

**Title:** King, Rufus Papers

**Reference Code:** Mss-1679

**Inclusive Dates:** 1835 – 2018

**Quantity:** 0.3 cu. ft.

**Location:** ER, Sh. 031  
OS LG “K” (1 item)

**Abstract:** Rufus King (1814-1876) was born in New York City. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating fourth in his class in 1829. He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers but resigned in 1836 to be a civil engineer for the New York and Erie Railroad. After three years, he embarked on a new career as a newspaper editor. He worked in Albany until he relocated to Milwaukee in 1845. He quickly became one of the city’s leading figures, serving as editor of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, superintendent of schools and a member of the state constitutional convention. When the Civil War broke out, King was appointed a brigadier general and helped organize the famed Iron Brigade. Epileptic seizures prompted him to resign his commission in 1863, at which point he was named minister to the Papal States in Rome. He remained there until 1867, when he returned to the U.S. and settled in New York. He passed away in 1876.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of two Civil War-era letters, 1861 and 1862; a certificate appointing King resident minister to Vatican in Rome by Abraham Lincoln, 1863 (oversize item); an article related to King at the Vatican, 1984; an article about King and Milwaukee’s first public schools, 2018; a banquet program at Newhall House, 1861; note and leaves from tree in Kentucky related to Tecumseh; and a book from author given to King related to British search and seizure, 1858.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English