

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Fine Gift of Stevens Documents

Mrs. Kate Stevens Bates of Olympia has presented to the University of Washington Library a chest filled with letters, diaries and documents written by her father, Isaac I. Stevens, first Governor of the Territory of Washington. The collection contains also many letters addressed to her father and a substantial group of the letters of her brother, the late General Hazard Stevens.

The letters of Governor Stevens cover in a remarkably complete way the period from 1835 when he entered West Point Military Academy down to and including the year 1862 when he fell in action upon the field of battle. These letters are for the most part in perfect preservation, laid flat in manila folders duly labelled and calendered. They represent many years of ardent collecting on the part of Hazard Stevens in the preparation of his well documented *Life of General Isaac I. Stevens*. The collection is particularly rich with reference to West Point, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. There are, however, many letters covering his life in Washington City, and later in Olympia. The connection with the U. S. Coast Survey and the Exploration of a railroad route to the Pacific is well represented, but the material relating to these Indian wars and the Indian treaty making is less impressive. One of the prize items is a bound manuscript volume of "Instructions" given by Stevens to his officers of the Pacific Railway Survey of 1853.

Every historian realizes the importance of the career of Governor Stevens to the history of the Territory and State of Washington. In his administration as first Governor of the Territory there were laid the foundations of law, government, schools, roads and the distribution of mail and merchandise. Ten treaties were made with Indian tribes and difficult Indian outbreaks were quelled. This rich collection of documents are thus seen to be of first rank in importance.

Mrs. Kate Stevens Bates is the last surviving child of the Governor. She, herself, is historically minded. She realized the value of these papers and wished them deposited where they could best be cared for and at the same time be available for the greatest number of those who study the history of the State of Washington. Officers of the University of Washington are proud to accept such trusts.