Guide to the Kit Carson Papers, 1847-1885

Collection number: BANC MSS P-E 64

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Kit Carson Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1847-1885
Collection Number: BANC MSS P-E 64
Origination: Carson, Kit, 1809-1868
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes and one oversize folderNumber of microfilm reels: 3
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library’s online catalog.

Abstract: Correspondence, accounts and papers mainly as agent for the Ute Indians in New Mexico, 1854-1861. Some Thomas Oliver Boggs papers relating to Carson’s estate included.
Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Kit Carson Papers, BANC MSS P-E 64, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Scope and Content
This collection of papers, acquired by H. H. Bancroft from Thomas Oliver Boggs, relates mainly to Carson's office as Indian Agent, containing correspondence, accounts, land bounty claims, bonds of Indian traders, some miscellaneous personal Papers, commissions and census records for the Pueblo of San Gerónimo de Taos, 1856. A few papers from Thomas Oliver Boggs relate to Carson's estate, and some miscellaneous items pertaining to Boggs are also included.

Biography
Christopher Carson, trapper, guide, Indian agent, soldier, was born in Kentucky in 1809 and soon emigrated with his family to Missouri. When 17 he joined a hunting expedition and for eight years lived as a trapper, ranging as far as California in 1829. He later was appointed hunter for Bent's Fort. When returning from a visit to his family he met John C. Frémont who hired him as guide for his explorations. Since Carson know many of the Indian tribes, their languages and their territories he proved invaluable to Frémont, actively participating in the conquest of California and in the battles for the recovery of Los Angeles. In 1847 Carson went to Washington, bearing dispatches. In 1853 he drove 6,500 sheep over the mountains into California. Upon his return he was appointed Indian Agent at Taos in New Mexico. As agent he was instrumental in bringing about treaties between the United States and the Indians. With the advent of the Civil War Carson aided in organizing the first New Mexican Volunteer Infantry and took part in the battle of Valverde in 1862. In 1865 he was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers. He died in 1868.

Box 1
Correspondence
Letters from Carson, mainly copies and drafts, as Indian agent, 1849-1865
Physical Description: (18 items)

Letters to Carson, A-Z (A partial list of correspondents may be found at the end of this report)

Box 2
Accounts as Indian agent, 1854-1861

Box 3
Bounty land papers
Forms to be used in applications for land
Physical Description: (5 items)

Lists of soldiers and affidavits re claims
Physical Description: (14 items)

Powers of attorney, A-Z
Physical Description: (41 items)

See also correspondence from the U.S. Pension office, Box 1

Bonds of traders, 1855-1860
Physical Description: (73 items)

Miscellaneous accounts, 1851-1866
Physical Description: (35 items)

Army accounts, 1847-1865
Physical Description: (43 items)

U.S. Army Orders, 1847-1865
Physical Description: (9 items)

Miscellaneous
Legal papers, 1851-1861
Physical Description: (5 items)
Receipt and certificate from Freemasons of Montezuma Lodge, Santa Fe, 1859
Physical Description: (2 items)

Miscellany
Physical Description: (12 items)

Boggs, Thomas Oliver
Papers relating to the estate of C. Carson, 1868-1874
Physical Description: (8 items)
Scope and Content Note
Include letter from F. Maxwell with list of Carson's belongings at Taos; copy of letters testamentary, with will annexed; appraisal of estate; register of births and deaths in the Carson family; accounts; statements re the administration of the estate.

Personal papers, correspondence, accounts, certificates of sale
Physical Description: (11 items)

Commissions as Indian agent, 1857-1858, signed by Pres. Buchanan
Physical Description: (2 items)

Census for Pueblo of San Gerónimo de Taos, 1856
Physical Description: (2 items)

B-Miscellany
Bowman, Andrew W., d. 1869
Letter, Jan. 17, 1858, introducing Ancatash, chief of the Utahs.

Brewerton, George Douglas, 1820-1901
Letter, Mar. 12, 1854, re articles he has written and proposes writing re Carson.
Mutilated and incomplete.

Beuthner, Solomon
4 letters, 1860-1864. See also De Witt Clinton Peters

C-Miscellany
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889
see U.S. War Dept.

Canby, Edward Sprigg, 1817-1873
Letter, Jan. 19, 1862.

Carson, Lindsay
Letter, Aug. 1, 1854, to his brother re conditions in California.

Connelly, Henry, 1800-1866
Petition, May 17, 1864, addressed to the President of the U.S. for the appointment of Carson as Supervisor of the Indians on the reservation at the Bosque Redondo. Copy only.

Carleton, James Henry, 1814-1873
2 letters, 1863-1865.

Clayton, Powell, 1833-1914
see U.S. Treasury Dept.

Collins, James L.
4 letters, 1859-1860.

Cutler, Benjamin Clark
2 letters, 1864-1865.

D-Miscellany
Donaldson, James Lowry, 1814-1885
Letter, Dec. 6, 1860.

Davis, William Watts Hart, 1820-1910
8 letters, 1855-1857. Written as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Santa Fe.
Denver, James William, 1817-1892
see U.S. Office of Indian Affairs

G-Miscellany
  Garrison, Amos F., d. 1877
  Letter, Feb. 11, 1864.

J-Miscellany
  Johnston, Robert, d. 1902

M-Miscellany
  McCormick, Richard Cunningham, 1832-1901
  Letter, Dec. 15, 1863.
  McFerran, John Courts, 1831-1872
  Magruder, William Thomas, d. 1863
  Letter, May 25, 1856.
  Morgan, Lewis Henry, 1818-1881
  Letter, Jan. 17, 1859.

Mastin, John
  5 letters, 1856-1859.

Mayers, A. G.
  3 letters, 1856.

Meriwether, David, 1800-
  12 letters, 1854-1856. Letters of July 24, 1854 and of June 23, 1855 enclose copies of
  letters from G. W. Manypenny. Written as Governor of New Mexico and as
  Superintendent of Indian Affairs in New Mexico.

Messervy, William S.
  3 letters, 1854.

N-Miscellany
  Nicodemus, William Joseph Leonard, d. 1879
  Letter, Dec. 24, 1861.

O-Miscellany
  Ortibi, Charles, 1812-1883

Peters, De Witt Clinton, d. 1876

St. Vrain, Ceran de Hault de Lassus de, 1802-1870
  2 letters, 1853-1862.

Sherman, William Tecumseh, 1820-1891
  see U.S. Army orders, Box 3

Stanton, Edwin McMaster, 1814-1869
  see U.S. War Dept.

T-Miscellany
  Tobens, Thomas Tate, 1823-
    Letter, July 13, 1860.

U.S. Adjudant-General's office
  2 letters, 1847-1864.

U.S. Office of Indian Affairs
  13 letters, 1853-1860. Include copies, some addressed to James L. Collins. Some
  signed by James W. Denver. With these statements are accounts of Carson,
  1855-1861.

Physical Description: (5 items)

U.S. Pension Office
  48 letters, 1855-1859. Mainly re Bounty Land claims, some addressed to Mastin and
  to Quinn. Many form letters. See also Bounty Land Claims folder in Box 3.

U.S. Treasury Dept.

U.S. War Dept.

V-Miscellany
Valdez, Santiago
Letter, Jan. 10, 1862.

Ward, John
5 letters, 1857-1860.

Yost, Samuel M.
2 letters, 1857-1858.