong>Scrapbooks, circa 1858-circa 1939</strong>&lt;br&gt;Scrapbooks.&lt;br&gt;Arranged by volume number or chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Scrapbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>circa 1858-1891 <em>See also Oversize</em>&lt;br&gt;(6 vols.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>1875-1888, 1938-circa 1939&lt;br&gt;(2 vols.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td><strong>Memorabilia, 1848-1895</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, commissions, awards, topical files, and miscellaneous material.</td>
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*August V. Kautz Papers*
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1848-1890</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., 1848-1852</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Commissions, awards, discharge papers, and pension certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Military reports by Kautz, 1866-1876</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Court-martial of Kautz, 1867</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Miscellaneous military material</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Kautz's death, telegrams and photographs, 1895</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 8     | **Miscellany, 1858-circa 1907**  
Topical files, newspaper clippings, maps, notebooks, and other miscellaneous material.  
Arranged by topic or type of material. |
| BOX 8     | Leschi, Nisqually chief |
| BOX 8     | Newspaper clippings |
| BOX 8     | Kautz, Albert |
| BOX 8     | Ledger book |
| BOX 8     | Unidentified material |
| BOX 9     | **Addition, 1863**  
Photocopy of diary. |
| BOX 9     | Diary, 1863 |
| BOX OV 1  | **Oversize, 1858**  
Arranged according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
| BOX OV 1  | Map, Military Department of Oregon 1858 |
| BOX OV 1  | Scrapbooks |
| BOX OV 1  | circa 1858, *Truth Teller*, Stellacoom, Washington Territory, newspaper published by Kautz, 1858 (Container 5) |