

# David Homer Bates Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm84061627>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010083>

Prepared by John J. McDonough and Mary Wolfskill

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** David Homer Bates Papers

**Span Dates:** 1837-1926

**ID No.:** MSS61627

**Creator:** Bates, David Homer, b. 1843

**Extent:** 2 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061627>

**Summary:** Telegrapher. Microfilm of correspondence, diary, journal, facsimiles, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and drafts and annotated proof sheets of Bates's writings. Includes eleven Abraham Lincoln manuscripts. Forms part of Alfred Whital Stern collection of Lincolniana in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library.

## 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

Bates, David Homer, 1843-1926.

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.

Davis, Jefferson Columbus, 1828-1879--Correspondence.

Eckert, Thomas Thompson, 1825-1910--Correspondence.

Ewell, Richard Stoddert, 1817-1872--Correspondence.

Kemper, James Lawson, 1823-1895--Correspondence.

Kirby-Smith, Edmund, 1824-1893--Correspondence.

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865. Abraham Lincoln papers. 1861-1865.

Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. War Department.

### Subjects

Military telegraph.

### Places

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

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

### Occupations

Telegraphers.

## Provenance

The microfilm of the papers of David Homer Bates, telegrapher, consists of reproductions of originals purchased by the Library of Congress in 1962 and held by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division as part of its Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana. The microfilm was produced in 1984.

## Processing History

The collection was processed in 1962 and prepared for microfilming in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Transfers

The originals are held by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division as part of its Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The microfilm copies of the papers of David Homer Bates 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.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on 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: Reel number, David Homer Bates Papers in the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1843, July 3	Born, Steubenville, Ohio
1861-1866	Cipher operator and manager of the War Department's telegraph office
1867	Married Sallie J. Raphael Kenney
1907	Published <i>Lincoln in the Telegraph Office</i> . New York: Century Co.
1926	Published <i>Lincoln Stories Told by Him in the Military Office in the War Department during the Civil War</i> . New York: W. E. Rudge
1926, June 15	Died

## Scope and Content Note

The microfilm of the papers of David Homer Bates (1843-1926) spans the years 1837-1926 and consists of reproductions of collected items as well as the personal papers of Bates that comprise part of the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library. Included are a diary, correspondence, facsimiles, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and drafts and annotated proof sheets of some of Bates's writings. The papers are organized into the following series: [Civil War File](#), [Correspondence](#), [Facsimiles](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Scrapbooks](#).

Notable among the collected items are eleven Abraham Lincoln manuscripts and single letters of such Civil War commanders as Robert E. Lee, James Lawson Kemper, Edmund Kirby-Smith, Richard Stoddert Ewell, and Jefferson Columbus Davis.

Among the personal papers is a diary and daily journal kept by Bates for the period November 1863 to June 1865, while he served as manager of the War Department telegraph office in Washington, D.C. This volume is of importance as a record of military intelligence activities in the Civil War and is of further interest because of the manner in which the day-to-day narrative reveals the significance of telegraphic communication in the area of military science. Also included in the personal papers are letters of Andrew Carnegie, Thomas Thompson Eckert, and Robert Todd Lincoln. There are also some retained copies of letters written by Bates.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Civil War File, 1861-1865](#)
- [Correspondence, 1864-1926](#)
- [Facsimiles, 1862-1865](#)
- [Miscellany, 1837-1926](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1907-1908](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1 REEL 1	<p><b><u>Civil War File, 1861-1865</u></b></p> <p>Notes, letters, and endorsements of Abraham Lincoln, letters of Civil War commanders, diary and daily journal of Bates, and miscellaneous items</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 1 REEL 1	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1864-1926</u></b></p> <p>Letters sent and received, mostly the correspondence of Bates with various individuals.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 1 REEL 1	<p><b><u>Facsimiles, 1862-1865</u></b></p> <p>Reproductions of notes, letters, and other items of Abraham Lincoln, Confederate cipher codes, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 2 REEL 1	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1837-1926</u></b></p> <p>Articles, addresses, books, biographical material, photographs, and miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 2 REEL 2	<p><b><u>Scrapbooks, 1907-1908</u></b></p> <p>Two scrapbooks containing magazine and newspaper clippings, letters, and other items related to <i>Lincoln in the Telegraph Office</i>.</p>

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,925

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	<b>Civil War File, 1861-1865</b> Notes, letters, and endorsements of Abraham Lincoln, letters of Civil War commanders, diary and daily journal of Bates, and miscellaneous items Arranged by type of material.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Abraham Lincoln items, including:
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, July 25, 1862
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Aug. 7, 1862, with endorsement on letter from Thomas H. Hick to S. Cameron, Nov. 27, 1861
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to _____, Aug. 13, 1862
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Aug. 26, 1862
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to _____, Oct. 9, 1862, with endorsement on envelope
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Dec. 17, 1862
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, endorsement on letter from Alex. Williamson to president, Nov. 13, 1863
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to _____, Sept. 20, 1864
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Oct. 31, 1864
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Mary Todd, to Mrs. C. Sumwault, Apr. 20, 1864 (original telegram in handwriting of Abraham Lincoln)
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham, Feb. 1865 (signature only)
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Civil War commanders' letters (one each) of Franklin Buchanan, Jefferson C. Davis, Jubal A. Early, Richard S. Ewell, James L. Kemper, E. Kirby-Smith, Robert E. Lee, Gideon J. Pillow, and Richard Taylor
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Diary and daily journal of Bates, 1863-1865
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Miscellaneous
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1864-1926</b> Letters sent and received, mostly the correspondence of Bates with various individuals. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and thereunder chronologically.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Bates, David Homer, 1865-1925, undated
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Carnegie, Andrew, 1868-1910
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Eckert, Thomas T., 1866-1910
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1907-1910
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1864-1906
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	General, 1868-1926
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	<b>Facsimiles, 1862-1865</b> Reproductions of notes, letters, and other items of Abraham Lincoln, Confederate cipher codes, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Abraham Lincoln items, including:
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lincoln, Abraham to Colonel Haupt, Aug. 31, 1862

## Facsimiles, 1862-1865

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, to Robert A. Maxwell, Sept. 23, 1863
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, from Robert A. Maxwell, Sept. 23, 1863
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, to Mary Todd Lincoln, Apr. 27, 1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Apr. 3, 1865 (8:00 a.m)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, to secretary of war, Apr. 3, 1865 (5:00 p.m.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lincoln, Abraham, autograph estimate of the electoral vote of 1864, with documentation
BOX 1 REEL 1	Confederate cipher codes
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miscellaneous
BOX 2 REEL 1	<b>Miscellany, 1837-1926</b> Articles, addresses, books, biographical material, photographs, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 2 REEL 1	Articles, addresses, and books
BOX 2 REEL 1	Regarding Abraham Lincoln's assassination, Lincoln and the telegraph office, and other Lincoln stories (3 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Regarding Thomas T. Eckert
BOX 2 REEL 1	Biographical material on Bates, photographs, fragment related to the presidential campaign of 1844, invitation to the National Inauguration Ball of 1865, and miscellaneous items
BOX 2 REEL 1	Contract with the Century Co. for <i>Lincoln in the Telegraph Office</i> and related memoranda, 1906-1920
BOX 2 REEL 1	Envelopes and clippings
BOX 2 REEL 1	Newspaper clippings, 1861-1926
BOX 2 REEL 1	Printed matter
BOX 2 REEL 1	School books of John Robert Kenney, 1837 (2 vols.)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Tradesmen's National Bank liquidation papers, 1898-1909
BOX 2 REEL 2	<b>Scrapbooks, 1907-1908</b> Two scrapbooks containing magazine and newspaper clippings, letters, and other items related to <i>Lincoln in the Telegraph Office</i> .
BOX 2 REEL 2	Magazine and newspaper clippings and letters concerning <i>Lincoln in the Telegraph Office</i> , originals and copies, 1907-1908 (2 vols., partially indexed)