

**August V. Kautz Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78028258>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010202>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010  
Revised 2023 June

## Collection Summary

**Title:** August V. Kautz Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1846-1939

**Bulk Dates:** 1860-1890

**ID No.:** MSS28250

**Creator:** Kautz, August V. (August Valentine), 1828-1895

**Extent:** 500 items

**Extent:** 9 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 4.0 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78028258>

**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 conflicts with Native Americans 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Allen, John B. (John Brackett), 1818-1899--Correspondence.

Babcock, Orville Elias, 1835-1884--Correspondence.

Kautz family.

Kautz, Albert, 1839-1907. Albert Kautz papers.

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--Wars--West (U.S.)

### Places

Pacific Area--History.

Samoan Islands--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

West (U.S.)--History.

### Occupations

Army officers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of August V. Kautz, United States army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Louise Folsom Hovey 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. Kautz were arranged and described in 1955. The collection was expanded and the finding aid revised by Joseph K. Brooks in 2010. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of August V. Kautz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of August V. Kautz 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. Kautz 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 during the Puget Sound War
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 <i>The Company Clerk</i> . Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott
1864	Brevetted 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 <i>Custom of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers</i> . 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	Entered 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 <i>Customs of Service for Officers</i> . Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott
1869	Served with 15th Infantry Regiment in campaigns against the Mescalero Apache Tribe
1872	Married Fannie Markbreit
1874	Promoted to colonel and given command of 8th Infantry Regiment
1891	Promoted to brigadier-general and assigned command of the Department of the Columbia
1892	Retired from the army
1895, Sept. 4	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 Native American 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

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

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	<b>Diaries, 1853-1895</b> Holographic, typescript, and published diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Diary, photocopies of printed matter from <i>Washington Historian Journal</i> , 1853, 1857-1861
BOX 1	Diary, 1857-1870 (5 folders)
BOX 2	1871-1884 (6 folders)
BOX 3	1885-1895 (3 volumes)
BOX 4	<b>Biographical Material, circa 1846-1865</b> Autobiography and memoirs. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 4	Autobiography, circa 1846-1862 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Memoirs
BOX 4	Holographic, 1861-1865 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Transcribed, 1861-1865
BOX 4	Fragmentary, undated
BOX 4	<b>Military Orders, 1860-1892</b> Military orders, military correspondence, and fragmentary typescript of diary entries dating from 1862. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	Military orders, 1860-1892 (8 folders)
BOX 5-6	<b>Scrapbooks, circa 1858-circa 1939</b> Scrapbooks. Arranged by volume number or chronologically.
BOX 5	Scrapbooks
BOX 5	circa 1858-1891 <i>See also Oversize</i> (6 vols.)
BOX 6	1875-1888, 1938-circa 1939 (2 vols.)
BOX 7	<b>Memorabilia, 1848-1895</b> Correspondence, commissions, awards, topical files, and miscellaneous material.

## Memorabilia, 1848-1895

Container	Contents
	Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 7	Correspondence, 1848-1890
BOX 7	United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., 1848-1852
BOX 7	Commissions, awards, discharge papers, and pension certificate
BOX 7	Military reports by Kautz, 1866-1876
BOX 7	Court-martial of Kautz, 1867
BOX 7	Miscellaneous military material
BOX 7	Kautz's death, telegrams and photographs, 1895
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 8	<b>Miscellany, 1858-circa 1907</b> 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	<b>Addition, 1863</b> Photocopy of diary.
BOX 9	Diary, 1863
BOX OV 1	<b>Oversize, 1858</b> Map of Oregon Military Department and editions of <i>Truth Teller</i> , a newspaper published by Kautz. 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, <i>Truth Teller</i> , Stellacoom, Washington Territory, newspaper published by Kautz, 1858 (Container 5)