

Robert Todd Lincoln Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised and expanded by Melinda K. Friend



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms010093>

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Todd Lincoln Family Papers

Span Dates: 1864-1938

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1918-1927)

ID No.: MSS85376

Creator: Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926

Extent: 2,845 items; 9 containers plus 5 oversize; 3.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Correspondence, legal and financial papers, commissions, an autobiographical sketch, printed volumes, newspaper clippings, receipts, house plans, photographs, and a manuscript relating to Robert Todd Lincoln and his family.

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.

People

Bradwell, James B. (James Bolesworth), 1828-1907--Correspondence.

Bradwell, Myra, 1831-1894--Correspondence.

Edwards, Elizabeth Todd, 1813-1888--Correspondence.

Isham, Mary Lincoln, 1869-1938.

Lincoln family.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865. Robert Todd Lincoln family papers. 1864-1938.

Lincoln, Mary Harlan, 1846-1937.

Lincoln, Mary Todd, 1818-1882. Robert Todd Lincoln family papers. 1864-1938.

Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926.

Patterson, Richard J.--Correspondence.

Randolph, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson, 1875-1948.

Temple, Grace Lincoln.

Subjects

Architecture, Domestic--Vermont--Manchester.

Architecture, Domestic--Washington (D.C.)

Asylums--Illinois--Batavia.

Occupations

Army officers.

Cabinet officers.

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Part I of the papers of the Robert Todd Lincoln family was received by gift, transfer, and purchase by the Library of Congress between 1933 and 1987. Part II was given in 2007 by Fred Towers, Dorcy Burns, and Judy Reemtsma. An addition to Part II was received as a gift from Judy Reemtsma in 2007 and as a separate purchase in 2008.

Processing History

Part I of the collection was arranged and described as the papers of Robert Todd Lincoln in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection circa 1976 and processed as the first portion of the Robert Todd Lincoln Family Papers in 2007. The addition to Part II was processed in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Robert Todd Lincoln family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Robert Todd Lincoln family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Robert Todd Lincoln Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Robert Todd Lincoln

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1843, Aug. 1	Born, Springfield, Ill.
1853	Attended Illinois State University, Springfield, Ill.
1859	Attended Philips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.
1864	Graduated, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1865	Captain, staff of General Ulysses S. Grant
1867-1881	Practiced law, Chicago, Ill.
1868	Married Mary Eunice Harlan
1881-1885	Secretary of war
1889-1893	Minister to Great Britain
1897-1901	Acting president, Pullman Co.
1901-1911	President, Pullman Co.
1911	Moved to Washington, D.C.
1911-1922	Chairman of the board, Pullman Co.
1926, July 25	Died, Manchester, Vt.

1928, Mar. 14 Reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

Mary Todd Lincoln

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
-------------	--------------

1818, Dec. 13	Born, Lexington, Ky.
---------------	----------------------

1839	Moved to Illinois
------	-------------------

1842	Married Abraham Lincoln
------	-------------------------

1875	Confined to Bellevue sanitarium, Batavia, Ill.
------	--

1882, July 16	Died, Springfield, Ill.
---------------	-------------------------

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Robert Todd Lincoln family span the years 1864-1938, with the bulk of the material dating from 1918 to 1927. Part I of the collection consists of correspondence; a printed volume presented by Lincoln to James W. Lee; a printed volume presented by Julius G. Rathbun to Lincoln; an autobiographical sketch of Robert Todd Lincoln; and commissions for Lincoln as assistant adjutant general, secretary of war, and minister to Great Britain. Some correspondence and documents in Part I appear only as negative or positive photocopies or as handwritten or typewritten transcripts of the originals. Of interest are letters seeking commissions sent to Lincoln in his capacity as secretary of war, one of which was penned by William McKinley.

Part II consists of correspondence, legal and financial papers, newspaper clippings, a manuscript, receipts, photographs, and house plans relating to Robert Todd Lincoln, his wife Mary Harlan Lincoln, his two daughters, Mary Lincoln Isham and Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson Randolph, his mother Mary Todd Lincoln, and his father Abraham Lincoln, and kept at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Frost & Towers. The papers are organized in three categories: numbered files, unnumbered files, and miscellany with similar types of material in all three. The numbered files were devised by the attorneys at Frost & Towers. The unnumbered files are arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person.

A vast majority of the papers pertain to financial matters such as income tax preparation and the management of Robert Todd Lincoln's investments as well as the trust accounts for his daughters and grandchildren. There is also a wide array of receipts for utility bills, personal and real estate taxes, stocks and bonds, landscaping, coal deliveries, and charitable contributions.

Included in the papers are items relating to the homes of Robert Todd Lincoln. After selling his home in Chicago, Lincoln purchased a house in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., in 1917. Located at 3014 N Street, it became his residence for half of every year. Papers pertaining to this home include files on its purchase and history, a plat, the light circuitry layout, and the floor plans as well as receipts and plans for alterations to the structure and the installation of a burglar alarm. Of interest are the furnishing receipts that contain the name of Grace Lincoln Temple, a noted interior decorator at the time. Files for the Lincoln summer home, Hildene, located in Manchester, Vermont, contain floor plans, a key list, landscaping and work receipts, and insurance policies. It was to travel between these two homes that the Lincoln family requested the use of personal railway cars.

Mary Todd Lincoln's papers appear in the unnumbered files and are comprised of photographic and handwritten copies of her correspondence and will; photostatic copies of legal documents; and the sale to Mary Harlan Lincoln by Myra Helmer Pritchard of her manuscript, "The Dark Days of

Abraham Lincoln's Widow: As Revealed by Her Own Letters," and of original Mary Todd Lincoln letters. The purchase of the Mary Todd Lincoln material from Pritchard was handled for Mary Harlan Lincoln by her attorney Frederic N. Towers, and it is from his files that the Mary Todd Lincoln material originated. The original letters were apparently destroyed. The copies cover Mary Todd Lincoln's confinement in 1875 at the private sanitarium of Bellevue, in Batavia, Illinois, and after her release from 1876 to 1878. Correspondents include Myra Bradwell, James B. Bradwell, Elizabeth Todd Edwards, Richard J. Patterson, and Robert Todd Lincoln. The numbered files also contain an outline for a book on Mary Todd Lincoln prepared by Katherine Helm.

Jason Emerson in his article, "The Madness of Mary Lincoln," in the June/July 2006 issue of the *American Heritage Magazine* cites some of the Mary Todd Lincoln papers in this collection, but it is not an exact listing.

Items concerning Abraham Lincoln reside in both the numbered and unnumbered files of these papers. Included in the numbered files are correspondence about his collection at the Library of Congress; the portrait by G. P. A. Healy; a replica of his statue by Augustus Saint-Gaudens in London; a list of magazine articles; newspaper articles; a file on Thomas Proctor; an inventory of relics in storage; and correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution about the clothing Lincoln was wearing at the time of his death. Further information is located in the correspondence of Robert Todd Lincoln in the unnumbered file.

In the correspondence of Mary Harlan Lincoln in the unnumbered file, she discusses the removal of the remains of her son Abraham Lincoln, Jr., "Jack," from the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois, to Arlington Cemetery to accompany his father. In the numbered files is correspondence relating to the monument for Robert Todd Lincoln in the cemetery. Family correspondence can be found in the numbered files between Robert Todd Lincoln and his cousin Emily Todd Helm and in the files relating to Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson Randolph.

An addition to Part II contains photocopies of correspondence to and from Frederic N. Towers that is related to the Mary Harlan Lincoln and Myra Helmer Pritchard material in the unnumbered files. Included also is a 1908 letter from Robert Todd Lincoln to A. Wakeman concerning the proposed publication of letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln, the location of Abraham Lincoln's original draft of the Gettysburg Address, and the Bible used in his second inauguration.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two parts.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX I:1	Part I, 1864-1920
BOX I:1	Autobiographical sketch of Robert Todd Lincoln, 1864 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX I:1	Commissions for Robert Todd Lincoln
BOX I:1	Appointment as assistant adjutant general, 1865 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX I:1	Appointment as secretary of war, 1881 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX I:1	Appointment as minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain, 1889 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX I:1	Correspondence, 1865, 1871, 1881-1920, undated
BOX I:1	Rathbun, Julius G., <i>Trip of the First Regiment C. N. G., to Yorktown, Va., and Charleston, S.C., October 17-28, 1881</i> , 1882
BOX I:OV1	Oversize
BOX I:OV1	Autobiographical sketch of Robert Todd Lincoln, 1864 (Container I:1)
BOX I:OV2	Commissions for Robert Todd Lincoln
BOX I:OV2	Appointment as assistant adjutant general, 1865 (Container I:1)
BOX I:OV3	Appointment as secretary of war, 1881 (Container I:1)
BOX I:OV4	Appointment as minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain, 1889 (Container I:1)
BOX II:1	Part II, 1865-1938
BOX II:1	Miscellany, 1918-1924, undated
BOX II:1	Numbered files
BOX II:1	Index
BOX II:1	No. 1 Frost, Norman B., estate and monument of Robert Todd Lincoln, 1926
BOX II:1	No. 2 Lincoln, Thomas, monument, 1881, undated
BOX II:1	No. 3 Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., J. H. Small and Sons, 1921
BOX II:1	No. 4 Safe deposit corporations, undated
BOX II:1	No. 5 O'Leary, H. A., list of magazine articles concerning Abraham Lincoln, undated
BOX II:1	No. 6 Tax receipts, 1920-1924, undated
BOX II:1	No. 7 New York University Hall of Fame, New York, N.Y., 1920-1922
BOX II:1	No. 8 Income tax, Mary Harlan Lincoln, 1922-1925
BOX II:1	No. 9 Automobile insurance, 1927
BOX II:1	No. 10 Automobile registration, 1914-1921, undated
BOX II:2	No. 11 Income tax, additional assessments for 1917, 1923
BOX II:2	No. 12 Income tax, wages for employees John H. Richardson and Charles Schiller, 1921-1924
BOX II:2	No. 13 Investments and trusts, National Biscuit Co., 1927
BOX II:2	No. 14 White, Charles T., "Abraham Lincoln's Estate," 1923
BOX II:2	No. 15 Income tax, request for duplicate payment for 1921, 1922
BOX II:2	No. 16 Maryland automobile law, 1920

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
BOX II:2	No. 17	Investments and trusts, Chapple Publishing Co., 1919-1923, undated
BOX II:2	No. 18	Inventory of items in storage including Abraham Lincoln relics, 1926-1928, undated
BOX II:2	No. 19	Hildene (summer house), Manchester, Vt., floor plans and key list, undated
BOX II:2	No. 20	Investments and trusts, Northern Insurance Co., 1897-1923
BOX II:2	No. 21	C&P Telephone, contract and service, 1911-1916
BOX II:2	No. 22	Mail fraud scheme concerning Madam Heller, 1921
BOX II:2	No. 23	William King & Son, 1922
BOX II:2	No. 24	Investments and trusts, bond receipts, 1917-1918
BOX II:2	No. 25	Investments and trusts, U.S. Treasury Certificate receipts, 1922-1923
BOX II:2	No. 26	Farmer's Loan and Trust Co., New York, N.Y., account receipts, 1921-1922
BOX II:2	No. 27	Curzon, George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquis of, 1921, undated
BOX II:2	No. 28	Washington National Monument Society, 1919
BOX II:2	No. 30	Time signal by radio, 1921
BOX II:2	No. 31	Colonial Power & Light Co., electricity bills, 1918-1920, undated
BOX II:2	No. 32	Todd house, Lexington, Ky., 1919-1923, undated
BOX II:2	No. 33	Commonwealth Edison Co., bond receipts and correspondence, 1923-1925, 1931
BOX II:2	No. 34	F. H. Walker, coal receipts, 1923
BOX II:2	No. 35	Lincoln, Robert Todd, invitation to speak at the Great Hall of the Cooper Union, New York, N.Y., 1924
BOX II:2	No. 36	Lincoln, Thomas, and Sarah Bush Johnston, monument, 1922-1923
BOX II:2	No. 37	Investments and trusts, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson, change in trust provisions, 1925, undated
BOX II:2	No. 38	Healy, G. P. A., portrait of Abraham Lincoln, 1931, undated <i>See also Container 6, No. 112</i>
BOX II:2	No. 39	Randolph, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson, 1891, 1897, 1906-1907, 1915-1916, 1928-1932, undated
	(2 folders)	
BOX II:3	No. 40	Investments and trusts, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson and Mary Lincoln Isham, 1921-1924, undated
BOX II:3	No. 42	Correspondence concerning William Herndon, 1908, 1913, 1920, 1931-1934, undated
BOX II:3	No. 43	Scam concerning manuscript on Abraham Lincoln allegedly written by Robert Todd Lincoln, 1922, undated
BOX II:3	No. 44	Investments and trusts, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 1928
BOX II:3	No. 45	Water bill receipts, 1911-1922
BOX II:3	No. 46	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., purchase and history, 1917-1918, undated

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
BOX II:3	No. 48	Investments and trusts, National Biscuit Co., 1921-1923, undated
BOX II:3	No. 49	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., furniture receipts, 1920-1921
BOX II:3	No. 50	Proctor, Thomas, 1921-1922
BOX II:3	No. 51	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., repairs, 1918-1922
BOX II:3	No. 52	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., plat, 1917
BOX II:3	No. 53	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., light circuits, undated
BOX II:3	No. 54	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., floor plans, 1917
BOX II:3	No. 56	Munson, Loveland, 1922
BOX II:3	No. 57	Vonsiatsky, Marion Buckingham Ream Stephens, 1922
BOX II:3	No. 58	Balance sheets, 1920
BOX II:3	No. 59	Lincoln home, Springfield, Ill., 1918-1922, undated
BOX II:3	No. 60	Request for private railway car, 1919-1920
BOX II:3	No. 61	Request for private railway car, 1919
BOX II:3	No. 62	Request for freight car, 1913-1921, undated
BOX II:3	No. 63	Cigars, Grosvenor Nicholas & Co., 1918-1921
BOX II:3	No. 64	Cigars, Union Club, 1917
BOX II:3	No. 65	Railway passes, 1925-1926
BOX II:3	No. 66	Forwarding of mail and subscriptions, 1925
BOX II:3	No. 67	Bettles, Ralph, 1924-1925
BOX II:3	No. 68	Investments and trusts, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 1925
BOX II:3	No. 69	Robert Todd Lincoln Memorial Cup (Golf) Tournament, 1928
BOX II:3	No. 70	Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, 1922-1924
BOX II:4	No. 71	Investments and trusts, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson and Mary Lincoln Isham, 1924-1928
BOX II:4	No. 72	Income tax, Robert Todd Lincoln, returns for 1923 and 1924, 1923-1928, undated
BOX II:4	No. 73	Investments and trusts, U.S. Treasury Certificate receipts, 1924
BOX II:4	No. 74	Charles F. Gunther Collection, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill., 1920
BOX II:4	No. 75	Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, 1919-1933
BOX II:4	No. 76	Charitable contributions for 1923
BOX II:4	No. 77	Commonwealth Edison Co., stock receipt, 1923
BOX II:4	No. 78	Income tax, return for 1921
BOX II:4	No. 79	Investments and trusts, U.S. Treasury Certificate receipts, 1921
BOX II:4	No. 80	Investments and trusts, U.S. Treasury Certificate receipts, 1921-1922
BOX II:4	No. 81	Hildene (summer house), Manchester, Vt., insurance policies, 1926
BOX II:4	No. 82	Temple, Grace Lincoln <u>See Container 3, No. 49</u>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
BOX II:4	No. 83	Income tax, return for 1921, <u>See same container, No. 78</u>
BOX II:4	No. 84	Tarbell, Ida M., "In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln," 1923 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX II:4	No. 85	Investments and trusts, Mary Harlan Lincoln, circa 1896-1916
BOX II:4	No. 86	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., clothes worn by Abraham Lincoln at death, 1921-1924
BOX II:4	No. 87	Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., burglar alarm from Mutual District Messenger Co., 1919-1921, undated
BOX II:4	No. 88	Automobile registration, 1917-1919
BOX II:4	No. 89	Helm, Katherine, outline of book on Mary Todd Lincoln, 1927
BOX II:5	No. 90	Investments and trusts, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson and Mary Lincoln Isham, 1920
BOX II:5	No. 91	Estate of Charles Isham, sale of property, 1925
BOX II:5	No. 92	Johnson, Frank Edward, divorce from Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson, 1921
BOX II:5	No. 93	Request for private railway car, 1923
BOX II:5	No. 94	Hildene (summer house), Manchester, Vt., B. E. Saunders Landscaping, 1926-1927, 1932
BOX II:5	No. 95	White, Charles T., "Lincoln and Prohibition," 1925
BOX II:5	No. 96	Estate of Robert Todd Lincoln, appraisal of Hildene (summer house), Manchester, Vt., 1927
BOX II:5	No. 97	Second National Bank, Washington, D.C., account receipts, 1925-1927
BOX II:5	No. 98	Replica of Abraham Lincoln statue by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, London, 1918-1921
BOX II:5	No. 99	Estate of Robert Todd Lincoln, correspondence and documents, 1926-1927
BOX II:5	No. 100	Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., 1920-1921
BOX II:5	No. 101	Request for private railway car and opening of Georgetown house, Washington, D.C., 1921
BOX II:5	No. 103	Lincoln, Robert Todd, monument, 1928-1929
BOX II:5	No. 104	Investments and trusts, U.S. Treasury Certificate receipts, 1921-1922
BOX II:5	No. 105	Beckwith, Robert Lincoln, New York Military Academy, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., 1920
BOX II:5	No. 106	Charitable contributions for 1921 and 1922, 1921-1923
BOX II:5	No. 107	Consolidated ledger, 1865-1901
BOX II:5	No. 108	Security Storage Co., insurance and storage of goods, 1920, 1926
BOX II:5	No. 109	American Security & Trust Co., safe deposit box receipts, 1919-1924
BOX II:6	No. 110	Receipts kept by John H. Richardson, 1924
BOX II:6	No. 111	North House, Manchester, Vt., receipts for work, 1925-1929, undated
BOX II:6	No. 112	Goodykoontz, Wells, regarding portrait by G. P. A. Healy of Abraham Lincoln, 1927 <u>See also Container 2, No. 38</u>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX II:6	Unnumbered
BOX II:6	Burr and Burton Seminary, Manchester, Vt., 1927-1931, undated <u><i>See same container</i></u> and <u><i>Container 7, Lincoln, Mary Harlan, Income taxes</i></u>
BOX II:6	Charitable contributions for 1927
BOX II:6	Financial correspondence, 1933-1937
BOX II:6	Frost, Norman B., correspondence, 1925
BOX II:6	Lincoln, Mary Harlan
BOX II:6	Correspondence and receipts, 1928-1936, undated
BOX II:6	Income taxes, tax receipts, and charitable contributions <u><i>See also same container, Burr and Burton Seminary, Manchester, Vt.</i></u>
BOX II:6	1926-1928, undated
BOX II:6	1928-1929
	(3 folders)
BOX II:7	1928-1932, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX II:7	1930-1933, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX II:7	1931-1936
	(2 folders)
BOX II:7	1932-1936
BOX II:7	1936-1938, undated
BOX II:8	Lincoln, Mary Todd, copies of correspondence and documents, 1873-1884, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX II:8	Lincoln, Robert Todd
BOX II:8	Correspondence, 1920, 1926, undated
BOX II:8	Income tax, returns for 1925 and 1926, 1925-1927, undated
BOX II:8	Pritchard, Myra Helmer
BOX II:8	"The Dark Days of Abraham Lincoln's Widow: As Revealed by Her Own Letters," circa 1927
BOX II:8	Sale of manuscript and Mary Todd Lincoln letters, 1927-1928
BOX II:8	Addition
BOX II:8	Correspondence, 1908, 1928-1932, undated
BOX II:OV1	Oversize
BOX II:OV1	Numbered files
BOX II:OV1	No. 84 Tarbell, Ida M., "In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln," 1923 (Container II:4)