

PAPERS OF THE FRANKLIN KNIGHT LANE MEMORIAL FUND

1921 - 1939

HISTCRICAL BACKGRCOND

Franklin Knight Lane (1864-1921) newspaper man and attorney, who grew to manhood in California, became Secretary of the Interior under President Woodrow Wilson on March 5, 1913, an office he held until March 1, 1920. Lane died on May 18, 1921 leaving a widow and two grown children. Immediately after his death a movement began among his close friends, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, and Adolph C. Miller to establish a trust fund for the widow.

Roosevelt, Hoover and Miller became trustees of the fund and within six months \$108,000 were given to the fund by friends of Franklin Lane. A. C. Miller, acting as Treasurer of the fund, invested the principal and was soon sending its income to Mrs. Lane.

According to the provisions of the trust fund the widow was to receive the income until her death at which time the principal was to be used to establish a permanent memorial to Mr. Lane. The three trustees seriously considered three possible memorials, a monument in the California redwoods, a flagpole on Hains Point in the District of Columbia, and a bequest to the University of California at Berkley.

In 1939 the principal was transferred to the University of California with provisions that Mrs. Lane was to continue receiving the income from the University until her death.

The papers in this collection are apparently complete from 1921 to 1939. They cover the original donations, the payments made to Mrs. Lane, the study of a permanent memorial, and all the financial records for the period.

Adolph C. Miller, in whose home the papers were found, is the principal agent throughout the period. There are autographs of Franklin Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Julius Rosenwald, E. L. Doheny, the largest contributor, James D. Phelan, and others on their letters transmitting donations to the fund.

There is approximately one cubic foot of records.

I. CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE FRANKLIN K. LANE MEMORIAL FUND.

1. Donation Transmittal Letters, 1921-1926
Primarily between the donors and A. C. Miller, receipts and replies attached. These are arranged alphabetically by donor. Also included are an abstract of many of the letters and a list of donors.
2. Permanent Memorial Letters, 1921-1938
The period 1921-1924 covers a memorial in California Redwood grove. The period 1931-1938 covers a flagpole proposed for Hains Point, District of Columbia. Both of these proposals were abandoned.
3. Letters Regarding the Transfer of the Fund to the University of California, 1933-1939
Includes several rough drafts and two copies of the final agreement between the Fund Trustees and the Regents of the University.
4. Tax Liability Letters, 1926-1938
Covers both Mrs. Lane's liability and that of donors.
5. Income Transmittal and Receipt Letters, 1936-1938
Routine form letters between Mrs. Anne W. Lane and A. C. Miller covering transmittal of checks to Mrs. Lane.

II. FINANCIAL RECORDS OF THE FUND.

1. Statement of Income and Disbursements, Franklin K. Lane Memorial Fund, (4 copies), 1921-1939
2. Securities Register, Fund Owned, 1922-1938
3. Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks, American Security and Trust Company, 1921-1938

4. Detail Banking Records

Deposit Tickets and Orders to Clip Coupons, 1921-1938

Buy and Sell Orders, Securities, 1922-1938

Check Stubs, 1921-1939

Safety Deposit Vault Rent Receipts, 1922-1938

III. MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL ON FRANKLIN K. LANE

1. Memorial Service, June 5, 1921. (5 copies)
2. Abstracts from newspapers and Who's Who, 1921.
3. A copy of random thoughts on cooperation by Franklin K. Lane.

APPRAISAL OF THE FRANKLIN K. LANE MEMORIAL FUND PAPERS

Although these papers, which were found in the home of Adolph C. Miller, add nothing to an understanding of Franklin K. Lane, except that he had many friends, they are a fitting climax to the volume of his Letters, Personal and Political, edited by his widow, Anne W. Lane and Louis Herrick Wall in 1922. If Lane's papers are still in existence, these should, in part, be added to the collection.

A second logical depository for this group of records would be the University of California at Berkley since it gives the background of the Franklin K. Lane Foundation, established at Berkley in 1939.

However, if Lane's papers no longer exist, or if the University is not interested, there is no reason for preserving the collection. The Fund's purpose was very limited in the period 1921-1939, and it is not unique among such organizations.

Furthermore, if it is decided to preserve a record of the fund, the following items should be destroyed:

- I-4; Tax Liability Letters, 1926-1938. These are too sketchy to be of value.
- I-5; Income Transmittal and Receipt Letters, 1936-1938. Routine items of no value.
- II -1; Statement of Income and Disbursements, Franklin K. Lane Memorial Fund, 1921-1939. Destroy one copy.
- II -3; Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks. 1921-1939. Completely reflected in Statement of Income.....
- II -4; Detailed financial items reflected in Statement of Income...
- III -1; Memorial Service, June 5, 1921. Retain one copy.
- III -2; Newspaper clippings. Not unique.
- III -3; A copy of random thoughts... This parallels ideas published in Letters.

Destruction of these items would reduce the bulk by 50%.