
Finding Aid to the Frémont Family Papers, circa 1839-1927

Machine-readable finding aid created by James Lake

The Bancroft Library

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Finding Aid to the Frémont Family Papers, circa 1839-1927

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 397

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Finding Aid Author(s):

Machine-readable finding aid created by James Lake

Finding Aid Encoded By:

GenX

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Frémont Family Papers

Date (inclusive): circa 1839-1927

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 397

Creator: Frémont Family

Extent: Number of containers: 6 boxes, 1 oversize folder, 4 volumes;3 linear feet.

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Abstract: Part I: papers of John C. Fremont, his wife, Jessie, and their children, Elizabeth, Francis and John, including correspondence, memoirs, clippings, scrapbooks and miscellaneous items. Part II: notes, clippings and transcripts of papers collected by Allan Nevins in preparing his biography of Fremont; and letters to Nevins from Francis P. Fremont.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open to research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Fremont Family papers, circa 1839-1927, BANC MSS C-B 397, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Vol. 1 - Great Events ... ; Vol. 2 - Memoirs ... : also available on microfilm.

Manuscript papers concerning the Fourth Expedition, 1848; memoirs written by Jessie Benton Frémont, Section B, pp. 55-176 : also available on microfilm.

Pt. I v. 3 and box 4, folder 34 : also available on microfilm.

Pt. I v. 4. Agreements with Agua Fria Gold Mining Company : also available on microfilm.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog

Frémont, Elizabeth Benton, 1842-1919

Frémont, Francis Preston, 1854-1931

Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1824-1902

Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890

Frémont, John Charles, 1849-1911

Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971

Norris, Thomas W. (Thomas Wayne). Thomas W. Norris collection

Frémont family

Frémont family--Archives

Gold mines and mining--California

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Arizona

California--Description and travel

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

United States--Politics and government

West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration

Autobiographies

Clippings

Scrapbooks

Acquisition Information

The Frémont Family Papers contain some items from the T. W. Norris Collection.

Scope and Content

The collection consists primarily of the Frémont family papers used by Allan Nevins in writing his biography of John Charles Frémont and presented by the family to the Bancroft Library in 1927, through the courtesy of Mr. Nevins. Some additional Frémont material was acquired with the T. W. Norris Collection purchased in 1954, through the gift of John Rosekrans, May 1957 (Agua Fria Mining Company lease and contract), and through the gift of The Friends of the Bancroft Library in January 1962 (the letters written to Nelly H. Browne, intimate friend of the family). The material is integrated in arrangement, but provenance of the additional material is indicated on folders. Several items have been added by gift or purchase. Sources are noted on the folders. Mr. Nevins also gave, in 1927, the notes, clippings and transcripts of Papers relating to Frémont which he had gathered in preparing the biography. This collateral material was made Part II of the collection.

The papers in Part I include letters written to and by John C. Frémont, his wife, Jessie, and their children, Elizabeth, John and Francis; the General's unpublished memoirs; memoirs of Mrs. Frémont and Elizabeth; scrapbooks, clippings; and miscellaneous papers. Photographs in the collection were placed in the portrait files and bear the numbers 708-712 and 988-992.

Container Listing

Part I

Correspondence

box 1, folder 1	Letters written to John C. Frémont. ca. 1839-1886
box 1, folder 2	Letters written by John C. Frémont. 1847 undated
box 1, folder 3	Letters written to Jessie (Benton) Frémont. ca. 1878-1902
box 1, folder 4	Letters written by Jessie (Benton) Frémont. ca. 1862-1897
box 1, folder 5-6	Letters written by Jessie (Benton) Frémont to Nelly H. Browne. ca. 1862-1901 undated
	Additional Note
	Some written from Arizona while Frémont was Territorial Governor.
box 1, folder 7	Letter written by John C. Frémont, Jr., to Nelly H. Browne
box 1, folder 8-9	Letters written to Elizabeth Benton Frémont. ca. 1890-1917
box 2, folder 10	Letters written by Elizabeth Benton Frémont. 1909-1910
box 2, folder 11-13	Letters written by Elizabeth Benton Frémont to Nelly Haskell Browne. 1863-1914
	Additional Note
	Some written from Arizona while Frémont was Territorial Governor.
box 2, folder 14	Letters written to Francis Preston Frémont. ca. 1917-1918
box 2, folder 15	Letters written by Francis Preston Frémont
box 2, folder 16	Letter from Don Pratt? to [R. J. ?] Belford. concerning Frémont. Aug. 7, 1887, Miscellaneous papers, scrapbooks and clippings
box 3, folder 17	Frémont, J. C. Account for certain disbursements made by him for the Ordnance Dept. in California. 1846-1847.
	Physical Description: Draft.
box 3, folder 18	Claims against the U.S. for damage done by U.S. troops. 1847.
	Physical Description: (4 items)
	Additional Note
	Certified by Eulogio de Celis, Abel Stearns and Charles W. Flügge. Approved by Frémont.
box 3, folder 19	Frémont, J. C. Notes on expedition of 1848.
	Physical Description: (7 p. A. Ms.)
box 3, folder 20	Frémont, J. C. ... Condensed paper on California...
	Physical Description: (14 p. A. Ms.)
box 3, folder 20A	Frémont's, J. C. Last will and testament. Aug. 19, 1854
box 3, folder 21	Frémont, J. C. Agreement with Joseph and William Phillips for construction of shaft at the Princeton Mine. Mt. Ophir, Mariposa, Calif. Mar. 14, 1860.
box 3, folder 22	Documents in the case: John C. Frémont vs. The Kansas Pacific Railway Company.
	Physical Description: (2 items)
box 3, folder 23	Frémont, J. C. Miscellaneous notes, and items relating to him.
box 3, folder 24	Copies of the Articles of Capitulation at Cahuenga. 1847.
	Physical Description: (photocopy and typed transcript)
box 3, folder 25	Frémont, Jessie B. Fragment of a poem.
	Physical Description: (2 p. A. Ms.)
box 3, folder 26	Frémont, Jessie B. Anecdote concerning Francis P. Frémont and his father's sword.
	Physical Description: (3 p. A. Ms.)

<p>box 3, folder 26A box 3, folder 27</p>	<p>Frémont, Jessie B.: statement. re freeing slaves ca. Jan 1902 Frémont, Jessie B. Miscellaneous notes. Physical Description: (5 items)</p>
<p>box 3, folder 28</p>	<p>Frémont's, Jessie B. Will, with instructions for disposition of her personal property. Physical Description: (3 p. A. Ms. S.)</p>
<p>box 3, folder 29</p>	<p>Papers concerning Mrs. Frémont's claim for compensation from the United States based on the Government's seizure of her property at Point San Jose (Black Point) in San Francisco in 1863.</p>
<p>box 3, folder 30</p>	<p>Notebook of clippings presented to Mrs. Frémont by George S. McWalters. Nov. 12, 1879. Additional Note From the <i>New York Daily Tribune</i>, Mar. 4, 1862.</p>
<p>box 3, folder 31</p>	<p>Scrapbook of clippings re John R. Howard's address, <i>Memories of Frémont</i>, delivered before the Outlook Club. Montclair, N.J. Feb. 25, 1898, Additional Note Presented to Mrs. Frémont by Mr. Howard.</p>
<p>box 3, folder 32 box 3, folder 33 box 4, folder 34</p>	<p>Clippings, including obituaries for Mrs. Frémont. Scrapbook of clippings, mainly concerning the Civil War. Frémont, Elizabeth B. Memoirs and related notes. Additional Note Containing recollections of 1856 presidential campaign, life on the Mariposa estate and in mining towns in California, trip to Yosemite, residence in San Francisco and visits from Bret Harte, and experiences during the Civil War. Written in a memoranda book and on several loose sheets.</p>
<p>box 4, folder 35</p>	<p>Frémont, Elizabeth B. Physical Description: Miscellaneous greeting cards, bills, etc.</p>
<p>box 4, folder 36</p>	<p>Frémont, Elizabeth B. Physical Description: Two scrapbooks of clippings.</p>
<p>box 4, folder 37 box 4, folder 38 box 6</p>	<p>Miscellany Frémont, Dayton. Campaign ribbon. 1856. <i>Great Events During the Life of Major General John C. Frémont...and of Jessie Benton Frémont.</i> Physical Description: volume 6: five folders Content/Description (430 1. Typescript with revisions in manuscript). Written by his wife and his son, Francis, with Frémont's direct assistance and under his supervision. Intended as a sequel to the published autobiography, <i>Memoirs of My Life</i>, the manuscript begins with the period after the capitulation at Cahuenga and deals primarily with Frémont's military and political careers, the later exploring expeditions, and his land holdings in California. Related material includes Frémont's list of errors in the manuscript, notes and bibliographical material and pages not included in the final draft. Additional Note Box 6 (formally vol. 1).</p>

volume 2	<p>Manuscript of Jessie B. Frémont's memoirs.</p> <p>Physical Description: volume 2: five folders</p> <p>Content/Description</p> <p>Two typescript copies, one incorporating revisions noted in an earlier draft. It deals primarily with recollections of her father, Thomas Hart Benton, her upbringing in Missouri and Washington, D.C., and her life with her husband. The narrative concludes prior to the Civil War. There are also, in separate folders, drafts of portions of the memoirs in Mrs. Frémont's hand, and pages not included in either version of the manuscript.</p>
volume 3	<p>In Memoriam: John C. Frémont.</p> <p>Content/Description</p> <p>Memorial volume containing biographical sketch of Frémont, compiled by the Society of California Pioneers. Read and adopted at a regular meeting of the Society, Jan. 5, 1891.</p>
volume 4	<p>Frémont's lease, with George W. Wright, to the Agua Fria Company for exclusive mining rights to a portion of the Mariposa Estate. Apr. 16, 1852,</p> <p>Physical Description: volume 4: two folders</p> <p>Content/Description</p> <p>Both documents on vellum, certified by Thomas Aspinwall, U.S. consul, London.</p>
oversize-folder 1	<p>Tracing of the desino [deed] Mariposa Grand, certified by Samuel D. King, surveyor general for California. Feb. 6, 1853.</p>
volume 5	<p>Letter to Frémont. Nov. 24, 1846.</p>

Part II

box 5	<p>Material gathered by Allan Nevins during preparation of his biography of Frémont.</p> <p>Content/Description</p> <p>Included are some letters from Francis Preston Frémont, 1927, and notes, clippings and transcripts of papers concerning Frémont.</p>
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Partial List of Correspondents

	<p>Bancroft, George, 1800-1891</p>
box 1, folder 1	<p>Letter to John C. Frémont. Sept. 6, 1886.</p> <p>Additional Note</p> <p>Mounted photocopy.</p>
	<p>Browne, Nelly (Haskell)</p>
box 1, folder 8	<p>9 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. 1916.</p>
	<p>Frémont, Belle Andrews Crandall (Mrs. Francis P. Frémont)</p>
box 1, folder 8	<p>4 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. 1916.</p>
	<p>Frémont, Elizabeth Benton, 1842-1919</p>
box 2, folder 11-13	<p>203 letters to Nelly H. Browne. 1863-1914 undated</p>
	<p>Frémont, Francis Preston, 1854-1931</p>
box 2, folder 15	<p>Letter (draft) to R. J. Bedford. May 29, 1891.</p> <p>Content/Description</p> <p>Re H. H. Bancroft's treatment of Frémont's role in the conquest of California.</p>
	<p>Frémont, Jessie (Benton), 1824-1902</p>
box 2, folder 8	<p>14 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. 1908-1917.</p>
box 5	<p>3 letters to Allan Nevins. 1927.</p>

box 1, folder 1	3 letters to John C. Frémont. 1857.
box 1, folder 4	Letter to Dorothea Lynde Dix. ca. 1862.
box 1, folder 5-6	85 letters to Nelly H. Browne. ca. 1862-1899.
box 1, folder 8	Letter to Elizabeth B. Frémont. undated
box 1, folder 4	Letter to [Charles] Nordhoff. undated
	Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890
box 1, folder 2	Letter to William Workman. Mar. 20, 1847.
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. July 11, 1890.
box 1, folder 2	5 letters to Nelly H. Browne. undated
box 1, folder 2	Letter to Rodman Price. undated
	Additional Note
	From the Honeyman Collection.
box 1, folder 2	Letter to J. J. Dixivol. May 18, 1859
	Frémont, John Charles, 1849-1911
box 1, folder 7	Letter to Nelly H. Browne. Jan. 20, [1884?]
box 1, folder 3	2 letters to Jessie B. Frémont. July-Aug. 1890.
box 1, folder 8	2 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. July 1890.
	Gibbs, Mifflin Wistar, 1823-
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. Oct. 1, 1902.
	Gody, F. W.
	Additional Note
	This is Ferdinand W. Gerdis (1808-1884) according to letter from Mary Lee Spence to B. L.
box 1, folder 1	Letter to John C. Frémont. Nov. 7, 1841.
	Content/Description
	Concerning Frémont's secret marriage to Jessie Benton.
	Howard, John Raymond, 1837-1926
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. Mar. 25, 1898.
	Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. Mar. 1, 1890.
	Lummis, Charles Fletcher, 1859-1928
box 1, folder 9	4 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. 1908-1916.
	Morton, William James, 1845-1920
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. July 22, 1890.
	New York Monuments Commission for the Battlefields of Gettysburg and Chattanooga.
box 1, folder 9	9 letters to Elizabeth B. Frémont. 1908-1910.
	Schurz, Carl
box 1, folder 3	Letter to Jessie B. Frémont. Mar. 2, 1878.