

William T. Sherman Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Michael McElderry



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009309>

Collection Summary

Title: William T. Sherman Papers

Span Dates: 1759-1897

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1848-1891)

ID No.: MSS39800

Creator: Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891

Extent: 18,000 items; 113 containers plus 4 oversize; 22 linear feet; 51 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Army officer. Correspondence, journal kept by Sherman in California during the Mexican War, drafts of portions of his memoirs, documents, printed matter, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, maps, photographs, and memorabilia relating to his civilian and military career, including in the Civil War.

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

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891.

Belknap, William W. (William Worth), 1829-1890.

Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876.

Buell, Don Carlos, 1818-1898.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.

Halleck, H. W. (Henry Wager), 1815-1872.

Hancock, Winfield Scott, 1824-1886.

Hardie, James Allen, 1823-1876.

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1835-1909.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Meade, George Gordon, 1815-1872.

Meigs, Montgomery C. (Montgomery Cunningham), 1816-1892.

Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925.

Ord, Edward Otho Cresap, 1818-1883.

Porter, David D. (David Dixon), 1813-1891.

Reynolds, Joseph Jones, 1822-1899.

Schofield, John McAllister, 1831-1906.

Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888.

Sherman, Ellen Ewing, 1824-1888.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891.

Stone, Charles Pomeroy, 1824-1887.

Upton, Emory, 1839-1881.

Organizations

Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy.

Subjects

Atlanta Campaign, 1864.

Banks and banking--California--San Francisco.

Mexican War, 1846-1849--California.

Practice of law--Kansas--Leavenworth.

Sherman's March through the Carolinas.

Sherman's March to the Sea.

Places

California--History--1846-1850.

United States--History, Military--To 1900.

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

Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863.

Occupations

Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of William T. Sherman, army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Philemon Tecumseh Sherman, 1912-1914; Eleanor Sherman Fitch, 1942-1946; and Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Anderson, 1943. Material was also obtained by gift from others and by purchase, 1903-1983.

Processing History:

The papers of William T. Sherman were processed in 1963. Items received in 1966-1970 were processed 1977, and the collection was expanded or revised in 1983, 2005, and 2009.

Additional Guides:

In 1965, the Library published *William T. Sherman, a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*. A revised edition of the register was published in 1977.

Transfers:

Some maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

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

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of William T. Sherman 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 fifty-one reels. Consult a reference librarian 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, William T. Sherman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1820, Feb. 8	Born, Lancaster, Ohio
1829	Informally adopted by Thomas Ewing
1840	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1840-1847	Served in various army posts, largely in the South
1847-1848	Served in the Mexican War as aide to Philip Kearny and adjutant to Richard B. Mason
1850	Married Ellen Ewing
1853	Resigned commission
1853-1857	In banking and business
1858-1859	In law and business
1859-1861	Superintendent, Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, Pineville, La.
1861	Rejoined army as colonel of Thirteenth Infantry Fought at Bull Run and later promoted to brigadier general of volunteers
1862	Served under Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh Promoted to major general of volunteers Assumed command of Memphis defense
1863	Served in Vicksburg and Chattanooga campaigns
1864	Assumed command of Union armies in the West Captured Kennesaw Mountain defended by General Joseph E. Johnston; captured Atlanta, Ga. Promoted to major general of the Union Army Led march to the sea; captured Savannah, Ga.
1865	Served in Carolinas campaign Accepted surrender of Joseph E. Johnston
1866-1867	On mission to Benito Juarez in Mexico
1869	Succeeded Ulysses S. Grant as commanding general of the Union Army
1871-1872	Took year's leave for trip to Europe
1874	Moved military headquarters to St. Louis, Mo.

1875	Published <i>Memoirs of General William T. Sherman</i> . New York: D. Appleton. 2 vols.
1876	Returned military headquarters to Washington, D.C.
1881	Established school at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
1883	Retired from active service and lived in St. Louis, Mo.
1884	Declined to be a candidate for Republican Party nomination for president
1886	Moved to New York, N.Y.
1891, Feb. 14	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) span the years 1810-1896, with most dated between 1848 and 1891. The collection consists of correspondence, a journal of Mexican War service, military documents, printed matter, maps, photographs, memorabilia, and manuscripts of his *Memoirs*. The material is organized in seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Indexes](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Military Papers](#), [Book File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Addition](#).

Much of the collection deals with the period of Sherman's post-Civil War army career, and the papers are particularly numerous for the years when he was commanding general of the army, 1869-1883. The correspondence during this time relates mainly to military expeditions against the western Indians, problems of maintaining Indian reservations, and military policies in the territories. During the same period there are detailed reports by American military men traveling or stationed abroad of new developments in ordnance and tactics. The material dating from the Civil War constitutes only a small part of the papers. The manuscript of his *Memoirs* and a long narrative of wartime experiences supplement the correspondence for this period. Other files pertain to Sherman's early military career, his activities as a civilian in banking, law, business, and education, and his retirement after 1883.

Prominent correspondents include George Bancroft, William W. Belknap, Braxton Bragg, Don Carlos Buell, James A. Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant, Henry W. Halleck, Winfield S. Hancock, James A. Hardie, Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Andrew Johnson, George G. Meade, Montgomery C. Meigs, Nelson A. Miles, Edward O. C. Ord, David Dixon Porter, Joseph J. Reynolds, John M. Schofield, Philip H. Sheridan, John Sherman (his brother), and Emory Upton.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eight series:

- [General Correspondence, 1837-1891](#)
- [Indexes](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1857-1891](#)
- [Military Papers, 1846-1883](#)
- [Book File, circa 1875-1896](#)
- [Miscellany, 1810-1890](#)
- [Addition, 1864-1896](#)
- [Oversize, 1815-1890](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-83A REEL 1-43	<u>General Correspondence, 1837-1891</u> Bound letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 84-84A REEL 43	<u>Indexes</u> Two sets of indexes. Part 1 consists of twenty-seven indexes to the material in volumes 1-83, which were formerly bound in twenty-seven volumes of "letterbooks." Part 2 is an incomplete cumulation of the entries in Part 1.
BOX 85-98 REEL 43-48	<u>Letterbooks, 1857-1891</u> Letterpress copies and transcripts of letters sent and a few copies of letters received. Arranged in three overlapping groups, 1857-1859, 1866-1881, and 1872-1891, and chronologically therein. All volumes except Containers 90 and 91 contain indexes.
BOX 99-104 REEL 48-49	<u>Military Papers, 1846-1883</u> Endorsements, a journal of Mexican War service, a volume of recollections, and records accumulated on an expedition to Mexico. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 105-107 REEL 49-51	<u>Book File, circa 1875-1896</u> Business correspondence and other papers relating to and the manuscript of, the <i>Memoirs</i> . Also a two-volume narrative of service during the Civil War. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 108 REEL 51	<u>Miscellany, 1810-1890</u> Indexes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, and a scrapbook Arranged by type of material.
BOX 109-110 REEL 51	<u>Addition, 1864-1896</u> Originals and photocopies of correspondence, speech material, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material. Container 110 is not available on microfilm.
BOX OV 1-OV 4 REEL 51	<u>Oversize, 1815-1890</u> Certificates and scrapbook. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,927

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-83A REEL 1-43	General Correspondence, 1837-1891 Bound letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1837, Dec. 6-1848, Feb. 18
BOX 2 REEL 1	1848, Feb. 21-Oct. 5
BOX 3 REEL 2	1848, Oct. 8-1849, Dec. 16
BOX 4 REEL 2	1849, Dec. 19-1853, June 2
BOX 5 REEL 3	1853, June 3-1855, July 10
BOX 6 REEL 3	1855, July 12-1856, July 2
BOX 7 REEL 4	1856, July 7-1858, Dec. 20
BOX 8 REEL 4-5	1858, Dec. 21-1861, Jan. 16
BOX 9 REEL 5	1861, Jan. 18-Dec. 10
BOX 10 REEL 5-6	1861, Dec. 12-1862, June 17
BOX 11 REEL 6	1862, June 20-1863, Feb. 3
BOX 12 REEL 7	1863, Feb. 4-Aug. 14
BOX 13 REEL 7-8	1863, Aug. 15-1864, Apr. 7
BOX 14 REEL 8	1864, Apr. 8-Oct. 11
BOX 15 REEL 8-9	1864, Oct. 12-1865, Feb. 20
BOX 16 REEL 9	1865, Feb. 21-June 28
BOX 17 REEL 9-10	1865, June 29-1866, Jan. 2
BOX 18 REEL 10	1866, Jan. 3-Apr. 5
BOX 19 REEL 10-11	1866, Apr. 6-Oct. 26
BOX 20	1866, Oct. 27-1867, Mar. 19

General Correspondence, 1837-1891

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 11	
BOX 21	1867, Mar. 20-Nov. 19
REEL 11-12	
BOX 22	1867, Nov. 20-1868, Apr. 26
REEL 12	
BOX 23	1868, Apr. 28-Aug. 29
REEL 13	
BOX 24	1868, Aug. 31-Dec. 22
REEL 13	
BOX 25	1868, Dec. 23-1869, Mar. 25
REEL 14	
BOX 26	1869, Mar. 26-Sept. 11
REEL 14	
BOX 27	1869, Sept. 12-1870, Apr. 24
REEL 15	
BOX 28	1870, Apr. 25-Oct. 20
REEL 15	
BOX 29	1870, Oct. 21-1871, Feb. 6
REEL 16	
BOX 30	1871, Feb. 9-Aug. 11
REEL 16	
BOX 31	1871, Aug. 14-1872, Feb. 27
REEL 17	
BOX 32	1872, Feb. 28-Aug. 5
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BOX 33	1872, Aug. 6-Oct. 26
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BOX 34	1872, Oct. 28-1873, Jan. 20
REEL 18	
BOX 35	1873, Jan. 22-July 18
REEL 19	
BOX 36	1873, July 21-1874, May 7
REEL 19	
BOX 37	1874, May 8-1875, Jan. 7
REEL 20	
BOX 38	1875, Jan. 8-May 24
REEL 20	
BOX 39	1875, May 25-July 13
REEL 20	
BOX 40	1875, July 14-Sept. 23
REEL 21	
BOX 41	1875, Sept. 24-Dec. 3
REEL 21-22	
BOX 42	1875, Dec. 5-1876, Mar. 10
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BOX 43	1876, Mar. 12-June 2
REEL 22-23	
BOX 44	1876, June 3-Oct. 30
REEL 23	
BOX 45	1876, Oct. 31-1877, Mar. 9

General Correspondence, 1837-1891

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 46	1877, Mar. 10-Nov. 12
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BOX 47	1877, Nov. 13-1878, May 10
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BOX 47A	1878, Jan. 25-Apr. 26
REEL 24-25	
BOX 48	1878, May 11-Nov. 17
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BOX 49	1878, Nov. 18-1879, May 2
REEL 25	
BOX 50	1879, May 3-Nov. 5
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BOX 51	1879, Nov. 6-1880, Feb. 28
REEL 26	
BOX 52	1880, Feb. 29-July 31
REEL 27	
BOX 53	1880, Aug. 1-Dec. 10
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BOX 54	1880, Dec. 11-1881, Apr. 18
REEL 28	
BOX 55	1881, Apr. 19-Aug. 5
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BOX 56	1881, Aug. 6-Nov. 28
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BOX 57	1881, Nov. 29-1882, May 27
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BOX 58	1882, May 28-Oct. 24
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BOX 59	1882, Oct. 26-1883, Feb. 8
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BOX 60	1883, Feb. 12-June 10
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BOX 61	1883, June 12-Nov. 24
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BOX 62	1883, Nov. 26-1884, Feb. 24
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BOX 63	1884, Feb. 25-June 5
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BOX 64	1884, June 6-Nov. 26
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BOX 65	1884, Nov. 27-1885, Mar. 8
REEL 34	
BOX 66	1885, Mar. 9-June 29
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BOX 67	1885, June 30-Oct. 7
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BOX 68	1885, Oct. 8-1886, Jan. 5
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BOX 69	1886, Jan. 6-Mar. 5

General Correspondence, 1837-1891

Container

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BOX 74	1887, Dec. 14-1888, Apr. 17
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BOX 75	1888, Apr. 18-Sept. 5
REEL 39	
BOX 76	1888, Sept. 8-1889, Jan. 10
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BOX 77	1889, Jan. 12-Apr. 20
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BOX 78	1889, Apr. 21-Nov. 7
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BOX 79	1889, Nov. 8-1890, Feb. 8
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BOX 80	1890, Feb. 9-July 11
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BOX 81	1890, July 12-1891, Jan. 18
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BOX 83	1891, Feb. 15-Aug. 2
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BOX 83A	Undated
REEL 42	
BOX 84-84A	Indexes
REEL 43	
	Two sets of indexes. Part 1 consists of twenty-seven indexes to the material in volumes 1-83, which were formerly bound in twenty-seven volumes of "letterbooks." Part 2 is an incomplete cumulation of the entries in Part 1.
BOX 84	Part 1, index to vols. 1-83
REEL 43	
BOX 84A	Part 2, incomplete cumulative index to vols. 1-83
REEL 43	
BOX 85-98	Letterbooks, 1857-1891
REEL 43-48	
	Letterpress copies and transcripts of letters sent and a few copies of letters received.
	Arranged in three overlapping groups, 1857-1859, 1866-1881, and 1872-1891, and chronologically therein. All volumes except Containers 90 and 91 contain indexes.

Letterbooks, 1857-1891

Container

Contents

BOX 85 REEL 43	Letterpress copybooks 1857, July 21-Sept. 19
BOX 86 REEL 44	1857, Sept. 21-1858, Feb. 19
BOX 87 REEL 44	1858, Feb. 19-June 28
BOX 88 REEL 44	1858, July 1-1859, July
BOX 89 REEL 44	“Semi-official letters sent” 1866, Feb. 11-1871, Oct. 31
BOX 90 REEL 45	1866, Feb. 11-1878, July 8
BOX 91 REEL 45	1878, July 15, 1881, Feb. 10
BOX 92 REEL 46	Letterbooks 1872, Sept. 19-1878, Feb. 15
BOX 93 REEL 46	1878, Feb. 19-1879, Dec. 26
BOX 94 REEL 46	1880, Jan. 2-1881, June 8
BOX 95 REEL 47	1881, June 4-1882, Oct. 6
BOX 96 REEL 47	1882, Oct. 9-1883, Dec. 28
BOX 97 REEL 47	1884, Jan. 1-1885, Dec. 23
BOX 98 REEL 48	1886, Jan. 2-1891, Feb. 2
BOX 99-104 REEL 48-49	Military Papers, 1846-1883 Endorsements, a journal of Mexican War service, a volume of recollections, and records accumulated on an expedition to Mexico. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 99 REEL 48	Endorsements 1876, Feb. 16-1882, Sept. 8
BOX 100 REEL 48	1882, Sept. 9-1883, Oct. 30
BOX 101 REEL 49	Index to endorsements in vols. 99-100
BOX 102 REEL 49	Journal of the Mexican War, 1846-1847
BOX 103 REEL 49	“Recollections” (of California, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New York), 1846-1871
BOX 104	Expedition to Mexico, 1866-1867

Book File, circa 1875-1896

Container

Contents

REEL 49

BOX 105-107
REEL 49-51

Book File, circa 1875-1896

Business correspondence and other papers relating to and the manuscript of, the *Memoirs*. Also a two-volume narrative of service during the Civil War.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 105
REEL 49

Memoirs

Drafts

“Memphis to Arkansas Post, etc.”

“Vicksburg” (copies of letters)

“Atlanta Campaign”

“Kennesaw”

“Savannah and Pocotaligo”

“Campaign of the Carolinas”

“End of the War”

“Conclusion, Lessons of the War”

Copies of letters prepared for *Memoirs*, but not published

BOX 106
REEL 50

Pre-Civil War period

Civil War period

“After the War” (draft narrative)

Fragment

Correspondence, 1891-1896

Contracts, statements, receipts, and related matter, 1875-1894

BOX 107
REEL 50-51

Narrative of the Civil War (handwritten copy of *Memoirs*, chapters 8-24)

(2 vols.)

BOX 108
REEL 51

Miscellany, 1810-1890

Indexes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, and a scrapbook

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 108
REEL 51

Masonic certificates of Charles Sherman, 1810-1825

“Particulars of the Death of Maj. General James B. McPherson, July 22nd, 1864, and an Account of the Capture of Fort McAllister, December 13th, 1864. For General William T. Sherman, Commanding, Army of the United States “ (handwritten [1876] [52], 20 pp.), by William E. Strong
Report of Lieutenant General U.S. Grant of the Armies of the United States, 1864-1865

Maps

Engraved portraits

Newspaper clippings

Sherman

Miscellany, 1810-1890

Container

Contents

	California, 1845-1855
	Foreign
	Photocopies from <i>National Intelligencer</i> , 1859
	Fragments
	Index to books of endorsement, rough draft
	Index to large scrapbook
	Scrapbook, circa 1815-1890 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
	Memorial certificate to commemorate Sherman's command at Pittsburgh Landing, 1862 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
	Joint resolution of the Louisiana general assembly, 1865 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
	Certificate of thanks signed by Abraham Lincoln, Sept. 3, 1864 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
BOX 109-110 REEL 51	Addition, 1864-1896
	Originals and photocopies of correspondence, speech material, and printed matter.
	Arranged by type of material. Container 110 is not available on microfilm.
BOX 109 REEL 51	Correspondence, 1864-1890, undated
	Set 1, 1864-1889
BOX 110 not filmed	Set 2
	Originals, 1880-1882
	Photocopies, 1866-1890, 1896, undated (7 folders)
	Loan to U.S. National Museum of Japanese armor, 1895
	Speech by Sherman, draft, published in 1890
	Statement by Joseph Kleindeinst, 1890
BOX OV 1-OV 4 REEL 51	Oversize, 1815-1890
	Certificates and scrapbook.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1 REEL 51	Miscellany
	Scrapbook, circa 1815-1890 (Container 108)
	Part A
BOX OV 2 REEL 51	Part B
BOX OV 3 REEL 51	Part C
BOX OV 4 REEL 51	Memorial certificate to commemorate Sherman's command at Pittsburgh Landing, 1862
	Joint resolution of the Louisiana general assembly, 1865
	Certificate of thanks signed by Abraham Lincoln, Sept.