

# **William Springer Collection**

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March 30, 2017

Oakland University Archives and Special Collections  
Kresge Library  
100 Library Drive  
Rochester, MI, 48309

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## Summary Information

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Oakland University Archives and Special Collections |
| <b>Title</b>            | William Springer Collection                         |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1854-1968   |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 150.0 Linear feet                                   |
| <b>Language</b>         | English   |

### Preferred citation

[item], [folder name], [box number], William Springer Collection, Oakland University Archives and Special Collections.

## Biographical note

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Born in an Austrian-Croatian village near Karlstadt, Austria, William Springer emigrated to the United States to live with a miner uncle in Pennsylvania in 1913. He enrolled in a correspondence course in electrical engineering but interrupted it to enlist in the US army for 3 years. Upon his discharge he became a door-to-door salesman for advertising items. In 1932 he came to Detroit, took up residence near Wayne State University and found a job in direct mail advertising. In January 1933 he developed his company into a small tabloid called "This Week," which later became "Monday Morning" and then the "New Center News." It chronicled the life of people working in the area of the GM and Fisher Buildings. It is still published today by Springer Publishing, <http://springerpublishing.com/info/>

For 42 years he was an avid collector of Lincolniana. His interest was aroused when Dr William Barton, a minister and Lincoln authority, presented him with a volume about Lincoln in 1927. He started amassing books, but had to sell them during the Depression. He started again in 1933, and it developed into the large collection that would eventually be donated to Oakland University.

In 1952 he founded the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Roundtable of Michigan and served two terms as its president. He was associated with major Lincoln collectors and experts in the nation, such as Carl Sandburg, Bernhardt Wall (creator of the etched book *Following Abraham Lincoln*), Thomas Starr, Stewart McClelland (President of Lincoln Memorial University), Edgar DeWitt Jones (another reverend and Lincolnian), and Louis Warren (historian and archivist at the Lincoln National Life Foundation). Fred Black was a close friend.

For more information: - "The Legend of William Springer: A Brief Pictorial Autobiography of a Boy and the Man," *New Center News* Dec 25, 1972. (available in William Springer biographical file) - The William Springer biographical file (newspaper clippings, copies of addresses and media statements that Springer collected and send to Oakland University with his collection. It also includes a list of outstanding books in the collection) - James Jay Monaghan, *Lincoln Bibliography* (and many other bibliographies in the Springer collection) - *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*

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## Scope and Contents note

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Mr. Springer sold his collection to Oakland University in 1969. This included his books, pamphlets, photographs and other graphics, newspapers, memorabilia, numerous sculptures and other objects, as well as some discrete manuscript collections like the Fred Black Papers and Bernhardt Wall materials.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Oakland University Archives and Special Collections

### **Access and Use note**

The William Springer Collection is open for research.

### **Processing**

Processed by Dominique and Shirley Paquette, 2016

## Collection Inventory

### Books

#### Scope and Contents note

The book collection contains about 2,000 volumes amassed by Springer over forty some years. They cover all aspects of history related to Lincoln: there are books on Lincoln's ancestry, parentage and childhood, boyhood and young manhood. There are Lincoln's own writings and speeches, as well as books dealing with his political and executive life. There are also books on slavery, the Union and Confederate armies, the Civil War, as well as Michigan and Detroit history of the mid 19th century.

Springer said his favorite book was "The conspiracy trial for the murder of the president by court reporter Benjamin Perley Poore (1865-1866)" (Source: Harry Salsinger, "Local Lincoln Scholar Has 6,000 Items on Abe in His Collection," Detroit News, Feb. 12, 1961, p. 19A). He was also fond of Albert J. Beveridge's "Abraham Lincoln, the manuscript ed." (Houghton Mifflin, 1928) with an original leaf of Beveridge's manuscript bound in volume I, finely illustrated and complete with gravure frontispieces in each volume (32 plates total) and four additional hand-colored frontispieces of the Lincoln Memorial. In "The Life of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd," Nettie Mudd pleaded her father's case in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy, using family letters and correspondence as well as John Wilkes Booth letters. The first edition has a frontispiece and several portraits.

### Pamphlets and Ephemera

#### Scope and Contents note

The earliest pamphlet are from 1854: a lecture by Robert C. Winthrop, "Algernon Sidney: a lecture, delivered before the Boston mercantile library association, December 21, 1853" and an essay on the Nebraska question by abolitionist Theodore Parker. A few pamphlets from 1860-1865 document Abraham Lincoln's political career and the politics of the time, including 1860 and 1864 election

## Pamphlets and Ephemera

material, the extension of slavery in the territories, and pro- and anti-slavery views. There is also a copy of the Opinions of Chief Justice Taney and Justice Curtis in the 1857 Dred Scott case (box 19).

In the aftermath of Lincoln's assassination a host of pamphlets were published to meet American citizens' thirst for information regarding the life of the president, the plot to assassinate him, and the fate of the conspirators. The Springer collection has a large number of such pamphlets published in 1865-1866 in the form of biographies, addresses, or sermons.

The largest part of the collection consists of pamphlets and ephemera from the 1880s to the 1960s (with the bulk covering the period from the 1920s-1940s). They include addresses and sermons delivered in different settings (academic, commemorative, political, or religious) and presented in various formats, including radio talk transcripts, newspaper clippings, typed copies and private editions. They deal with topics related to President Lincoln, the state of Illinois, slavery, the Civil War, the Confederacy, Lincoln commemorations, and even the national debate on segregation in the South in the 1920s - 1950s.

The collection contains numerous reprints of scholarly and popular articles, mostly from the 1920s-1940s. Many are by well-known Lincoln collectors, professional and amateur historians of the time such as J.B. Oakleaf, G.P. Hambrecht, E. Hertz, O. Eisenschiml, and H. E. Pratt. Some are privately printed publications and limited editions, and many are dedicated to Springer by the authors. There is also unpublished materials sent to Springer by G.P. Hambrecht (box 14). Some booklets were published by companies and businesses, others by governmental agencies such as the National Park Service. There are also numerous excerpts from the Congressional Record relating to Lincoln and Civil War history. Other publications include poetry, museum and historical sites brochures, event programs, book announcements. Finally there are some reprints of well-known Lincoln documents and facsimiles.

The collection has been left in the order in which it was brought to the library. Boxes 1-10 are organized by topic, and boxes 11-20 alphabetically by author. The latter cover similar topics, and the majority of the materials in those boxes are publications by Lincoln scholars and collectors. Most items are in English but there are also a variety of foreign languages.

Most of the items are cataloged, and can be found by searching the library catalog. However a few items of lesser significance are not cataloged such as menus and newspaper clippings. Those are noted in the brief overview of the collection below. Whenever relevant some items are highlighted as examples of the materials in boxes 11-20.

**Box**

Pamphlets and Ephemera

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Addresses 6 folders

1

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes numerous reprints of the Gettysburg Address with commentaries and personal narratives, reprints of Lincoln's second inaugural address and miscellaneous publications that include excerpts from speeches given by Lincoln.

Ancestry, Boyhood 6 folders

2

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes publications related to Abraham Lincoln's ancestry and childhood.

Assassination 4 folders

3

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes pamphlets produced in the weeks and months following the assassination of President Lincoln; pamphlets of addresses given at anniversaries of President Lincoln's death. Some pamphlets about John Wilkes Booth and the conspiracy.

Centennials 4 folders

4

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes pamphlets, booklets, invitations, programs, and invitation letter envelopes relating to the centennial celebration of President Lincoln and the Civil War.

Drama - Courtship 7 folders

5

**Scope and Contents note**



## Pamphlets and Ephemera

Includes letters, souvenir programs, poetry and other items relating to President Lincoln and his wife, as well as Ann Rutledge, Ann Owen, and Sarah Bush.

Education - Religion 5 folders

6

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes pamphlets relating to President Lincoln's views on, and practice of, religion. Some pamphlets on his own education and his education policies.

Eulogies 2 folders

7

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes commemorative addresses and ceremonies published in 1865-1866, mourning the death of President Lincoln.

General Programs 11 folders

8

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes commemorative programs and text of addresses produced by historical associations and other organizations for Lincoln anniversaries.

General Subjects 9 folders

9

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes pamphlets on miscellaneous subjects organized by William Springer: Lincoln and 'isms; Jefferson-Lincoln-Roosevelt-Garfield-McKinley-Washington; Lincoln and Doctors; Lincoln in Foreign Language-miscellaneous; Juvenile; Anti-Lincoln; "Negroes-Jews and Others"; Military.

Pamphlets and Ephemera

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Political - 1856-1869 13 folders

10

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes pamphlets mostly from the 1860s, illustrating the political debates of the time.

A-B 8 folders

11

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with names or last names beginning with A or B.

C-D-E-F 9 folders

12

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters C-F.

G-H 6 folders

13

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last name beginning with letters G-H.

H 9 folders

14

**Scope and Contents note**

## Pamphlets and Ephemera

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letter H.

I-K 7 folders

15

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters I-K.

L 9 folders

16

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letter L. Uncataloged items are a series of Lincoln Digest leaflets, edited by Louis A. Warren, A Detroit Public Library exhibition program (1948), and a booklet of stamps ("Lincoln A Story in Poster Stamps" 1939)

M-N-O 6 folders

17

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters M, N and O. Uncataloged items include brochures for Lincoln Memorial and Lincoln Museum, museum exhibit brochure (Fords' Theater) in Washington, DC, and excerpts from the Congressional Record.

P-Q-R 7 folders

18

**Scope and Contents note**

## Pamphlets and Ephemera

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters P, Q, and R.

R-S-T 8 folders

19

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters R, S, and T.

U-V-W-X-Y-Z 9 folders

20

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material authored by persons/organizations with name or last names beginning with letters U,V,W,X,Y and Z. Contents include also numerous government documents connected to President Lincoln and his commemoration.

Memorials 11 folders

21

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes postcards, flyers and other documents about Lincoln memorials and organizations managing them. Included are addresses for dedication ceremonies and other commemorative events. Also materials about miscellaneous events and places using Lincoln's name, like brochure for Lincoln Hotel in NY, or a 1943 ad showing the Lincoln Memorial for a buy war bonds campaign.

Pamphlets and Facsimile Letters 5 folders

22

Music and Poetry 2 folders

23

## Clippings &amp; periodical issues

**Scope and Contents note**

Poems and sheet music from the 1860s.

**Clippings & periodical issues****Box**

Broughton's Monthly Planet Reader 1864

24

FRA: A Journal of Affirmation 1909

24

Miscellaneous titles 1861-1945

24

New Center News 1934-1962

24

Old South Leaflets nos.11,85,107,189,214-215

24

Sanitary Commission Bulletin 1865

24

**Lincolnnook Memories****Scope and Contents note**

Lincolnnook Memories was a series of 32 papers published weekly in New Center News, by William Springer (named after the Lincolnnook in his home where he kept his collection). The collection includes issues from February 2, 1953 to September 3, 1963. Springer received a Lincoln Medallion in 1959 for contributing to the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

Each issue is contained in a folder which includes materials produced for the preparation of the Lincolnnook column (typescripts with handwritten corrections, layout sheets.....) as well as the complete

## Lincoln Lore

New Center News issue. Another complete set of Lincolnnook Memories. issues 1 to 32, is also available.

**Box**

Lincolnnook no.1-16,18 1959 17 folders

25

**Scope and Contents note**

[no.17 missing]. Folders include materials produced for the preparation of the Lincolnnook column (typescripts with handwritten corrections, layout sheets) as well as the complete New Center News issue.

Lincolnnook no. 19-32 1959-1963 14 folders

26

**Scope and Contents note**

Folders include materials produced for the preparation of the Lincolnnook column (typescripts with handwritten corrections, layout sheets) as well as the complete New Center News issue.

Oversize 1959-1963 nos. 1-32 copies

**Lincoln Lore****Scope and Contents note**

Includes miscellaneous publications from the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, including Lincoln Lore which began as a weekly publication from the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in 1929.

**Box**

## Catalogs and Bibliographies

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Lincoln Digest Bulletins 1-16   | 27                  |
| Lincoln Lore Leaflets 11 items  | 27                  |
| Lincoln Lore Index 1929-1963  | 27                  |
| Lincoln Lore Bulletin 1935-1956   | 27                  |
| Lincoln Lore Bulletin 1956-1994   | 28                  |
| Lincoln Letters 1989 2 loose leaf issues.                                       | 28                  |
| <b>Catalogs and Bibliographies Loose leaf</b>                                   | <b>Box</b><br>29-31 |
| <b>Scope and Contents note</b>  |                     |
| Includes rare book listings, Americana/Lincolniana, collections, catalogs, etc. |                     |
|   | <b>Box</b>          |
| Antiquarian Book Catalogs Loose leaf  | 32-34               |
| <b>Manuscripts 6 folders, 2 boxed items.</b>                                    | <b>Box</b><br>35    |
| A. Lincoln letter to James W. Grimes 11 January 1864                            |                     |
| Commission  |                     |
| Confederate Pardon 26 December 1863   |                     |

**Manuscripts**

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Autograph book- "A Steve Newton, Department of Agriculture, Washington City, or No 1215 North 3rd Street Philadelphia".

**Scope and Contents note**

Contains the signatures of almost members of Congress under Presidents Buchanan, Lincoln, and Johnson as well as White House secretaries and other government officials.

Daily Citizen, Vicksburg, Miss. July 2, 1863

**Scope and Contents note**

Reproduction of Civil War, southern newspaper printed on wall paper.

Arkansas Post, vol A #1, Saturday, March 22

**Scope and Contents note**

Handwritten newspaper. Announces that the purpose is to publish events in the life of soldiers in the field. The 2nd issue includes contributions by others -- poems, letters, and ads. It mentions the scarcity of paper, forcing the editor to use smaller sheets.

Col. F.W. Hart Letter to editor, August 10, 1928 submitting typescript of article on The Great Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Diary of Captain George H Starr October 1, 1863-April 27 1864 Bound diary of 91 manuscript pages.

**Biography**

George H. Starr was captain of Company D, 104th New York Infantry when he was captured during the first day of fighting at Gettysburg. He was transferred to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia,... Starr



## Scrapbooks

was transferred to the military prison at Macon, Georgia, in May 1864. He made his final escape on October 10 and managed to stay free. He was discharged from the army on January 6, 1865.

Rough sketch by Geo. H Starr of his army life from date of enlistment Nov 28 1861 to May 23 1862 3 part manuscript, bound with a pink ribbon. Starr explains he wrote this from memory, because he lost the diary he was keeping during the events, "a loss very keenly felt".

Part 2 of original draft sketch of army life and experience of Geo. H Starr from May 23, 1862: from date of start for Thoroughfare Gap to August 23, 1862

Geo H Starr, Sketch army life, from about July 23 1863 date of escape from Macon to close of my term of service

"As it was during the war of the rebellion" Corrected typescript of Civil War letters from 1861-1862 by George Starr

George Starr, 104th New York Volunteers - address at August 26, 1880 reunion, Silver Lake, NY

## Scrapbooks

### Box

Civil War History by Bill Springer May 1962

36

### Scope and Contents note

Compiled by Bill Springer. Composed of newspaper and magazine clippings from the 1940s-1960s, plus typewritten material. Covers April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865.

Lincolnia in the Newspapers 1844-1864

37

**Graphics**

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**Scope and Contents note**

Includes clippings from the Illinois State Register and The Illinois State Journal and other newspapers covering major events of the period - presidential campaigns, Civil War battles, etc.

Portfolio - Christian Science 1957 loose newsclippings

Portfolio - Photostats 1890 loose paper

Portfolio - Miscellaneous Titles 1864-1956 loose clippings

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes articles from Detroit, Chicago, Illinois and Florida newspapers. Item of special interest include issue of New York Times Pictorial Lincoln History dated February 9, 1913.

**Graphics 1860s-1962 Boxes 38-44****Scope and Contents note**

Miscellaneous collection of photographs, drawings, prints and other graphic materials representing Abraham Lincoln, his family, cabinet members and other contemporaries, as well as places, events and other subjects related to President Lincoln's life and career.

A detailed inventory of the graphics collection is available upon request at the Archives.

**Historical Newspapers****Box**

Detroit Daily Advertiser 1860: Oct. 10, 30

39

## Historical Newspapers

New York Herald 1865: April 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26

1a

**Scope and Contents note**

Titles included New York Herald and Portland Daily Press.

Portland Daily Press 1865: April 18

1a

New York Herald 1864: Feb 1, April 13

2b

**Scope and Contents note**

Titles included New York Herald, New York Daily Tribune, New York Tribune and New York Times.

New York Tribune 1860: Dec 15

2b

New York Daily Tribune 1864: Dec. 23; 1865: Apr. 10, Jun. 29, Aug. 5

2b

New York Times 1864: Jun. 9, Jul. 9, Sep. 26, Nov. 9, Dec. 7

2b

Frank Leslie's Illus. Newspaper July 22, 1865

3c

**Scope and Contents note**

Titles include Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Harper's Weekly and Every Man's News.

Harper's Weekly 1865: May 6, August 19

3c

Every Man's News 1933: Feb. 16; 1935: Feb. 21; 1936: Feb. 16

3c

The Crisis v.1:no. 1-52 1861-1862 bound volume