

**J. G. Randall and Ruth Painter Randall Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78037226>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011002>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011  
Revised 2022 May

## Collection Summary

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

**Inclusive Dates:** 1779-1970

**Bulk Dates:** 1916-1970

**ID No.:** MSS37226

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

**Creator:** Randall, Ruth Painter

**Extent:** 35,000 items

**Extent:** 110 containers plus 3 oversize

**Extent:** 49.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78037226>

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

### 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, 1897-1955--Correspondence.  
Donald, David Herbert, 1920-2009--Correspondence.  
Freidel, Frank, 1916-1993--Correspondence.  
Hesseltine, William B. (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.

### **Titles**

*J.G. Randall papers*

*Ruth Painter Randall papers*

### **Occupations**

Authors.

Biographers.

Educators.

Historians.

## **Acquisition Information**

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 by Lloyd A. Dunlap. Additions and revisions were made in 1979 by Len Hawley and Paul Colton, by William Parham in 1982, by David Mathisen in 1988, and by John Monagle in 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	Event
1881, June 24	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

Date	Event
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

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

**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

Container	Contents
BOX 1-11	<b>Subject Files, 1916-1952</b> 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 Association <i>See also Container 2, Angle, Paul M.; Baringer, W. E.; and Basler, Roy P.; and Container 9, Pratt, Harry E.</i> Adams, Randolph G. Adler, Selig Agnew, Theodore L. Ahlquist, Irving F. <i>Album of American History</i> Allen, Hardie American Historical Association
BOX 2	<i>American Peoples' Encyclopedia</i> Anderson, George L. Andrews, Matthew P. Angle, Paul M. <i>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Association and Container 6, Illinois State Historical Society</i> <i>Atlas of American History</i> Auchampaugh, Philip G. Barbee, David R. Baringer, William E. <i>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Association</i> Bardrel, Harry Barnwell, Robert Barrett, Oliver R. Barton, William E. Basler, Roy P. <i>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Association</i> 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.



## Subject Files, 1916-1952

### Container

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	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.
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BOX 5	East, Ernest A.
	Education
	Eisendrath, Joseph L.
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	Eisenschiml, Otto
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	Fisher, LeRoy
	Freidel, Frank
	Greer, Allen J.
	Griffith, Albert H.
	Handlin, Oscar
	Harper, Josephine
	Harper & Brothers
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
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## Subject Files, 1916-1952

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	Hesseltine, William B.
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BOX 6	Illinois State Archives, Springfield, Ill.
	Illinois State Historical Society <i>See also Container 2, Angle, Paul M.; Container 8, Monaghan, Jay ; and Container 9, Pratt, Harry E.</i>
	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
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	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

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	National Archives, Washington, D.C.
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	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.
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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)	
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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  
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Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.

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Bledsoe, Albert Taylor  
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Brooks, Noah  
Brough, John  
Brown, John  
Browning, Orville H.  
Calhoun, John  
Cameron, Simon  
Carroll, Anna E.  
Caton, John D.  
Chase, Salmon P.  
Chickamauga campaign  
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	Eastep, James
	Eckert, Thomas
	Election of 1860, New Jersey
	Election of 1864
	Election
	Emancipation
	Fuller, Melville
	Floyd, John
	Fourteenth Amendment
	Gadsden, Christopher
	Garibaldi, Guiseppe, and Abraham Lincoln
	Gettysburg Address
	Grant, Ulysses S.
	Grierson, Benjamin H.
	Halleck, Henry W.
	Hamlin, Hannibal
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## Historical Files, 1779-1865

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	McClellan, George Brinton
	Merryman, John
	Morgan, Edwin D.
	Morton, Oliver P.
	<i>The Mystery of a 'Public Man'</i>
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	Nicolay, John G.
	Offutt, Benton
	Photographs
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	Raymond, Henry J.
	Reconstruction
	Reconstruction, railroads in
	Reynolds, John
	Rutledge, Anne
	Scott, Winfield
	Singleton, James W.
	Stanton, Edwin
	Stevens, Thaddeus
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BOX 20	Welles, Gideon
	White, Horace
	Wilderness Battleground

## Historical Files, 1779-1865

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BOX 21

#### **General Correspondence, 1930-1951**

Letters sent and received.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person.

BOX 21

A-Z

BOX 22-36

#### **Speech, Article, and Book File, 1916-1952**

Proofs, typescripts, outlines, memoranda, drafts, correspondence, and printed matter relating to writings by the Randalls.  
Arranged by title of writing.

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#### *Lincoln the President*

General

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Galley and page proof

BOX 25-26

Typescript

BOX 27

Typescript, vol. IV

BOX 28

#### *Lincoln the Liberal Statesman*

"Lincoln and John Bright"

BOX 29

#### *Constitutional Problems under Lincoln*

"Lincoln and the South"

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

#### *Dictionary of American Biography* article on Lincoln

Lincoln broadcasts

"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

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BOX 35-36	<p><i>Mary Lincoln: A Biography of a Marriage</i> by Ruth Painter Randall, printer's copy</p>
BOX 37-39	<p><b>Miscellany</b> Printed matter, clippings, awards, and diplomas. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 37-38	Clippings and printed matter
BOX 39	Awards and diplomas
BOX 40-101	<b>Addition I, 1917-1970</b>
BOX 40-64	<p><b>J. G. Randall Papers, 1917-1970</b> General, family and personal, and business correspondence; financial records; drafts and galleys; card file; and awards, souvenirs, and diplomas. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 40-43	General correspondence, 1917-1970
BOX 44-45	Family and personal correspondence, 1917-1970
BOX 46-52	Business correspondence, 1935-1970
BOX 53-57	Finances
BOX 58-62	Drafts and galleys
BOX OV 63A-63C	Card file
BOX 64	Awards, souvenirs, and diplomas
BOX 65-101	<p><b>Ruth Painter Randall Papers, 1940-1970</b> Correspondence, research material, drafts and manuscripts, clippings, miscellany, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.</p>



## Addition I, 1917-1970

### Container

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BOX 65-69	Correspondence, 1940-1970
BOX 70-74	Research material
BOX 75	Research material, including Mary Todd Lincoln's autograph
BOX 76-86	Drafts and manuscripts
BOX 87-94	Clippings
BOX 95	Miscellany
BOX 96-101	Printed matter

### BOX 102-111      **Addition II, 1865-1953**

#### BOX 102-105      **Diaries, 1908-1953**

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 102	Randall, Ruth Painter, 1909-1920 (14 vols.) 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.)
BOX 105	1944-1953 (10 vols.)

#### BOX 106-107      **Family Correspondence, 1903-1925**

Letters between family members.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 106	1903, 1907-1908 1913-1918 (5 folders) 1919-1925
BOX 107	(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	1917 (4 folders)

## Addition II, 1865-1953

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 111	1917 (3 folders) Undated
BOX 111	<b>Miscellany</b> 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.