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## MS-062: George Hay Kain Papers, Class of 1897

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## MS-062: George Hay Kain Papers, Class of 1897

### **Description**

The collection consists of 46 of George Hay Kain's letters to his college girlfriend, A. Marjorie Zug, a student at the Women's College of Baltimore. His letters include commentary on various aspects of college life, including classes, assignments, faculty, fraternity events, sports, commencement, class days, the Preparatory School, and the college publications. The letters date from 1896-1898.

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### **Keywords**

Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania College, College History, Student Correspondence

### **Disciplines**

Cultural History | History | Social History | United States History

**Guide to the  
George Hay Kain Papers, Class of 1897**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Julia Grover  
February 2005**

## **MS-062: George Hay Kain Papers, Class of 1897**

*Processed by: Julia Grover, '06  
February 2005*

**Provenance:** Gift of Kenneth Basile, January 1996.

### **Biography:**

George Hay Kain was born on April 13, 1877 to William Henry Kain (Gettysburg, Class of 1871) and Clara Maria Hay Kain in York, PA. Both of his parents died in 1883 of tuberculosis. Kain entered Gettysburg College in 1893 as a freshman. At Gettysburg, Kain participated in the YMCA, Camera Club, Snake and Coffin Biological Club, the Delmonico Club, Scientific '97 and ΦBK [Phi Beta Kappa]. He was an active brother in the ΦΔΘ [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity. He appears to have been involved in the first issue of *The Gettysburgian* in 1897; however he is not mentioned as being a part of later issues. Kain received Honorable Mention for the Baum Sophomore Mathematical Prize, served as associate editor for the *Spectrum* in his junior year and was class historian in his senior year. He graduated in 1897 from the scientific course, receiving a Bachelor of Science, and a Commencement speech entitled, "The Unification of Science." Kain later received a Master of Science from Gettysburg in 1900.

Upon graduation, Kain spent a year as a math tutor in the Preparatory Department Academy of Gettysburg College. He attended Harvard Law School from 1898 until 1902 and graduated with a LL. B. degree. Kain practiced law in York, PA, and was vice president and director of the York Trust Co. and the York Water Co. He is the author of *History of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, 1797-1949* (1949), and also co-authored *City Digest of York, PA* (1906); *History of York Lodge, No. 266, Free and Accepted Masons, and of St. John's Lodge, No. 123, Ancient York Masons, held at York, PA* (1932); and *A History of the York County Academy, York, Pennsylvania* (1953). Kain was a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason and past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania. He was given an honorary doctor of laws degree from Gettysburg College in 1951.

Kain married Cara Bahn Watt on January 1, 1901. They lived in York, PA and had three children: George Hay (born in 1907), Richard Morgan (born in 1908), and William Henry (born in 1912). George Hay Jr. and William Henry were partners with their father in the York law firm of Kain, Kain, and Kain. He died February 1, 1958 in York, PA.

### **Scope and Content Notes:**

**Series I: Correspondence:** The collection consists of 46 of George Hay Kain's letters to his college girlfriend, A. Marjorie Zug, a student at the Women's College of Baltimore. His letters include commentary on various aspects of college life, including classes, assignments, faculty, fraternity events, sports, commencement, class days, the Preparatory School, and the college publications. He also writes about interests such as photography and bicycling, as well as traveling to and from Baltimore. The dates span from fall of 1896 to the winter of 1898. Additional material in the collection includes a

letter from the Arlington Monument Company to A. M. Zug, and a letter to Zug from her brother in Alaska, both dated 1916.

**Photocopies:** Arranged same as originals.

A. Marjorie Zug attended the Women's College of Baltimore, Class of 1898, but dropped out after her junior year. She was born in Washington D.C. and lived most of her life in Bowie, MD. She was never married and died in 1967.

**Note on related materials:** Special Collections contains a copy of *History of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, 1797-1949*, by Kain ([HS757 .P4 K3](#)) and *Songs of Phi Delta Theta*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. ([M1960 .P49 1895](#)), signed by Kain.

**Box 1:**

**Series I: Letters:**

**1-1** Inventory; two photocopied images of George Hay Kain from the *Spectrum*; genealogical record of the Kain family from the eighteenth century to present; a brief biographical sketch of George Hay Kain, prepared by his grandson; Kain's obituary from the York paper *The Gazette and Daily*

**1-2** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896] – references class photos, fraternity pins, and an essay on Burns' religious sentiments – 4 pages

**1-3** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896] – written while in chemistry lab – references lab activities, Professor Breidenbaugh, mineralogy, the *Spectrum*, ΦΔΘ [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity, Snake and Coffin Biological Club, and gym class – 6 pages

**1-4** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896] – references physics class and the Preparatory School – 8 pages

**1-5** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896] – references Professor Nixon, mail, President Cleveland and Cuba, and International Law class – 16 pages

**1-6** Kain to Zug, 30 December 1896 – references ΦΔΘ [Phi Delta Theta] Fraternity and photography – 4 pages

**1-7** Kain to Zug, not dated [January 1897] – references class yells, photography, fraternities on campus, chapel, Class Day, the *Spectrum*, Professors Breidenbaugh and McKnight, and Snake and Coffin – 22 pages

**1-8** Kain to Zug, 10 January 1897 – references chapel, Professor McKnight, photography, and fraternities on campus – 12 pages

**1-9** Kain to Zug, not dated [Winter 1897] – references commencement, Class Day election, the *Spectrum*, Snake and Coffin, fraternities on campus, and Astronomy, Evidence, International Law, and Dynamics classes – 8 pages

**1-10** Kain to Zug, not dated [Winter 1897] – references  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity pin – 9 pages

**1-11** Kain to Zug, 31 January 1897 – references Professor Nixon, Dynamics class, and  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity pin – 12 pages

**1-12** Kain to Zug, 11 February 1897 – references Mandolin Club, Evidence and Geology classes, “Benny Harrison, Stevenson, and ... our friend Grover,” photographs, and traveling – 14 pages

**1-13** Kain to Zug, 4 March 1897 – faded photograph attached – references fraternities on campus, photographs, chapel, and “Benny Harrison” and “Vice President Stevenson” – 6 pages

**1-14** Kain to Zug, not dated [February/early March 1897] – references the first issue of *The Gettysburgian*, a fraternity chapter house, and Astronomy – 8 pages

**1-15** Kain to Zug, 9 March 1897 – references death of grandfather, the controversy of *The Gettysburgian*, making up missed work, and commencement week – 14 pages

**1-16** Kain to Zug, not dated [Spring 1897] – references teaching at the Preparatory School, a bicycle trip, photography, and Professor McKnight – 18 pages

**1-17** Kain to Zug, not dated [Spring 1897] – references *The Scroll* (the publication of  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity), photographs, whist, Dynamics class, and a class cheer – 12 pages

**1-18** Kain to Zug, 22 March 1897 – references baseball games, Geology and Dynamics classes, exams, and photography – 12 pages

**1-19** Kain to Zug, 24 March 1897 – references baseball games, exams, photography, and *The Gettysburgian* – 12 pages

**1-20** Kain to Zug, not dated [Easter/Spring Break 1897] – references bicycle riding and a trip to Baltimore – 8 pages

**1-21** Kain to Zug, not dated [April/May 1897] – references exams, baseball game, a possible bicycle trip, and a Women’s College of Baltimore pin – 10 pages

**1-22** Kain to Zug, not dated [May 1897] – references a baseball game with the Carlisle Indians, Chemistry lab, and commencement – 6 pages

**1-23** Kain to Zug, not dated [May 1897] – includes Commencement invitation, Commencement program, and class list – references cap and gown, inter-class relay,

photography, a student leaving the Prep. School, speeches for commencement, and ΦΔΘ [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity songs and yells – 12 pages

**1-24** Kain to Zug, not dated [May 1897] – references exams and recitations, a baseball game with the Carlisle Indians, commencement week, speech, and a tennis tournament – 10 pages

**1-25** Kain to Zug, not dated [late May/early June 1897] – references the fraternity tennis tournament, senior baseball game, commencement speech, and class history – 6 pages

**1-26** Kain to Zug, 17 June 1897 – references traveling and a trip to Baltimore – 6 pages

**1-27** Kain to Zug, 26 June 1897 – references a possible trip to Baltimore – 8 pages

**1-28** Kain to Zug, not dated [late June/July 1897] – references a possible trip to Philadelphia and Atlantic City, teaching in Preparatory School rules for the Prep. students, and his fraternity pin – 8 pages

**1-29** Kain to Zug, 1 July 1897 – references bicycle repair, photography, and teaching mathematics at the Preparatory School – 18 pages

**1-30** Kain to Zug, not dated [Summer 1897] – references a possible bicycle trip – 4 pages

**1-31** Kain to Zug, not dated [Summer 1897] – references bicycling, fraternity pins, and a trip to Philadelphia – 12 pages

**1-32** Kain to Zug, not dated [Summer 1897] – references bicycle repair and a bicycle trip – 6 pages

**1-33** Kain to Zug, not dated [Summer 1897] – references a bicycle trip, fraternity pin – 4 pages

**1-34** Kain to Zug, 16 August 1897 – references a 500 mile bicycle trip – 8 pages

**1-35** Kain to Zug, 29 August 1897 – references a bicycle trip, a trip to Baltimore, and preparing to teach at the Prep. School – 8 pages

## **Box 2:**

**2-1** Kain to Zug, 6 September 1897 – references teaching at the Prep. School, new freshmen at the college, and the dedication of a new monument on the battlefield – 10 pages

**2-2** Kain to Zug, 29 September 1897 – references Zug’s dropping out of school,  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity pin, and his first pay check – 8 pages

**2-3** Kain to Zug, 22 October 1897 – references teaching at the Prep. School, grading papers, sports games against other colleges, the debut of *The Gettysburg Mercury*, and controversy about *The Gettysburgian* – 10 pages

**2-4** Kain to Zug, 2 November 1897 – references Freshman/Sophomore rush and grading exams – 8 pages

**2-5** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1897] – references photography – 12 pages

**2-6** Kain to Zug, 29 November 1897 – references grading algebra papers and a bicycle ride – 4 pages

**2-7** Kain to Zug, 23 December 1897 – references  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity pin and spoon, and other fraternities on campus – 10 pages

**2-8** Kain to Zug, 30 December 1897 – references fraternity pins – 8 pages

**2-9** Kain to Zug, 18 January 1898 – references a planned  $\Phi\Delta\Theta$  [Phi Delta Theta] fraternity chapter house and teaching at the Prep. School – 8 pages

**2-10** Kain to Zug, not dated [January/February 1898] – references a possible visit from Marjorie and grading papers – 4 pages

**2-11** Kain to Zug, not dated [Winter 1898] – references a disagreement between the two – 8 pages

**2-12** Kain to Zug, not dated – letter fragments not matching any of the present letters and not matching each other – references class day, Political Economy and International Law classes, and learning to dance – 3 fragments of 2 pages each

**2-13** Arlington Monument Company to Zug, 15 April 1916 – references a second monument bought by Zug for \$75 – 1 page

**2-14** John Zug (brother) to A. Marjorie Zug, 5 May 1916 – references problems with his wife, from Alaska – 8 pages

### **Photocopies of Kain’s letters**

**2-15** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896]

**2-16** Kain to Zug, not dated [Fall 1896], 30 December 1896

**2-17** Kain to Zug, not dated [January 1897], 10 January 1897



- 2-18** Kain to Zug, not dated [January 1897, Winter 1897]
- 2-19** Kain to Zug, 31 January 1897, 11 February 1897
- 2-20** Kain to Zug, 4 March 1897, not dated [Spring 1897]
- 2-21** Kain to Zug, 22 March 1897, 24 March 1897, not dated [Easter/Spring Break 1897]
- 2-22** Kain to Zug, not dated [early Spring, April, May 1897]
- 2-23** Kain to Zug, not dated [May 1897], 17 June 1897

**Box 3:**

- 3-1** Kain to Zug, 26 June 1897, not dated [June/July1897], 1 July 1897
- 3-2** Kain to Zug, not dated [Summer 1897]
- 3-3** Kain to Zug, 16 August 1897, 29 August 1897, 6 September 1897, 29 September 1897
- 3-4** Kain to Zug, 22 October 1897, 2 November 1897, not dated [Fall 1897]
- 3-5** Kain to Zug, 29 November 1897, 23 December 1897, 30 December 1897, 18 January 1898
- 3-6** Kain to Zug, not dated [Winter 1898], and not dated letter fragments