

J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap, Leonard
Hawley, Paul Colton, David Mathisen, and
John Monagle



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall Papers

Span Dates: 1779-1970

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1916-1970)

ID No.: MSS37226

Creator: Randall, J. G. (James Garfield), 1881-1953

Creator: Randall, Ruth Painter

Extent: 35,000 items; 113 containers; 49.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Author, historian, and educator (J. G. Randall). Biographer (Ruth Painter Randall).

Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, journal, writings, speeches, research material, printed matter, financial papers, and other papers primarily concerning J. G. Randall's works on Abraham Lincoln and on the Civil War. Also includes material relating to Randall's tenure as professor of history at the University of Illinois and to Ruth Painter Randall's research and writings, especially relating to Mary Todd Lincoln.

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

Angle, Paul M. (Paul McClelland), 1900-1975--Correspondence.

Baringer, William E. (William Eldon), 1909-2000--Correspondence.

Basler, Roy P. (Roy Prentice), 1906-1989--Correspondence.

Beale, Howard K. (Howard Kennedy), 1899-1959--Correspondence.

Commager, Henry Steele, 1902-1998--Correspondence.

Craven, Avery, 1886-1980--Correspondence.

De Voto, Bernard Augustine, 1897-1955--Correspondence.

Donald, David Herbert, 1920-2009--Correspondence.

Freidel, Frank Burt--Correspondence.

Hesseltine, William Best, 1902-1963--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Lincoln, Mary Todd, 1818-1882.

Luthin, Reinhard H. (Reinhard Henry), 1905-1962--Correspondence.

Mearns, David C. (David Chambers), 1899-1981--Correspondence.

Milton, George Fort, 1894-1955--Correspondence.

Monaghan, Jay, 1891-1980--Correspondence.

Nichols, Jeannette Paddock, 1890-1982--Correspondence.

Nichols, Roy F. (Roy Franklin), 1896-1973--Correspondence.

Pease, Theodore Calvin, 1887-1948--Correspondence.

Potter, David Morris--Correspondence.

Pratt, Harry E. (Harry Edward), 1901-1956--Correspondence.

Quaife, Milo Milton, 1880-1959--Correspondence.

Randall, J. G. (James Garfield), 1881-1953.

Randall, Ruth Painter. J.G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall papers. 1779-1970.

Randall, Ruth Painter. Mary Lincoln; biography of a marriage. 1953.

Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967--Correspondence.

Stephenson, Wendell Holmes, 1899-1970--Correspondence.

Wiley, Bell Irvin, 1906-1980--Correspondence.

Williams, T. Harry (Thomas Harry), 1909-1979--Correspondence.

Organizations

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Subjects

Universities and colleges--Illinois.

Places

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

Occupations

Authors.

Biographers.

Educators.

Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of J. G. Randall, author, historian, and educator, and his wife, Ruth Painter Randall, biographer, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Randall in 1953, 1955 and 1965. Additional material was received from Mrs. Randall's estate via David H. Donald in 1971, and from James G. Randall, also via Professor Donald, in 1981.

Processing History

The papers of J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall were processed in 1967. Additions and revisions were made in 1979, 1982, 1988, and 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall 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, J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

J. G. Randall

Date

1881, June 24

Event

Born, Indianapolis, Ind.

1903

B.A., Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.

1904

M.A., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

1911	Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1911	Married Edith Laura Abbott (died 1913)
1913	Published <i>The Confiscation of Property During the Civil War</i> . Indianapolis: Mutual Printing Co.
1917	Married Ruth Elaine Painter
1918-1919	Shipping expert, United States Shipping Board
1920-1949	Professor of history, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
1926	Published <i>Constitutional Problems Under Lincoln</i> . New York: D. Appleton & Co.
1927-1933	Edited with Theodore C. Pease <i>The Diary of Orville Hickman Browning</i> . (2 vols.) Springfield, Ill.: Illinois State Historical Library
1937	Published <i>The Civil War and Reconstruction</i> . Boston: D.C. Heath & Co.
1941	Edited with Jeannette P. Nichols <i>Democracy in the Middle West 1840-1940</i> . New York: D. Appleton-Century Co.
1945-1952	Published <i>Lincoln the President</i> . (3 vols.) New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1946	Published <i>Lincoln and the South</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press
1947	Published <i>Lincoln the Liberal Statesman</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1953, Feb. 20	Died, Urbana, Ill.

Ruth Painter Randall

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1892, Nov. 1	Born, Salem, Va.
1913	B.A., Roanoke College, Salem, Va.
1914	M.A., Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.
1917	Married James G. Randall (died 1953)
1953	Published <i>Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage</i> . Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
1955	Published <i>Lincoln's Sons</i> . Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
1957	Published <i>The Courtship of Mr. Lincoln</i> . Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
1959	Published <i>I Mary</i> . Boston: Little, Brown and Co.

1960	Published <i>Colonel Elmer Ellsworth</i> . Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
1971, Jan. 22	Died, Urbana, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Garfield Randall (1881-1953) and Ruth Painter Randall (1892-1971) span the years 1779-1970, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1916-1970. Included in the collection are photocopies and transcripts of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century documents dating between 1779 and 1865.

The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, notes, memoranda, drafts, proofs, outlines, printed matter, and photocopies. They relate primarily to J. G. Randall's exhaustive study of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln, but they also include the private diary of Ruth Painter Randall and correspondence relating to the Randalls's courtship and marriage. Another focus is on J. G. Randall's long tenure as professor of history at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and there is considerable material pertaining to Ruth's extensive research and writing on Mary Todd Lincoln, especially her book *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* published in 1953.

The correspondence includes letters to and from the Randalls's professional contemporaries. Among them are Paul M. Angle, William E. Baringer, Roy P. Basler, Howard K. Beale, Henry Steele Commager, Avery Craven, Bernard Augustine De Voto, David Herbert Donald, Frank Burt Freidel, William Best Hesseltine, Reinhard H. Luthin, David C. Mearns, George Fort Milton, Jay Monaghan, Jeannette Paddock Nichols and Roy F. Nichols, Theodore Calvin Pease, David Morris Potter, Henry E. Pratt, Milo Milton Quaife, Carl Sandburg, Wendell Holmes Stephenson, Bell Irvin Wiley, and T. Harry Williams.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Subject Files, 1916-1952](#)
- [Historical Files, 1779-1865](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1930-1951](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1916-1952](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Addition I, 1917-1970](#)
- [Addition II, 1865-1953](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-11	<u>Subject Files, 1916-1952</u> Letters sent and received, printed matter, drafts, memoranda, and lists. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject.
BOX 12-20	<u>Historical Files, 1779-1865</u> Photocopies, correspondence, printed matter, and notes relating to persons or events involving J. G. Randall's research on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.
BOX 21	<u>General Correspondence, 1930-1951</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
BOX 22-36	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1916-1952</u> Proofs, typescripts, outlines, memoranda, drafts, correspondence, and printed matter relating to writings by the Randalls. Arranged by title of writing.
BOX 37-39	<u>Miscellany</u> Printed matter, clippings, awards, and diplomas. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 40-101	<u>Addition I, 1917-1970</u>
BOX 40-64	<u>J. G. Randall Papers, 1917-1970</u> General, family and personal, and business correspondence; financial records; drafts and galleys; card file; and awards, souvenirs, and diplomas. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 65-101	<u>Ruth Painter Randall Papers, 1940-1970</u> Correspondence, research material, drafts and manuscripts, clippings, miscellany, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 102-111	<u>Addition II, 1865-1953</u>
BOX 102-105	<u>Diaries, 1908-1953</u> Diaries kept by Ruth Painter Randall and a log of a trip kept by a nephew, Ralph. Also diaries of J. G. Randall. Arranged by name of author and chronologically therein.
BOX 106-107	<u>Family Correspondence, 1903-1925</u> Letters between family members. Arranged chronologically.

- BOX 108-111 Personal Correspondence, 1914-1917
Mainly letters between J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall before their marriage.
Arranged chronologically.
- BOX 111 Miscellany
Certificates, biographical items, printed matter, and a photocopy of a dispatch from Abraham Lincoln to Ulysses S. Grant, Apr. 7, 1865, with notation and signature by Grant.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-11	Subject Files, 1916-1952 Letters sent and received, printed matter, drafts, memoranda, and lists. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject.
BOX 1	Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Abraham Lincoln Historical Association <u>See also Container 2, Angle, Paul M.; Baringer, W. E.; and Basler, Roy P.; and Container 9, Pratt, Harry E.</u> Adams, Randolph G. Adler, Selig Agnew, Theodore L. Ahlquist, Irving F. <i>Album of American History</i> Allen, Hardie American Historical Association <i>American Peoples' Encyclopedia</i>
BOX 2	Anderson, George L. Andrews, Matthew P. Angle, Paul M. <u>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Historical Association and Container 6, Illinois State Historical Society</u> <i>Atlas of American History</i> Auchampaugh, Philip G. Barbee, David R. Baringer, William E. <u>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Historical Association</u> Barndrel, Harry Barnwell, Robert Barrett, Oliver R. Barton, William E. Basler, Roy P. <u>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Historical Association</u> Bates, Ralph S. Baxter, Maurice Beale, Howard K. Beatty, H. E. Braderman, Eugene Bradley, Philips
BOX 3	Brown University, Providence, R.I. California, University of, Berkeley, Calif. Carruthers, Olive Chicago, University of, Chicago, Ill. Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill. Chicago, University of, Chicago, Ill. Claussen, Martin Cole, Arthur C.

	Coleman, Charles H.
	Coleman, J. Winston
	Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
	Commager, Henry Steele
	Cooper Union, New York, N.Y.
	Cope, F. D.
	Cramer, John H.
	Craven, Avery
	Curti, Merle
	Cuthbert, Norma
	Dale, E. E.
	Darden, David L.
	Davenport, F. G.
	Decatur Public Library, Decatur, Ill.
	Destler, C. M.
	De Voto, Bernard
	<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i>
	Dictionary of American History
	Dilliard, Irving
	Disarmament
BOX 4	Dodd, Mead & Co.
	Donald, David
	Dorris, Jonathan, T.
	Doubleday & Co.
	Douglas, Paul H.
	Downs, Robert B.
	Drake, Thomas E.
BOX 5	East, Ernest A.
	Education
	Eisendrath, Joseph L.
	Eisenhower, Dwight D.
	Eisenschiml, Otto
	Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.
	Fallwell, J. H.
	Fisher, LeRoy
	Freidel, Frank
	Greer, Allen J.
	Griffith, Albert H.
	Handlin, Oscar
	Harper, Josephine
	Harper & Brothers
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
	Heath & Co.
	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif. <i><u>See also Container 3,</u></i>
	<i><u>Cuthbert, Norma</u></i>
	Herndon-Weik Collection

	Hertz, Emanuel
	Hesseltine, William B.
	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. <u><i>See Container 9, Pennsylvania, Historical Society of</i></u>
	Hobbies
	Hochmuth, Marie
	Horner, Harlan H.
	Horner, Henry
	Howe, W. D.
	Hughes, Robert M.
BOX 6	Illinois State Archives, Springfield, Ill.
	Illinois State Historical Society <u><i>See also Container 2, Angle, Paul M.; Container 8, Monaghan, Jay ; and Container 9, Pratt, Harry E.</i></u>
	Illinois, University of, Urbana, Ill., and <i>Daily Illini</i>
	Illinois University Press
BOX 7	James, H. Preston
	Jones, Edgar De Witt
	Kane, Elisha Kent
	King, Willard L.
	Knerr, Henry O.
	Knopf, Alfred A.
	Lane, Frederic C.
	Larson, Laurence M.
	Lentz, E. G.
	Library of Congress
	Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.
	Lincoln National Life Foundation
	Lindstrom, Ralph G.
	Little, Brown & Co.
	Lonn, Ella
	Lucas, Scott W.
	Luthin, Reinhard
	Lydenberg, H. M.
BOX 8	Malone, Dumas
	Marshall, James
	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.
	McCarthy, Sister Mary Barbara
	McCorison, J. L., Jr.
	McElroy, Charles F.
	McLaughlin, Andrew C.
	McMillen, Rolla C.
	Meade, Robert O.
	Mearns, David C.
	Meserve, Frederick H.
	Middle West
	Miller, August C.
	Milton, George F.

	Mississippi Valley Historical Association
	Monaghan bibliography
	Monaghan, Jay <u>See also Container 6, Illinois State Historical Society</u>
BOX 9	National Archives, Washington, D.C.
	Nevins, Allan
	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.
	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
	<i>New York Times</i>
	Nichols, Jeanette and Roy
	Oakland Collection
	Oxford University Press
	Page, Elwin L.
	Pease, Theodore C.
	Pennsylvania, Historical Society of, Philadelphia, Pa.
	Perkins, Howard C.
	Peterson, James K.
	Phi Kappa Phi
	Potter, David M.
	Pratt, Harry E. <u>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Historical Association</u> and <u>Container 6, Illinois State Historical Society</u>
	Quaife, Milo
BOX 10	Ramsdell, Charles W.
	Recommendations
	Reviews and opinions, requests for
	Risdon, F. Ray
	Robinson, William M.
	Ronalds, Francis S.
	Root, Winfred T.
	Rotary
	Russell, Nelson V.
	Sandburg, Carl
	Schuman, Henry
	Scribner's
	Shryock, Richard H.
	Slade, William H.
	Southern Historical Association
	Spencer, J. C.
	Starr, Thomas I.
	State Department
	Stephenson, Wendell H.
	Stern, Alfred W.
	Stevenson, Adlai E. (1900-1965)
	Stone, Edward C.
	Sydnor, Charles S.
BOX 11	<i>Territorial Papers of the United States</i>
	Texas, University of, Austin, Tex.

Thornbrough, Emma Lou
Tisler, C. C.
Toth, Charles
Towsend, William H.
University of California, Berkeley, Calif. [See Container 3, California, University of](#)
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. [See Container 3, Chicago, University of](#)
University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. [See Container 6, Illinois, University of](#)
University of Texas, Austin, Tex. [See same container, Texas, University of](#)
Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vt.
Wagenknecht, Edward
Wallace, David D.
Warford, William
Washington, John E.
Wiley, Bell I.
Williams, T. Harry
Wilson, Rufus Rockwell
Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wis.
Yale Review
Young, J. Harvey

BOX 12-20

Historical Files, 1779-1865

Photocopies, correspondence, printed matter, and notes relating to persons or events involving J. G. Randall's research on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.

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Bibliographies
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Broadsides and cartoons
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Brough, John
Brown, John
Browning, Orville H.
Calhoun, John
Cameron, Simon
Carroll, Anna E.
Caton, John D.
Chase, Salmon P.
Chickamauga campaign
Chiniquy, Father
Civil War
Civil War prisons
Coke, Sir Edwin
Columbia, S.C., burning of
Committee on the Conduct of the War

	Copperheads
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	Delahay, M. D.
	Desertions in the Civil War
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	Eckert, Thomas
	Election of 1860, New Jersey
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	Election
	Emancipation
	Fuller, Melville
	Floyd, John
	Fourteenth Amendment
	Gadsden, Christopher
	Garibaldi, Lincoln and
	Gettysburg Address
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	Grierson, Benjamin H.
	Halleck, Henry W.
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	Hampton Roads Conference, Hampton Roads, Va.
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	Shakespeare, Lincoln and
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	Thirteenth Amendment, Negroes
	Tributes, monuments, and programs
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	1861
	1862
	1863
	1864
	1865
	Logan, Stephen T.
	Maps
	McClellan, George Brinton
	Merryman, John
	Morgan, Edwin D.
	Morton, Oliver P.
	<i>The Mystery of a 'Public Man'</i>
BOX 19	Newspapers, Civil War
	Nicolay, John G.
	Offutt, Benton
	Photographs
	Porter, Fitz-John
	Raymond, Henry J.
	Reconstruction
	Reconstruction, railroads in
	Reynolds, John
	Rutledge, Anne
	Scott, Winifield
	Singleton, James W.
	Stanton, Edwin
	Stevens, Thaddeus
	Stoddard, William O.
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	Proofs, typescripts, outlines, memoranda, drafts, correspondence, and
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BOX 30	"Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted?"
	"Lincoln and the Governance of Men"
BOX 31	"We Cannot Escape History"
	"Lincoln's War Dilemma, April, 1861"
	"The Blundering Generation"
BOX 32	"The Great Dignity of the Rail Splitter"
	"President Lincoln: Tactician of Human Relations"
	"Lincoln's Two Inaugurals"
	"Democracy and War"
	"Dear Mr. President"
	" 'Strange, Quaint, Great Man' "
	"The Rule of Law under the Lincoln Administration"
	"Misconceptions concerning Lincoln"
	"The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln"
BOX 33	<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i> article on Lincoln
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	"A New Milepost in Lincoln Study"
	"What Three Former President Wrote to Lincoln"
	"Lincoln Speaks"
	"Great Unanswered Questions about Lincoln"

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1916-1952

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 35-36	<i>Mary Lincoln: A Biography of a Marriage</i> by Ruth Painter Randall, printer's copy
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	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 37-38	Clippings and printed matter
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BOX 40-101	Addition I, 1917-1970
BOX 40-64	J. G. Randall Papers, 1917-1970
	General, family and personal, and business correspondence; financial records; drafts and galleys; card file; and awards, souvenirs, and diplomas.
	Arranged by type of material.
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	Correspondence, research material, drafts and manuscripts, clippings, miscellany, and printed matter.
	Arranged by type of material.

Addition I, 1917-1970

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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	Diaries kept by Ruth Painter Randall and a log of a trip kept by a nephew, Ralph. Also diaries of J. G. Randall.
	Arranged by name of author and chronologically therein.
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	Log of canoe trip in 1916 written by nephew Ralph, 1919
BOX 103	Randall, J. G. 1924-1933 (10 vols.)
BOX 104	1934-1943 (10 vols.)
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	Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 107	1919-1925 (9 folders)
BOX 108-111	Personal Correspondence, 1914-1917
	Mainly letters between J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall before their marriage.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 108	1914-1916 (6 folders)
BOX 109	1916 (2 folders)
	1917 (2 folders)
BOX 110	(4 folders)
BOX 111	(3 folders)
	Undated

Addition II, 1865-1953

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 111	Miscellany Certificates, biographical items, printed matter, and a photocopy of a dispatch from Abraham Lincoln to Ulysses S. Grant, Apr. 7, 1865, with notation and signature by Grant.
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