

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Abraham Lincoln Collection

GEN MSS 257



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

P. O. Box 208330
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(203) 432-2977
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 257

CREATOR: Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

TITLE: Abraham Lincoln collection

DATES: 1824-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.8 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and writings by and about Abraham Lincoln, and a gold pen used by Lincoln. 4 ALS from Lincoln to Benjamin F. James, William M. Dickson, and to an unidentified recipient. Writings by Lincoln include an autograph praecipe issued by Lincoln for writ in his first law case, "David Woolridge vs. Hawthorne", and a fragment of a speech on slavery. Also present is a letter by Edwin Booth to Colonel A. Badeau concerning Lincoln's assassination by his brother, John Wilkes Booth, two days earlier; two volumes containing letters and writings by and about members of Lincoln's cabinet, including Andrew Johnson, Edwin M. Stanton, a letter to W. P. Fessenden regarding the attack on Petersburg, and Gideon Welles' autographed manuscript recollections on the formation of Lincoln's cabinet. Accompanied by the gold pen used by Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, with accompanying documentation.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lincoln>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 4 and broadside folder 28: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Abraham Lincoln Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Abraham Lincoln Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, it has been noted in the box-and-folder list. This finding aid will be updated periodically to account for new materials that may be added to the collection. The date of the most recent update is noted on the title page. For information on material that may have been added since the last update, please consult the Public Service Desk.

Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to Abraham Lincoln, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Material has been organized into two series: [I, Gift of A. Conger Goodyear](#) and [II, Additional Materials](#), materials acquired from various sources.

Collection Contents

Series I: Gift of A. Conger Goodyear

Gift of A. Conger Goodyear, 1953

b. 1, f. 1	Abraham Lincoln ALS to Benjamin F. James, Springfield Discusses the possibility of securing enough votes in the Illinois State Convention to nominate him as Whig Candidate for Congress	1845 Dec 6
b. 1, f. 2	Autograph page from Lincoln's sum book, dealing with simple interest Bound in dark green morocco	[ca. 1824]
b. 1, f. 3	Autograph praecipe issued by Lincoln for writ in his first law case, "David Woolridge vs. Hawthorne" Bound in three quarters green morocco	1836 Oct 8
b. 1, f. 4	Fragment of a speech on slavery Refers to Senator Stephen Douglas. Bound in dark green morocco	n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	6 typescript and typescript carbon letters concerning the autograph praecipe and fragment of a speech on slavery, including a letter from Carl Sandburg	1926 May-Jun
b. 1, f. 6	ALS from Edwin Booth to Colonel A. Badeau concerning the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by his brother, John Wilkes Booth, two days earlier Also bound in the volume are a manuscript transcription of the letter and a play bill of the performance at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination. Bound in three quarters dark green morocco	[1865] Apr 16
b. 1, f. 7	Three typescript carbon copies of the letter from Booth to Badeau	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet, bound volume of letters and documents by and about members of his cabinet. Vol. 1 Bound in dark green morocco. Items in volume are analyzed below in the order in which they appear	
	Lincoln, Abraham. Survey of a tract of land entirely in Lincoln's handwriting	1836 Nov 16
	Hay, John. ALS	n.d.
	Hamlin, Hannibal. ALS to M. Titcomb, Bangor, [Maine] Refers to eventful years of the Republic through which he has passed, etc.	1879 May 17
	Harrington, George. ALS to William P. Fessenden, Bern, Switzerland	1868 Sept 26
	Seward, William H. ALS to [Samuel] Blatchford, Washington, D.C. Refers to a Cabinet crisis which is past, the Trent Affair, the stability of the country, and the loyalty of the people. Says that he has urged Weed to go to Europe. Asks his correspondent to send him some wine	[1862] Dec 22
	Johnson, Andrew. ALS to William M. Lowry, Nashville, Tenn. Confidential political letter, refers to possibility of his going to the Senate, etc.	1856 Dec 14

Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet, bound volume of letters and doc [...] (continued)

	Seward, William H. autograph ms. signed of his "Oration on the Probable Permanency of the Union" delivered at the Commencement at Union College in 1820 as Representative of the Adelphi Society Seward was at this time only nineteen years of age. He entered Union College in 1816, taught school for six months in 1819, and returned to college to graduate in 1820. This paper shows Seward's strong support of the permanency of the Union	n.d.
	Chase, Salmon P. ALS to Governor Nathaniel Prentice Banks, Springfield, Mass. Chase refers to being in Springfield at Lincoln's request and his impressions on meeting Lincoln. The object of the meeting was to discuss Chase's possible inclusion in Lincoln's cabinet	1860 [i.e. 61] Jan 7
	Fessenden, William Pitt. ALS to his son Francis Fessenden, Portland [Maine] Refers to Sherman's "behaving like a fool" and other matters of public interest	1865 Jun 6
	McCulloch, Hugh. ANS to Gideon Welles, [Washington, D.C.]	1866 Mar 15[?]
	Stanton, Edwin McMasters. ALS to [Charles Anderson] Dana, Washington Refers to the military operations. Says that the War Department is "poisoned with treason or helpless from imbecility". Proposes to commence the reorganization.	1862 Feb 2
	Harrington, George. ALS to W. P. Fessenden, [Washington] The letter concerns the attack on Petersburg and the blowing up of the "Crater"	1864 Aug 1
	Cameron, Simon. ALS to W. P. Fessenden, Washington Says "the campaign will be short and must be urged with vigor"	1864 Sep 10
	Smith, Caleb Blood. ALS to [Richard] Wallach, Connersville [Ind.] Refers to the Free Soil Movement, General Taylor, etc.	1848 Oct 9
	Blair, Montgomery. ALS to Gideon Welles, Washington Speaks of Seward and contrasts his character with that of Lincoln. This letter shows plainly Blair's antagonism to Seward and relates to his intrigues in reation to Fort Sumter, etc.	1874 Jan 22
	Lee, J. ALS to Montgomery Blair, Washington	[1874] Jan 22
	Bates, Edward. ALS to Gideon Welles, Washington With franked addressed envelope, gives his views on how to crush the Rebellion	1863 Jun 6
	Speed, James. ALS to Abraham Lincoln, Louisville, KY Regarding the appointment of a judge	1862 Nov 10
b. 1, f. 9	Miscellaneous material found in volume 1 Two engraved portraits of Salmon P. Chase, pieces of bookseller's catalogue, and clippings: one carrying an article on "The President's Plan of Conciliation -- The Greased Cartridge Policy" from 1864, and another from 1928 about a Lincoln letter	1864-1928

b. 2, f. 10	<p>Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet, bound volume of letters and documents by and about members of his cabinet. Vol. 2</p> <p>Bound in dark green morocco. Items in volume are analyzed below in the order in which they appear</p>	
	<p>Welles, Gideon. Autograph ms, recollections in regard to the formation of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet</p> <p>Contains much information about the negotiations and discussions on appointments to the Cabinet following Lincoln's election</p>	n.d.
	<p>Speed, Joshua Fry. ALS to Gideon Welles, Louisville, Kentucky</p> <p>Denies statements made in Lamon's "Life of Lincoln" in reference to Lincoln's offering a cabinet position to Guthrie</p>	1872 Aug 8
	<p>Babcock, James Fairchild. 2 ALS to Gideon Welles, New Haven, Conn.</p> <p>Refers to conversations with Lincoln on cabinet appointments</p>	1868 Feb
	<p>Davis, David. ALS to Gideon Welles, Bloomington, Ill.</p> <p>Discusses Lincoln's Cabinet appointments and Speed's statement in regard to the reported offer to Guthrie</p>	1872 Jul 27
	<p>Swett, Leonard. ALS to Thurlow Weed, Bloomington, Ill.</p> <p>On second sheet is an ALS from David Davis to Thurlow Weed, discussing Lincoln's invitation to visit him at Springfield and advises Weed to accept, accompanied by typescript copies of both letters</p>	1860 Dec 10
	<p>Yates, Richard. 2 LS to Schuyler Colfax, Springfield, Ill.</p> <p>Tells of recommending Colfax to Lincoln for a cabinet appointment and of journey to Washington as a companion and secretary to Lincoln. Yates includes a copy of his letter to Lincoln recommending Colfax.</p>	1861 Feb
b. 2, f. 11	Miscellaneous material found in volume 2: typescripts of two letters	n.d.

Series II: Additional Materials

Other materials received from various sources

b. 2, f. 12	Lincoln, Abraham. ALS to William M. Dickson, Springfield, Ill. Mounted on a leaf from an album, with related newspaper clippings Gift, 1955	1859 Oct 17
b. 2, f. 13	Lincoln, Abraham. ALS to William M. Dickson, Springfield Ill. Concerning a bill claimed by Johnson, Saunders & Co., Cincinnati Gift, 1955	1860 Jun 7
b. 2, f. 14	Lincoln, Abraham. ANS to an unidentified recipient, [Washington], and five photographs of Lincoln ANS ordering a discharge from service Accompanied by a clipping describing his visit to New Haven Gift, 1955	
b. 2, f. 15	Bishop, Albert Webb. ALS to Abraham Lincoln, Washington, D.C. Endorsed by Lincoln: "Will the Secretary of War and Gen. Halleck please consider the application?... Feb 15 1865"; also endorsed by Secretary Stanton, asks permission for a stock of goods to be transported to Arkansas	1865 Feb 13
	The gold pen used by Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation in the Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C., 1863 Jan 1 Gift, 1965 See: Oversize, box 3, folder 24	n.d.
Documents Accompanying the Pen		
b. 2, f. 16	Autographed photograph of Louis Burgdorf, Washington, D.C. Gift, 1965	n.d.
b. 2, f. 17	ALS by Daniel N. Morgan, ex-U.S. Treasurer, Bridgeport Conn. To Mrs. W. B. Tucker, Lansing, Michigan. Gift, 1965	1928 May 29
	Photocopy of signed and witnessed affirmation by Louis Burgdorf, Washington D.C. See: Oversize, broadside, folder 25 Gift, 1965	1894 June 27
	Photocopy of testification, signed by U.S. Treasury officials, Washington, D.C. See: Oversize, broadside, folder 26 Gift, 1965	1894 June 28
b. 2, f. 18	LS by George S. Godard, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn, to Mrs. W. B. Tucker, Lansing, Michigan Gift, 1965	1928 June 11
b. 2, f. 19	Duplicate original affidavit (two pages) by Myra A. Tucker, at Lansing, Michigan; signed, witnessed and sworn to before Hiram J. De Vries, Notary Public, Ingham County, Michigan Gift, 1965	1928 Nov 28
b. 2, f. 20	History of the pen Gift, 1965	n.d.

Documents Accompanying the Pen (continued)

b. 2, f. 21	Photocopy of frontispiece, and pages 45-46, Anderson Galleries, New York, NY catalogue sale Gift, 1965	1929 Feb 27
b. 2, f. 22	Photocopies of pages 73 and 74, Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, NY catalogue sale Gift, 1965	1951 Nov 13
b. 2, f. 23	Photocopies of pages 39-41, Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, NY catalogue sale Gift, 1965	1958 Nov 5

Oversize, n.d.

b. 3, f. 24	The gold pen used by Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation in the Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C., 1863 Jan 1 Gift, 1965	n.d.
b. bsd, folder 25	Photocopy of signed and witnessed affirmation by Louis Burgdorf, Washington D.C. Gift, 1965	1894 June 27
b. bsd, folder 26	Photocopy of testification, signed by U.S. Treasury officials, Washington, D.C. Gift, 1965	1894 June 28

Restricted Fragile Materials

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 4, f. 27 Box 1, folder 5

b. bsd, folder 28 Box 1, folder 9

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

Petersburg Crater, Battle of, Va., 1864

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
-- Campaigns

Names

Badeau, Adam, 1831-1895
Booth, Edwin, 1833-1893
Booth, John Wilkes, 1838-1865
Dickson, William M. (William Martin),
1827-1889
Fessenden, William Pitt, 1806-1869
James, Benjamin Franklin
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters),
1814-1869

Corporate Body

United States. President (1861-1865 : Lincoln)
(Emancipation Proclamation)