

# George Crook papers, 1863-1890

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Crook, George, 1829-1890
<b>Title</b>	George Crook papers
<b>Dates</b>	1863-1890 (inclusive) 1863 1890
<b>Quantity</b>	0.1 linear feet, (2 folders)
<b>Collection Number</b>	A 024
<b>Summary</b>	George Crook was a U.S. Army officer. The George Crook papers comprise letters concerning the Sioux campaign of 1876, the Apache campaigns of 1883 and 1886, the Sioux Commission, 1889, and the relocation of the Apache Indian reservation.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.</a> UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 <a href="mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu">spcarref@uoregon.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Collection is open to the public.  Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

George Crook was an Army officer during the late 1800s who was best known for his Indian fighting in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest.

## Content Description

The George Crook collection includes 22 letters from Crook to Lyman Walter V. Kennon, his aide, 1888-1890. There are also drafts of letters to George A. Custer and Emmet Crawford. Letters received are from Wesley Merritt, Robert Strahorn, Ranald MacKenzie, Marion P. Maus. Most of the letters refer to Indian campaigns and the relocation of the Apache Indian reservation.

## Use of the Collection

## Restrictions on Use

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], George Crook Papers, A 024, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two folders, one containing original letters and the other containing copies of the same letters.

### Location of Collection

Collection is located with other small manuscript collections.

### Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Letters

Container(s)	Description	Dates
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Folder		
6	Crook (camp near Big Spring) to soldiers of the Kanawha Brigade 1.0 letter Says farewell to the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, 14th Army Corps.	July 30, 1863
6	Crook (Fort Fetterman) to George A. Custer 1.0 letter Refers to Custer's letter of 25th; reports Gen. Reynolds will leave in couple of days with cavalry and infantry to operate against Sioux in Big Horn country. Cannot determine in advance what Reynolds' moves will be. Has no letter from Terry.	February 27, 1876
6	R. Williams (Omaha, Neb.) to Crook 1.0 letter Refers to delivery and execution of orders for the arrest of Reynolds and Moore. Comments on news regulations from the Adjutant General regarding department funds. Has heard nothing official about Indian troubles in the Black Hills, but says newspapers are filled with accounts.	May 19, 1876
6	Crook (Fort Fetterman) to Command Officer, Ft. Laramie 1.0 letter States two more companies of infantry ordered report to Laramie. Requests their disposition to given protection to travel.	May 27, 1876
6	R. Williams (Omaha, Neb.) to Crook 1.0 letter Reports arrival of Dr. McGillicuddy. Refers to disposition of troops for Sioux campaign. Has heard of Indian troubles, and new congressional bill for another conference with Indians. Has no doubt Crook will be able to handle hostiles. Reports Col. Ludington's transfer to Pacific coast.	June 5, 1876
6	R. Williams (Omaha, Neb.) to Crook 1.0 letter Reports that order have been given for repair of telegraph. Details arrival of various troops at Cheyenne. Says Col. Carr anxious to use Pawnees as scouts. Has telegraphed Chicago for permission.	June 7, 1876
6	W. Merritt (in camp in Black Hills) to Crook	October 8, 1876

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	1.0 letter Acknowledges receipt of two dispatches. Says troop movement will start as soon as possible. Complains of poor quality of grass, and condition of cavalry horses. Discusses details of proposed march on Red Cloud agency. Disagrees on details of country; sends sketch map of probably route.	
6	Ranald MacKenzie (Camp Robinson, Neb.) to Crook 1.0 letter Reports probable location of two Indian camps, Crazy Horse, and Sens Arc; says Cheyennes are thinking of uniting on Togue river. Believes many Indians will stay out this winter.	October 13, 1876
6	W. Merritt (in camp at the Ponds) to Crook 1.0 letter Describes probable route of three columns toward Red Cloud agency. Hopes horses will hold out. Expects to reach Red Cloud on morning of 24th.	October 22, 1876
6	Robert E. Strahorn (Camp Robinson, Neb.) to Mrs. Crook (Oakland, Md.) 1.0 letter Sends latest of his <i>Tribune</i> letters. Describes mustering out of Indian scouts, and their loyalty to Crook. Comments at length of court-martial of Moore and Reynolds. Refers to letter in Omaha Bee about Stanton. Has hopes Crazy Horse and hostiles may be brought in peacefully; hears conflicting reports from their villages. (Note from Col. Stanton included: comments on Moore-Reynolds case.)	February 4, 1877
6	Ranald MacKenzie (Camp Robinson, Neb.) to John G. Bourke (Ft. Laramie, Wyoming Territory) 1.0 letter Comments on horse thieves and cattle thieves. Is wearing out his men and horses on details after such thieves. Wants Laramie to do more work.	March 29, 1877
6	Ranald MacKenzie (Camp Robinson, Neb.) to John G. Bourke (Ft. Laramie, Wyoming Territory) 1.0 letter Passes on news from Cheyenne who has come in from Cheyenne camp. Hears Cheyennes are thinking of coming in to agency, and have parted from Sioux. Says Sitting Bull might come in to Missouri river agency. Locates Sitting Bull's camp. News confirmed Sioux Andian.	April 4, 1877

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	Ranald MacKenzie (Camp Robinson, Neb.) to John G. Bourke (Ft. Laramie, Wyoming Territory) 1.0 letter Transmits two letters from Capt. P. D. Vroom. Asks for orders on forage supply question raised by Vroom. Has no knowledge of Vroom's movements. Complains that room retains nine wagons when two would be ample. Could use the extra seven on the road.	April 9, 1877
6	Henry Heth (Georgetown, S.C.) to Crook 1.0 letter Congratulates Crook on success of Apache campaign. Says he deserved promotion. Refers to Civil War episode at Lewisburg.	June 14, 1883
6	Franz Sigel (New York, N.Y.) to Crook 1.0 letter Congratulates Crook on masterly raid. Has written a piece about it in German.	June 18, 1883
6	Crook (Prescott, Ariz.) to Emmett Crawford 1.0 letter Refers to Circular No. 5 issued by Crawford. Points out that anything put into print can become ammunition for unfriendly whites, that personal influence and careful management are most important to avoid troubles.	November 15, 1883
6	Crook (Prescott, Ariz.) to Emmett Crawford 1.0 letter Refers to action of turning over Indian convicted of murder to relatives of dead squaw. Doubts that principle of Indian justice extends to murder.	December 1, 1883
6	Crook (Fort Bowie, Ariz.) to John Pope (Presidio, San Francisco) 1.0 letter Quotes from report of a spy kept in Mexico to report on the movements of Indians. Elaborates on difficulties of surprising Apaches, especially when the Indians are sided by the Mexicans. Reports Wirt Davis leaves for Mexico with 1st battalion of Scouts on 21st, and Crawford leaves next week with 2nd battalion.	November 19, 1885
6	Marion Maus (camp 7 miles north of Nacori) to Cyrus Roberts 1.0 letter Has found Lt. Faison with part of trains. Comments on death of Lt. Crawford. Complains of attitude of Mexicans toward Apache	January 23, 1886

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	scouts. Says Mexicans know nothing of treaty, have been living on trade with hostiles.	
6	Marion F. Maus (Camp Guadalupe Canyon) to Cyrus Roberts 1.0 letter Reports plans for bringing hostiles in. Gives details of encounter with Mexicans on January 11 near Arras river. Will move tomorrow to camp south of San Bernardino. Describes meeting with Geronimo.	February 6, 1886
6	J.C. Breckinridge (Chicago, Ill.) to Crook 1.0 letter Asks for character reference as officer.	March 17, 1887
6	William M. Wherry (Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. ) to Crook (Omaha, Neb.) 1.0 letter Has read Crook's "Resume of Operations Against Apache Indians." Expresses full confidence in Crook's actions, regrets attitude of press, and misunderstanding of superior officers.	April 27, 1887
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Refers to his position at battle of Fisher's Hill.	December 29, 1888
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Refers to enclosed letter not included and question of examining documents in Washington. Has tried to get B & O pass for Kennon, but is not sure of success. Has returned from Texas.	January 28, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Sends pass from B & O. Suggests getting pass to Lynohburg through Gen. Dandy.	January 28, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Acknowledges letters. Says Forsyth knows of no one present at meeting of Grant and Sheridan in the Valley. Hopes Kennon has Crook's memoirs via Corbin by now.	March 1, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter	April 22, 1889

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Refers cryptically to "the matter Burke interviewed you on." Expects to go to New York for celebration.	
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Thinks it best to let Bourke handle Apache business, he being well informed on subject. Has talked to Gen. Hayes about publication of Kennon's history. Hayes thinks war articles are too common to be in demand. Hopes to go on inspection trip with Secretary of War and Schofield, and may go to Sioux country.	May 4, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Advises Kennon to finish his work. Will be glad to have Bourke with Indian commission. Has no further information about magazine outlets for Kennon's writing.	May 14, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Advises how Bourke can get on Indian commission. Cannot hope to locate pictures among many boxes of material in storage. Thinks Bourke could get them from Cushing. Has little help of Sioux Commission success.	May 20, 1889
6	Crook (Pine Ridge Agency) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Refers to Kennon's and Bourke's writing problems. Finds Indian councils very slow and aggravating. Indians unwilling to agree or make up their minds.	June 14, 1889
6	Crook (Crow Creek Agency) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Finds council with Indians disagreeable, and unfair to the Indians.	July 8, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Has returned from hunt. Says Indian Commission has not met to draw up final report. Has letter from Secretary of War asking about proposed Apache reservation in North Carolina. Hopes the proposal will lead to joint visit to Shenandoah Valley.	October 12, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter	October 28, 1889

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Cannot determine when he will get to Washington. Leaves for Leavenworth in afternoon. Still hopes to visit North Carolina to examine proposed Apache reservation.	
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Has returned from Ft. Lewis, Colo. Will try to get Kennon a detail with Capt. Ray. Regrets Commission has not yet met, thus postponing Washington and Shenandoah trip. Thinks Gen. Hayes would know more about Opequan than he. Suggests Kennon's long stay in Washington is causing adverse comment.	November 8, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Has arranged for two months leave for Kennon. Cannot come to Washington on Apache business unless asked. Roberts has suggested Overturf for information on Valley Campaign.	November 13, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Says Commission has determined probable time for visit to Washington, and urged Secretary of War to have certain chiefs to Washington. Will probably be up before Congress convenes. Has had attack similar to one in Boston in 1887.	November 20, 1889
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Has understanding with Guy Howard that Apaches should make only one move, but if not, have them at Ft. Sill before end of March. Wants copy of Chiricahua report as soon as available. Is feeling better.	January 12, 1890
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Thinks Ft. Lewis should be abandoned. Expects to leave for Ft. Reno Indian Territory on 24th, for two weeks.	January 21, 1890
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Has been delayed on Ft. Reno trip, but leaves tonight. Refers to Gen. Miles' "four year old Chestnut" on the Apache affair and surrender of Geronimo. Has sent reply as special to <i>Chicago Herald</i> . Comments on Hoar's resolution to gather all documents in the case. Thinks Gatewood's testimony would be very important, and that Bourke could help through his Boston friends.	February 3, 1890



Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	Crook (Okache Station, I.T.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Will reach Reno tomorrow, and visit Sill. Comments on Miles' "Literary Bureau" and the misleading statements on the Apache campaign by Miles. Would like to come to Washington to testify in the matter.	February 5, 1890
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon 1.0 letter Asks whether Kennon has received railroad pass. Comments on Gen. Miles and his "Literary Bureau" arranging for all credit for Apache surrender. Suggests that no mention be made of Miles' jealousy, but simply state facts to make point clear.	February 17, 1890
6	Crook (Chicago, Ill.) to L.W.V. Kennon (Washington D.C.) 1.0 letter "Go ahead but wait putting your report until you receive my letter of today."	February 18, 1890
6	O.O. Howard (Governor's Island, NYC) to Crook (Chicago, Ill.) 1.0 letter Refers to Chiricahua relocation bill. Has seen the Secretary of War and others. Doubts that objections of "Pacific" general would hurt bill. Hopes some judicious newspaper publicity will help. Doubts stand of congressman Perkins.	March 1, 1890

## Letters (copies)

Folder7

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Apache Indians--Wars, 1883-1886

Dakota Indians--Wars, 1876

Generals--United States

Indians of North America--Government relations--1869-1934

Indians of North America--Wars--1866-1895

### Personal Names :

Crawford, Emmett

Crook, George, 1829-1890--Archives

Crook, George, 1829-1890--Correspondence

Custer, George A. (George Armstrong), 1839-1876

Kennon, Lyman Walter Vere, 1858-1918

Mackenzie, Ranald Slidell, 1840-1889

Maus, Marion P. (Marion Perry), 1850-1930

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv29760>

Merritt, Wesley, 1834-1910

Strahorn, Robert E. (Robert Edmund), 1852-1944

**Corporate Names :**

United States. Sioux Commission (1889)

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