

A0818

Kingsbury Family Papers, 1791-1924

5 folders

Processed by Christopher Gordon, January 2003

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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RESTRICTIONS

Due to security concerns, items from this collection must be paged to the Special Archives Request table.

DONOR INFORMATION

A portion of the collection was donated by Madame de Giverville, daughter of J.W. Kingsbury, in 1911. Other material was added at a later date.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jacob Kingsbury was born July 6, 1756, in Franklin County, Connecticut. In 1775, Kingsbury enlisted as a private in the Continental Army. He served in General Anthony Wayne's Indian campaigns and was promoted to lieutenant of infantry in 1789. On November 24, 1799, he married Sarah Palmer Ellis. Upon promotion, Lieutenant Colonel Kingsbury was given command of Fort Wilkinson, Georgia, and later was one of the principal builders of the fort at Bellefontaine. He was promoted to colonel inspector-general before retiring from the army in 1815. After retiring, he returned to his family home in Franklin, Connecticut, where he died on July 1, 1837.

James Wilkinson Kingsbury, son of Jacob, was born September 28, 1801. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in June 1823. The following year, Second Lieutenant Kingsbury was a member of the Atkinson-O'Fallon expedition to the American West (1824-1826). On May 25, 1830, while stationed at Bellefontaine, he married Julia Antoinette Cabanne (1809-1836), daughter of prominent St. Louisan J. Pierre Cabanne. Kingsbury was promoted to the rank of captain by President Martin Van Buren in October 1837 but resigned within the same month. Kingsbury went on to become a military storekeeper in the army's purchasing department, a position he held until 1843. He died June 25, 1853.

Charles E. Kingsbury, son of Jacob, was born July 12, 1818, in Norwich, Franklin County, Connecticut. He was appointed as a 2nd lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of the Dragoons in 1836. He died June 9, 1837.

Thomas Humphrey Cushing Kingsbury, son of Jacob, was born December 23, 1806, near New Orleans. He married Caroline Prudence Ray on May 4, 1834, in Lenox, Ohio. He died August 7,

1880, in Franklin County, Connecticut.

Henry Walter Kingsbury was born in Illinois. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in July 1856. In April 1862, he was promoted to colonel of the 11th Connecticut Infantry. He died September 18, 1862, from wounds received at the Battle of Antietam.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Kingsbury Family Papers consists of correspondence, circulars, commissions, clippings, and genealogical information. The collection is arranged chronologically.

The collection primarily contains material related to the service of the Kingsbury family in the U.S. Army and some family letters. A large portion of the collection comprises correspondence between Jacob Kingsbury and prominent American military and political leaders such as Secretary of State Henry Knox, Secretary of War James McHenry, Alexander Hamilton, James Wilkinson, Oliver Hazard Perry, Secretary of War William Eustis and Horatio Stark.

Later correspondence is written primarily by James Wilkinson Kingsbury and includes letters to his parents and friends, such as George Whistler, regarding his school work, his military appointments, and two letters that describe his involvement in the Atkinson-O'Fallon expedition up the Missouri River (1824-1826).

The collection contains a number of military commissions signed by Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and James Buchanan. The remaining material in the collection consists of Kingsbury family genealogical information and memorabilia.

The following abbreviations have been used in this inventory:

AD Autograph Document unsigned (an unsigned document in the hand of the author).

ALS Autograph Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author).

ANS Autograph Note Signed (a brief or informal letter or message, often fragmentary, entirely in the hand of and signed by the author).

n.d. No date

n.y. No year

TD Typescript Document unsigned (an unsigned typescript document)

TDS Typescript Document Signed (a typescript document signed by the author)

FOLDER LIST:

5 folders

- folder 1 Genealogy; collection correspondence, 1879-1924
- folder 2 Correspondence, 1791-1810
- folder 3 Correspondence, 1811-1825
- folder 4 Correspondence, 1826-1843
- folder 5 Correspondence/commissions, 1849-1896; n.d.

DOCUMENT INVENTORY:

Folder 1 1879-1911

Genealogy chart; genealogy correspondence with the Missouri Historical Society; and donor correspondence with the Missouri Historical Society

Folder 2 1791-1810

- 14 January 1791 ALS Brig. Gen. Jos. Harmar: Extract of General Orders commending Lieutenant Kingsbury for his leadership in repelling an Indian attack on Dunlap's Station. 2 pages
- 15 January 1791 ALS Brig. Gen. Jos. Harmar to Lieutenant Jacob Kingsbury, Coleraine. 1 page
- 12 April 1792 ALS Secretary of War Knox to Captain Jacob Kingsbury notifying him of his promotion to captain. 1 page
- 20 July 1797 ALS Secretary of War James McHenry to Major Jacob Kingsbury notifying him of his promotion to the rank of major. 2 pages
- 2 December 1799 ALS Alexander Hamilton to Major Kingsbury denying his request for an extended leave of absence. 3 pages
- 24 December 1799 ALS Uriah Tracy to Major Jacob Kingsbury concerning Alexander Hamilton's decision to deny leave and comments on George Washington's death. 1 page
- 29 December 1800 ALS T.H. Cushing to Major Jacob Kingsbury regarding recruitment and orders. 1 page
- 5 August 1801 Reward bill for deserter, Joseph Spaulding, fifer. Issued by Major Jacob Kingsbury. 1 page
- 16 August 1801 Reward bill for deserters, Abraham Walling and John Clenney, soldiers. Issued by Major Jacob Kingsbury. 1 page

- 18 February 1802 ALS T.M. Cushing to Major Jacob Kingsbury notifying him of his selection for the command at Fort Wilkinson, Georgia. 1 page
- 22 June 1802 ALS James Wilkinson to Jacob Kingsbury regarding Kingsbury's arrival at Fort Wilkinson. 2 pages
- 23 June 1802 ALS Jacob Kingsbury to General Wilkinson thanking him for his assistance. 1 page
- 10 August 1803 ALS Return J. Meigs, Southwest Point, Tennessee, to Jacob Kingsbury on the intrusion of white settlers within Cherokee lands. 2 pages
- 23 April 1805 ALS Captain A.C. Clerk, His British Majesty's 49th Regular Infantry, to Colonel Kingsbury seeking his assistance in locating twelve deserters from the British Army post at St. Joseph's. 2 pages
- 8 July 1807 TDS Jon Williams, president, U.S.M.P.S., to Colonel Kingsbury informing him of his election to the membership of the United States Military Philosophical Society. 2 pages
- 28 October 1807 ALS Horatio Stark to Jacob Kingsbury notifying Kingsbury that the governor has arrived. 1 page
- 15 September 1808 ALS Horatio Stark to Jacob Kingsbury on affairs at Ft. Adams, Louisiana. 2 pages
- 30 October 1808 ALS W. Popham, treasurer U.S.M.P.S., to Jacob Kingsbury acknowledging receipt of membership dues to the society. [receipt included] 3 pages
- 4 January 1809 ALS N. Dearborn to Jacob Kingsbury notifying him of his promotion to colonel by the president of the United States. 2 pages
- 10 May 1809 ALS W. Eustis to Jacob Kingsbury informing him that Col. Burbeck has been ordered to Kingsbury's post. 1 page
- 28 December 1809 *Extracts from the Minutes of the United States Philosophical Society at an Occasional Meeting Held at New York, December 28, 1809.* 22 pages
- 12 February 1810 Transcript Horatio Stark to Jacob Kingsbury discussing the state of affairs between the U.S. and Europe. 1 page
- 30 September 1810 ALS Wm. Hull to Jacob Kingsbury concerning leaders of the Seneca Nation and necessities needed for returning them home to Buffalo. 1 page

Folder 3 1811-1825

- 1 January 1811 Typescript copy of letter of I. Brownson, 1st Regiment Infantry, Fort Osage, to Jacob Kingsbury, Detroit, on the return of Capt. E.B. Clemson's Company 1st Infantry and news of the murder of six Osages by the Pawtowatomies. 1 page
- 1 February 1811 David Beard, John Anderson and Henry Hunt to Mrs. Kingsbury inviting her to a ball at the hotel of Mrs. William Forsyth, Detroit. 1 page
- 26 September 1811 TDS Gen. P. Gansevort et al to Mrs. Kingsbury inviting her to a ball at Mrs. Kimboll's, Frederick-Town. 1 page
- 2 March 1812 ALS James Wilkinson Kingsbury to Daniel Curtis congratulating him on his appointment to ensign in the 1st Infantry. 2 pages
- 9 April 1812 ALS Jacob Kingsbury to Capt. Stark detailing Kingsbury's business in Washington and notifying him of the expected arrival of Brig. Gen. Hull to Detroit along with regulars and Ohio militia in order to expand and reinforce the fort. 4 pages
- 27 July 1812 ALS Major Abram Eustis to Jacob Kingsbury requesting the transfer of Pvt. Charles Williams of Lieutenant Ketcham's detachment to Capt. McDowell's Light Artillery. 1 page
- 11 August 1812 ALS O.H. Perry to Jacob Kingsbury acknowledging his note pertaining to the assault on Mr. Auston. 2 pages
- 2 September 1812 ALS James Wilkinson Kingsbury to Jacob Kingsbury regarding his studies and family. 2 pages
- 8 September 1812 ALS James W. Kingsbury to Jacob Kingsbury on matters of school and studies. 2 pages
- 5 December 1812 ALS James Perry to Jacob Kingsbury acknowledging Kingsbury's orders and information regarding the presence of enemy ships and all preparations for possible attack. 1 page
- circa 1813 ALS George W. Whistler to James W. Kingsbury writes of family news. 2 pages
- 12 April 1813 ALS James Wilkinson Kingsbury to Jacob Kingsbury telling of school news. 2 pages

- 5 May 1813 ALS James Wilkinson Kingsbury to Jacob Kingsbury telling of school and family news. 2 pages
- 6 June 1813 ALS James Wilkinson Kingsbury to parents telling of news of the war and discussing his studies. 2 pages
- 19 June 1813 ALS Wm. Ennis and Daniel Sheldon to Jacob Kingsbury inviting him to dine with the Rhode Island Society of Cincinnati as part of Independence Day celebrations. 1 page
- 23 January 1814 ALS Adjutant General John De Barth Walbach to Jacob Kingsbury discussing orders for the 1st Regiment and the formation of a new regiment. 2 pages
- 3 October 1814 ALS Jacob Kingsbury to James Wilkinson Kingsbury speaks of making decision to remain as inspector-general at Newport or accept command of 1st Regiment in New Jersey. 2 pages
- 28 August 1819 TDS J.C. Calhoun to James W. Kingsbury notifying him of his appointment as a cadet in the service of the United States. 2 pages
- 4 February 1822 TDS S. Thayer to Jacob Kingsbury, request for signature from parent of cadet to consent to five years of military service. 2 pages
- 7 March 1822 ALS Pierre de Poletia to James Wilkinson Kingsbury regarding Kingsbury's request for a commission in the Russian Army. [transcript included] 2 pages
- 25 March 1822 ALS G. Warnoff[?] to James Wilkinson Kingsbury regretting to inform him that the Russian Army does not pursue foreign recruits for service. Original document is badly faded. [transcript provided] 2 pages
- 30 September 1822 ALS Alexander Macomb to James Lauman regarding application of Thomas Kingsbury to U.S. Military Academy. 1 page
- 12 April 1823 ALS Theodorus Bailey to J.W. Kingsbury regarding a letter Kingsbury is attempting to forward to General Wilkinson in Vera Cruz, Mexico. 2 pages
- 14 June 1823 ALS J.W. Kingsbury to Col. Thayer requesting a two-month furlough during July and August. 2 pages
- 19 June 1823 ALS S. Thayer to J.W. Kingsbury informing him that the valedictory address of the class will be held in the chapel. 1 page

- 19 August 1823 TDS J.C. Calhoun to J.W. Kingsbury informing him that the president appointed him a brevet 2nd lieutenant and orders to report to Major General Gaines at the headquarters of the Western Department. 2 pages
- 29 November 1823 TDS J.C. Calhoun to J.W. Kingsbury informing him of his appointment to the rank of 2nd lieutenant and orders to report to Belle Fontaine. 2 pages
- 1 January 1824 TDS James Monroe commissioning J.W. Kingsbury as 2nd lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Infantry. 1 page
- 29 September 1824 Typescript copy of letter of Jas. W. Kingsbury, on board the keel boat *Beaver*, 24 miles below Franklin, Missouri, to Jacob Kingsbury detailing a trip up the Missouri River on a paddle keel boat and arrival at Franklin, Missouri. 1 page
- 3 October 1825 ALS J.W. Kingsbury to parents discussing details of his involvement in the Atkinson-O'Fallon expedition. 2 pages

Folder 4 1826-1843

- 16 August 1826 ALS J.W. Kingsbury to parents discussing Indian artifacts he collected on West expedition and his requests for a transfer to the East. 2 pages
- 18 April 1828 ALS J.W. Kingsbury to parents informing them of his affections for Miss Cabanne and his interest in marriage. 2 pages
- 3 May 1828 *National Intelligencer* newspaper clipping contains a reprint of the U.S. Senate's bill providing for surviving officers of the American Revolution. [original & preservation copy] 2 pages
- 20 May 1828 ALS Edward P. Gaines to J.W. Kingsbury assuring him that his request to transfer to the quartermaster's office will be approved. 2 pages
- 25 June 1828 TDS Peter B. Porter to J.W. Kingsbury announcing his appointment as an assistant commissar of subsistence, 1st Regiment, by the president of the United States. 2 pages
- 1 August 1830 TDS Commission promoting J.W. Kingsbury to 1st lieutenant of 1st Regiment of Infantry by President Andrew Jackson. 1 page
- 20 October 1830 TDS Assistant Secretary of War Randolph to J.W. Kingsbury promoting Kingsbury to 1st lieutenant in the 1st Regiment. 2 pages
- 1 May 1831 ALS J.W. Kingsbury to Madame Cabanne, St. Louis, tells of Julia Kingsbury's health and disposition and eagerness for visitors. 2 pages

- February 1833 Abstract of provisions issued to Indians at Fort Crawford by J.W. Kingsbury, assistant commissar of subsistence. Signed by Zachary Taylor. 1 page
- 8 June 1836 Commission promoting Charles E. Kingsbury to 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons by President Andrew Jackson. 1 page
- 25 December 1836 ALS Jas. W. Kingsbury, Franklin, New London County, Connecticut, to son Lieutenant Charles E. Kingsbury, Fort Columbus, New York, discusses family news. 1 page
- 3 October 1837 Commission promoting James W. Kingsbury to captain in the 1st Regiment of Infantry by President Martin Van Buren. 1 page
- 17 October 1837 ALS R. Groves[?] to James W. Kingsbury accepting Kingsbury's resignation. 1 page
- 4 January 1843 TD A.B. Roman to J.W. Kingsbury, invitation to attend an anniversary celebration of the Battle of New Orleans. 2 pages
- Folder 5 1849-1863; n.d.**
- 15 December 1849 ALS Jefferson Davis to J.W. Kingsbury speaks of a past visit to the Kingsburys and plans for future visits. 2 pages
- 12 January 1853 ALS R.E. Lee to J.W. Kingsbury informing Kingsbury of the poor performance of Kingsbury's nephew at West Point. 2 pages
- 5 September 1855 ALS Henry Flanders to Thomas Humphrey Cushing Kingsbury asking for genealogical information Kingsbury may have on the ancestors of Henry Kingsbury. 1 page
- 26 April 1858 ALS James Buchanan to E. A. Hannegan, explaining why Ramsey was not given an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. 1 page
- 26 August 1862 ALS James Usher to F.J. Kingsbury regarding the Kingsbury family coat of arms. 1 page
- 23 October 1862 *The Evening Press* [Norwich, Connecticut] newspaper clipping: "The Day after the Battle." Describes the aftermath of Battle of Antietam and mentions death of Col. [Henry Walter] Kingsbury. [original and preservation copy]
- 4 February 1863 ALS [author & receiver names illegible] expresses despair over family matters. 2 pages

1896 ALS George Baldwin to Miss Neilson: poem. 1 page

4 March n.y. AD Governor Claiborne to Col. Kingsbury: dinner invitation. 1 page

9 May n.y. ADS W. Eustis to Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Kingsbury, envelope from War Department. 1 page

22 May n.y. ALS J. Eustace to Julia agreeing to visit her on Wednesday. 1 page

n.d. ANS James W. Kingsbury: notes and sketches. 1 page

n.d. Portion of religious certificate in Latin. Very poor condition. 1 page

n.d. AD notes in French. 1 page

n.d. Sketch of coat of arms. 1 page

n.d. Scrap of letterhead bearing insignia Memoria Pii Aeterna. (The memory of the pious is eternal.) 1 page