

**William Kennoch Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086312>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019030>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019  
Revised 2022 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William Kennoch Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1861-1924

**Bulk Dates:** 1870-1887

**ID No.:** MSS86312

**Creator:** Kennoch, William, 1841-1887

**Extent:** 350 items

**Extent:** 5 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 2.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086312>

**Summary:** United States Secret Service agent. Correspondence, diaries, photographs, memorabilia, and other material relating primarily to Kennoch's career investigating 19th-century counterfeit cases and to his personal life.

## 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

Brooks, James J.--Correspondence.

Kennoch, Dora, approximately 1842-1926--Correspondence.

Kennoch, George M. (George Monell), 1868-1936. Letterpress copybook. 1908-1909.

Kennoch, William, 1841-1887.

Richey, Lawrence, 1885-1959. Lawrence Richey diary. 1903.

Whitley, Hiram C.--Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. National Guard.

United States. Revenue-Cutter Service.

United States. Secret Service--Officials and employees--Correspondence.

United States. Secret Service.

### Subjects

Burglar alarms--Patents.

Counterfeits and counterfeiting--United States.

Money--United States.

Secret service--United States.

### Occupations

Secret service agents.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of William Kennoch were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Prints and Photographs Division in 2019. Additional material was given to the Library of Congress by Thomas L. Edsall in 2022.

## Processing History

The papers of William Kennoch were arranged and described by Jake Bozza in 2019. An addition to the papers was processed and the finding aid revised in 2022 by Katherine Madison.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Kennoch is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Kennoch 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, William Kennoch Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1841	Born, New York, N.Y.
1863	Enlisted as a private in Company H, 8th New York Infantry Regiment, United States National Guard Mustered out of the United States National Guard
1864	Enlisted as a fireman in the United States Revenue-Cutter Service
1865	Discharged from the United States Revenue-Cutter Service Married Dora Monell (died 1926)
1868	Birth of son George M. Kennoch (died 1936)
circa 1870	Birth of daughter Caroline D. Kennoch
1870-1887	Agent, United States Secret Service
1887, Jan. 4	Died, Ulster Park, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Kennoch (1841-1887) span the years 1861-1924 and include correspondence, diaries, photographs, memorabilia, and other material chiefly documenting his role as a United States Secret Service agent. The papers consist primarily of Kennoch's letters to his wife, Dora Monell, as well as letters between Kennoch and various professional contacts as he led investigations in support of the first United States Secret Service mission to combat the distribution of counterfeit currency following the American Civil War. Kennoch's letters to Dora mainly describe personal and family matters. Several of these letters, however, include details of Kennoch's investigations, such as aliases he used in the field and where he traveled while pursuing counterfeiters. Letters between fellow agents and United States Secret Service chiefs, including Hiram C. Whitley and James J. Brooks, provide more detail into the progress and results of Kennoch's counterfeit cases. Diaries and reports add further insight into Kennoch's experience investigating counterfeit cases. Additional correspondence and diary entries describe Kennoch's patented improvements to burglar alarm systems as well as his service in the United States National Guard and United States Revenue-Cutter Service prior to his serving as a United States Secret Service agent.

The memorabilia includes a brass loupe for examining counterfeit engraved notes, a burglar alarm system, and four brass badges from Kennoch's service in the United States National Guard. Several items postdate Kennoch's death in 1887 and do not specifically pertain to his experience. One item of particular note is the 1903 diary of United States Secret Service agent Lawrence Ricci (later known as Lawrence Richey).

An addition to the collection consists of three letterpress copybooks containing daily reports written by Kennoch and by his son, George, who also served as a United States Secret Service agent.

## **Arrangement of the Collection**

This collection is divided into personal and professional files, as well as other groupings, and arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically therein; followed by an addition.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Personal file
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1861, Aug.-1914, Feb., undated (9 folders)
BOX 1	Death records, 1887, Jan.-1899, Feb.
BOX 1	Diaries, 1866, 1871-1872
BOX 2	Diaries, 1873-1885 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Photographs, undated
BOX 2	Wallet and business cards, 1922, undated
BOX 2	Professional file
BOX 2	Appointments, 1870, 1876
BOX 2	Burglar alarms, 1874, Dec.-1875, 1882, July, 1924, June
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1865, May-1887, Jan., undated (4 folders)
BOX 3	United States Secret Service
BOX 3	Circulars, 1872, Jan.-1873, 1885, July-1886, Nov.
BOX 3	Descriptions, 1871, Nov., 1901, undated
BOX 3	Reports, 1870, Sept.-1877 (8 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1871, Aug.-1888, Sept., 1903, undated
BOX 4	News clippings, 1873-1877, 1887, undated
BOX 4	Printed matter and periodicals, 1865-1886 (2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Memorabilia, undated
BOX 5	2022 Addition
BOX 5	Letterpress copybooks, 1875
BOX 5	Letterpress copybook of George M. Kennoch, 1908-1909