

Joseph Lane papers, 1848-1887

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Lane, Joseph, 1801-1881
Title	Joseph Lane papers
Dates	1848-1887 (inclusive) 1848 1887
Quantity	2.0 linear feet, (5 containters)
Collection Number	Ax 183
Summary	Joseph Lane (1801-1881) was an active Oregonian politician serving as Governor and Oregon's first Senator. The Joseph Lane papers include diaries, correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, a draft of Nina Lane Faubion's biography of Lane, and 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
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Joseph Lane was born in North Carolina on December 14, 1801, and he and his family moved to Kentucky when he was three years old. Lane moved away from his family to Indiana at age fourteen to work as a clerk in a store. After acquiring a farm and his own business at the age of twenty-one, Lane married Mary Hart Polly. The couple had eight children.

In his early twenties, Lane served on the Indiana state legislature from 1822 to 1846. After serving in the war against Mexico, where he became a major-general in 1847, he accepted the position as governor of Oregon. He moved with his oldest son, leaving the rest of his family behind. Lane was sworn in as governor on March 3, 1849. Purchasing land along the Willamette River, near Oregon City, Lane built a home. In the 1850s, Lane operated an unsuccessful lumber mill and worked in the mines in Northern California.

Lane became a delegate to Congress in 1851 as a Democrat, after beating opponent William H. Wilson. He became Oregon's first Senator, serving from 1859 to 1861. There were two initial pieces

of legislation that Lane proposed while he was in Congress. He wanted to move Oregon's capital from Oregon City to Salem, which failed. Lane also proposed roads leading from Walla Walla, Washington to the Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon. The proposal was passed and the roads were built over a series of years.

While Lane served in Congress, a majority of his efforts were spent on the issue of slavery. Lane believed that the states, not federal government legislation, should dictate slavery decisions in each state. The slave debate grew in Oregon during the 1850s as it grew as a national issue. Although Lane did not fight as a soldier in the Civil War, he used his efforts to support slave states by proposing a variety of legislation in Congress.

Lane was reelected to Congress in 1857 and continued to focus on state's rights. Lane also focused on the Native American issues that Oregon faced. In 1857, Lane and other leaders in Oregon pushed Native American tribes in the Umpqua Valley back onto reservations. Lane unsuccessfully tried to enact Congressional legislation that would use federal funds to enforce containing Native Americans to reservations. While this piece of legislation did not pass, Lane continued to push for measures that would benefit the people represented by Oregon's pioneer government.

Lane's role in Congress ended in March, 1861, as his pro-slavery beliefs did not resonate with the public. While he did not contribute to Oregon politics after 1861, he did run for and lose his bid for a state senate seat in 1880, at the age of 79. In 1870, Lane's wife died and Lane continued to live with much of his extended family just outside of Roseburg, Oregon. He died on April 19, 1881. Lane County, Oregon is named for Joseph Lane.

Joseph Lane had one son, Lafayette Lane, who served in Congress from 1875 to 1877 and a grandson, Dr. Harry Lane, that served in Congress from 1913 to 1917.

Sources: Henderickson, James E. *Joe Lane of Oregon: Machine Politics and the Sectional Crisis, 1849-1861*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.

Oregon. Office of the Secretary of State. *Oregon Blue Book*. Salem, Oregon. 2001-2002.

Content Description

The Joseph Lane papers include diaries, correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, and a draft of Nina Lane Faubion's biography of Lane.

The diaries are from 1872 to 1881. The correspondence includes material from 1852 to 1887. Work by Nina Lane Faubion includes the draft and notes of the Lane biography, as well as the manuscript, *Señorita Gringa*.

The photographs series includes two daguerreotypes, two cabinet photographs, an ambrotype, a tintype and two silver gelatin copy prints. Highlights are portraits of Lane and family members, some unidentified, and one military scene of the anti-slavery conflict in Kansas in 1856.

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], Joseph Lane papers, Ax 183, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following five series: Diaries; Letters and legal documents; Lane biography by Nina Lane Faubion; Manuscript: *Señorita Gringa*, by Nina Lane Faubion. The series are arranged chronologically. Photographs are their own series.

Related Materials

Additional Joseph Lane material can be found in other institutions, including the Oregon Historical Society and the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Acquisition Information

Purchased in 1987.

Processing Note

Collection processed by manuscripts staff. Photographs processed by Normandy S. Helmer, September 2005.

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

Detailed Description of the Collection

Inventory

Series I: Diaries

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Joseph Lane		
Box		
1	Diary	October 21, 1872–November 15, 1874
1	Diary	November 16, 1874–December 31, 1877
1	Diary	October 25, 1880–March 14, 1881

Unidentified [Nathaniel Lane?, Harry Lane?]

Box		
1	Diary	September 5, 1879–December 15, 1879
1	Diary	January 1, 1880–February 23, 1881

Series II: Letters and legal documents

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Mapfolder		
1		1848
Box	Folder	
1	2	1852-1855

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	3		1856–1863
1	4		1864-1867
1	5		1869–1872
1	6		1875–1879
1	7		1880–1881 1887 undated
2	1	Typed copies of letters	
2	2	Newspaper clippings	

Series III: Lane biography by Nina Lane Faubion

Container(s)		Description
Draft		
Box	Folder	
2	3	Chapters 1-3
2	4	Chapters 4-6
2	5	Parts 1-2
2	6	Parts 4-6
2	7	Incomplete chapters and notes
3	1-2	Notes and correspondence

Series IV: Manuscript: *Señorita Gringa*, by Nina Lane Faubion

Container(s)		Description
Box		

Container(s)	Description
3	<i>Señorita Gringa</i> , by Nina Lane Faubion

Series V: Photographs (PH205)

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	PH205_01: Daguerreotype portrait of Joseph Lane. Frame and portion of case survive. Photographer unknown	circa 1845-1850
1	PH205_02: Cased daguerreotype of two unidentified boys. Photographer unknown	
1	PH205_03: Duplicate copy prints of vintage portrait of Lane as a young man. Original probably in collection of Douglas County Museum	
1	PH205_04: Duplicate copy prints of vintage portrait of Lane as a young man. Original probably in collection of Douglas County Museum	
1	PH205_05: Ambrotype of watercolor of Battle of Hickory Point in the Kansas Free State War by Samuel James Reader, 1903 The Battle of Hickory Point occurred in the Kansas Territory on Sept. 13, 1856 between a small group of pro-slavery and free-state forces. Gen. James H. Lane (no known relation to Joseph Lane) is shown. However, the annotations on the back show that this was given to Joseph Lane's grandson, Harry Lane, then mayor of Portland, in 1907 by Salmon Brown. Salmon was the son of John Brown, active in the Kansas free-state movement and leader of the 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry. The Brown family fled to Oregon following John Brown's execution. Stamped imprint on back: "Sam'l J. Reader, North Topeka, Kansas. Amateur photographer." Inked annotation on back: "The Missourians are in the two log houses, called Hickory Point, north of Kansas River. Lane was repulsed. Next day, Sept. 14, Capt. Harvey fought them but failed also. I was with Lane. S.J. Reader." Sam Reader (1836-1914) was a lieutenant in the 2nd regiment of the Kansas State Militia and fought to repulse the Confederate advance in Missouri and Kansas in 1864. He kept a diary illustrated with watercolors of the events of the conflicts that are considered significant eyewitness documents. The Kansas Museum of History holds a version of this painting. The Kansas State Historical Society holds Reader's diaries. Penciled annotation on back: "Portland 1907.	

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Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Friend Mayor Lane. This was sent to me by a friend. I thought you would like to keep it. Respectfully, Salmon Brown."	
1	PH205_06: Cabinet portrait of the daughters of Mrs. Winifred Lane Mosher and granddaughters of Gen. Joseph Lane, posed by portraits of their forebears, by Abell and Son of Portland	circa 1884-1887
1	PH205_07: Cabinet portrait of four young women identified as Alice Mosher Urllis, Emma Mosher Cowan (both standing), Anna Mosher, and Winifred Mosher (both seated), posed with tea set. Photographer unknown	
1	PH205_08: Tintype on later card mount of unidentified man. Photographer unknown	

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Governors--Oregon

Indians of North America--Relocation--Oregon

Slavery--Justification

Personal Names :

Faubion, Nina Lane

Lane, Joseph, 1801-1881--Archives

Corporate Names :

United States. Congress. Senate

Geographical Names :

Oregon--Politics and government--To 1859

United States--Politics and government--19th century

Form or Genre Terms :

Photographs

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