

1-1-1930

## A Group of Kearny Letters

Thomas Kearny

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Kearny, Thomas. "A Group of Kearny Letters." *New Mexico Historical Review* 5, 1 (1930).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol5/iss1/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Historical Review* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu), [lsloane@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lsloane@salud.unm.edu), [sarahrk@unm.edu](mailto:sarahrk@unm.edu).

## A GROUP OF KEARNY LETTERS

Though the courtesy of Mr. Clinton H. Kearny of San Antonio, Texas, photostatic copies were made of the following original letters ranging in dates from 1807 to 1848. Six of the letters were written by Stephen Watts Kearny himself, one was written by his brother Philip to Mrs. Kearny, and in the last three we are given a glimpse of Kearny in New Orleans, and in Vera Cruz where he was in charge of the debarkation of troops and where he contracted the sickness which resulted in his death.

There has been a lack of correct information regarding Kearny's ancestry.<sup>1</sup> The references in these letters to family relationships (especially in the letter to his wife from his older brother Philip!) will be better understood by the following genealogical data which are supplied by Mr. Thomas Kearny of New York City (son of Gen. John Watts Kearny and grandson of Maj-Gen. Philip Kearny).

The Kearny family in the American colonies was founded by Philip and Michael Kearny, brothers of a distinguished Irish family,<sup>2</sup> immigrants in 1699, who settled first in Philadelphia, where both married daughters of Col. Lionel Brittin, an Englishman and the first settler in Penn's colony (1681) and the first convert to Catholicism in Pennsylvania. Neither Philip nor Michael was a Catholic, Philip being a Quaker and his daughters marrying into the Quaker families of Lloyd, Plumsted, Morris and Kinsey.

---

1. Following others, Prof. Allen Nevins, *Life of Fremont*, characterizes Kearny as "Irish" in an action at Fremont's trial. The name is Irish, and means "warrior," — perhaps Professor Nevins meant to say that the Karnys, being soldiers, have ever gloried in the Irish strain! Again, after Mr. Hoover, in a speech as presidential candidate at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in August, 1928, had exalted Kearny's proclamation of religious liberty during the conquest of New Mexico, several newspaper articles referred to Kearny as of obscure Irish origin and recently immigrant to the United States.

2. Moon, *Morris Family of Philadelphia*.

His daughter Mary became wife of Chief Justice John Kinsey of Pennsylvania, and their son James became chief justice of New Jersey. The first Philip Kearny also became grandfather of the wives of the first two patriotic governors of Pennsylvania, Thomas Wharton, Jr. and William Moore, and of the last acting royal governor of New York, Andrew Elliott and so the ancestor of many prominent families alike in New York and Philadelphia.

Michael Kearny finally settled, 1719, in Perth Amboy, capitol of New Jersey, and was a founder, vestryman and warden of St. Peter's church, the first Anglican parish in New Jersey; as well as surrogate, clerk of the assembly and of the common pleas, member of the king's council and secretary and treasurer of New Jersey. He was twice married, his second wife being Sarah, daughter of Gov. Lewis Morris.

By his first wife (the above Miss Brittin, the great-grandmother of Stephen Watts Kearny) he had Philip Kearny, an "eminent lawyer,"<sup>3</sup> member of the New Jersey legislature, and warden of St. Peter's. This son Philip also was twice married, the second wife being the daughter of Chief Justice Hooper. His first wife (grandmother of Stephen Watts Kearny) was Susan Ravaud, widow of Sir William Burley, a Frenchwoman; and from this marriage descended the third Philip Kearny, merchant and lieutenant-colonel of the Loyalist Militia (New York City, 1780).

The third Philip Kearny married Sussannah Watts, a Scotchwoman, daughter of John Watts (the first) who was attorney general of New York, speaker of the colonial legislature, member of the king's council for seventeen years, rich merchant and trustee of King's (now Columbia) College. He is to be distinguished from his son, John Watts, Jr., (uncle of Stephen Watts Kearny), last royal recorder of New York, whose statue stands in Trinity churchyard, Wall Street, New York City, where the bodies of Kearny's

---

3. Lamb, *New York City*.

parents both lie in the Kearny vault, now owned by General John Watts Kearny. Kearny's own body lies in St. George's Episcopal cemetery in St. Louis.

From the above marriage was born Stephen Watts Kearny, in Newark, New Jersey in 1794, in the "Kearny Homestead," built by Philip Kearny and owned by his lineal descendants until 1910 when it was taken by the Normal School. The Homestead stood across the Passaic River from Kearny, New Jersey, five miles from New York City, and was alike the home of, and named for, Stephen Watts Kearny's nephew, Maj-Gen. Philip Kearny, who was stationed in California in 1851 and who, by defeating the Rogue River Indians, opened the way from California to Oregon,<sup>4</sup> and who, with Richard Stockton, "Signer," represents New Jersey in Statuary Hall in the capitol at Washington as "New Jersey's two most illustrious sons." Stephens Watts Kearny was a nephew of Capt. James Lawrence of "Don't give up the ship" fame; and also a first cousin of another nephew of Capt. Lawrence, Commodore Lawrence Kearny, who "established the traditional American policy of the Open Door in China in 1842."<sup>5</sup> Commodore Kearny's house, "Kearny Cottage" at Perth Amboy, was lived in until 1922 by three generations of Kearnys (including S. W. Kearny's father), but is now publicly owned and stands in a public park. "Kearny Castle" in Kearny, N. J., built by Gen. Philip Kearny in 1850, is now owned by his son.

From the above data it is seen that one Irish, one English, one French, and one Scotch strain impregnated the blood of General Stephen Watts Kearny. But this is only half the story, for through Sussannah Watts, his mother, he was a member of the Van Rensselaer, Van Courtlandt, Schuyler, DeLancey, and Nicoll families; and so additional strains alike of French and English blood and new strains of Dutch blood in three distinct lines "distributed" Kearny's

---

4. DePeyster, *Philip Kearny*.

5. Tyler Dennett, *Americans in Eastern Asia*; Prof. Willis Fletcher Johnson, etc.

racial composition. Kearny was essentially American! The Irish strain was there, but if any one blood predominated it was French, Dutch or English."

L. B. B.

---

S. W. K. TO HIS BROTHER RAVAUD

Wednesday morning, 1807

I have not received a letter from you my Dear Brother I don't know when & I hope you are not a going to stop. I want to know if you will with me kill of[f] all the bantoms & I will send John's down pretty soon then we will have some fine fowels, Jame Plat's cock and Sidmans fight like the duce & neither one will not give up yesterday they got at it but I parted them I wish you would let me know if you will do that & if you will I will buy some fowels & let mama have these.

I remain to be yours,

S W K

[Inscription:]

Mr. R<sup>a</sup> Kearny  
New York

S. W. K. TO HIS BROTHER RAVAUD

Dear Brother:

I take the present opportunity of letting you know of the Great Battle that has been fought this side of the Pasaik "this morning at half Past ten I armed General white with an intention of driving Major Red off these plains. they engaged, a small skirmish ensued in which the Gen. was victorious (like the never failing Sir W. Wallace he drives all before) no great loss on either side the Major retreated—afterwards your little ensign had a most terrible

---

6. Jones, *History of St. Peter's Church, Perth Amboy* (1925), giving the Kearny genealogy.

engagement with the Genl which would have proved fatal to one side or the other, had not my all powerful arm as Lord Randolf in the engagement between Douglas & Glenalvon drew the sword & swore "he that struck the next blow should be *my enemy*[".] at this word they halted I took the Gen. & put him in close confinement for having engaged with such superior force — It is expected that the next time they engage, it will be a most desperate battle, both armies are in good repair waiting for an attack—if you give this to Lang & Turner it may be important to some People who deal in feathers because both sides were almost stript— —

— — — — —  
once more

Dear Brother

We all were very much disappointed at your not coming up the other day for the Party at Dy—which you promised me you would—however none of the girls were pleased but I really was delighted we had the all accomplished Miss Eliza Macomb there and if you knew what an impression she has on me I know you would pity me but I am born to trouble—I must sigh & bless her but never expect more, I resign all pretences to Miss D—therefore *now you may have her* Mother is well and all the family—

I salute you with distinction

(Signed)

S. W. Kearny

Remember me to all the

GALS

Hanc literam flammis uve

[Inscription:]

Mr. R<sup>d</sup> Kearny

N<sup>o</sup> 2 Greenwich Street

New York

[No postmark, but endorsed:]

S. W. Kearny 1809 or 10

N.ark (Newark)

merry letter

S. W. K. TO HIS BROTHER RAVAUD

Sackets Harbor

July 8, 1819

Dear Rav--d

Yours of the 18th ulto, I received, about a fortnight since, & should have taken an earlier opportunity of acknowledging it, but for the public and private business that has 'til now so much engaged me, as to leave me no time, for my absent friends.

In the first place, as you inform me, of your marriage, allow me, to offer to yourself & wife, my most hearty & sincere congratulations! may your lives be past in peace & tranquility, & when old age, shall find you, at your happy fireside, may you be able to look back at the days past, with pleasure, & the time, to come, with satisfaction! My best regards to your wife, whom tho' I had the pleasure for but a short time, to see, I remember with pleasure, & sincerely do I hope, that I am not forgotten by her!

To let you know what is passing in this part of the Country, probably may amuse you; & as some of your old friends are engaged, it may probably interest you! about the first of the month, I was appointed by the officers of the Army, a Committee to wait on Mr. How (who resides at Brownville, & is practising law) to request him to dine with us, on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, & deliver us an oration, on that day! He had the day previous been informed, of my intentions & therefore answered me, that as he had expected me, he had taken the subject into consideration, that the recent death of his wife & a regard for his own feelings, & the opinion of the world would not admit, of his complying with my request! That if we should be situated here, the next year, & should honor him in the same manner, he would with pleasure attempt it! He however said, he would dine with us! On the morning of the 2d, a Committee waited on me, for the oration! I accepted, & on the morning of the 4th delivered my speech to the Reg't

paraded, & large assemblage of males & Females—It was of course, in the open air! To praise my own works would not be modest, to dispraise, them, my friends say, would not be just! Suffice it, to say, that tho' I had but two days, I was constantly busy, & from those, whom I have a respect for, I understand my time, was well employed! On the 5th all the officers of the army, their wives, & Sisters, (of whom we have several,) sat down at our mess table in number about 50! Mr. Leroy, & some one or two countesses, & Marchionesses, from Leroyville, & Mrs. Genl Brown, & family, as well as Mr. How, dined with us! He speaks to me, very frequently of you, & remembers you, with much warmth & with much feeling! He always enquires after you, & always desires, me, to remember him, to you. I am very careful, to pay him, all the attentions in my power! I most sincerely pity him! He like a boy, nearly at the top of the ladder, made a misstep, & down he fell! His spirits are better, than they were, two months since, but the change, I see in him now, from what I once knew him, as well as thinking, if he ever committed a crime, (of which he has been accused, but of which I have my doubts,) that he has sufficiently atoned for it, compels me, and enlists me, in his behalf—

Yours truly

Step. W. Kearny

[Inscription:]

Rev'd R. Kearny  
East Chester  
N. Y.

S. W. K. TO HIS BROTHER RAVAUD

Ulster

July 4, 1832

My dear Brother

I received a letter from you, several weeks since, when I was at Mrs. V. Hoines, saying you would expect me shortly in Canandaigua. I had promised myself the pleasure

of seeing you and Mrs. K. ere this—But the events of our lives, are uncertain—a fortnight ago, I went from Belleville to N. J., intending to remain there a day or two, & then after a short visit to John, to proceed to your residence. But on reaching N. York, I found Instructions there for me, from the War Department, to relieve Col. Twiggs, in the Superintendance of the Recruiting Service. I have done so—my duties have kept me in the neighborhood of the city and will detain me, for a few days longer—when I have leisure, which will be in a week or so, I much fear that the reports of the *colera*, will prevent me, from going North—not that I have any apprehensions myself—But I am no longer a Single Man—I have others whose feelings are to be consulted. I hope it will not be long, before this Scourge will pass away, & the minds of our good People again assume their wonted propriety. A day or two since there was a great alarm in the city, on account of the report of several cases of the colera, being Here—*John* has just told, that the city papers of yesterday, state the reports to be false, & that the deaths were caused by the common diseases of the country.

*Nancy* is very much of an Invalid—altho' she has a good appetite, I think it, a diseased one—she is as helpless as an Infant—cannot walk without being supported,—cannot speak, but by sign & *letters*—has no control over her nerves—laughs and cries like a Baby. Her term of life is almost expired—I think it impossible she can Survive the Fall. She is prepared for another world. Being so, & having no enjoyment in this, & offering none to others, her death cannot be lamented.

As my duties will keep me in this Section of Country, with my Head Quarters in the city, for 2 years, I shall have frequent opportunities of seeing you. I shall avail myself of the first *safe* period to visit you. My wife joins me in her love to Helen & yourself.

Yours

S. W. K.

Mr. R. Kearny

[P. S.] We have no accounts of Susan & Elisa—I presume they must during the alarm, have left Montreal, for the Country, & been beyond the reach of a Post office. If any thing had happened to them, their names would have been mentioned in the Papers.

[Inscription:]

[Postmarked:]

Rev<sup>d</sup> R. Kearny

Tivoli N. Y.

Canandaigua

Jul. 4

New York

S. W. K. TO HIS NEPHEW RAVAUD

Fort Leavenworth, Febr<sup>y</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. '42

My dear Nephew

About three weeks since I received yours of the 5th ulto' from Clermont, & as you announced your intention of returning shortly to the college in Schenectady, I presume these lines will find you at your studies.

I was very much pleased to hear from you, and highly gratified with the style of your letter! It does you much credit! I hope you will continue to write to me, and I shall be pleased to hear frequently from you, but you must not expect a letter in return for each one you send to me! I have at times much writing to do, on account of the Public Service & I believe it is that which has caused of late years such a distaste in me for private correspondences.

To answer the questions contained in your letter & in the order they appear there, I have to state, that there is no situation in my Regiment suitable for you, -excepting that of a Commissioned officer, which by the Regulations of the Department, you cannot obtain 'til you are 21—that regulation would unquestionably be done away with immediately upon the event of a War between our Country & Great Britain, & altho' "the signs of the Times" not long since were in favor of such a War, yet I regret to say, that I no longer consider them so! I say regret, because I think

a War must ensue before our difficulties are settled, and I therefore think the sooner it comes, the better! A War would tend to unite the feelings of our People & of our Public Men, who would then be willing to put the Country in a state of Defence, which they will not do, in these times of Peace.

Your name could not now be entered on any list, so as to give you a preference for a commission when you reach 21, & as you are now but 19 I think it is deserving your most serious consideration, if it would not be more adviseable for you to abandon all idea of entering the Army, & choosing some other Profession, to which you can at once turn your attention! If you continue firm in your faith of entering the Army, I will give you what influence I may possess at Washington, if you will remind me of it, a year & a half hence.

I have a little family (two Boys & three girls) growing up around me; of the former one will be 9, the other 8 years old, next Month! A Year hence I must send them both from here to some good school at the East, but where I have not yet decided! As they will be so young they will require some good, kind People to take charge of them, to supply in a measure the care of a Mother & of a Father! where would you recommend me to send them?

We have here but little news except what we get by our letters & Papers from the East! The Indians on this frontier are perfectly quiet, & fair prospects of their continuing so! our Winter has apparently passed off, having given us but very little cold weather, & we are now looking for Steam Boats from Saint Louis to enliven us again.

I was in Saint Louis this Winter, called there on Public business! I preferred my Horse to the Stage, or other conveyance & so rode there & back.

Your Aunt is quite well and joins me in love & kind remembrance.

Yours truly

S. W. Kearny

Mr Rav<sup>o</sup>. Kearny, Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Schenectady, N. Y.

[Inscription:]

Mr. Ravaud Kearny Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Union college  
Schenectady  
Neue York

[Postmarked:]

Fort Leavenworth, Mo.  
Feby. 25

[Endorsed (by addresse?) in  
gothic style letters]

Col. Stephen Watts Kearny;  
1st Dragoons, U. S. Army.

GEN. PHILIP KEARNY TO MRS. S. W. K.

New York, June 22' 1845

My dear Mary

My Brothers last letter was the day of his leaving for Fort Leavenworth for his departure West—upon a very interesting expedition which I hear talked of on all sides with great interest, and by persons not knowing our family am frequently asked is Col. Kearny a relation of mine & I never fail to reply he was my Mothers Baby the youngest of 16 children—& *he expects to have as many*. he sent me the family record & I though you had already made progress—only 7 more to make up the number—I hear they are very fine children & looking over all their names I have been surprised not to find one of my Brothers own family—are they all fancy names—or are they all your own family names—I am curios to know what could have induced my Brother to seperate his family from ours—for I think family names of the father for boys is a strong bond of Union between families & a respect seems due to them—& I should think if Stephen were such a derelict from his duties—my Sister should have kept him straight. When you read this, perhaps both You and he may say, what right has my Brother to question us—my answer is ready a Brothers right—a claim too strong to be lightly considered. Now

verily I cant but think there has been some conceit attached to this—That y<sup>r</sup> children are to be something superior—heads of great families like some of the Israelites of Old, Dukes, but you have both greatly miscalculated in my mind—so far as names go, they indicate the decent of families & my Brothers family names are traced with his family through the Irish Kings to the Spanish Monarchy—& should not have been lightly considered—& therefore not too late I claim the *next 4 Boys* be all of his family, & I claim the first be called Philip seeing Stephens father, Grandfather & Great grandfather were all called Philip—next boy John Watts after his Mothers father—the first daughter Susan after his mother & his fathers mother & leave to him selecting such other family names as he thinks becoming in proper respect to their memories. What you will say to this legacy I dont consider—you may like a good & patient soul submit to the dictates of what must be & educate them to look to their family in these parts with strong affection—as—as good a legacy as you can leave them & I hope it will prove so—for though not boastful, we consider no family among us rank higher—We are considered a proud family—in one sense, this may be so, for through centuries to this day we have always maintained our rank in this Country—Ireland—England & Scotland with the highest ranks in Society—& all jokeing apart this is a good reason for keeping up family names and educating the Younger families to look with affection to each other—Sometimes we find a colt kicks in his harness—this must needs be from bad crosses—but taken together their Blood is in high repute. I am getting old & declining & would leave this as my advise to My Younger Brother & Sister to think upon & to act upon—In the education of children Dear Mary, we find Nature has given to them different tastes—some music—some drawing—dancing—mechanics—or what not—but all are to be perfected in large & old Cities of wealth—so I consider N. York to be the finisher in

America of fine tastes & elegancies of Manners—so you must be sending your children among their uncles & cosens—to see the world—For European fashions etc come to us by Wind & Steam almost as quick as thought—& though we all dispise men & women of meer fashion—yet here they will acquire a finish, seldom to be found far removed from these Cities. I was strongly imprest with this, that after the decease of their mother I left an injunction in my will that my children should be brought up in the City—So I hope when y<sup>r</sup> boys grow large enough—& y<sup>r</sup> girls too, if the destinies keep you far off, you will let them be a great deal with us. I dont know if you correspond with one of our family—I think ought not be so—write me & soon & tell me all you think about your family—what you hear of the Col. & how long he may be gone. I dont see any chance for his fight for some years—the English are backing out as if ashamed of their big words—finding how little we think of it—& I hope the Mexican will show as much wit, if we have Texas united to these States—the Command of the Cotton England will fear—least a war will create mobs among her idle manufacturers—& neither country will fight for right but negotiate a decision. I hope you see a great deal of Die—make much of each other—be attached to each other—your children will also & grow up in love & affection—very little effects this—& great good arises from it—good when we cant see its workings. I look to the time of your next visit with all your children with great pleasure. does Harriet remember Uncle Phill or Cosen Susan—Kiss her for me—she is most Ten Years I think latter part of Sept. when I shall toast her—as I shall Mary's in July—who I hear is also like Harriette a sweetly beautiful girl. Tell William if he will write me we will commence and keep up a correspondence. I hear he is smart & *lazy*—tell him he must remember his parents hopes as the eldest of his Broth. & Sisters are upon him—& he must open upon me a letter. Susan had a letter from Mr. Macomb from

St. Louis & from Fort Leavenworth—I dont understand if he was staying with you or no—I suppose however he was & shall question him closely about you all on his return. I take great interest in fine children of our family—Susan has a very fine girl 3 years old in Feby last—very beautiful—very affectionate & very sensible—fine health & tall of her age—Dies little girl I hear is beautiful—I long very much to see & carress it. Susan is very well now but suffered intently before leaving City from Neuralgia in her face. Our old Mansion is looking sweetly beautiful—we moved here on Monday last. We expect our Sister Elisa with us soon with My Sister Susans two boys—they are talented, well improved, very handsome & very genteel—our Brother Ravauds Daughter lives with us but in city at this time. the Bell rings for dinner so adieu Your Affectionate Brother with love to Harriette & all My Nieces & Nephews.

Philip Kearny

S. W. K. TO HIS WIFE

Remember me to Noble, Milly & the servants—tell Noble I have my grey mule which I brought from Leavenworth—my Bay horse gave out & I left him, this side of Colorado.

San Diego—Upper California  
Decemb 19, 1846

My dear Mary

I have been here one week—have been anxious to write to you, but no means of sending—In two days Maj. Swords will leave for the Sandwich Islands to get Provisions, & I must write by him, hoping that he may find there some vessel about starting for the U. States—

I know my dear wife that you may be uneasy about me seperated as we are so far from each other—Let me therefore in the first place tell you that I am moving about

as if nothing had happened to me—that my appetite is perfectly good, & that I feel but very little inconvenience from my wounds. they are healing up much faster than I could have expected, & in one week more, I think I shall be perfectly & entirely recovered—as a good christian you will unite with me in thanks to our God, who directs all things, that he has preserved me thro' the perils and dangers that surrounded me—I have written a report to the Adj't Gen'l of our action of the 6th Decemb. probably that may be published in the Papers, when you will see it. In the mean time I have to tell you, that on the 6th at day break with about 80 men we attacked a Party of 160 Mexicans which we defeated after an hours fight, & drove them from the field—this was at San Pasqual & about 40 miles from this place. We gained a victory over the enemy, but paid most dearly for it—Capts. Moore and Johnston, and Lieut Hammond, with 2 sergts. 2 Corpls. & 10 Privs. of Dragoons were killed—about 16 of us were wounded, myself in 2 places in the left side by lances, one of which bled very freely, which was of advantage to me. The loss of our killed is deeply felt by all particularly by myself who very much miss my aid Johnston who was a most excellent & talented Soldier, & Capt Moore who displayed great courage & chivalry in the fight, as did Lieut Hammond. Capt Turner is now with me—he is perfectly well—was not wounded but had his jacket, tho' not his skin, torn—Lieut Warner of the Topo. Engs. received three wounds, but is now nearly well—Mr. Robideaux, my interpreter, is wounded, but is recovering. Poor Johnstons loss will be felt by many & perhaps not least by Miss Cotheal, a sister of Mrs. Maj. Swords, to whom he was engaged—I have now my dear wife given you some items so that your own mind may be easy. do not think that I am worse than I represent myself, for it is not so—I expect in less than a week to be on my horse & as active as I ever was.

Your brother William I learn is quite well—he is in

the *Warren* & in the Bay of San Francisco, about a weeks & the Artillery from New York are, or when to expect them -- the great difficulty of getting information here sail from here—I hope to see him 'ere long—He will not be able to get back to the U. S. before next Summer. Commodore Stockton is at this place with 3 of his ships & has 4 or 500 of his Sailors & Marines here in Town to garrison it—Among them are many very clever fellows & some Messmates of Williams, who have lately left the *Warren* & from whom I have heard of him.

We had a very long & tiresome march of it from Santa fé—we came down the Del Norte 230 miles—then to the River *Gila* (pronounced *Hela*) *G* & *i* in Spanish sounding like *H* & *e* in english—we marched 500 miles down that River, having most of the way a bridle path, but over a very rough & barren country—It surprised me to see so much land that can never be of any use to man or beast—we traveled many days without seeing a spear of grass, & no vegetation exception a species of the *Fremontia*, & the Musquet tree, something like our thorn, & which our Mules eat, thorns & branches to keep them alive after crossing the Colcrado & getting about 100 miles this side of it, the Country improved, & about here is well enough, tho' having but very little timber & but few running streams—the climate is very dry & tho' this is the rainy Season of the Year, yet we have more clouds to threaten us, than rain to fall upon us — there is no certainty of a crop in this part of the world, unless the land is irrigated from running streams.

Lieut Col Fremont is still in California, & we are daily expecting to hear from him. He went up the coast to raise Volunteers from the Emigrants from Missouri, to attack the Californians, 700 of whom are now said to be in Arms about 100 miles from here — Fremont, it is supposed is not far from them — if he has not force enough, it is expected that he will send word to us — I have not heard of Capt

Cooke & the Mormons, tho' hope to see them here in less than a month. I am also ignorant where the Volunteers renders it necessary, that all our plans should be well considered before attempting to put them in execution — When I get the Volunteers into the Country, I can drive the enemy out of it with ease, tho' at present they have the advantage of us, as they are admirably mounted & the very best riders in the World — hardly one, that is not fit for the Circus — This is a great Country for cattle & horses, very many of both run wild & are never caught except when wanted for Beef or to be broken—a fine Mare is worth about \$2 — an unbroken horse 5 — a broken one 10 — so you see that flesh is cheap — — If you have any curiosity to know where *San Diego* is, you will find it on the maps in lat 33° on the Pacific & not far from the lower end of Upper California— We have the Ocean in sight, & hear the rolling waves which sound like rumbling thunder—We have abundance of fine fish, furnished us by the Navy, who each day catch enough in their Nets to supply all. In 6 days we shall have Christmas & a week after that a New Year—May we all live my dear Mary to be reunited before the year is past—you must take good care of yourself & all of our little ones, so that when I return our numbers will be complete — I have not heard from you since your letter to me of the 19<sup>th</sup>. August, (4 Months since) I suppose Lieut Smith may have a letter & mail for me, & that he may be coming with Capt Cooke, who I sent back on the 6<sup>th</sup> Octob to command the Mormons, as soon as I heard of the death of my friend Capt Allen. What great changes have taken place in the Regt, within the last 6 months take care of yourself & the young ones — Regards to John & Sophie — I hope they like their farm near Saint Louis — I wonder how you get on in the management of business, & in your Money affairs — I will be able in a month or two to send to you some more Pay accounts — I have remaining from what I brought from Fort Leavenworth, enough to carry me thro' this month,

having paid for everything I have got since I left there — Should Mr. Kennedy or others pay you, so that you have more than you want for use, put it out at 10 per cent for not less than 3, nor more than 5 years — consult Patterson or Col Brant, & let either of them attend to the business for you.

Love again to you & the children — Yours ever most truly S. W. K.

Phil has been for years sighing for a Captaincy — He is now entitled to Comp<sup>y</sup> B which was poor Johnstons, who succeeded Sumner — Lieut Love went to recruit it. Johnston was killed before Capt Moore, & thus Phil was entitled to first vacancy. Say nothing of this, except to Phil himself, and My regards to Major & Mrs. Stewart — also to Mrs. Hunt & my friend Bishop Hawkes & wife — I wish I were with you now to pass at least the Christmas Holydays — But as that is impossible, I must endeavor to content myself in thinking the more of you & the children — Kiss all my dear little ones for me— I hope William & Charles are learning fast — Harriet, I am certain is improving & Min- & Lou, no doubt, also— Puddy, Clarence & the youngest must occupy your time I hope that you have some good woman in your nursery to take care of them.

Envelope

[Endorsed] Received at the Adjutant General's office July  
12th, 1847

[post mark]  
Washington City

Mrs. S. W. Kearny  
Saint Louis Missouri  
U. S. of America

LUDLOW & SMITH To S. W. K.

St. Charles Theatre  
March 31st, 1848

General Kearny

Dear Sir

Permit us among many others of your countrymen to

express our pleasure on beholding you in this our beautiful Crescent City.

We have been more than gratified within the last twenty four hours in finding our own admiration of your late military Career expressed by many of the good people of this City — and at the same time have discovered an universal wish to behold the man who has so very essentially added to the splendour of the American Arms.

We shall be most happy General, if you will do us the favor of attending the St. Charles Theatre tomorrow evening (*Saturday*) — and permit us to announce the same to the public.

We know there is a strong desire among the Citizens to see you.

It would afford us much pleasure would you extend the invitation in our name to Capt. Radford (your brother-in-law)—and such of your Military or Naval friends as you would like to have with you.

A Box will be appropriated to yourself and friends.

In addition to the inducement of a good play—we offer you that of witnessing the first appearance in this city of the young and talented Miss *Julia Deane* whose mother we believe you may remember, Julia Drake of Kentucky celebrity.

With much respect we have the honor to be your

Obt Servants,

Ludlow & Smith

P. S. Will you be kind enough to return an answer by the bearer—we wish to know as early as possible on account of the announcement.

L. & S.

P. S. Extra Perhaps it would be proper to state that we have extended the like invitation to Genl Twiggs for the same evening.

your obt Serts

L & S

[Inscription:]

General S. W. Kearny

St. Charles Hotel

MAJOR THOMAS TO S. W. K.

Head Quarters, Army of Mexico  
Mexico, May 6, 1848

General:

Your letter of April 14th, received yesterday, has been laid before the Commanding General, who instructs me to say that he wishes the Recruits belonging to Regiments in and near this City, sent forward as they arrive at Vera Cruz, if in sufficient bodies to ensure their safety on their route through the country. He regards it as of great importance that Recruits should join their Regiments and be distributed among the several Companies, as soon after their arrival in the country as possible.

The General has understood unofficially that you have been sick since your arrival at Vera Cruz and he desires me to say that if your health requires it and you wish to do so, you can leave your station and come to this City. Should you leave it is hoped you may be able to leave the command in the hands of an officer of experience.

I am Sir,  
Very Respy your Obt. Sevt.  
L. Thomas  
Asst. Adj. Gral.

Brig. Genl.  
S. W. Kearny  
Comdg. Dept. Vera Cruz

[Endorsed]

Mexico, May 6, 48

Maj. Thomas

As. Adj. Gnl.

Recruits to be sent forward to join their Regts——

Genl K—y may come up to Mexico, if he desires to do so  
May 11th, 48

ADJUTANT GENERAL TO MRS. KEARNY

The Adjutant General, deeply sympathising with Mrs. Kearny in her bereavement, has the honor of enclosing to her the General Orders announcing the melancholy event to the Army.

Adjutant General's Office

Washington, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 9, 1848