

# Guide to the Tyler Gatewood Kent Papers

MS 310



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

June 1979

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 310

**CREATOR:** Kent, Tyler Gatewood, 1911-

**TITLE:** Tyler Gatewood Kent papers

**DATES:** 1940-1963

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Tyler Kent, a code clerk at the American embassy in London, was tried in 1940 by the British government for violation of the Official Secrets Act. The papers, assembled by Charles Parsons, include correspondence, a transcript of the British trial, newspaper clippings, photographs, notes, legal papers related to *Kent v. United States* and printed matter.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0310>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0310>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charles Parsons.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 20 instead of the originals.

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Tyler Gatewood Kent Papers (MS 310). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Papers relating to Tyler Kent's conviction under the British Official Secrets Act are available on microfilm (500 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM20.

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## Scope and Contents

The Tyler Gatewood Kent Papers concern the case of Tyler G. Kent, a code clerk in the United States Embassy in London, who was tried and convicted in Great Britain in October, 1940, for violating the Official Secrets Act. Kent made and kept copies of secret communications between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty. Kent was arrested by the British and charged with espionage, although he was finally jailed for the lesser charge of theft of government documents. Charles Parsons, a conservative polemicist and ideologist, became involved in the attempts of Mrs. Ann H.P. Kent (mother of Tyler Kent) to bring the case before the public. Most of the papers in this collection are related to their efforts to publicize the case and to Tyler G. Kent's later attempts to explain his actions.

The papers consist of correspondence, a transcript of the British trial, newspaper clippings, photographs of Parsons and Kent, notes, legal papers related to *Kent v. United States*, and printed matter spanning from 1940-1963. The correspondence is in chronological order but there is an index at the back of this register. The papers are also available as microfilm HM 20, and copyflo from the latter part of the film (corresponding to the January 1972 addition to the papers) is in folders 17 and 18.

The Tyler G. Kent papers were given to the Yale University Library by Charles Parsons. For further information, see the register of the Charles Parsons papers, Manuscript Group No. 387.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1940-1963

|                     |   |                               |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1-9reel 1U | Correspondence<br>This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 20 instead of the originals.  | 1944 July-1963,<br>undated    |
| b. 1, f. 10reel 1U  | Transcript of Kent's British trial<br>This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 20 instead of the originals.<br><br>A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy. | 1940                          |
| b. 1, f. 11         | Miscellaneous papers re: <i>Kent v. United States</i>   | 1944-1946                     |
| b. 1, f. 12-13      | Newspaper clippings   | 1940, 1944-1946,<br>1954-1961 |
| b. 1, f. 14reel 1U  | Printed matter re: the Kent case<br>This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 20 instead of the originals.  | 1941-1946, 1961               |
| b. 1, f. 15         | Miscellaneous notes and articles re: the Kent case  | 1943-1950,<br>undated         |
| b. 1, f. 16         | Photographs of Tyler G. Kent and Charles Parsons  | Undated                       |
| b. 1, f. 17-18      | Copyflo from Hist. Mss. Film 20   |                               |

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## Index to the Tyler G. Kent Correspondence

Bethune, Mrs. Nagene C. --- form letter to Congressmen --- 1945 Jun 9  
Brewster, Owen --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Aug 18, 1945 Sep 27  
DeLand, Maude S. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Jun 21  
Doherty, Frank P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Aug 3  
Fish, Hamilton --- Charles Parsons --- 1946 Feb 29  
Gearhart, Bertrand W. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Aug 5, 1944 Aug 19, 1944 Aug 29, 1945 Sep 27,  
1945 Nov 24, 1945 Nov 30, 1946 Mar 14  
Hanks, Homer G. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Dec 8  
Harlan, Don Mahone --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Nov 14  
Harlan, Don Mahone --- Ann H.P. Hart --- 1945 Jul 12  
Harlan, Don Mahone --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Aug 22  
Hoopes, Mary Howard --- H.R. Ennis --- 1944 Oct 2  
Hoopes, Mary Howard --- public form letter --- 1944 Sep 13  
Hoopes, Mary Howard --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Oct 2  
Hoopes, Mary Howard --- \_\_\_\_\_ Sargent --- 1944 Nov 19  
Hoopes, Mary Howard --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Aug 30  
Kaufman, Reginald Wright --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Oct 9  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Jul 29, 1944 Aug 9, 1944 Aug 14  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- John Foster Dulles --- 1944 Aug 31  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Sep 1, 1944 Sep 1  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Cordell Hull --- 1944 Sep 4  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Sep 4  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Ethel May Pierce --- 1944 Sep 8  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Oct 16, 1944 Oct 25, 1945 Jan 5  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- George Seldes --- 1945 Jan 26  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Patrick McCarran --- 1945 Feb 2  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Feb 23  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- "Fellow Americans" --- 1945 Feb  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Kenneth Magruder --- 1945 Mar 24  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Mar 24, 1945 Jul 8  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Chet Shaw --- 1945 Jul 21  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Don Harlan --- 1945 Jul 22  
Kent, Ann H.P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Jul 22, 1945 Aug 1, 1945 Aug 11, 1945 Aug 22, 1945 Aug 23,  
1945 Aug 27, 1945 Sep 21, 1945 Sep 30, 1946 Jan 3, 1946 Feb 21, 1946 Apr 10, 1946 Jul 4  
Kent, Tyler Gatewood --- Ann H.P. Hart --- 1944 Dec 8, 1945 Jun 10  
Kent, Tyler Gatewood --- "My Friends..." --- 1946 Jan 12  
Kent, Tyler Gatewood --- Charles Parsons --- 1946 Feb 8, 1946 May 4, 1946 Jun 22  
Loughran, Clayton D. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Jul 22, 1944 Jul 25  
McGehee, Dan R. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Dec 6  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Sep 20, 1944 Nov 1, 1944 Dec 7, 1945 Mar 4  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann --- Ann H.P. Kent --- 1945 Mar 26  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Mar 29, 1945 Apr 7, 1945 Jun 6, 1945 Jul 2, 1945  
Jul 7, 1945 Jul 29  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann --- Ann H.P. Kent --- 1945 Aug 13  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Aug 27, 1945 Sep 15  
Merriman, Augustus S. --- Charles Parsons --- 1944 Aug 4  
Moran, Francis P. --- Charles Parsons --- 1946 Jan 20  
Parsons, Charles --- James Babb --- 1946 Sep 18  
Post, Katherine --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Sep 19  
Scholl, Phoebe K. --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Jun 27, 1945 Aug 14  
Strom, Frances --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Jun 12, 1945 Dec 4  
Strom, Frances --- "Fellow Citizen" --- 1946 Apr 5  
Tittman, A[Ifred] O[tto] --- Charles Parsons --- 1945 Mar 28  
Townsend, Ralph --- Charles Parsons --- 1946 Jul 16

Under Secretary of State, Great Britain --- Ann H.P. Kent --- 1945 Aug 23  
Walker, Mrs. M.L. --- Mary Howard Hoopes --- 1945 Aug 19

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Espionage  
World War, 1939-1945

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Foreign relations

### **Names**

Brewster, Owen, 1888-1961  
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893  
Gearhart, Bertrand Wesley, 1890-1955  
Harlan, Don Mahone  
Hoopes, Mary Howard Peterson  
Kent, Ann H. P.  
Kent, Tyler Gatewood, 1911-  
Magruder, Kenneth Dann  
Parsons, Charles, 1889-