

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



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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011002>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78037226>

Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap, Leonard Hawley, Paul Colton, David Mathisen, and John Monagle

## Collection Summary

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

**Span Dates:** 1779-1970

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1916-1970)

**ID No.:** MSS37226

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

**Creator:** Randall, Ruth Painter

**Extent:** 35,000 items ; 113 containers ; 49.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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

## Occupations

Authors.

Biographers.

Educators.

Historians.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance

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. Additions and revisions were made in 1979, 1982, 1988, and 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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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 Quaipe, 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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-11	<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.
BOX 12-20	<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.
BOX 21	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1930-1951</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
BOX 22-36	<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.
BOX 37-39	<b><u>Miscellany</u></b> Printed matter, clippings, awards, and diplomas. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 40-101	<b><u>Addition I, 1917-1970</u></b>
BOX 40-64	<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.
BOX 65-101	<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.
BOX 102-111	<b><u>Addition II, 1865-1953</u></b>
BOX 102-105	<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.
BOX 106-107	<b><u>Family Correspondence, 1903-1925</u></b> Letters between family members. Arranged chronologically.

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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 Historical 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 Historical 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 Historical Association</i> Bardrel, Harry Barnwell, Robert Barrett, Oliver R. Barton, William E. Basler, Roy P. <i>See also Container 1, Abraham Lincoln Historical 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

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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>
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BOX 4	Dodd, Mead & Co.
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	Douglas, Paul H.
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BOX 5	East, Ernest A.
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	Eisenschiml, Otto
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	Griffith, Albert H.
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	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.
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BOX 7	James, H. Preston
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	Lane, Frederic C.
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	Lentz, E. G.
	Library of Congress
	Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.
	Lincoln National Life Foundation
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	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.
	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
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	Oakland Collection
	Oxford University Press
	Page, Elwin L.
	Pease, Theodore C.
	Pennsylvania, Historical Society of, Philadelphia, Pa.
	Perkins, Howard C.
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	Russell, Nelson V.
	Sandburg, Carl
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	Shryock, Richard H.
	Slade, William H.
	Southern Historical Association
	Spencer, J. C.
	Starr, Thomas I.
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University of Texas, Austin, Tex. *See same container, Texas, University of*  
Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vt.  
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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 J. G. Randall's research on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.

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Browning, Orville H.  
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Carroll, Anna E.  
Caton, John D.  
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Chickamauga campaign  
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	Fourteenth Amendment
	Gadsden, Christopher
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	Grant, Ulysses S.
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## Historical Files, 1779-1865

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## 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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General

**BOX 23-24**                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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	“Christianity or Wodenism”
	“Municipal Functions”
	“The Historian as Revisionist”
	“The Civil War Restudied”
	“On Rewriting Reconstruction History”
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	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 37-38	Clippings and printed matter
BOX 39	Awards and diplomas
BOX 40-101	<b>Addition I, 1917-1970</b>
BOX 40-64	<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.
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 63	Card file
BOX 64	Awards, souvenirs, and diplomas
BOX 65-101	<b>Ruth Painter Randall Papers, 1940-1970</b>
	Correspondence, research material, drafts and manuscripts, clippings, miscellany, and printed matter.
	Arranged by type of material.



## Addition I, 1917-1970

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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BOX 65-69	Correspondence, 1940-1970
BOX 70-74	Research material
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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)
BOX 107	1919-1925 (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**

***Container***

***Contents***

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**BOX 111**

1917  
(3 folders)  
Undated

**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.