

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

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FRANKLIN KNIGHT LANE

(1864 - 1921)

The papers of Franklin K. Lane, newspaper man and Secretary of the Interior under Woodrow Wilson, are on deposit in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. The small collection described herein was found in the home of his friend, Adolph C. Miller and covers the period (1921-1939) of the Franklin K. Lane Memorial Fund. It was turned over to the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System by Mrs. Lucy Sprague Mitchell and forwarded to the University of California on January 24, 1955.

Measure of size: 1 cubic foot

Approximate number of items:

The appended survey of these papers was made by the National Records Management Council at the Committee's request.

In addition, the General Library of the University of California reports the possession of another linear foot of material including speeches, articles and miscellany given to the Bancroft Library by Mrs. Lane in 1947, and a small amount of correspondence.

No special restrictions have been placed on this material, nor does a complete inventory exist.

See letter 11/15/55 from George P. Hammond, director The General Library at the University of California for further detail.

## Biographical Note

- 1864, July 15      Born, near Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada
- 1886                Graduated, University of California
- Engaged in newspaper work early in life, part  
owner and editor of Tacoma Daily News
- 1889                Admitted to California bar and began law practice  
in San Francisco
- 1893, Apr. 11      Married Anne Wintermute (1 son)
- 1897-1902          Corporation counsel, San Francisco
- 1902                Candidate for Governor of California
- 1905-13            Member, Interstate Commerce Commission (chairman  
in 1913)
- 1913-20            Secretary of the Interior in cabinet of Woodrow  
Wilson
- Vice President, Pan-American Petroleum and  
Transport Company
- 1921, May 18      Died

See Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis

N.B. Mr. Lane's appointment as Secretary of the Interior was in part a recognition of Wilson's indebtedness to the California voters. He led a group of Californians, which included Adolph Miller and Ray Gidney, to service in Washington.

Description of Series

The papers at the University of California include the papers previously described, which were sent to them in 1955 by this Committee, and the following items:

Speeches, articles and miscellany presented by Mrs. Lane to the Bancroft Library in 1947

1 famous letter to Dr. John Finley in 1921, proposing a "Super University."

8 letters to Chester Rowell in the Rowell collection

A small group of miscellaneous Lane papers in Ralph L. Phelps papers

PAPERS OF THE FRANKLIN KNIGHT LANE MEMORIAL FUND

1921 - 1939

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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 Berkeley.

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 Berkeley since it gives the background of the Franklin K. Lane Foundation, established at Berkeley 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%.