

**Guide to the
John F. Kent Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Julia Marshella
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MS-133: John F. Kent Collection, Company D, New York First Cavalry Regiment
(2 Boxes, 0.7 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1842-1925

Processed by: Julia Marshella'13

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Provenance: Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, 2008

Biography:

John F. Kent was born in Scotland on December 22, 1837. In 1843, he came to America with his parents, settling in Trumbull, Fairfield County, CT. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, he resided in Manhattan and enlisted as a private in Company D, New York First Cavalry Regiment on July 16, 1861. Eventually, Kent was promoted to Full Corporal and then Full Sergeant in 1863. He was mustered in on July 1, 1863, and mustered out August 16, 1864 at Harpers Ferry, WV. On September 26, 1864, he married his first wife Frances E. Hawley. In 1870, they resided in New York City working at a restaurant. In 1880, they moved to Jersey City, NJ where Kent worked as a shoe cutter. On May 19, 1881, Frances died in Trumbull, CT. After her death, Kent relocated to Sparta, Chippewa, Minnesota where he married his second wife, Helen P. Lund, on January 1, 1883. He opened and operated a confectionary shop in Montevideo, Minnesota. Kent passed away on November 14, 1923.

Scope and Content:

The John F. Kent Collection contains two manuscript diaries of his experiences during the Civil War. The first was written in 1862, the second in 1863. The entries are brief and mention battles in passing, casualties and skirmishes with the rebels. There are 16 letters, one to his parents during the war, 9 between Helen Lund and her sister Francesca, and six between John Kent and Caroline Kitchel about purchasing plots of land in a cemetery. There are assorted documents, ranging from Kent's father's naturalization certificate, to recipes, to pension certificates. There are nine photographs, six that are mounted, and three that are in small cases, ranging from portraits to group photos. It also contains Kent's Grand Army of the Republic Veteran kerchief.

1-1 Transcripts and Finding Aid

1. Finding Aid & Biography
2. Transcript for January 1, 1862- September 26, 1862
3. Transcript for January 3, 1863- August 19, 1863

1-2 Diaries

1. January 1, 1862-September 26, 1862
2. January 3, 1863-August 19, 1863

1-3 Diary Transcriptions

1. Type-written transcript of diary entries from July 1, 1862-August 29, 1862

2. Hand-written transcript of diary entries from July 1, 1862-September 30, 1862, with notes about dates, locations and hand drawn maps throughout and the last two pages behind the 19 page manuscript

1-4 Correspondence during War and personal notes, 1863

1. 1856, tracks time after leaving NYC on April 8
2. November 4, 1863, letter to parents from Charleston, VA. Discusses a visit to Isabella in Bridgeport CT. Mentions capturing Rebels, and skirmishes. Thinks they might spend the winter in Charleston, VA. Second page of letter is evident, but missing.
3. *All Quiet on the Potomic [Potomac]* poem

1-5 Correspondence between Helen Lund and Sister, 1900-1904

1. Friday, 1900 (*I have forgotten the day*), Providence Minn, letter to Mrs. J.F. Kent (Helen P) from her sister Francesca
2. May 13, 1901 (sent), letter to Mrs. J.F. Kent (Helen P) from her sister Francesca in Providence, Minnesota
3. August 22, 1901, letter to Mrs. J. F. Kent (Helen P) from her sister Francesca in Providence, Minnesota
4. August 6, 1901, letter to Mrs. J. F. Kent (Helen P) from her sister Francesca in Rock Farm, Minnesota.
5. January 27, 1903, letter to Mr. & Mrs. Kent and their child, from Helen's sister Francesca in Rock Farm, Minnesota
6. April 10, 1904, letter to Mrs. J. F. Kent (Helen P) from her sister Francesca in Providence, Minnesota
7. No date—letter to Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Kent from Helen's sister
8. April 10, 1903, letter to Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Kent and son from her sister Francesca in Rock Farms, Minnesota
9. June 8, 1903, letter to Mrs. Helen P. Kent, missing first page of letter, from her sister Francesca in Providence, Minnesota

1-6 Correspondences between John F. Kent and Caroline Kitchel, 1918-1920

1. August 31, 1918, letter to Mr. John F. Kent from Caroline Kitchel in Galveston, Texas. Discusses selling a plot in a graveyard to Mr. Kent. Also discusses Kitchel's three sons, one of who is in France fighting in the war.
2. January 8, 1919 to Mr. John F. Kent from Mrs. J.L Kitchel in Ada, Oklahoma. Mentions her son, Sergt. Alvin Ross Kitchel, was killed in action in France on November 6, 1918. Discusses which part of the cemetery Kent can have and that he must send her the necessary deeds to be signed.
3. June 28, 1919 to Mr. John F. Kent from Carrie Kitchel in Wichita, Kansas. Discusses sending the deed to be signed for the vacant lot in the cemetery.

4. January 15, 1920 to Mr. John F. Kent from Caroline Kitchel in Wichita, Kansas. Mentions the deed which still needs to be sent and signed. Also discusses Kitchel's visit with the Kent's in Montevideo, Minnesota.
5. February 14, 1921 to Mr. John F. Kent from Caroline Kitchel in Wichita, Kansas. Discusses the deed for the whole lot, her traveling to Oklahoma, and the weather.
6. September 23, 1920 to Mrs. J. Kitchel from John F Kent in Montevideo, Minnesota. Asks for the east half of her lot in the city cemetery for his siblings and their children. Came in an envelope addressed to Mrs. J.F. Kent and son Frena on May 5, 1928. That letter is missing. Original envelope for this letter is also missing.

1-7 Miscellaneous

1. 1928, Invitation to Lorraine M. Noard's Commencement from Weyerhaeuser High School
2. 1925, Map of Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia (The National Geographic Society)
3. 1969, Battlefields of the Civil War with Descriptive Notes for the National Geographic Magazine (country as it was charted in 1863)
4. Holy Matrimony Certificate (blank)
5. Partial receipt of recipes purchased by John F Kent.
6. 1925, Receipt for movement from Seaman & Sons Proprietors to Helen P. Kent for \$25 for the gravestone of John F. Kent (envelope, and 2 receipt slips)
7. Bandless Fling envelope (empty) addressed to Helen Pauline Kent, widow of John F. Kent
8. Belden Manufacturing Company paper with notes/dates about John F. Kent's duration in the army
9. James H. Spalding & Co. envelope (empty), writing on back reads "Cemetery lot transfer, Warranty deed of home, Contract of sale of home, abstract of title to home, Lot contract for the lots on N. 4th St."

1-8 Certificates, 1906-1925

1. 1906, Warranty Deed from Lizzie J. Morey & Husband to Helen P. Kent
2. 1911, The Duty of Married Soldiers Preliminary Report
3. 1913, Pension Certificate of John F. Kent
4. 1916, Contract of Sale for land in Chippewa, Montevideo, Minnesota, received by Helen P. Kent
5. Pensions Certificate from the Department of the Interior to Helen P. Kent for \$40, paid March 4, 1924 (2 envelopes and 3 slips of paper)
6. 1924, Pension Certificate of John F. Kent (certificate and envelope)

1-9 Family Records

1. Obituary for Anna M. Lund, mother of Helen P. Kent
2. Record of the Kent Family, handwritten

3. Births, Children of William C & Jane F. Kent, (reverse side) Marriages, Children of William C & Jane F. Kent
4. Deaths, Children of William C. & Jane F. Kent (reverse side), Memoranda, Record of the Kent Family

Box 2 (Oversized)

2-1 Official Documents, 1842-1884

1. 1842, Citizenship(Naturalization) Certificate from Bridgeport, CT courthouse for William C. Kent
2. 1863, Discharge Papers for John F. Kent
3. 1884, Certificate of Honorable Service for John F. Kent (from Chippewa, Montevideo, Minnesota)
4. 1881, Konfirmations-Attest, Swedish confirmation certificate for Helen Pauline Lund

2-2 Artifacts

1. Grand Army of the Republic Veteran Kerchief

2-3 Case Photos

1. Small case photo of John. F. Kent in uniform
2. Small case photo of his wife (probably Frances)
3. Small cased portrait of John F. Kent
4. Small leather pouch (for frames)

2-4 Photographs

1. John F. Kent Portrait
2. Kent's Confectionary with Kent out front
3. Woman and child (probably Alden Grabner)
4. Alden Grabner, 2 ½ years old
5. John F. Kent Portrait
6. John F. Kent, Bertha Goar, Roy Goar, Gilbert La Jord; Helen Pauline Kent, Lillie La Jord, Lillie Paulson, portrait outside eating