

University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections

Frank M. Canton Collection

Canton, Frank M. (d. 1927). Papers, 1886–1927. 3 feet.

Lawman. Canton's correspondence (1893–1927) while a U.S. deputy marshal and Oklahoma adjutant general; reminiscences (n.d.) of his experiences in Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Alaska; newspaper clippings (n.d.) about his experiences; and related artifacts (1896–1915). The collection also contains both biographical and autobiographical material on Canton.

I. Correspondence and Forms

Box 1

Folder:

1. Burritt, Charles H., Mayor of Buffalo, Wyoming: letter to FMC concerning cattle thieves such as Alec Stewarts Crazy Woman Gang, Robert Foote Jr., Tom Gardener, and "Jumbo;" cattle companies; "white caps;" possible new "invasion" in Johnson County; Knights of Pythias; and personal, October 1, 1893
2. Elliot, H.S.: letter to FMC from Chehalis, Washington concerning Canton's arrest for murder of Tisdale, with words of support, December 16, 1891
3. Pinkerton's National Detective Agency: Pinkerton, William A., letter to FMC from Chicago concerning the need of FMC for someone to help in recapture of Jack Treganging, also mentions Tom Horn, April 12, 1895; McParland, James, letter to FMC from Denver, same as Pinkerton letter, April 13, 1895
4. Thompson, Frank M.: letter to C.M. Barnes in Guthrie from Pawnee concerning letter of introduction for FMC, May 20, 1897
5. Appointment of FMC as agent of Governor of Oklahoma to aid in capture of James Henderson in the Indian Territory, signed by William C. Renfrow, January 18, 1897
6. U.S. Marshal's Deputy Bonds, signed by FMC and P.J. Nagle, January 30 and February 27, 1897
7. Alaska Commercial Company: letter to all agents from J. Hansen?, Assistant Superintendent, Dawson, North West Territory, Canada, directing them to be of such service as necessary to FMC, June 23, 1898
8. Anderson, H.S.?: letter to FMC from Dawson, Canada in response to received letter, gold prospecting, other people and personal business, December 22, 1899

9. Cook, M., American Consul, Dawson, Canada--letter to FMC concerning the arrest and extradition of fugitive from Alaska Territory, true copy, March 28, 1899
10. Hertz, William J.: letter to FMC from Berwick, Pennsylvania concerning the death of brother, Frank, in Alaska and kindnesses done by FMC, July 28, 1898
11. Painter, W.: letter to FMC from Guthrie concerning conditions in Oklahoma and personal business, August 5, 1898
12. Rehtin, Henry, Disbursing Clerk, U.S. Department of the Justice: various form letters, receipts, and correspondence concerning FMC's pay while Deputy U.S. Marshal in Alaska, 1898-1899
13. Shoup, J.M., U.S. Marshal, Sitka District of Alaska: letter to FMC concerning appointment as U.S. Deputy Marshal, February 19, 1898; letter from FMC concerning affairs in the deputy's office in Circle City, true copy, December 31, 1898; letter from FMC concerning work in the office and dispute over whether military can arrest people on civilian charges, true copy, January 2, 1899; letter from FMC concerning attempts to arrest M.S. Denahan and accomplice Nettie "Blue Jay," true copy, March 28, 1899; letter from FMC concerning some alleged problems back in Oklahoma concerning FMC, true copy, May 24, 1899; letter to FMC concerning payment of accounts, statement attached, October 4, 1899; letter to FMC concerning payment of accounts, January 16, 1900; letter to FMC concerning payment of accounts, April 20, 1900
14. Steel, Colonel, Commander, Canadian Forces, Dawson, Canada: letter from FMC concerning arrest and extradition of M.S. Denahan, March 28, 1899
15. Weare, C.M., Treasurer, North American Transportation and Trading Company: letter to S.L. Moore, St. Paul, Minnesota, from Chicago concerning letter of introduction and to furnish services for FMC, July 28, 1897
16. Weare, P.B., P.B. Weare and Company, North American Transportation and Trading Company: letter to U.S. Senator G.L. Shoup concerning FMC's application for U.S. Marshalship in Alaska, January 17, 1894; letter from Louis I. Williams, U.S. Marshal in Alaska, concerning FMC's application for Deputy U.S. Marshal in Alaska, copy, June 21, 1897; letter to Louis I. Williams concerning FMC's appointment to be Deputy U.S. Marshal, July 2, 1897
17. Card to FMC from Lismore, Ireland, personal, June 20, 1899
18. Appointments: appointment of FMC as special Deputy Marshal in Alaska, signed by John E. Crane, U.S. Commissioner, April 12, 1899; oath of office sworn to by FMC on becoming Deputy U.S. Marshal, notarized statement attached

19. Legal forms: summons, bills of costs, jury finding and reports of arrest
20. Receipts and other materials relating to accounts of FMC while Deputy Marshal of the United States
21. Description of Arthur Perry
22. Land Claims: various descriptions, receipts for recorder's fees, and one map related to mining claims made in Alaska by FMC
23. Anderson, H.S.: letter to FMC from Dawson, Canada, concerning personal business, March 4, 1900
24. Carr, T. Jeff: letter to FMC from Cheyenne concerning robbery on Union Pacific, supposedly by Curry, the Roberts Brothers and Cassidy, other law work and personal business, December 12, 1899
25. Cattle Raisers Association of Texas: certification of FMC as inspector for the association, signed by J.T. Lytle, June 15, 1903; instructions to all inspectors to retain all telegrams and use as vouchers, November 18, 1903; letter to FMC from J.T. Lytle concerning Canton's continued work, November 28, 1903; envelope with some reminiscences in it
26. Graniger, Mrs. V.M.: letter to FMC from Alma concerning FMC's return and taking over the "place," November 2, 1900
27. Hauighorst, J.H.: letter to FMC from Guthrie concerning debt, September 1, 1900
28. McDonald, Charles: letter to FMC from Nome, Alaska concerning conditions in Alaska, debts and personal business, November 1, 1900
29. Morgan, George C., Undersheriff, Oklahoma County: letter to FMC from Oklahoma City concerning personal business, January 23, 1901
30. Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, Denver, Colorado: letter to FMC from J.C. Fraser concerning address, October 18, 1899; letter to FMC from James McParland concerning train robbery, George Curry, Butch Cassidy and the Roberts Brothers, November 25, 1899; letter to FMC from James McParland concerning train robbery, George Curry, the Roberts Brothers, rewards and personal business, January 13, 1900; letter from FMC from James McParland concerning George Curry, Roberts Brothers, rewards and personal business, February 3, 1900

31. Vandevanter, Willis, Assistant U.S. Attorney General: letter from FMC concerning alleged disallowance of funds while in office previously in Oklahoma, copy, April 10, 1901
32. Warrant for the arrest of George McMeans for murder, July 3, 1900
33. Barrett, Charles F., Adjutant General of Oklahoma: letter to FMC concerning invitation to encampment of Oklahoma National Guard, August 11, 1919
34. Beach, Rex, New York: letter to FMC concerning reminiscences about shared experiences in Alaska and personal business, May 12, 1910; letter to FMC concerning other shared acquaintances and personal business, September 24, 1912; letter to FMC concerning possible book and movie on his life, February 2, 1915; letter to FMC concerning movie, February 16, 1915; letter to FMC concerning personal business, July 9, 1920; letter to FMC concerning personal business, December 6, 1924; letter of condolences to Mrs. Canton, November 30, 1928; four Christmas cards from the Beaches to the Cantons
35. Bell, J. Franklin, Major General: letter to FMC concerning invitation to participate in the inauguration of President William Howard Taft, February 20, 1909
36. Branson, Fred P.: letter to Governor-elect Lee Cruce recommending re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, copy, not dated
37. Carter, Frank, Auditor of the State of Oklahoma: letter from FMC concerning alleged claim against Frank Carpenter, copy, June 13, 1921
38. Cattle Raisers Association of Texas: resolution honoring Eli Moore, T.J. Preston and FMC, copy, March 19-20, 1919
39. Colcord, Charles F.: letter to Lee Cruce recommending re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, December 30, 1910
40. Cruce, Lee: letter from FMC concerning thanks for re-appointment, copy, June 22, 1911
41. *Daily Oklahoman*, Editor: letter from FMC concerning governor's power to call out National Guard, Delaware County county seat fight in 1912, and Tulsa gambling and martial law declaration in 1914, copy, September 12, 1923
42. Dale, E.E.: letter from Mrs. Canton concerning donation of FMC's papers, etc. to the University, December 4, 1928
43. Doyle, Thomas H.: letter to Governor-elect Lee Cruce recommending re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, copy, December 21, 1910

44. Everglade, Jacques: letter to FMC from Miami Beach concerning Old-West reminiscences and personal, May 14, 1926
45. Adairs: Adair, F.L. letter to FMC (Uncle Frank) from Wichita Falls, Texas concerning Adair family history, February 21, 1927; Adair, W.P. letter to? from Stilwell concerning Adair family history, February 18, 1927
46. Ruby Canton, FMC's daughter: two postcards and two letters concerning personal business, 1913-1915
47. Miscellaneous family correspondence concerning personal business: postcard from Annie? to FMC, June 19, 1910; postcard from Annie (Mrs. FMC) to FMC, August 16, 1915; letter from Thomas H. Owen to "Uncle Frank" concerning clipping, August 18, 1915; letter from "Sister Mary" to Annie and Ruby, December 17, 1927; letter from Ethel to "Aunt Anna," February 15, 1928; letter from "Sister Belle" from "Sister Annie" and Ruby, not dated
48. Fleming, Clara: letter from FMC concerning letter of recommendation, June 30, 1916
49. Fletcher, Robert H, Jr.: letter to FMC from El Paso concerning personal business, December 6, 1915
50. Gilmore, C.R.: letter to Governor-elect Robert L. Williams recommending re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, copy, December 26, 1914
51. Goodwin, Mark: letter from FMC concerning reminiscences about Alaska, Rex Beach story and personal business, July 24, 1914
52. Grimsly, James M.: letter to Lee Cruce concerning appreciation of re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, copy, June 30, 1911
53. Hastings, W.W., U.S. Representative: letter to FMC from Tahlequah concerning personal business, November 25, 1922
54. Hawks, William E., Bennington, Vermont: letter to FMC concerning the Old-West, May 21, 1926; letter to FMC concerning the Old-West, July 17, 1926; letter to Mrs. Canton concerning reminiscences, January 7, 1928
55. Ingram, Job: letter from FMC concerning sketch of FMC's life, copy, November 5, 1913
56. Irvine, Thomas H.: letter to FMC from Perma, Montana concerning personal business, March 12, 1913

57. Lake, Frank: letter to FMC from Sallisaw concerning personal business, August 11, 1917
58. Lillie, G.W., Pawnee Bill: letter to FMC from Pawnee concerning personal business, May 7, 1927
59. Lindsay, J.C.: letter from FMC concerning old Texas days, November 18, 1912
60. Maus, Roger G.: letter from FMC concerning letter of recommendation, June 30, 1916
61. Mullen, J.S.: letter to FMC from Ardmore concerning a thank-you, February 2, 1915
62. National Cyclopedia of American Biography: letter from George Derby to Mrs. Canton concerning the details of FMC's life, November 23, 1927
63. Niles, Alva J.: letter to FMC from Sentinel concerning internal affairs of the National Guard, July 22, 1911
64. Patterson, Earl: letter from FMC concerning letter of recommendation, June 30, 1916
65. Proctor, J.H.: letter to A.C. Williams from Castle Rock, Montana concerning Johnson County War article, May 12, 1919

Box 2

Folder:

1. Rhea, John B., Wichita Falls, Texas: letter to Joe Adair concerning Adair claim and genealogy, copy, January 18, 1927; letter to FMC concerning enclosure of and discussion of above, January 18, 1927; letter from FMC concerning Adair claim, February 2, 1927
2. Richardson, W.P.: letter to FMC concerning Alaska trip by Cantons, March 12, 1915
3. Shock, Floyd, St. Louis: letter to FMC concerning Texas reminiscences, September 29, 1915; letter to FMC concerning personal business, October 29, 1917
4. Smith, Cecil H.: letter from FMC concerning Texas reminiscences, copy, May 28, 1913
5. Sutton, Fred: letter from FMC concerning early-day reminiscences, August 7, 1925; letter from FMC concerning early days, both drafts?, August 8, 1925

6. Swank, F.B., US Representative: letter to FMC concerning a thank-you, November 13, 1922
7. Tumulty, J.P., Secretary to President Wilson: letter to FMC concerning acknowledgement of letter received, February 14, 1916
8. Warfield Advertising Company, Omaha, Nebraska: letter to G.W. Lillie concerning possible FMC biography and movie, April 14, 1916; letter to FMC concerning work on story, December 4, 1916
9. Wilson, Woodrow: letter from FMC concerning case of B.H. Bonfoey and son and possible pardon, copy, December 24, 1917
10. Wohlers, Hy R., New York: letter to FMC concerning FMC autobiography and Rex Beach, June 20, 1916; letter to FMC concerning the same, September 21, 1916; business card
11. Wrightsman, C.J.: letter to Lee Cruce recommending re-appointment of FMC as Adjutant General, copy, December 27, 1910
12. Letter from ? to Aunt Anna (Mrs. FMC): concerning family history, mentions incident of FMC skirmish with black soldiers in Texas, not dated
13. Miscellaneous: copies of telegram received from Tulsa citizens concerning martial law against gamblers, typescript, two pages; memo concerning FMC's appointment in Oklahoma National guard; two reminiscences on Joe Beckman, Heck Thomas, Jim Taylor, et al. on frontier by J.D. Gilmore; ticket and invitation to Woodrow Wilson's address in OKC, September 26, 1919; postal money order receipts and drug prescriptions; two pay tables; data on Mary Elkins; Canton Christmas cards

II. Clippings

The clippings in this collection were in the past mounted on paper. In many cases, clippings relating to different parts of Canton's life were placed together. Therefore no attempt has been made to separate the clippings into subject areas, since any such attempt would be futile.

The clippings relate to Canton's life and experiences in Texas, Wyoming, Alaska and Oklahoma. Two main subject areas are Johnson County War and Canton's work as Adjutant General of Oklahoma. Other subjects include politics, Indians, outlaws, etc.

A partial list of names mentioned in the clippings includes FMC, C.N. Haskell, Lee Cruce, Robert L. Williams, Jack Walton, Crazy Snake, "Teton" Jackson, George Wellman, Burk Burnett, John Tisdale, Edward Nix, Bill Tilghman, Elmer Thomas, C.J. Wrightsman, Bill Doolin and Roy Bean.

14. Clippings
15. Clippings
16. Clippings
17. Clippings
18. Clippings

III. Biographical Material

19. *Gratitude That Twenty Dollars Bought*, G.B. Gooddell, concerning FMC and Teton Jackson
20. *Early Day in the Lone Star State: Capture and Trial of Santana and Big Tree, Noted Kiowa Chiefs*, J.W. Hunter, no mention of FMC
21. Newspaper article on FMC, typescript and proof
22. "Reminiscences of a Veteran Officer", F.M. Canton, *Cattleman*, not dated, 23-24
23. Sworn statement by FMC concerning Indian raid in Texas in 1873

IV. Autobiography

24. Various autobiographical fragments, FMC
25. *The Wyoming Cattle War*, FMC, incomplete
26. *The Capture of Samuel and Beaver*, FMC, incomplete
27. *Life on the Western Border*, FMC, various drafts
28. *Memories of the Border*, various incomplete drafts

Box 3

Folder:

1. *Memories of the Border*, FMC, covers "Introduction," and pages 1-106 in *Frontier Trails*, typescript, 66 pages, 1930 & 1966
2. *Memories of the Border*, FMC, typescript, 48 pages (incomplete)
3. Notebook, FMC, covers pages 107-138 in *Frontier Trails*, handwritten

4. Typescript of notebook above
5. Notebook, FMC, covers pages 138-165 in *Frontier Trails* and more, handwritten
6. Typescript of notebook above
7. Notebook, FMC, covers pages 165-203 in *Frontier Trails* and more
8. Typescript of notebook above
9. Notebook, FMC, covers pages 203-222 in *Frontier Trails* and more
10. Typescript of notebook above
11. Notebook, FMC, covers pages 223-236 in *Frontier Trails* and more
12. Typescript of notebook above
13. Extra pages, FMC, not readily found in *Frontier Trails*
14. Typescript of pages above

V. Badges and Mementos

Box 4

Folder:

1. Cowboy's Reunion, Seymour, Texas, July 22-24, 1896; First inauguration, State of Oklahoma, Guthrie, 1907
2. Southern Commercial Congress, Muskogee, 1915; Southern Commercial Congress, Muskogee, 1916
3. Southwestern Interstate Commission on Country Life, Guthrie, 1909
4. Life member, National Rifle Association; Montana Detective Agency
5. Masonic Badge
6. Dallas, 1906, possibly Cattleman's Association; Inspector, probably Cattleman's Association
7. Godair-Crowley Commission Company; U.S. Shield; Kansas City lapel button; Fort Worth Day, 1916; and St. Louis Stockyards lapel button
8. Dry-farming Congress, Tulsa, 1913; State Democratic Convention, Oklahoma City, 1914

9. Spanish American War Veterans Encampment, Guthrie, 1908
10. Spanish War Veterans, Oklahoma City (2), 1911
11. National Guard Association, Los Angeles, 1909; National Guard Association, St. Louis, 1910
12. National Guard Association, Buffalo (2), 1911
13. National Guard Association, Norfolk, 1912; National Guard Association, Chicago, 1913
14. National Guard Association, Boston (2), 1914
15. National Guard Association, San Francisco, 1915
16. National Match, Camp Perry, Ohio, 1910; National Match, Camp Perry, Ohio, 1913
17. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Fort Worth (2), 1905
18. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Dallas (2), 1906

Box 5

Folder:

1. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Dallas, 1906; Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Fort Worth, 1909
2. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Fort Worth (2), 1910
3. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Fort Worth, 1912
4. Miscellaneous ribbons
5. Print plates for photographs, three of FMC
6. Hair braids
7. Mother-of-pearl souvenir utensils from Put-in-Bay; a sight for a rifle; Warrant wallet; cigar

VI. Outsize Materials

1. *The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin*: Thursday, November 3, 1921, pages 1-2, contains "Early History of Northern Wyoming"; Thursday, December 8, 1921, pages 3-6, contains "Military Occupations and Forts in Johnson County, 1861-1865"
2. *The Kansas City Star*, Sunday, September 1, 1912, fragment, contains (Rex) "Beach a Literary Meteor"
3. *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Sunday, August 1, 1897, pages 13-14, contains "Barney Barnato of the Klondyke"
4. *The Yukon Midnight Sun*, Dawson, Northwest Territory
5. *The Yukon Press*, Circle, Alaska: January 15, 1899; January 21, 1899; February 12, 1899
6. Appointment of FMC as U.S. Marshal's Deputy, July 1, 1896, signed by Patrick Nagle
7. Appointment of FMC as Adjutant General of the State of Oklahoma, November 16, 1907, signed by C.N. Haskell
8. Appointment of FMC as Adjutant General of the State of Oklahoma, January 9, 1911, signed by Lee Cruce, letterhead form of executive military order doing same attached
9. Scrapbook: contains articles on FMC, his life and experiences in Wyoming, Alaska, Texas and Oklahoma. Contains other miscellaneous articles, poems, picture postcards, invitation to White House for Mr. & Mrs. FMC from President William Howard Taft, correspondence, a steamer pass from the North American Transportation and Trading Company, injunction in Juarez prohibiting drinking