

## NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG3796.AM: Kennard, Thomas Perkins, 1828-1920

Papers: 1865-1920  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Neb.: Secretary of State  
Size: 3.5 cu.ft.; 5 boxes

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Perkins Kennard was born December 13, 1828, near Flushing, Ohio, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Perkins Kennard. At the age of seven Kennard moved with his family to Henry County, Indiana. He received no formal education, working as an employee of a woolen mill, which he and his brother later purchased. At this time Kennard began the study of law by borrowing books from a law firm in Newcastle, Indiana, and studying under their direction. At age 25 he sold his interest in the mill and moved to Greensboro, Indiana, where he began practice.

Just prior to the Civil War Kennard and his brother Levi came to Nebraska settling in DeSoto, Washington County, where Levi operated a mercantile store and Thomas began the practice of law. As the question of statehood arose Kennard was pushed to the forefront. As soon as Nebraska became a state, Kennard was nominated by the Republicans as a candidate for Secretary of State. The election brought all Republicans into office. Kennard was the first Secretary of State for Nebraska serving two terms. Kennard as a member of the capital locating commission, was instrumental in locating the capital at Lincoln.

On the expiration of his second term Kennard returned to private law practice, he engaged in private banking and afterward merchandising. In 1875 he was elected to the state senate and before the expiration of his term was appointed by President Grant as a member of a Board of Appraisal of Indian lands. Kennard soon resigned this position and returned to Lincoln to become local attorney for the Union Pacific. He organized the Western Paint and Class Co. in 1890 and continued as president of that firm until his death. In 1896 he served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention serving as Vice President of the Convention. In 1898 McKinley appointed Kennard receiver of public moneys at the U.S. Land Office in Lincoln and special disbursing agent for the government.

Thomas P. Kennard died June 24, 1920 at his home in Lincoln. He was survived by three daughters Alva, Cora and Lou.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of four boxes of manuscript material arranged in four series: 1) Correspondence, 1865-1871; 2) Requisitions and Receipts, 1865-1869; 3) Business Records of Kennard and Simpson, 1877-1879 and 4) Miscellany. The last three boxes of research files relating to Thomas Kennard and the Kennard House were added to the collection after the initial

materials were divided into series. See the box/folder listing in the description section for more information.

The material in this collection relates to Thomas P. Kennard's role in location of the state capital at Lincoln, and with the transition from territorial to state government in Nebraska. Also included are materials dealing with Kennard's activity as claims agent for Nebraska, the journals of Kennard & Simpson, Sidney, Nebraska. A complete calendar of correspondence series one and series two are included in folder one of the respective series.

## DESCRIPTION

### Series 1 - Correspondence, 1865-1871

Box 1

Folder

1. 1865 (calendar series 1)
2. 1866
3. 1867
4. 1868
5. 1869, Jan.-June
6. 1869, July-Dec.
7. 1870, Jan.-June
8. 1870, July-Dec.
9. 1871, Jan.-Mar.

### Series 2 - Requisitions and receipts, 1865-1869

Box 2

Folder

1. 1865 (calendar series 2)
2. 1866
3. 1867
4. 1868
5. 1869

### Series 3 - Business records of Kennard and Simpson, 1877-1879

Vol. 1 - 1877-1879 (see oversize)

Vol. 2 - 1877-1897 (see oversize)

### Series 4 - Miscellany

1. Includes 2 deeds to Lots in the city of Lincoln in favor of Levi Kennard, 1868 and 1870
2. Eight letters to Joseph L. Kennard (b.1859, d.1951), Thomas Kennard's nephew. Letters date 1899, 1900, 1922 and 1927

Addendum:

Box 3

Folder

1. Historic Gardens: brochures
2. Interiors
3. Domestic Life
4. Contemporary Sources
5. Curatorial Care and Preservation
6. Group Games
7. Musical Toys
8. May Day
9. Lawn Games
10. Contemporary sources: personal life
11. Newspaper & Magazines
12. Battledore & Shuttlecock
13. P & P Volunteers
14. P & P Flyers and Maps
15. Political - W.J. Bryan
16. Hoops - Grace and Rolling
17. Toys & Dolls
18. Stilts
19. Untitled
20. Maps
21. P & P Originals
22. P & P Gen. Info Sheets
23. Cup and Ball
24. Buildings - Public
25. Life in Lincoln in 1870s
26. Ferguson Photos - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sitting Area
27. Social Gatherings, Events
28. Individual Business, Public buildings
29. 1890's - Lincoln
30. 1880's - Lincoln
31. 1870's - Lincoln
32. 1860's - Lincoln
33. Lincoln Houses
34. Display Techniques
35. Italianate
36. Victorian Houses
37. Ferguson Photos – S. Sun Porch, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, E. Sun Porch
38. Front Hall (Kennard)
39. Museum Philosophy
40. Ferguson - Rugs

41. Ice Cream Social
42. Wedding Exhibit
43. Indoor Horticulture
44. KH X-mas Gifts
45. KH Calling
46. KH Flyers, Handouts
47. KH Centerpieces
48. KH X-mas Recipes
49. KH X-mas Games
50. Ferguson - Keens & Sharp
51. Home Life

Box 4

Folder

1. Populism
2. Ferguson Photos: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Basement, Back Stairway
3. Market Square
4. Lincoln Churches
5. Social Histories
6. Currencies of Nebraska
7. Pre-statehood
8. State Capitol
9. Omaha, Nebraska
10. State Capitol - Photos
11. Recipes: Confectionary
12. Photos for Fancy Work Exhibit
13. Art for the Masses
14. Kitchen Utensils
15. KH X-mas Decorations
16. Previous Exhibit
17. Frear Stone
18. Chromolithographed Labels (Cigars, etc.)
19. Rot
20. Food - General
21. State Capitol
22. Silver
23. Care of Children
24. Recipes: Beverages
25. Living History Museums
26. Floor Coverings
27. Current Notes
28. FH Tour Guides
29. FH Santa Claus
30. FH X-mas Gifts
31. FH X-mas Greenery

32. FH X-mas Recipes
33. FH X-mas Cards
34. FH Flyers, Handouts
35. Ferguson Photos - Dining Room
36. Ferguson - Caproni & Co
37. KH & FH X-mas Write-ups
38. Popular Plant Material Victorian
39. Dried Floral Arrangements
40. Popular Plant Material - 20<sup>th</sup> Century
41. Window Gardening
42. 1870-1879
43. 1880-1889
44. Native Nebraska Flora
45. Landscape: Ideas & Theory Victorian
46. Period Plant Containers

Box 5 - Biographical information  
Folder

1. Family History to 1814
2. Quaker information
3. Ohio, 1814-1834
4. Indiana, 1834-1857
5. Desoto information
6. Desoto, N.T.
7. Property in Desoto
8. 1867-1869
9. Secretary of State information
10. Founding of State Capital
11. Newspapers on moving Capital
12. First Capitol building
13. Other public institutions
14. Impeachments, Gillespie and Butler
15. 1870-1874
16. 1875-1879
17. 1880-1889
18. 1890-1899
19. 1900-1909
20. 1910-1920
21. Death and burial
22. Probate
23. Legacy
24. Kennard family genealogy
25. Kennard photographs
26. Kennard office locations
27. Kennard chronology

28. Biographical sketches
29. Kennard newspaper references
30. Census and city directories

DDS/ht 11-30-1972

PJE 11-06-1989

Revised TMM 12-10-2014; 06-11-2015

Added Entries:

Butler, David, 1829-1891  
Capital -- Nebraska  
Carr, Eugene Asa, 1830-1910  
Cheyenne County (Neb.) -- Businesses  
Cheyenne County (Neb.) -- History  
Furnas, Robert Wilkinson, 1824-1905  
Kennard, Alva  
Kennard, Levi J.  
Kennard, Thomas P., 1828-1920  
Kennard and Simpson (Sidney, Neb.)  
Lincoln (Neb.) -- History  
Maxwell, Samuel, 1825-1901  
Morton, Julius Sterling, 1832-1902  
Nebraska -- Capital and capitol  
Nebraska. Secretary of State  
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872  
Sidney (Neb.) -- Businesses