Lyman Trumbull Correspondence

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Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

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Collection Summary

Title: Lyman Trumbull Correspondence
Span Dates: 1843-1894
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1855-1872)
ID No.: MSS43281
Creator: Trumbull, Lyman, 1813-1896
Extent: 4,500 items; 77 containers; 13 linear feet; 22 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: United States senator from Illinois. Chiefly letters received by Trumbull and some drafts or copies of replies on political matters.

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
Bissell, William H. (William Henry), 1811-1860--Correspondence.
Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Correspondence.
Browning, Orville Hickman, 1806-1881--Correspondence.
Caton, John Dean, 1812-1895--Correspondence.
Chandler, Zachariah, 1813-1879--Correspondence.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.
Cullom, Shelby M. (Shelby Moore), 1829-1914--Correspondence.
Davis, David, 1815-1886--Correspondence.
Delahay, Mark W. (Mark William), 1818?-1879--Correspondence.
Dubois, Jesse Kilgore, 1811-1876--Correspondence.
Fell, Jesse W., 1808-1887--Correspondence.
Field, David Dudley, 1805-1894--Correspondence.
Grimes, James W. (James Wilson), 1816-1872--Correspondence.
Hamlin, Hannibal, 1809-1891--Correspondence.
Harlan, James, 1820-1899--Correspondence.
Hatch, O. M. (Ozias Mather), 1814-1893--Correspondence.
Herndon, William Henry, 1818-1891--Correspondence.
Hurlbut, Stephen Augustus, 1815-1882--Correspondence.
Judd, Norman B. (Norman Buel), 1815-1878--Correspondence.
Körner, Gustav Philipp, 1809-1896--Correspondence.
McClernand, John A. (John Alexander), 1812-1900--Correspondence.
Medill, Joseph, 1823-1899--Correspondence.
Oglesby, Richard J. (Richard James), 1824-1899--Correspondence.
Palmer, John M. (John McAuley), 1817-1900--Correspondence.
Ray, Charles Henry--Correspondence.
Trumbull, Lyman, 1813-1896.
White, Horace, 1834-1916--Correspondence.
Yates, Richard, 1815-1873--Correspondence.

Organizations
Liberal Republican Party.
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Subjects
Civil rights.

Elections--United States--1856.
Elections--United States--1860.
Elections--United States--1866.
Elections--United States--1872.
Patronage, Political.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Secession.

Places
Illinois--Politics and government.
Southern States--History--1865-1877.
United States--History--1865-1898.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations
Senators, U.S. Congress--llinois.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The correspondence of Lyman Trumbull, United States senator from Illinois, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 1906.

Processing History

The correspondence of Lyman Trumbull was arranged and described in preparation for microfilming in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The correspondence of Lyman Trumbull is 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on twenty-two reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Lyman Trumbull Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1813, Oct. 12	Born, Colchester, Conn

1836	Admitted to the bar
1837	Began law practice, Bellevue, Ill.
1840-1842	Democratic member of the state legislature
1842-1843	Secretary of state, Illinois
1843	Married Julia Maria Jayne
1848-1855	Justice, supreme court of Illinois
1855-1873	United States senator
1854	Opposed the Kansas-Nebraska bill
1864	Introduced resolution that led to the Thirteenth Amendment
1865-1867	Aligned with Radicals in Congress; sponsored Civil Rights bill
1868	Voted against the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson
1872	Prominent in the Liberal Republican movement
1873	Resumed law practice, Chicago, Ill.
1876	Counsel for Samuel Tilden in disputed presidential election
1880	Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor of Illinois
1896, June 25	Died, Chicago, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of Lyman Trumbull (1813-1896) consists of letters received, with a few drafts or copies of replies. Organized chronologically, the collection is dated 1843-1894, but only two documents fall outside the period of his service in the United States Senate. The years 1868-1871 are scantily represented.

A few documents are related to Trumbull's law practice and business ventures, but the papers are essentially political in nature. There is much material concerning the elections of 1856, 1860, 1866, and 1872. Although Illinois state politics is a dominant theme and the majority of correspondents are from that state, many of the papers are related to national issues. Among the subjects with which the correspondence is concerned are appointments and patronage, the Kansas-Nebraska bill, secession, the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Civil Rights bill, and the Liberal Republican movement of 1872. There is little material relating to the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

Among the correspondents are William H. Bissell, Montgomery Blair, Orville Hickman Browning, John Dean Caton, Zachariah Chandler, Salmon P. Chase, Shelby M. Cullom, David Davis, Mark W. Delahay, Jesse Kilgore Dubois, Jesse W. Fell, David Dudley Field, James W. Grimes, Hannibal Hamlin, James Harlan, O. M. Hatch, William Henry Herndon, Stephen Augustus Hurlbut, Norman

B. Judd, Gustave Philipp Körner, John A. McClernand, Joseph Medill, Richard J. Oglesby, John M. Palmer, Charles Henry Ray, Horace White, and Richard Yates.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically. A partial name index of the collection, cited by volume number, follows the Container List.

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