

General William Harrison Kemper papers

MSS.020

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
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Summary Information

Repository	Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Kemper, Arthur T.
Creator	Kemper, G.W.H., (General William Harrison), 1839-1927
Creator	Kemper, Hattie, (Harriet), 1844-1914
Title	General William Harrison Kemper papers
Date [inclusive]	1859-1927
Extent	1.8 Cubic feet 5 boxes
Language	English

Preferred Citation

General William Harrison Kemper papers, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Biographical Note

General William Harrison Kemper, M.D., was born in Rush County, Indiana, on December 16, 1839. He was raised on his family's farm and educated at the local common school. In 1856, he attended a seminary in Greensburg, Indiana, but soon moved to Montezuma, Iowa, where he was employed as a clerk in a dry goods store. A year later he took a job in a printing office. In 1859, Kemper returned to Indiana to continue his education. He decided to pursue a career in medicine and studied in the office of Dr. John W. Moodey until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Kemper enlisted in Company B of the 7th Indiana Volunteers on April 24, 1861 and served for three months as a private. In September 1861, he reenlisted and was appointed hospital steward of the 17th Indiana Volunteers. He was later promoted to assistant surgeon of the same regiment, and served until his term of service expired in July 1864. During the war, Kemper's regiment was involved in numerous battles, including Chattanooga, Chickamagua, Missionary Ridge, and Kenesaw Mountain.

During the winter of 1864-1865, Kemper attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan for additional medical training. In the spring of 1865, he attended Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from there that same year. In late 1865, Kemper settled in Muncie and established a medical practice. In 1872 he formed a partnership with Dr. Robert Winton, and later with Dr. Hugh A. Cowing. Along with his practice, Dr. Kemper served as Delaware County coroner (1870-1875), as examining surgeon for pensions (1872-1893), and in various other local and state medical positions. Dr. Kemper also published numerous papers and articles on a variety of medical subjects. In addition to his medical career, Dr. Kemper was also an avid local historian. In 1908, he published a comprehensive two-volume work on the history of Delaware County. Dr. Kemper was married August 15, 1865, to Harriet "Hattie" Kemper (1844-1914) of Oskaloosa, Iowa. They had three children, including two sons who went on to practice medicine in Delaware County. A distinguished and well-respected citizen of Muncie, Kemper was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and an earnest advocate of temperance reform. He died on September 26, 1927.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes scrapbooks, correspondence, diaries, publications, newspaper clippings and speeches by Dr. Kemper from 1859-1927. The scrapbooks include information on Dr. Kemper's travels, including trips to Egypt and Europe, from 1905 to 1913. The correspondence series includes letters between Dr. Kemper and Hattie Kemper during and after the Civil War, from 1859 to 1875.

Arrangement

The General William Harries Kemper papers is arranged in the following series and subseries:

Series 1: General William Harrison scrapbooks and diaries, 1905-1919

Series 2: General William Harrison Kemper manuscript, speech, and lease book, 1897-1928

Series 3: General William Harrison Kemper correspondence, 1859-1897

...Subseries 3.1: Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875

...Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886

...Subseries 3.3: Miscellaneous correspondence, 1863-1897

Series 4: General William Harrison Kemper newspaper clippings and songs, 1877-1914

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Custodial History

The G. W. H. Kemper papers were received by Teaching Materials Service of Ball State University Libraries as a donation from Effice Kemper on 1966/05/10. Additional materials were received from Collections Development, Ball State University Libraries, on 1979/4/09, and were later transferred to Archives and Special Collections. Additional materials were also received as a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Rick Lepley on 2011/05/18.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 1996/02/14 by M. Seeliger. Collection processing reviewed 2008/12/29 by Maren L. Read. Finding aid created 1996/02/14 by M. Seeliger. Finding aid revised 1997/01/31 by J. Whitworth. Finding aid revised 2005/07 by Jane Gastineau. EAD finding aid completed 2008/12/29 by Maren L. Read. EAD finding aid revised 2009 by Maren L. Read. EAD finding aid revised 2012/05/31 by Lisa Barney. EAD finding aid revised 2012/06/08 by Bethany Fiechter. EAD finding aid revised 2016/09/06 by Brandon Pieczko.

Existence and Location of Copies

Select materials from this collection have been digitized and are available online in the Ball State University Libraries Digital Media Repository:

<http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/search/collection/LSTACivWar/searchterm/G.W.H.%20Kemper%20Civil%20War%20Letters/field/subcol/mode/all/conn/and/cosuppress/>

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Materials relating to this collection may be found in the following collections in Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie IN:

SC.201: Arthur and William Kemper professional journal and accounts, 1892-1906

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Clippings

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Documents
- Scrapbooks

Geographic Name(s)

- Delaware County (Ind.)
- Delaware County (Ind.)--History--19th century--Sources
- Delaware County (Ind.)--History--20th century--Sources
- Muncie (Ind.)
- Muncie (Ind.)--History--19th century--Sources
- Muncie (Ind.)--History--20th century--Sources

Subject(s)

- Historians
- Physicians
- Stoeckel Archives of Local History
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Series 1: General William Harrison scrapbooks and diaries, 1905-1919

Collection Inventory

Series 1: General William Harrison scrapbooks and diaries, 1905-1919		
	Box	Folder
Egypt trip diary and scrapbook, 1905 Feb.-Mar.	1	1
Two weeks in Egypt diary, 1905 Mar.	1	2
Palestine and Speaking Engagements diary and scrapbook, 1905 Mar.-1913 Apr.	1	3
Europe Publications and Speeches diary and scrapbook, 1905 Apr.-June	1	4
Medical Publications scrapbook, 1911-1919	2	1
Series 2: General William Harrison manuscript, speech, and lease book, 1897-1928		
	Box	Folder
"The Physician" speech, 1900/12/07	2	2
Kemper, G.W.H. "The Mystery of Suffering" manuscript, undated	2	3
Obstetrical lease book, 1897-1928	2	4

Series 3: General William Harrison correspondence, 1859-1897

Kemper, G.W.H. <i>The World's Anatomists</i> . Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's and Company, 1905.	5	1
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G.W.H. Kemper Federal Pension document photocopies, circa 1891-1927	5	2
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Series 3: General William Harrison correspondence, 1859-1897**Subseries 3.1: Kemper G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875**

	Box	Folder
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1859/11/21	3	1
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1860/10/09	3	2
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1861/09/30	3	3
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/03/01	3	4
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/03/27	3	5
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/04/29	3	6
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/05/16	3	7
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/06/08	3	8
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/07/04	3	9

Subseries 3.1: Kemper G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875

Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/07/29	3	10
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/09/27	3	11
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1863/11/04	3	12
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/01/17	3	13
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/01/22	3	14
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/02/13	3	15
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/03/03	3	16
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/03/21	3	17
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/04/28-1864-04/29	3	18
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/05/22	3	19
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/06/26	3	20
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/07/18	3	21
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/08/04	3	22
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/08/11	3	23

Subseries 3.1: Kemper G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875

Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/09/03	3	24
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/09/28	3	25
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/10/09	3	26
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/10/24	3	27
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/11/06	3	28
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/11/22	3	29
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/12/06	3	30
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/12/18	3	31
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1864/12/29	3	32
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/01/10	3	33
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/11/21	3	34
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/02/05	3	35
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/02/19	3	36
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/03/02	3	37

Subseries 3.1: Kemper G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875

Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter (letter dated 1864 incorrectly), 1865/03/26	3	38
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/04/02	3	39
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/04/16	3	40
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/04/30	3	41
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/05/14	3	42
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/05/28	3	43
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/06/11	3	44
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter (post script written on 1865/06/26), 1865/06/25	3	45
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/07/09	3	46
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/07/15	3	47
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/07/21	3	48
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/07/25	3	49
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/08/03	3	50

Subseries 3.1: Kemper G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie correspondence, 1859-1875

Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/09/08	3	51
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1865/09/09	3	52
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1867/03/15	3	53
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1867/03/19	3	54
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1867/03/22	3	55
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1867/03/28	3	56
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1867/04/02	3	57
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie postcards (3) and undated news clipping, 1873/11/05	3	58
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1873/11/06	3	59
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1873/11/09	3	60
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1875/05/26	3	61
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1875/06/04	3	62
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1875/06/06	3	63

Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886

Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1875/06/10	3	64
Kemper, G.W.H. to Kemper, Hattie letter, 1875/06/13	3	65
Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886		
	Box	Folder
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1859/12/25	4	1
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1860/08/26	4	2
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1860/12/23	4	3
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1861/11/29	4	4
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/03/15	4	5
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/04/15	4	6
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/05/08	4	7
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/05/31	4	8
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/06/19	4	9
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/07/03	4	10

Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886

Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/07/20	4	11
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863 Aug.	4	12
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/10/14	4	13
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1863/11/26	4	14
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/01/31	4	15
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/02/21	4	16
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/03/20	4	17
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/04/14	4	18
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/05/08	4	19
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/06/06	4	20
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/07/11	4	21
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/08/15	4	22
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/08/29	4	23
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/10/02	4	24

Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886

Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/10/16	4	25
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/10/30	4	26
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/11/13	4	27
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/11/29	4	28
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/12/11	4	29
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/12/23	4	30
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/01/04	4	31
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/01/15	4	32
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/01/29	4	33
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/02/13	4	34
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/03/13	4	35
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/04/09	4	36
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/04/23	4	37
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/05/08	4	38

Subseries 3.2: Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. correspondence, 1859-1886

Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/05/21	4	39
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/06/04	4	40
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/06/15	4	41
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/07/02	4	42
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/07/16	4	43
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/07/18	4	44
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/07/27	4	45
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/09/13	4	46
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/03/20	4	47
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/03/21	4	48
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/03/22	4	49
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/03/28	4	50
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/04/04	4	51
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1867/04/09	4	52

Subseries 3.3: Miscellaneous correspondence, 1863-1897

Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1875/05/28	4	53
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1875/06/01	4	54
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, and Kemper, Etta (daughter) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1875/06/07	4	55
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1875/06/09	4	56
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1875/06/12	4	57
Kemper, Hattie to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1886/10/14	4	58
Subseries 3.3: Miscellaneous correspondence, 1863-1897		
	Box	Folder
Miss Ellen [?] to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/05/26	4	59
Gilliam, N. to Kemper, G.W.H. letters, 1865/11/28 and 1866/03/16	4	60
Kemper, Arthur (son) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1886/10/19	4	61
Kemper, Arthur (son) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1886/11/08	4	62
Kemper, Sallie (sister) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/12/11	4	63
Kemper, Sallie (sister) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/01/05	4	64

Series 4: General William Harrison newspaper clippings and songs, 1877-191

Kemper, Sallie (sister) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 186?/05/21	4	65
Long, Barb A. to Kemper, G. W. H. letter, undated	4	66
Moore, W.A. to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, undated	4	67
Ophelia (niece) to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1865/01/29	4	68
Professor H. Snoke to Kemper, G.W.H. letters, 1881/06/27 and 1881/07/04	4	69
Professor H. Snoke to Kemper, G.W.H. letters, 1881/07/05 and 1881/07/08	4	70
Sarah to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1864/11/04	4	71
Wilmore, J. Edna to Kemper, G.W.H. letter, 1897/09/07	4	72
Loose envelopes, circa 1863-1865	4	73
Series 4: General William Harrison newspaper clippings and songs, 1877-1914		
	Box	Folder
Kemper, Arthur T. Farmers National Bank, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company check, 1898/08/03	4	74
"A Terrible Explosion!" from <i>The Muncie News</i> newspaper clipping, 1877/01/31	4	75

Series 4: General William Harrison newspaper clippings and songs, 1877-191

Kemper, G.W.H., "Today Marks the 50th Anniversary for Dr. G.W.H. Kemper as a Practicing Physician in the City of Muncie" newspaper clipping, 1914/03/02	4	76
"I've Been Dreaming of You, Jessie," or "The Solider's Last Dream" song lyrics, undated	4	77
"Behold those boys..." song lyrics, undated	4	78