



[REDACTED]
Benton Harbor, Mi. 49022
October 24, 1978

Prof. Herbert J. Scott
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San Leandro, Calif. 94577

Dear Professor Scott:

I was very pleased to receive your inquiry about the early history of wireless in connection with Carl Kinsley and his work.

You specifically ask about his work with Marconi and in this regard the records in form of letters and diaries are missing and I would like to be able to provide more information than I can at this time.

My memory is that my father was on the receiving end of Marconi's message (or messages) on Fire Island. I presume that you may have information on the Fire Island installation ~~that~~ and the first messages that would very much interest me.

I do have a studio portrait of Marconi that was among my father's personal file, and it is dated 1899 (not signed), made by Rockwood's Portraits, 1440 Broadway. I presume Marconi was then 25 years old. If you have not this photograph, I will be glad to provide one for you.

In 1899 and 1900 Carl Kinsley was an Electrical Expert for the Signal Corps and was working on his own version of wireless apparatus, and according to a notorized statement he had a telegraph apparatus connected and working in perfect order in July of 1899 at Governors Island, N. Y.

It is my memory that my father told me he knew and worked with Marconi, but I do not find any allusion to this in his biographical data that was published. In the first place the wireless telegraph, which he was applying for a patent on, was different from Marconi's. And according to a letter to the Chief of Signal Corps, that equipment installed in San Francisco Harbor in June 1900 was entirely different from Marconi's. Also the letter says the wireless my father made was working (at Governors Island) before Marconi's visit to this country.

Up to this point I seem to be unable to find anything (concrete) beyond my memory and that of others who talked to my father about his first work in wireless which included contact with Marconi. I presume this is history in the files of the Signal Corps on Governors Island. If you find anything that would help me in making my father's biography complete I would appreciate it.

As to the history of early radio, I wonder if you have, or would like to have a copy of my father's individual contribution to early radio.

This would be what I have found so far among his papers. I have 5 patents in my possession, the first having been applied for Sept. 10, 1900 but the patent for this one is not with the 5 that I do have.

The ones I have were applied for long before they were issued:

- #1018,115 Applied for 2/2/1903 Patented Feb. 20, 1912
"Telegraphic System and apparatus"
- #1053,042 Applied for August 30, 1909 Patented Feb. 11, 1913
"High Speed Telegraph System"

- #1,126,483 Aug. 30, 1909 Patented Jan. 26, 1915
"Relay and Method of Operating Same"
- #1,126,642 Applied for Nov. 26, 1907 Patented Jan. 26, 1915
"System of Telegraphic Communication"
- #1,126,641 Applied for Feb. 2, 1903 Patented Jan. 26, 1915
"Method of Electric Signalling"

I have reprints of papers such as "Coherers Suitable for Wireless Telegraphy " printed in the Physical Review , March 3, 1900.

"A High-Speed Printing Telegraph System" presented at the 6/26/1914 American Institute of Electrical Engineers 31st Annual ConVention.

etc.

I am enclosing a copy of his obituary, which may be inaccurate in some places, the data was obtained from public records, as far as I know, such as Whos Who, Amer. Men of Science, etc.

I believe that the work he did is summed up for the World War I period in the letter ~~the letter~~ of M. Churchill, Military Intelligence Division, which I enclose. (July 22, 1919).

Lastly, I am enclosing a photograph of my father and his distinguished friends and colleagues at Ryerson Laboratory of the University of Chicago. This picture was taken by a former student of his who gave it to him after she became Professor Marguerite O'Loghlin Crowe, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Anything you may have with reference to the Fire Island installation and the possible connection between Marconi and my father would be most welcome as I have not come across any documentation of this except my memory of what he told me when I was very young.

Summary of data for you to look over. Any that you wish to send back as irrelevant to your inquiry, I would appreciate having it returned.

1. Copy of Marconi as he was in 1899 at 25 years of age.
2. Copy of harbor, assumed to be San Francisco at time of installation of Wireless Telegraph Stations in June, 1900
3. Copy of equipment at above installation
4. Report of the Installation of the Wireless Telegraph Stations in San Francisco Harbor.
5. Letter of Sept. 26, 1900 to Capt. Samuel Rober, Signal Officer written by Carl Kinsley stating that a patent has been applied for, and licensed to the Signal Corps, and that the equipment is different from Marconi's and the method antedated Marconi's visit to this country.
6. Letter of July 22, 1919 from Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, M. Churchill stating that Carl Kinsley had built up a "most remarkable Radio Intelligence Service..."
7. Nov. 17, 1899 letter from Walter H. Taylor of Governors Island, notarized, saying that Carl Kinsley had shown him "wireless telegraph apparatus connected and working in perfect order" ... not long after July 21, 1899.
8. Partial copy of a legal document dated Sept. 10, 1900 about the invention of and improvement in apparatus and circuits for automatically receiving wireless telegraph signals "for which I have this day executed an application for letters patent of the U. S..... etc. in which the Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army and his subordinated were licensed to use the invention in their official work.
(The record of the actual patent is not in my files, as far as I now know)
9. Paper presented to the A. I. E.E. 1914 on "A High-Speed Printing Telegraph System".
10. Obituary of Carl Kinsley, 11/25/70 to 1/19/59 (88 years)
11. Picture of 4 scientist of the Ryerson Laboratory, University of Chicago: A.A. Michelson, R. A. Milliken, Henry G. Gale, Carl Kinsley probably taken around 1914 -credit for the picture to Prof. Margurite Crowe.

Submitted to Prof. Herbert J. Scott

by

Colony Kinsley Parrott

(daughter of Carl Kinsley)

