

Lyman Trumbull Correspondence
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap

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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

Extent: 77 containers

Extent: 13 linear feet

Extent: 22 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78043281>

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

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.
McClelland, 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.

Titles

Lyman Trumbull papers

Occupations

Senators, U.S. Congress--Illinois.

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.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,122

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	1856
BOX 1 REEL 1	Feb. 10-Feb. 29
BOX 2 REEL 1	Mar. 4-Apr. 9
BOX 3 REEL 1	Apr. 10-Apr. 30
BOX 4 REEL 2	May 1-June 5
BOX 5 REEL 2	June 6-July 14
BOX 6 REEL 2	July 15-July 31
BOX 7 REEL 2	1856, Aug.1-1857, Feb. 23
BOX 8 REEL 3	1857
BOX 8 REEL 3	Feb. 24-Aug. 3
BOX 9 REEL 3	Sept. 11-Dec. 5
BOX 10 REEL 3	Dec. 6-Dec. 31
BOX 11 REEL 3	1858
BOX 11 REEL 3	Jan.1-Jan. 26
BOX 12 REEL 3	Jan. 27-Mar.8
BOX 13 REEL 4	Mar. 9-Apr. 30
BOX 14 REEL 4	May 1-Nov. 16
BOX 15 REEL 4	1858, Nov. 20-1859, Feb. 21
BOX 16 REEL 4	1859
BOX 16 REEL 4	Feb. 22-Dec. 24
BOX 17 REEL 5	1859, Dec. 25-1860, Jan. 3
BOX 18 REEL 5	1860
BOX 18 REEL 5	Feb. 2-Mar. 16
BOX 19 REEL 5	Mar. 17-Apr. 29
BOX 20 REEL 6	May 1-June 9
BOX 21 REEL 6	June 11-July 14
BOX 22 REEL 6	July 15-Aug. 13
BOX 23 REEL 6	Aug. 14-Sept. 22
BOX 24 REEL 6	Sept. 24-Nov. 11
BOX 25 REEL 7	Nov. 12-Nov.26
BOX 26 REEL 7	Nov. 27-Dec. 10
BOX 27 REEL 7	Dec. 11-Dec. 23
BOX 28 REEL 7	1860, Dec. 24-1861, Jan. 4
BOX 29 REEL 8	1861
BOX 29 REEL 8	Jan. 5-Jan. 15
BOX 30 REEL 8	Jan. 16-Jan. 23
BOX 31 REEL 8	Jan. 24-Jan. 29
BOX 32 REEL 8	Jan. 30-Feb. 5
BOX 33 REEL 9	Feb. 6-Feb. 12
BOX 34 REEL 9	Feb. 13-Feb.18
BOX 35 REEL 9	Feb. 19-Feb. 24

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 36 REEL 9	Feb. 25-Mar. 1
BOX 37 REEL 10	Mar. 2-Mar. 8
BOX 38 REEL 10	Mar. 9-Mar. 14
BOX 39 REEL 10	Mar. 15-Mar. 22
BOX 40 REEL 10	Mar. 23-Apr. 15
BOX 41 REEL 11	Apr. 16-June
BOX 42 REEL 11	June 20-July 23
BOX 43 REEL 12	July 24-Nov. 1
BOX 44 REEL 12	Nov. 11-Dec.
BOX 45 REEL 12	1861, Dec. 20-1862, Jan. 9
BOX 46 REEL 12	1862
BOX 46 REEL 12	Jan. 10-Feb. 14
BOX 47 REEL 12	Feb. 15-Apr. 10
BOX 48 REEL 13	Apr. 11-June 2
BOX 49 REEL 13	June 3-July 4
BOX 50 REEL 13	July 5-Oct. 28
BOX 51 REEL 13	Oct.29-Dec. 17
BOX 52 REEL 14	1862, Dec. 18-1863, Jan. 26
BOX 53 REEL 14	1863
BOX 53 REEL 14	Jan. 27-Feb. 28
BOX 54 REEL 14	Mar. 1-Sept. 30
BOX 55 REEL 15	1863, Oct. 1-1864, Jan. 21
BOX 56 REEL 15	1864
BOX 56 REEL 15	Jan. 22-Mar. 31
BOX 57 REEL 15	Apr. 4-June 17
BOX 58 REEL 16	June 18-Dec.
BOX 59 REEL 16	1864, Dec. 27-1865, Feb. 16
BOX 60 REEL 16	1865
BOX 61 REEL 17	Feb. 17-July 17
BOX 62 REEL 17	July 18-Nov. 8
BOX 62 REEL 17	1865, Nov. 9-1866, Jan. 6
BOX 63 REEL 17	1866
BOX 64 REEL 17	Jan. 7-Feb. 8
BOX 64 REEL 18	Feb. 9-Mar.27
BOX 65 REEL 18	Mar. 28-Apr. 30
BOX 66 REEL 18	May 1-May 31
BOX 67 REEL 19	June 1-July 3
BOX 68 REEL 19	July 4-Aug. 14
BOX 69 REEL 19	Aug. 15-Oct.
BOX 70 REEL 20	1866, Oct. 13-1867, Aug. 26
BOX 71 REEL 20	1867, Aug. 27-1869, Aug. 30
BOX 72 REEL 20	1869, Sept. 2-1871, Dec. 28
BOX 73 REEL 21	1872
BOX 73 REEL 21	Jan. 2-Mar. 6
BOX 74 REEL 21	Mar. 9-Apr.12
BOX 75 REEL 21	Apr. 13-May 11

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 76 REEL 22	May 12-July 15
BOX 77 REEL 22	1872, July 16-Jan. 16, 1894

Name Index (Incomplete)

Name	Volume Nos.
Aldrich, Cyrus	8, 10, 11, 24
Andrew, John A.	62
Anthony, Henry B.	50
Aldrich, Cyrus	8, 10, 11, 24
Andrew, John A.	62
Anthony, Henry B.	50
Arnold, Isaac N.	7, 26, 31, 33, 41
Bailhache, William H.	3, 27
Baker, Edward L.	14, 21, 40, 45
Ballance, Charles	20, 23, 38, 46, 48, 57
Ballard, Bland	65
Banks, Nathaniel P.	56, 69
Bebb, William	34
Belknap, William W.	73
Bissell, William H.	1, 2, 4, 5, 8 -12, 15, 16
Blair, Austin	33, 75-77
Blair, Francis P., Jr.	9, 26
Blair, Montgomery	8, 16, 42, 46, 55, 72
Blow, Henry T.	62
Boutwell, George P.	76
Brayman, Mason	55, 57
Breese, Sidney	21, 52, 63
Bromwell, Henry P. H.	35, 42, 50
Bross, William	59, 68
Brown, George T.	54, 55, 61, 62, 68, 70-72
Browning, Orville H.	2, 4, 7, 14, 35, 53, 59
Buckingham, William A.	13
Butler, William	32-35, 38, 39, 43, 44, 46-48, 53,-56, 70
Butz, Casper	39, 54, 55
Cameron, Simon	24, 42, 60, 62
Canisius, Theodore	33, 70
Carney, Thomas	73
Carr, Clark E.	31, 59, 60
Caton, John D.	3, 5, 6, 17, 19, 20, 46, 52, 56, 58, 61
Chandler, Zachariah	9, 23, 24, 25, 50, 54
Chase, Salmon P.	3, 8, 14, 15, 24, 25, 56
Cobb, Howell	11
Colfax, Schuyler	8, 61, 69
Collamer, Jacob	60
Conkling, James C.	6-9, 14, 26, 28, 31, 33, 46, 48, 58
Conway, Martin F.	15, 62
Corwin, Thomas	48
Cullom, Shelby M.	35, 36, 58, 60, 68, 73
Curtis, Samuel R.	44
Dana, Richard H., Jr.	47
Davis, David	22, 27, 28, 50, 59
Davis, H. Winter	50

Name	Volume Nos.
Defrees, John D.	13, 14, 21, 76
Delahay, mark W.	3, 9, 15, 17, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, 55
Delano, Columbus	73
Dennison, William	11, 19, 41, 44
Diller, Isaac R.	47, 53
Dixon, James	25
Dole, William P.	31, 39
Donnelly, Ignatius	77
Doolittle, James R.	24, 41
Dorsheimer, William	77
Dubois, Jesse K.	7, 9-11, 13, 14, 18-21, 30, 33, 37, 39, 40, 46-48, 51-53, 56, 57, 79, 62, 75, 76
Dummer, Henry E.	49, 55
Durant, Thomas C.	57
Edwards, Benjamin S.	6, 8
Edwards, Cyrus	5, 36, 37
Ellis, Abner Y.	52
Enos, Pascal P.	8, 45, 50, 53
Farnsworth, John F.	40, 63, 70
Fell, Jesse W.	13, 34, 42, 46, 54, 69, 73 74
Fenton, Reuben E.	65, 77
Fessenden, William P.	7
Ficklin, Orlando B.	22, 23
Field, David D.	28, 29, 47, 49, 54, 65
Fish, Hamilton	73
Fogg, George G.	24
Follett, Orrin	75
Forney, John W.	16
Foster, Lafayette S.	72, 74, 76
Francis, Simeon	2, 27, 28, 32, 71
Fremont, John C.	42
Fry, James B.	54, 69, 73
Galloway, Samuel	10, 25, 36, 38, 44
Gillespie, Joseph	1, 4, 17, 18, 34, 37, 55
Glover, Samuel T.	42
Godkin, Edwin L.	76
Goodlow, Daniel R.	9
Goodrich, Grant	2, 12, 30, 32, 37, 39, 43, 44, 47, 49, 53, 63, 65
Greeley, Horace	56, 75, 76
Grierson, Benjamin H.	37
Grimes, James W.	21, 22, 25, 43, 50, 54
Grimshaw, Jackson	22, 25, 32, 34, 55, 57, 66
Hale, John P.	29, 60
Halstead, Murant	76
Hamlin, Hannibal	23, 28, 62, 67
Harlan, James	61, 62, 64, 6, 23
Harris, Ira	69
Hatch, Ozias M.	8-12, 17, 18, 21, 22, 31-33, 35, 39, 40, 42, 48, 53, 60, 74
Hawkins, Rush C.	45
Hawley, Joseph R.	8

Name	Volume Nos.
Hay, Milton	55, 48
Henry, Joseph	22, 68
Herndon, William H.	2, 5-12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 27, 31, 33, 43, 44, 62, 63, 69
Hickcox, Virgil	45
Hitt, Robert R.	61
Hoffman, Francis A.	44, 47, 55
Holt, Joseph	52, 61
Howard, Oliver O.	66, 73
Hurlbut, Stephen A.	14, 30, 36, 38, 46, 57, 61
Hunter, David	44, 47
Ingersoll, Ebon C.	62, 73
Jacquess, James F.	29, 31
Jay, John	49, 50
Jayne, William	30-32, 44, 45-49
Jonas, Abraham	3-5, 12-14, 16, 19, 24, 35
Joy, James F.	66, 67
Judd, Norman B.	4-9, 12, 14-16, 19-21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 54, 55, 59, 60, 63, 66, 68
Kasson, John A.	41
Kellogg, William P.	46, 48, 57, 66, 70
King, Preston	9, 21-25
Kinzie, Juliette A.	63
Koerner, Gustave P.	14, 16, 30, 35, 38-47, 50, 52, 54, 55, 58-60, 63, 64, 72-74, 77
Kriesman, Herman	7, 24, 62, 63
Lane, James H.	15
Lee, Samuel P.	54, 57
Lieber, Francis	66
Lincoln, Abraham	57
Logan, John A.	62
Logan, Stephen T.	27
Lovejoy, Owen	12
McClerand, John A.	48, 55-58, 65, 72, 75
McClure, Alexander K.	75, 77
McCulloch, Hugh	61
McLean, John	17, 19
Manly, Uri	44-46, 51
Marshall, Thomas A.	14, 33, 40, 41
Matheny, Noah W.	33
Medill, Joseph	10, 13, 22, 25, 37, 41, 42, 49, 50, 53, 61, 66-68
Meigs, Montgomery C.	53
Miller, Samuel F.	69
Mills, Clark	57
Morgan, Edwin D.	23
Moorehead, James K.	69, 61
Murray, Bronson	46
Nelson, Thomas H.	21
Nicolay, John G.	10, 11, 20, 21
Norton, Jesse O.	38, 52
Nott, Charles C.	20
Oglesby, Richard J.	24, 35, 47, 59, 63, 69

Name	Volume Nos.
Opdyke, George	27, 32
Ord, Edward O. C.	62
Orth, Godlove C.	69
Osterhaus, Peter J.	49
Page, Peter	4, 66
Palmer, John M.	1, 2, 14, 15, 39, 42-44, 46-49, 51, 52, 54, 57, 75
Parks, Samuel C.	20, 33, 49
Parsons, Lewis B.	20, 44, 49, 58, 70
Peck, Ebenezer	5, 9, 13, 15, 32, 35-37, 30, 40, 42, 47, 52, 54, 65, 66, 70, 72, 77
Phillips, David L.	1, 5, 52, 57, 48, 51, 53-56, 58, 61-64, 66, 67, 74
Piatt, Donn	47
Pickering, William	55
Pope, John	41, 42, 61
Porter, David D.	20
Ramsay, Alexander	53
Ray, Charles H.	2, 4, 7-9, 14, 20, 30, 36, 41, 44, 61-64, 72
Read, John M.	20, 36, 53
Reid, Whitelaw	76
Reynolds, John	1, 2, 9
Robeson, George M.	73
Ruble, Horace	55
Scammon, Jonathan Y.	1, 7, 36, 37, 42, 51, 53, 58
Schurz, Carl	28, 76
Scott, Thomas A.	63
Scovel, James M.	65
Scripps, John L.	40, 41, 46, 53, 59, 60
Selby, Paul	49, 63, 64, 67, 68
Seward, William H.	19, 54, 64
Shaffer, John W.	39, 40, 45, 47
Shehan, James W.	59
Sherman, William T.	5
Shellabarger, Samuel	65
Sigel, Franz	52
Smith, Caleb B.	46, 47, 54
Smith, Truman	6, 46
Snethen, Worthington G.	25, 42, 44, 47
Speed, James	63
Stanton, Edwin M.	56, 66
Stanton, Henry B.	46
Stuart, John T.	49, 51
Sturges, Solomon	46
Sturtevant, Julian M.	32, 36, 38, 50
Swett, Leonard	37, 38
Sulgrove, Barry R.	28, 35
Sumner, Charles	12, 58, 73
Swisshelm, Jane G.	67, 69
Talcott, Wait	30-33, 44, 48, 52, 53, 66-68
Taney, Roger B.	44
Tappan, Lewis	64

Name	Volume Nos.
Taylor, Hawkins	52
Todd, John B. S.	42
Towsend, Edward D.	44
Towsend, George A.	72
Treat, Samuel H.	10
Underwood, John C.	16
Waite, Morrison R.	18, 20
Wakeman, Abram	60
Washburne, Elihu B.	5, 22, 23, 58
Weed, Thurlow	25
Weldon, Lawrence	33, 45
Welles, Gideon	50, 54
Wells, David A.	75
Wentworth, John	3, 59, 63, 66, 67
White, Horace	2, 8, 15, 20, 21, 24, 29, 63, 64, 66, 68, 73-77
Wilkeson, Samuel	43
Williams, George H.	73
Wilmot, David	8
Wilson, Charles L.	14
Wilson, James H.	71
Wright, Erastus	39
Yates, Richard	7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 30, 33, 34, 36, 41, 46, 47, 50, 62, 68, 73