VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One box

COLLECTION DATES: 1854-1973

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: None

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: Record in National Union Catalog Manuscripts Collection On-Line

LOCATION: Archives

NOTES: None
Scope Note

This collection consists primarily of newspaper recollections of Abraham Lincoln made by McLean County residents. Lincoln scholars are examining anew the wealth of Lincoln reminiscence oftentimes ignored or dismissed by previous generations of historians. That said, these recollections must be treated with due circumspection, given the fallibility of memory and the all-too-human tendency toward embellishment, to say nothing of outright falsehood.

Bloomington could legitimately lay claim to Lincoln as a favorite son. From the late 1830s, when he started practicing law, until his nomination as president in 1860, it is likely Lincoln spent more time in Bloomington than anywhere else other than his hometown of Springfield. Bloomington was the only county seat to remain on the Eighth Judicial Circuit during his entire legal career. He also delivered a number of important speeches in the city, claimed close friends and associates who lived in the area, and owned property east of downtown.

Folder 6 includes articles on the May 29, 1856 Anti-Nebraska Convention. Lincoln was in Bloomington for the “State Convention of the Anti-Nebraska Party of Illinois.” Delegates to this convention opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which repealed the Missouri Compromise and thus threatened to extend slavery into free western territories. Lincoln’s address, delivered before an estimated 1,000 people, started around 5:30 p.m. and lasted some 90 minutes. Lincoln’s speech is also known as the “Lost Speech” because, according to legend, newspaper reporters became so enraptured with Lincoln’s speech most forgot to write notes.

Folder 1: Recollections I: Bloomington Newspaper Articles 1864-1909
Folder 2: Recollections II: Bloomington Newspaper Articles 1910-1947
Folder 3: Recollections III: 1909 Centennial Pantagraph Articles
Folder 4: Recollections IV: Manuscripts
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Folder 6: Contemporary Newspaper Articles
Folder 7: Anti-Nebraska Convention Newspaper Articles
Folder 8: Miscellaneous Newspaper Articles

Folder 1: Recollections I: Bloomington Newspaper Articles 1864-1909
(chronological order; Pantagraph, unless noted)
1.1 Involving Eighth Circuit, February 22, 1864, p. 4, c. 2.
1.2 Involving Lamon, March 26, 1866, p. 4, c. 2-3.
1.3 Mr. Lincoln’s Stepmother. Weekly Pantagraph. December 25, 1868. P. 2
1.4 Henry Barnes, Democratic News, March 2, 1877, p. 5, c. 3.
1.5 Leonard Swett, Chicago Tribune, July 14, 1878, p. 5, c. 5-6
1.6 Anonymous, article about David Davis’ horse, January 11, 1883
1.7 H. H., May 22, 1883, p. 3
1.8 Lincoln in court in Bloomington with John T. Stuart and David Davis, Weekly Leader, January 21, 1886.
1.9 Leonard Swett on 1860 convention, The Sun (New York), from Portland Evening Express, July 26, 1891
1.10 Hon. John Moses, March 6, 1894, p. 6, c. 4
1.11 Mr. J.B. Bates, February 12, 1895, p. 5, c. 3. (2)
1.12 Mr. and Mrs. Smith of Bloomington, February 19, 1895.
1.13 “Lincoln’s Goodbye” February 17, 1896
1.14 A. Wetherbee, July 14, 1896, p. 6, c. 5.
1.15 D. B. Williams, October 27, 1896, p. 8, c. 4.
1.16 Zachariah Lawrence, July 23, 1897, p. 8, c. 4.
1.17 Annette talks to Dr. Charles R. Parke, mentions Lincoln. *Bulletin*, Ca. 1898-1900
1.18 Relics of Olden Times, March 2, 1898, p. 7, c. 4
1.23 L.M. Temple, Sunday Bulletin, July 22, 1900, p. 9, c. 5-6.
1.24 Ambrose Ellis, August 2, 1900.
1.25 J. G. Stewart, November 20, 1901, p. 3, c. 2.
1.26 Lawrence Weldon (reprint from *Chicago Tribune*), February 10, 1902, p. 7, c. 3.
1.27 Abram Brokaw, February 18, 1903, p. 3, c. 2.
1.30 Abram Brokaw (references *McClure’s* article by Ida Tarbell), March 15, 1905, p. 5, c. 7-8.
1.31 Backward Glance on Lincoln’s Life: Extracts from *Pantagraph’s* Files Showing how the Future Martyr of the Rebellion was Viewed in 1855-1865, February 12, 1906.
1.32 S. B. Hance, February 25, 1907, p. 5.
1.33 Charles B. Holmes, March 13, 1907, p. 5.
1.34 Col. Clark E. Carr, February 13, 1908.

**Folder 2: Recollections II: Bloomington Newspaper Articles 1910-1947**

(chronological order; *Pantagraph*, unless noted)

2.1 Thomas J. Noble, June 25, 1910, p. 16, c. 2.
2.2 Dorothy Lamon Teillard, April 26, 1912.
2.3 Wilson, Edward, May 29, 1914, p. 12, c. 4-5.
2.5 Unknown (article titled “More Reminiscences of Lincoln and Gridley”), May 31, 1918, p. 3, c. 5.
2.6 W. W. Murphey, July 26, 1922, p. 11, c. 4.
2.7 John A. Fulwiller, January 30, 1923, p. 9.
2.8 Hon. C.L. Capen and Rev. F.A. McCarty, February 12, 1923.
2.9 John Crookshank, February 20, 1923, p. 21.
2.10 “Miss Hughes of Bloomington one of Singers at the Funeral of Lincoln” February 13, 1924, p. 3.
2.11 John V. Warner, December 17, 1924, p. 15.
2.12 Mary Parke Evans, February 5, 1925, p. 3, c. 2-3.
2.13 Jesse R. Enlow, March 27, 1926.
2.16  William M. Reeves, January 3, 1928.
2.17  J.W. Fifer, February 12, 1928.
2.19  Mrs. Robert Hitch, December 8, 1928, p. 1, sec. B.
2.20  William Milton Reeves, March 4, 1930, p. 3.
2.21  Ivory Pike, February 8, 1931, p. 1, sec. D.
2.23  Mrs. F. J. Knorr, September 21, 1931, p. 1, sec. D.
2.26  Gov. Joseph Fifer, December 5, 1935, p. 3.
2.27  Adolph Funk, February 12, 1937, p. 11.
2.29  F. L. Coomer, February 11, 1938, p. 3.
2.30  Charles B. Holmes, February 12, 1938, p. 5.
2.31  Rose Northrup, February 12, 1938, p. 5.
2.33  Rev. Frank L. Moore, November 15, 1947, p. 5.
2.34  Judith Bradner (date, newspaper unknown)
2.35  Robert Hitch, late 1920s.
2.36  O. A. T. Stewart, February 2 or 12? 1930 (newspaper unknown)

Folder 3: Recollections III: 1909 Centennial Pantagraph Articles
(chronological order; February 6 articles listed by page number and alphabetically)
3.1  John F. Humphrey, January 25, 1910, p. 10.
3.2  T. J. Crowder, January 28, p. 5.
3.3  Henry Grimm, February 6, p. 8.
3.4  Mrs. E. I. Loomis, February 6, p. 8.
3.5  B. F. Funk, February 6, p. 11.
3.6  Julia Holmes Gray, February 6, p. 11.
3.7  George W. Grover, February 6, p. 11.
3.8  Mrs. Sidney Noble, February 6, p. 11.
3.9  Judith Bradner, February 6, p. 13.
3.10  Thomas J. Cassaday, February 6, p. 13.
3.11  F. B. Gibson, February 6, p. 13.
3.12  George H. Harris, February 6, p. 13.
3.14  Mary Tyson, February 6, p. 13.
3.15  M. J. Wald, February 6, p. 13.
3.16  Yontz Bonnet, February 6, p. 14.
3.18  T. C. Cassaday, February 6, p. 14.
3.20  Luman Burr, February 6, p. 15.
3.21 Elizabeth Champlin, Mrs. Noah Franklin, Emily Shade (three daughters of Jacob Spawr), February 6, p. 15.
3.22 E. D. Jones, February 6, p. 15.
3.23 R. J. Onstott, February 6, p. 15.
3.24 James S. Ewing, February 13, p. 3.
3.26 Judge O. T. Reeves, March 13, 1909, p. 5.
3.27 W. Scott Arnold, April 6, 1909, p. 11, c. 5.
(alphabetical order)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arnold, Scott W</td>
<td>April 6, 1909</td>
<td>Attends Courthouse speech as Wide Awake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnett, Yontz</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L. volunteers to defend horse-stealing prisoner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradner, Judith</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Daughter of James Allen (state legislator with L.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown, George P.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Includes humorous L.—Gridley exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burr, Luman</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Deputy Circuit Clerk when L. practiced law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassaday, T. C.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Recalls friendship of L. and Richard R. Randall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassaday, Thomas J.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L. spends night in prayer (in Springfield)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champlin, Elizabeth</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Daughter of J. Spaw; recalls L rounding up poultry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crookshank, John A.</td>
<td>February 13, 1909</td>
<td>L. visits father’s home when C. was small boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowder, Rev. T. J.</td>
<td>January 28, 1909</td>
<td>L. as “Temperance Man”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewing, James S.</td>
<td>February 13, 1909</td>
<td>Overview of L.’s Bloomington ties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin, Mrs. Noah</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L.’s affection toward children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funk, Benjamin F.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Attended 1860 convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson, F. B.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Chenoa resident served on jury during 1850s trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grimm, Henry</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Witnessed assassination at Ford’s Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover, George W.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L. as theatergoer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray, Julia Holmes</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Frightened by “ugly man” (L.) as child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, George H.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L. in Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, E. D.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>L. and temperance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loomis, Mrs. E. I.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>General recollections of second cousin of L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCord, James C.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>At Second Inaugural, L. calls him by name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noble, T. J.</td>
<td>February 13, 1909</td>
<td>L. frequent guest at father’s boarding house</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noble, Mrs. Sidney</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>1858 visit by L. to Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onstott, R. J.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Debunks several oft-told tales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayburn, Calvin</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Description of L. when R. was young boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reeves, Owen T.</td>
<td>March 13, 1909</td>
<td>General recollections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyson, Mary</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Childhood memories of L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wald, M. J.</td>
<td>February 6, 1909</td>
<td>Tazewell County address by L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 4: Recollections IV: Manuscripts

4.1 Ayers: “Recollections of J. B. Ayers,” 2 pgs., no date; photocopy, original in Ayers, J. B.—Recollections vertical file.


4.3 Minier: “Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln,” delivered to the McLean County History Society, March 6, 1894, 3 pg. transcription, original in Minier, George W.—Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln vertical file.

4.4 Prince: “A Day with Abraham Lincoln” by E. M. Prince, 10 pgs., no date; photocopy, original in Box 3, Prince, E. M. Collection.

4.5 Various: “Local Recollections of Abraham Lincoln, Early History of Bloomington Influenced by the Rail Splitter, from Personal Interviews with Men who Knew Lincoln” 14 pgs., by Dwight E. Frink, 1907; photocopy, original in Frink, Dwight E. Collection, 1 Box, “Frink, Dwight E. Biographies” folder.

Folder 5: Recollections V: Miscellaneous

5.1 Wilson, Adoniram Judson from journal of Edward M. Wilson, November 1891 (photocopy). For original, see Edward M. Wilson Collection, Box 2, Folder 12, The Daleite Vol. 7-12.


5.3 Birch, Jonathan in “A Law Student’s Recollection of Abraham Lincoln,” from The Outlook (January-April 1911), pgs. 311-314.

5.4 Fifer, Joseph W., in “Private Joe” Fifer, Memories of War and Peace Imparted in His Ninety-Sixth Year by Joseph W. Fifer at the Request of The Chicago Tribune and Recorded by James O’Donnell Bennett (Bloomington: Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co., 1936). See especially pgs. 32-43 (not photocopied).

5.5 Flagg, William C., in The Good Old Times in McLean County, pgs. 336-338.


5.8 Davis, George P., original in the Herndon-Weik Papers; also appears in the book A Reporter’s Lincoln (University of Nebraska Press, 1988), by Walter B. Stevens.

5.9 email from Pat Schley about the Lee Allen marriage and divorce, including excerpt from David Davis letter of July 39, 1848, plus other research info, 3 Feb 2017.

See also:

Rice. Reminiscences by Judge Lawrence Weldon (pp. 197-215) and Leonard Swett (pp. 455-468). Book is available in Museum Library stacks.


_Herndon’s Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln_ (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998) edited by Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis. Reminiscences / statements by David Davis (pp. 158-160; 346-351); Leonard Swett (pp. 162-168; 213-214; 636-637; 709-711; 731-732); and Jesse Fell to Ward Hill Lamon (pp. 578-580). See Museum vertical file _Herndon’s Informants._


**Folder 6: Contemporary Newspaper Articles**

(*Daily Pantagraph, unless noted*)

6.1 “A Bovine Demonstration” September 12, 1854
6.2 “Arrivals at the Clouds House” Monday September 20, 1854. _Weekly Pantagraph_. p.2
6.3 “Lincoln’s Speech” (September 12, 1854 Anti-Nebraska speech at the Courthouse), _Weekly Pantagraph_, September 20, 1854, p. 1, c. 2.
6.4 “Nebraska Question Important” September 27, 1854.
6.5 “Douglas’s Speech” September 27, 1854
6.8 “A. Lincoln’s Speech” October 4, 1854
6.9 Untitled about Lincoln speech at Major’s Hall countering Democrats’ speeches, _Weekly Pantagraph_, September 24, 1856.
6.12 “The Trial of Wyant” April 8, 1857
6.13 “The Trial of Isaac Wyant” April 15, 1857. 7 pages
6.14 “Mr. Lincoln’s Lecture” (the April 7 through April 10 articles reference Lincoln’s “Discoveries and Inventions” lecture), April 7, 1858, p. 3, c. 1
6.15 “Mr. Editor” (signed “A Subscriber”), April 8, 1858, p. 3, c. 2.
6.16 “Mr. Lincoln’s Lecture,” April 9, 1858, p. 3, c. 2-3.
6.17 “Mr. Editor” (signed “A Member of the Mock Legislature’”), April 10, 1858, p. 3, c. 1.
6.18 “Letter from Leonard Swett, Esq.” May 6, 1857
6.20 Notice (Lincoln expected in Bloomington), July 16, 1858, p. 3, c. 1.
6.21 “Reception of Judge Douglas” (Lincoln in attendance, declined to speak), July 17, 1858, p. 3, c. 2.
6.23 “Republicans, Attend!” (call to attend mass meeting that afternoon), September 4, 1858, p. 2, c. 1.
6.25 “Republican Mass Meeting! M’Lean County Aroused! The tall Sucker exposes the Sophistries of the Little Giant!” September 6, 1858, p. 2, c. 2-5 (detailed account of speech).
6.26 “Great Political Demonstration and Its Consequences,” *Illinois Statesman*, September 8, 1858, p. 2, c. 1-2 (Democratic Party view of September 4 speech)
6.28 “The Tall Sucker,” April 6, 1859, p. 3, c. 1 (Lincoln at Pike House; announcement of “Inventions” lecture scheduled Friday, April 8).
6.29 “Inventions,” April 8, 1859, p. 3, c. 1 (announcement for evening’s lecture).
6.30 “The Lecture,” April 9, 1859, p. 3, c. 1 (the lecture cancelled due to poor attendance).
6.33 “Speech,” April 7, 1860, p. 3, c. 1 (announcement for Lincoln’s April 10 speech).
6.34 “Speech” (three-line notice for speech scheduled the next day), April 9, 1860, p. 3, c. 1.
6.39 “A Chance” June 20, 1860, p. 3 c. 2 (doubt Lincoln will be president)
6.40 “In Passing,” November 22, 1860, p. 3, c. 2 (president-elect greeted well-wishers at Western Depot en route to Chicago).

**Folder 7: Anti-Nebraska Convention Newspaper Articles**

**Downstate Illinois newspapers**

*Illinois State Journal* (Springfield)
7.3 “State Anti-Nebraska Convention,” May 29, 1856, p. 2, c. 3.
7.6 Editorial comment, May 31, 1856, p. 2, c. 4.

_Illinois State Register_ (Springfield)
7.10  “The Bloomington Convention—The Fusion of Know Nothings and Black Republicans,”

_Weekly Advocate_ (Belleville)

_Weekly Courier_ (Alton)

_Weekly Pantagraph_ (Bloomington)
7.16  “State Convention” and “Gov. Reeder,” June 4, 1856, p. 2, c. 2.

_Chicago newspapers_

_Democratic Press_
7.21  Notice (headline illegible), June 2, 1856, p. 2, c. 1.

_New York newspapers_

_Daily Times_
June 4, 1856, p. 4, c. 4.

_Daily Tribune_
7.24  “From another Correspondent,” June 3, 1856, p. 3, c. 4.
7.26  “Illinois Politics,” June 9, 1856, p. 5, c. 3-4

_Evening Post_
7.27  “Arrival of Governor Reeder,” May 31, 1856, p. 2, c. 4.

Map: Delegates to the Anti-Nebraska Convention
8.1 “An Historic Tree,” June 7, 1902, p. 6
8.3 Tells of Abe’s Visit at Pekin Court House, paper unknown, James Haines, Pekin, February 4, 1905
8.4 “Lincoln and Douglas, Their Great Campaign of 1858, E. M. Prince Recalls from Personal Recollection some Interesting Local Features,” February 12, 1907, p. 9.
8.6 “She Knew Lincoln. Mrs. Fleming Was Neighbor to the Great Emancipator,” (Mrs. Isabel Fleming regarding experiences in Athens, New Salem, etc.), unknown Eaton County, MI, newspaper, February 11, 1909.
8.7 “Lincoln the Lawyer, and His Bloomington Speeches” (address delivered by Judge R. M. Benjamin), February 23, 1909, p. 11.
8.8 “Mrs. Loomis, Relative of Lincoln, Dead” (Emily Hanks Loomis), February 13, 1911, p. 6, c. 4.
8.9 “The ‘Lost’ Speech Was Never Lost” (lengthy excerpts from Judge R. M. Benjamin’s February 12, 1909 speech), May 27, 1914, p. 13.
8.11 “Candle-Sticks From Home Of Abraham Lincoln Now Owned By Bloomingtonian,” February 12, 1927, p. 12-B.
8.12 “Lincoln’s Restless Night In Bloomington Hotel Gives Birth To Immortal Phrase,” February 12, 1927, p. 12-B.
8.13 “Delavan Doctor Was Intimate Friend of A. Lincoln in ’50s,” Feb. 12, 1927, p. 12-B.
8.15 “Lost Lincoln Speech Made in Bloomington is Published in Book,” February 12, 1928.
8.17 “Man Who Heard ‘Lost Speech’ Invited to Republican Meeting” (John A. Fulwiler), May 28, 1928, p. 3.
8.18 “Bitter Rivals Visited Houses, But Lincoln and Douglas Came to Home Near Randolph Years Apart,” August 30, 1930, p. 4, sec. B.
8.22 “When Lincoln Once Failed,” by Dr. H. E. Pratt based on letter Capt. J. H. Burnham wrote May 19, 1860.
8.23 “Lincoln’s Numerous Cases Tried in Court Here Leave No Trace in Charred Old County Records,” February 12, 1934, p. 5.
8.24 “Former Resident Writes of Lincoln” (Sherman Day Wakefield), May 30, 1936, p. 15.
8.25  “Mrs. Northrup Recalls Vision of Lincoln at His Old Desk,” February 12, 1942, p. 3, c. 5-7.
8.26  “Two Relatives of ‘Great Emancipator Lived Here,’” February 8, 1943, p. 2, c. 2-4.
8.27  “Historical Society Gets Another Lincoln Letter,” August 30, 1949, p. 3.
8.28  “Abe Lincoln Gave Two Talks in Building Left by Read’s,” May 16, 1952.
8.32  “Purported Picture of Abe Lincoln with his First Love Comes to Light,” no date, no source.
8.33  “John Hanks, Cousin of Lincoln, is Dead,” no date, no source.