

WALTER KITTEREDGE, 1834-1905
Collection of Lyrics and Verse , 1860-1920

Biography:

Walter Kitteredge was born in Reed's Ferry, NH on October 8, 1834. He was one of twelve children born to Eri and Lucretia K. Kitteredge and graduated from the Merrimack Normal Institute in 1851. By the age of 21, Kitteredge began giving concerts and travelled as a vocalist, studying under Joshua Hutchingson of Milford, NH.

Married in 1861 to Annie E. Fairfield, Kitteredge, by then an established composer, settled in Merrimack. He was drafted in 1862, but, after not passing his physical exam and at a good deal of expense to him and his family, he supplied a substitute and Kitteredge remained home to farm. While home, he came down with a severe and prolonged illness, and composed the song for which he became famous, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground."

Kitteredge continued to compose and give concerts for the remainder of his life and was particularly popular with Grand Army and veterans' groups. Some of his other published songs include: "No Night," "Golden Streets," "Scatter the Flowers of the Gray and Blue," and "Sing the Old War Songs Again." This collection includes clippings of his lyrics and verse as well as some of his early drafts of these works.

Scope and Content:

This collection is composed of a scrapbook of song lyrics and clippings of those songs, a notebook of verse, drafts of song lyrics and a small series of sheet music, and some correspondence relating to concert tours. It also includes a commencement address in which the speaker offered the history of the song, "We're Tenting Tonite in the Old Camp Ground" and a short biography of Kitteredge written by young Anna Bengtson, grand daughter of Kitteredge. Finally, there is a folder containing two string-bound booklets which include essays and verse of a religious (Christian) nature.

Inventory:

Box 1, folder 1	Register
folder 2	Scrap and verse book; Autograph card
folder 3	Book of verse, 1903; Concert announcement
folder 4	Correspondence 1890-1898 and 1908
folder 5	Lyrics and verse -- 10 pieces (11 leaves)
folder 6	Lyrics and verse -- 9 pieces (12 leaves)
folder 7	Sheet music -- 3 songs
folder 8	Lyrics/verse -- "June"
folder 9	Essays and verse -- Religious themes
folder 10	Commencement address, 1902 "The Story of a Song"
folder 11	Typewritten biography of Kitteredge by Anna (Kitteredge)

Bengtson