



Guide to the John McIntosh Kell papers, 1735-1944 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

John McIntosh Kell papers, 1735-1944 and undated

Creator:

Kell, John McIntosh

Abstract:

The collection includes papers and volumes created by John McIntosh Kell (1823-1900) of the U.S. Navy and his family. Family correspondence includes letters from John McIntosh Kell's period of service in the U.S. Navy, family and business papers from the Kell, Nathan Campbell Munroe, and Tabitha Easter (Napier) Munroe families discussing Georgia politics and other local events. Volumes in the collection include logs of the U.S. frigate Savannah, the U.S.S. Falmouth, and Shark. There is also an unpublished manuscript by Kell's wife and scrapbooks she maintained. Includes family legal papers, genealogical materials, writings, and miscellaneous papers.

Extent:

9 Linear Feet

Language:

English

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.10021

Permalink:

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/kelljohnmcintosh/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], John McIntosh Kell papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes family correspondence consisting of letters from Kell to his mother, Marjory Spalding (Baillie) Kell; his wife, Julia Blanche (Munroe) Kell; and his sisters. Beginning in 1841, Kell's letters cover the period of his service in the U.S. Navy. Topics include accounts of cruises; social activities aboard ship and on land; Commodore Matthew C. Perry; the funeral of Commodore Alexander James Dallas; the countryside in the vicinity of Cape Town, South Africa; descriptions of Montevideo and Uruguay; and references to President Carlos Antonio Lopez of Paraguay. After 1860, Kell's letters concern his duties with the Confederate Navy, including running the blockade on the C.S.S. SUMTER and the subsequent abandonment of the ship.

The collection also includes family and business papers of Nathan Campbell Munroe of Macon, Ga., his wife Tabitha Easter (Napier) Munroe, their daughter Julia Blanche (Munroe) Kell, and other members of the Munroe, McIntosh, and Napier families. Topics include Georgia and national politics, Henry Clay and the Bank of the United States; railroad construction in Georgia; Christ Church Episcopal Parish in Macon; Montpelier Institute, Salem Female Academy, and other educational institutions; temperance; the duel between Thomas Butler King, U.S. Rep. from Georgia, and Charles Spalding; town-gown relations at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; riverboat transportation in Alabama; and the fight between the MONITOR and VIRGINIA as described by a Confederate naval officer.

Volumes in the collection include general orders and general watch and quarter bills of the U.S. frigate SAVANNAH, 1843-1847; and logs kept by Kell as midshipman on the U.S.S. FALMOUTH, 1841-1843, and on the SAVANNAH and SHARK, 1843-1847. There is also an unpublished manuscript by Kell's wife, entitled "The Life and Letters of John McIntosh Kell," ca. 1908, and scrapbooks she maintained. Includes family legal papers, genealogical materials, writings, and miscellaneous papers.

Biographical/Historical

John McIntosh Kell (1823-1900) was a naval officer from Darien (McIntosh Co.), Ga.; he served as executive officer of the C.S.S. SUMTER and ALABAMA, and captain of the Confederate ironclad RICHMOND.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition Information

The John McIntosh Kell papers were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in several accessions from 1960-1974.

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Processed by: Rubenstein Library Staff

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Names and Subjects

- Confederate States of America -- History, Naval
- Uruguay -- Description and travel.
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Cape Town (South Africa) -- Description and travel.
- Railroads -- Georgia.
- Temperance

- River Boats -- Alabama.
- Education -- Southern States
- Georgia -- Social life and customs
- University of Alabama
- Sumter (Cruiser)
- Shark (ship)
- Monitor (Ironclad)
- United States. Navy. Officers
- Richmond (Ship)
- Montpelier Institute (Monroe County, Ga.)
- Clay, Henry, 1777-1852
- Savannah (Ship)
- Salem Female Academy (Salem, Winston-Salem, N.C.)
- Dallas, Alexander J., (Alexander James)
- King, T. Butler, (Thomas Butler)
- Kell Family
- Monroe, Nathan Campbell
- Monroe Family
- Perry, Matthew Calbraith
- Lopez, Carlos Antonio
- Episcopal Church. Georgia
- Confederate States of America. Navy. Officers
- Falmouth (Ship)
- Virginia (Ironclad)

Collection Inventory

Letters, 1810-1944 and undated

Scope and Contents

Collection includes family correspondence consisting of letters from Kell to his mother, Marjory Spalding (Baillie) Kell; his wife, Julia Blanche (Munroe) Kell; and his sisters. Beginning in 1841, Kell's letters cover the period of his service in the U.S. Navy. Topics include accounts of cruises; social activities aboard ship and on land; Commodore Matthew C. Perry; the funeral of Commodore Alexander James Dallas; the countryside in the vicinity of Cape Town, South Africa; descriptions of Montevideo and Uruguay; and references to President Carlos Antonio Lopez of Paraguay. After 1860, Kell's letters concern his duties with the Confederate Navy, including running the blockade on the C.S.S. SUMTER and the subsequent abandonment of the ship.

The collection also includes family papers of Nathan Campbell Munroe of Macon, Ga., his wife Tabitha Easter (Napier) Munroe, their daughter Julia Blanche (Munroe) Kell, and other members of the Munroe, McIntosh, and Napier families. Topics include Georgia and national politics, Henry Clay and

the Bank of the United States; railroad construction in Ga.; Christ Church Episcopal Parish in Macon; Montpelier Institute, Salem Female Academy, and other educational institutions; temperance; the duel between Thomas Butler King, U.S. Rep. from Georgia, and Charles Spalding; town-gown relations at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; riverboat transportation in Alabama; and the fight between the MONITOR and VIRGINIA as described by a Confederate naval officer.

1810, 1835, 1839	Box 1
1840-1843	Box 1
1844-1846	Box 1
1847-1848	Box 1
1849, 1840's undated	Box 1
1850	Box 1
1851	Box 1
1852-1853	Box 2
1854-1855	Box 2
1856	Box 2
1857	Box 2
1858	Box 2
1859	Box 2
1850's undated	Box 2
1860, January-May	Box 3
1860, June-December	Box 3
1861	Box 3
1862	Box 3
1863	Box 3
1864	Box 3

1865	Box 4
1861-1865	Box 4
Scope and Contents	
Incompletely dated Civil War letters	
1866, January-May	Box 4
1866, June-December	Box 4
1867, January-April	Box 4
1867, May-December	Box 4
1868-1869	Box 4
1860's, partially dated	Box 5
Physical Description: 2 folders	
1870-1871	Box 5
1872-1873	Box 5
1874-1875	Box 5
1876-1879	Box 5
1870's, partially dated	Box 5
1880-1889	Box 6
1890-1891	Box 6
1892-1894	Box 6
1895-1899	Box 6
1900-1902	Box 6
1903-1906	Box 6
1907-1944	Box 6
undated letters	Box 7
Physical Description: 3 folders	

undated correspondence	Box 7
Physical Description: 4 folders	

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Bills and Receipts, 1785-1860s

Scope and Contents

Includes bills and receipts primarily of Nathan Campbell Munroe of Macon, Ga., and a few other members of the Munroe, McIntosh, and Napier families. There are also bills, receipts, and grade reports from Montpelier Institute, Salem Female Academy, and other educational institutions.

1785-1839	Box 8
1840's	Box 8
Physical Description: 5 folders	
1850's	Box 8
Physical Description: 2 folders	
1860's	Box 8
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Accounts for education and tours in Europe, 1845-1847	Box 9
Scope and Contents	
For Mary Denke, Harriet T. Munroe, Caroline Napier, Tabitha Napier	
Bibb County Academy vouchers, 1846, 1851-1858	Box 9
Georgia Institute for the Blind, vouchers 1852-1866, Treasurer's Acct, 1856-1857	Box 9
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Georgia Military Institute, 1861	Box 9
Home Institute (Macon), 1858	Box 9
Macon Female Academy receipts, 1851-1852	Box 9

Macon Free School voucher and tuition receipt, 1858-1859	Box 9
Montpelier Institute tuition and other receipts, 1844-1850	Box 9
Salem Academy, 1841-1844	Box 9
University High School (Athens), 1862	Box 9
Vineville Seminary tuition receipts, 1844-1846	Box 9

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Legal papers, 1743-1877 and undated

Scope and Contents

There are varied legal papers represented, including deeds, powers of attorney, warrants, land indentures, insurance policies, wills, and leases. Topics include assault; debts; land transfers, including the transfer of slaves with land; trusteeships for children; claims for damages; and administrator accounts for estates.

1743-1848	Box 10
1851-1877 and undated	Box 10

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Genealogical materials, 1735-1895 and undated

Scope and Contents

There is a will for Ann Winwood, a pedigree for the McIntosh family, and a Napier family genealogy. Includes an oversize genealogy of the Kell and Nisbet families.

1735-1895 and undated	Box 10
Genealogy of the Kell and Nisbet families	Tube 1

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Miscellany, 1842-1917 and undated

Scope and Contents

There is an ink drawing, perhaps by John McIntosh Kell, of the C. S. Alabama. Includes poetry, other graphite drawings, programs, invitations, lists, calling cards and envelopes. There are a few clippings on various topics, including elections in the South, a message from Jefferson Davis, as well as politics in the North and in Europe. Printed material includes charts on the price of cotton, notes from educational institutions, proceedings of the Confederate Survivor's Association (1889), advertisements, and a treatise on scarlet fever.

C. S. Steamer Alabama ink drawing, undated Box 12

Scope and Contents

Confederate steamer Alabama outline drawing in ink. With captions.

Clippings, 1862 and undated Box 10

Miscellany, 1850-1917 and undated Box 10

Physical Description: 2 folders

Printed material, 1842-1901 and undated Box 10

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Writings and notes, 1826-1850 and undated

Scope and Contents

Primarily features 40 chapters of the "Life and Letters of J. M. Kell," (undated) written by his wife, along with tributes and extracts. There is also poetry, commentary on a Bible verse, a few stories, and the "Recollections of Miss Fredrica Bremer," written by Mrs. Kell,

1826-1850 and undated Box 10

"Life and Letters of J. M. Kell," undated Box 11

Physical Description: 7 folders

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Volumes, 1843-1927 and undated

Scope and Contents

Contains scrapbooks maintained by Julia Blanche Munroe Kell and naval logbooks and journals maintained by John McIntosh Kell.

Scrapbook, 1863-1922

Volume F:2103

Scope and Contents

Scrapbook maintained by Julia Blanche Kell between 1863 and about 1922. Contains clippings of poetry, short stories, articles, artwork, and engraved portraits and drawings. Subjects include the C.S.S. Alabama and its crew (including John McIntosh Kell); battles of the Civil War and associated deaths; obituaries for authors, poets, and musicians; and explorers.

Scrapbook, 1904-1927

Volume ff:2104

Scope and Contents

Scrapbook maintained for Blanche Munroe Kell Nisbet by her grand[mother?], repurposing an 1892 almanac as the base. Includes clippings of articles, poetry, and stories, mainly having to do with Confederate reunions, the C.S.S. Alabama and John McIntosh Kell, obituaries of Confederate veterans, Georgia events, authors, and English royalty. Includes a packet of unused clippings laid in.

Jenny Lind album (scrapbook), 1853-1855

Volume M-2102

Scope and Contents

Album maintained by Julia Blanche Munroe Kell and presented to her granddaughter, Blanche Munroe Nisbet. Primarily contains graphite drawings and a few watercolors, but in addition there are clippings, pressed flowers and ferns, as well as poetry and narratives contributed by friends and relatives. Many items have been removed and there are a few clippings and a poem laid in.

Journal of a cruise in the U. S. Ship Falmouth,
1841-1843

Box 13

Scope and Contents

Comprises a logbook maintained by John McIntosh Kell while a midshipman on the Falmouth, with a journey between New York and the Sacrificios Island, as well as Haiti. Includes descriptions of work carried out in the Norfolk and Pensacola Navy yards, especially supplies taken aboard. Daily entries record weather conditions along with activities on board. There are charts for conditions while at sea. He includes one description of a mass desertion of several of the crew, and routinely mentions other vessels encountered.

Logbook of the U. S. S. Savannah and the U. S.
S. Shark, 1843-1847

Box 14

Scope and Contents

John McIntosh Kell served as a midshipman on the frigate Savannah, sailing from the New York Navy yard to Rio de Janeiro and then to Callao Bay, Peru. At that point, he joined the crew of the schooner Shark, which visited several local ports and sailed back to Callao Bay. He rejoined the Savannah, which then sailed to Hawaii; Mazatlan, Mexico; San Francisco and other California ports, before heading out to sea to reach the Gulf Stream. He records daily entries, with regular reports on weather and charts for conditions at sea. He also records activities on ship, including the receiving of supplies and passengers, along with interactions with other ships.

General Orders (1843-1844) and General
Watch and Quarter Bill (1843-1847) of the U. S.
Frigate Savannah

Box 15

Scope and Contents

Volume was maintained by John McIntosh Kell. Contains material written by the commander of the Savannah, Andrew Fitzhugh. These include general orders (11 pages) along with written duties for the first lieutenant, lieutenant of the watch (at port and at sea), the master, surgeon, purser, boatswain, gunner, sail maker, carpenter, midshipmen, and marines. Also contains instructions in case of fire. The rest of the volume contains the General Watch and Quarter Bill, outlining officers and midshipmen assigned to watches and various stations, along with receipts for financial transactions.

Account Book (undated) used as Civil War
Scrapbook (1860-1862) and for history notes
(undated)

Box 16

Scope and Contents

Contains mostly undated cash accounts for imports, including with N. Swain in London. Most of the materials, including flour, pork, madeira, and wine, were shipped from England. There are some shipments intended for Boston and Baltimore, and charges for shipping insurance are included. The Civil War scrapbook comprises clippings from Georgia newspapers, with news regarding early events of the war and the Confederate government. There are also notes on ancient history, and the history of England, France, and the United States from the 18th century on.

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