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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of August V. Kautz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

1863
Promoted to colonel and given command of 2nd Ohio Cavalry Regiment

1864
Commanded Camp Chase in Ohio

1863
Commanded First Cavalry Brigade and assisted in the capture of Confederate cavalry raider John Hunt Morgan

1864
Published The Company Clerk. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott

1864
Brevetted successively to brigadier-general and major-general

1865
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

1865
Published Custom of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers. Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott

1865
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

1865
Served as a commissioner on military court that convicted the accused conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln

1865
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 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**

**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**

Map of Oregon Military Department and editions of Truth Teller, a newspaper published by Kautz.
Arranged according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-3   | **Diaries, 1853-1895**  
Holographic, typescript, and published diaries.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | Diary, photocopies of printed matter from *Washington Historian Journal*, 1853, 1857-1861 |
| BOX 1     | Diary, 1857-1870  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 2     | 1871-1884  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 3     | 1885-1895  
(3 volumes) |
| BOX 4     | **Biographical Material, circa 1846-1865**  
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     | **Military Orders, 1860-1892**  
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   | **Scrapbooks, circa 1858-circa 1939**  
Scrapbooks.  
Arranged by volume number or chronologically. |
| BOX 5     | Scrapbooks  
(circa 1858-1891 *See also Oversize*  
(6 vols.) |
| BOX 6     | 1875-1888, 1938-circa 1939  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX 7     | **Memorabilia, 1848-1895**  
Correspondence, commissions, awards, topical files, and miscellaneous material. |
### Memorabilia, 1848-1895

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<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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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Military reports by Kautz, 1866-1876</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Court-martial of Kautz, 1867</td>
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<tr>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1858-circa 1907</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Topical files, newspaper clippings, maps, notebooks, and other miscellaneous material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Leschi, Nisqually chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Kautz, Albert</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Ledger book</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Unidentified material</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1863</strong></td>
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<td>Map, Military Department of Oregon, 1858</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Scrapbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>circa 1858, <em>Truth Teller</em>, Stellacoom, Washington Territory, newspaper published by Kautz, 1858 (Container 5)</td>
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