

**Robert Todd Lincoln Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2010**

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

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

## 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

**Extent:** 9 containers plus 5 oversize

**Extent:** 3.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084148>

**Summary:** 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### 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--Family.

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. (Physician)--Correspondence.

Randolph, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith Johnson, 1875-1948.

Temple, Grace Lincoln.

### Subjects

Architecture, Domestic--Vermont--Manchester.

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

Asylums--Illinois--Batavia.

### Titles

*Lincoln family papers*

### Occupations

Army officers.

Cabinet officers.

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

## 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

Date	Event
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

Date	Event
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.

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