

Kelly-Seavey Family papers, 1837-1951

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Kelly family
Title	Kelly-Seavey Family papers
Dates	1837-1951 (inclusive) 1837 1951
Quantity	11.5 linear feet, (22 containers)
Collection Number	Coll 186
Summary	John Kelly (b. 1818) was a 19th-century Oregon rancher, businessman, and politician. The Kelly-Seavey Family Papers comprise the political and business papers of John Kelly, papers of other Kelly family members, and a small segment of Seavey family papers, as well as several boxes of photographs.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Languages	English

Historical Note

Oregon pioneer John Kelly was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1818. Having learned his father's trade as a woolen goods manufacturer, Kelly emigrated to Canada in 1838 where he worked as a manager of a woolen mill. Two years later he moved to Vermont to pursue the same vocation. After a brief period as a seaman, Kelly settled in 1842 in Wisconsin where he established the Waterford Woolen Mills with George Hovey.

In 1848 Kelly responded to the call for volunteers to fight in the Mexican War and joined a Missouri regiment. He had a reputation as an intrepid scout and quickly gained the confidence of his superiors who assigned him to many important missions. In 1849 he was appointed wagon-master for the battalion of Colonel Loring which was headed to Fort Vancouver. Near Fort Hall Kelly left the command and traveled alone to Oregon City.

In 1850 Kelly contracted to supply a regiment of mounted riflemen with beef and formed a partnership with three men, including General Joseph Lane, to drive 300 head of cattle to California. On their way, they stopped in the Rogue River Valley to fatten the cattle at which time General Lane made his treaty with the Indians of the Rogue River Valley. While wintering in Tehama County, California, the three

men mined for gold at Olney Creek. After delivery of the cattle in Scott Valley, California in the spring of 1851, Kelly returned to Oregon, bought 200 head of cattle for himself for farming and stock raising, and took up a land donation claim near Roseburg.

Kelly married Elizabeth Parker in 1853. In 1861, he was appointed Registrar of the United States Land Office, located in Roseburg. Five years later, Kelly moved to Springfield but could not be discharged from his government position in Roseburg. President Andrew Johnson insisted upon Kelly's release but the Senate refused to confirm a successor and the popular Kelly remained in the post until President Grant secured his discharge in 1869.

The Senate's action was indicative of Kelly's standing in the political arena. He was in communication with all the prominent figures of the Republican-Unionist party. He was a delegate at state Republican conventions from 1860 to 1866, in addition to serving on the Republican State Central Committee between 1876 and 1884. Kelly was appointed by President Chester A. Arthur in Special Collections Inventory 1882 to inspect the section of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Clark's Fork and Jacko. Later, in 1890, Kelly was appointed Superintendent of the Census of Oregon.

Kelly's business dealings, primarily farming, ranching, and land transactions, brought him considerable wealth. At one point he owned 100 acres near Springfield, 500 acres on Fall Creek, and 900 acres in the Mohawk Valley.

The Kellys were the parents of eight children: Mary, wife of H.B. Miller; Theresa (Frez), wife of L.G. Jackson; John; Marcella (Marcy), wife of Albert H. Tanner; Abraham; George; Bessie, wife of James Seavey; and Katie. Bessie married Seavey in 1905 and the couple had two children, Alexander and Marcella..

Content Description

The Kelly-Seavey Family Papers consist primarily of John Kelly's political and business files, files of other Kelly family members and a small segment of Seavey family papers as well as several boxes of photographs. Kelly's political and business files are comprised of correspondence, various writings, government publications, and documents. The correspondence, the largest segment of material, is arranged chronologically and spans the years 1846 through 1902. There are letters from all of the prominent Oregon Republican-Unionists, including voluminous correspondence with John Mitchell and George Williams. Jesse Applegate is another significant correspondent.

Of note among the writings is a speech that contains Kelly's observations regarding a senatorial campaign. The government publications are an assortment of federal and State of Oregon pamphlets. Documents belonging to John Kelly consist of warranty deeds and indentures, which are arranged chronologically; appointment and membership papers; stocks and insurance deeds; and miscellaneous bills and receipts which are also arranged in chronological order.

Material belonging to other Kelly family members consists primarily of correspondence. Most of the letters are addressed to Elizabeth Kelly from her children and their families. Letters written between 1904 and 1905, during the courtship of Bessie Kelly and James Seavey, can be found at the end of this subseries. Of interest is Bessie Seavey's travel diary detailing her sailing trip around the world in 1927. The postcards she collected from this trip are also part of this series.

The final series in the collection consists of photographs of the Kelly family and Alexander and James Seavey. Also included are pictures of their property holdings and McKenzie River scenes. Two

oversized framed photographs, 1922 and 1928, of the Pacific Coast Zone Trap Shoot complete the collection.

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], Kelly-Seavey Family Papers, Coll 186, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series:

- Kelly Family papers
 - John Kelly
 - Other Kelly Family files
- Seavey Family Papers

Processing Note

Collection processed by Robert Charbonneau, Manuscript Processor.

Separated Materials

Broadsides in this collection are stored separately in the Broadside Collection.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Kelly Family papers

Container(s)		Description	Dates
John Kelly			
<i>Political/Business Files</i>			
Correspondence			
Box	Folder		
1	1		1846, Oct.-1862, May
1	2		1862, July-Dec.
1	3		1863, Jan.-Oct.
1	4		1863, Nov.-Dec.; ca. 1863
1	5		1864, Jan.-Aug.
1	6		1864, Sept.-1865, Jan.
1	7		1865, Feb.-July
1	8		1865, Aug.-Dec.
1	9		1866, Jan.- March
2	1		1866, April-Aug.
2	2		1866, Sept.- Dec.; ca. 1866
2	3		1867, Jan.-May
2	4		1867, June-Sept.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 5		1867, Oct.-Dec.; ca. 1867
2 6		1868, Jan.-Feb.
2 7		1868, March- May
2 8		1868, June-Aug.
2 9		1868, Sept.-Dec.
2 10		1869, Jan.- March
2 11		1869, April-Nov.
2 12		1869, Dec.-ca. 1860's
3 1		1870, Jan.-Feb.
3 2		1870, March- June
3 3		1870, July-Dec.; ca. 1870
3 4		1871, Feb.-May
3 5		1871, June-Oct.
3 6		1871, Nov.-1872, Feb.
3 7		1872, March-July
3 8		1872, Aug.-Dec.
3 9		1873, Jan.-April
3 10		1873, May-July

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3	11	1873, Aug.-Dec.; ca. 1873
3	12	1874, Jan.-April
3	13	1874, May-Dec.
4	1	1875, Jan.-May
4	2	1875, June-Oct.
4	3	1875, Nov.-Dec.; ca. 1875
4	4	1876, Jan.-May
4	5	1876, June-July
4	6	1876, Aug.-Oct.
4	7	1876, Nov.-Dec.
4	8	1877, Jan.-Feb.
4	9	1877, March- April
4	10	1877, May-June
4	11	1877, July-Aug.
5	1	1877, Sept.-Oct.
5	2	1877, Nov.-Dec.
5	3	1878, Jan.-Feb.
5	4	1878, March- Sept.
5	5	1878, Oct.-Dec.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
5	6		1879, Jan.-Sept.
5	7		1879, Nov.-ca. 1870's
5	8		1880, Jan.- March
5	9		1880, April-May
5	10		1880, June
5	11		1880, July
5	12		1880, Aug.-Nov.
6	1		1881, Jan.-April
6	2		1881, May-Dec.
6	3		1882
6	4		1883, Jan.-July
6	5		1884, Jan.-ca. 1884
6	6		1885, Feb.-1886, April
6	7		1886, May-July
6	8		1886, Aug.-1887, Feb.
6	9		1887, April-1888, Dec.
6	10		1889, Jac.-ca. 1880's
6	11		1890, Jan.-June

Container(s)		Description	Dates
6	12		1890, July-1891, Dec.
6	13		1892, Feb.-1894, May
6	14		1894, June-1896, Dec.
7	1		1897, Jan.-1902, Aug.
7	2		Undated
7	3		Undated
Box	Folder		
7	4	Speech: Remarks [made] on Senatorial Campaign	Undated
7	5	Petition for Collector of Customs and related material (John Mitchell to John Sherman re: appointment of John Kelly to position)	
7	6	Untitled writings	
7	7	Assorted federal and state government publications	
Documents			
Warranty deeds and indentures			
Box	Folder		
8	1		1846, June-1866, Sept.
8	2		1866, Nov.-1874, Oct.
8	3		1875, May-1888, Sept.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
8	4		1888, Dec.-1904, Nov.
8	5		1908, Jan.-1946, Sept.
Box	Folder		
8	6	Appointments and memberships	
8	7	Stocks, insurance	
Miscellaneous Bills and Receipts			
Box	Folder		
8	8		1860, Sept.-1869; ca. 1860's
8	9		1870, May-1873, Dec.
8	10		1874, Jan.-1875, Dec.
8	11		1876, Jan.-1877, June
8	12		1877, July-1878, July
8	13		1878, Aug.-1879, Sept.; ca. 1870's
9	1		1880, Jan.-1881, Dec.
9	2		1882, Jan.-1884, Dec.; ca. 1884
9	3		1885, Jan.-1887, May

Container(s)		Description	Dates
9	4		1887, July-1888, Dec.
9	5		1889, Jan.-Sept.; ca. 1880's
9	6		1890, March-1892, June
9	7		1892, July-1893, Dec.
9	8		1894, Jan.-1903, Dec.
9	9		Undated

Other Kelly Family files

Correspondence

Box	Folder		Dates
10	1		1846, Oct.-1862, May
10	2		1837, Aug.-1857, June
10	3		1858, Jan.-1859, April; ca. 1850's
10	4		1860, Jan.-1865, June
10	5		1865, Aug.-1866, Dec.
10	6		1867, Jan.-1868, April

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10 7		1868, May-1869, June
10 8		1869, July-1872, June
10 9		1872, July-Sept.
11 1		1872, Oct.-Dec.
11 2		1873, Jan.-June
11 3		1873, Sept.-1874, June
11 4		1873, July-1876, June
11 5		1876, July-Dec.
11 5		1877, Jan.-June
11 6		1877, July-Dec.
11 7		1878, Jan.-April
11 8		1878, May-June
11 9		1878, July-Nov.; ca. 1878
11 10		1879, Jan.-Aug.
11 11		1879, Sept.-Oct.
11 12		1879, Nov.-Dec.
12 1		1880, Jan.-July
12 2		1880, Aug.-Dec.
12 3		1881, Jan.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12 4		1881, Feb.
12 5		1881, March
12 6		1881, April
12 7		1881, May-June
12 8		1881, July-Aug.
12 9		1881, Sept.-Oct.
12 10		1881, Nov.-Dec.; ca. 1881
12 11		1882, Jan.-Sept.
12 12		1882, Oct.-1883, April
12 13		1883, May-Nov.; ca. 1883
13 1		1884, Jan.-June
13 2		1884, July-Aug.
13 3		1884, Sept.-Oct.
13 4		1884, Nov.-Dec.
13 5		1885, Jan.
13 6		1885, Feb.- March
13 7		1885, April-May
13 8		1885, June-July
13 9		1885, Aug.-Sept.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13	10	1885, Oct.-Dec.
13	11	1885, Jan.-Feb.
13	12	1886, March-April
13	13	1886, May-June
14	1	1886, July-Sept.
14	2	1886, Oct.-Dec.
14	3	1887, Jan.-April
14	4	1887, May-June
14	5	1887, July-Aug.
14	6	1887, Sept.-Oct.
14	7	1887, Nov.-Dec.
14	8	1888, Jan.-Feb.
14	9	1888, March-April
14	10	1888, May-June
14	11	1888, July-Sept.
14	12	1888, Oct.-Dec.
15	1	1889, Jan.-Feb.
15	2	1889, March-May
15	3	1889, June-July
15	4	1889, Aug.-Sept.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
15	5		1889, Oct.
15	6		1889, Nov.-Dec.
15	7		1890, Jan.
15	8		1890, Feb.-June
15	9		1890, July-1891, June
15	10		1891, July-1893, June
15	11		1893, July-Dec.
16	1		1894, Jan.-1895, Dec.
16	2		1896, Jan.-Oct.
16	3		1896, Nov.-1897, June
16	4		1897, July-1899, Oct.
16	5		1900, Nov.-1904, Dec.
16	6		1905, Jan.-1951, June
16	7		Undated
16	8		Undated
16	9		Undated
Box	Folder		
17	1	Bessie Kelly Seavey's travel diary	1927

Container(s)		Description	Dates
17	2	Report cards, St. Helen's Hall, Portland (Teresa, Mary, Bessie)	
17	3	Programs, souvenirs, and mementos	
17	4	Newspaper clippings	
17	5	Postcards, used (see also 20/3)	
17	6	Postcards, unused	
17	7	Registry return receipts	
17	8	Prints collected by Bessie Kelly Seavey	

Seavey Family papers

Container(s)		Description
Correspondence		
Box	Folder	
17	9	1914, Jan.-1927, March
Photographs (PH208) Photographs stored separately under call number PH208.		
Kelly Family		
Box	Folder	
18	1	John Kelly and male descendents
18	2	John Kelly's daughters
18	3	Kate Kelly Brown and family
18	4	Bessie Kelly Seavey and friends
Seavey Family		

Container(s)		Description
Box	Folder	
19	1	James Seavey
19	2	James and Bessie Seavey's children, Alexander and Marcella
19	3	James and Bessie Seavey's children, Alexander and Marcella
19	4	James and Bessie Seavey's children, Alexander and Marcella
20	1	Alexander
20	2	Alexander
Box	Folder	
20	3	Photo postcards of various family members, friends, property, travels
20	4	Unidentified people
20	5	Unidentified people
20	6	Miscellaneous local and abroad
20	6	Miscellaneous negatives, tintypes
Photographs		
Package		
Pkg. 1		Alexander Seavey, Jr.
Pkg. 2		Trap Shoot (2, oversize)

Photographs (PH208)

Box1-4

Broadsides

26.0 items

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Businessmen--Oregon

Politicians--Oregon

Ranchers--Oregon

Personal Names :

Kelly, John, b. 1818

Kelly, John, b. 1818--Correspondence

Family Names :

Kelly family

Kelly family--Correspondence

Seavey family

Seavey family--Correspondence

Geographical Names :

Oregon--History--Sources

Oregon--Politics and government--1859-1950

Form or Genre Terms :

Deeds

Diaries

Letters

Receipts (financial records)

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Robert Charbonneau
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