Bridgewater State University

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Judge Elwin L. Page Papers,  
1930 – 1970  
(Part of the Lincoln Group of Boston Collection)  
(MSS-008.003)

Finding Aid Compiled by  
Orson Kingsley

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Judge Elwin L. Page
Biographical Sketch

Judge Elwin L. Page was a charter member of the Lincoln Group of Boston in 1938, as well as a member of the Group’s first executive committee. In 1952 he became the second president of the organization, and in 1960 acquired president emeritus status.

Page was born in 1876 and was a lifelong resident of Concord, NH. He was an Associate Justice of the Superior Courts of New Hampshire, a member of the state’s 1930 and 1948 Constitutional Conventions, a member of the bar for over seventy years, and a practicing lawyer into his nineties. He published three books in his lifetime: Abraham Lincoln in New Hampshire, George Washington in New Hampshire, and Judicial Beginnings in New Hampshire.


Scope and Content Note

The Page collection was first acquired by Howard and Carolyn Oedel before being deposited at BSU. It is a part of the Lincoln Group of Boston Collection. The collection is arranged in 3 series. Series 1 focuses on the papers and presentations done by Page. Series 2 focuses on the portion of Page’s collection that directly concerns the Lincoln Group of Boston, such as his correspondence with other members, and ephemera and mailings about the organization. Series 3 is comprised of papers and written material created by other people. Some of these were presented at Lincoln Group meetings.

The published pamphlets that were part of the Page collection have been individually cataloged and are held separate from this collection. Some of these are published speeches and pamphlets that Page used for research include: “Speech of Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, at the Cooper
Institute, N.Y. City, February 27, 1860”; “Civil Rights. Speech of Hon. Robert B. Elliott of South Carolina in the House of Representatives, January 6, 1874”; “Speech of Hon. Orin Fowler of Massachusetts,” March 31, 1852; and “Outlines of the Life and Public Services, Civil and Military, of William Henry Harrison,” 1840.

Related collections include: The Lincoln Group of Boston Collection and individual collections of other members of this organization.

Box and Folder List

Series 1: Papers Written and Presented by Judge Elwin Page

Box 1
Folder
1. “Eighty Days Without the Congress,” read before the Lincoln Group of Boston (LGB), April 29, 1961
2. “Walter Tully Recalls Lincoln’s Mid-War Body-Guard”; contains several drafts and research correspondence, 1933
3. “Discussion of the Botts-Baldwin Controversy”; read to the LGB, 1940
5. “Was the ‘Public Man’ Well-Informed?”, undated
7. “Secret Meeting, December, 1860”; Governor Israel Washburn letters at the Norlands in Maine, undated
10. “Paul M. Angle’s Lincoln Reader,” undated
11. “What John Wilkes Booth Did to His Family,” read before the LGB, 1964
12. “The Effie Afton Case,” published in the Lincoln Herald; contains research correspondence Fall 1956
13. “Shall Not Perish From the Earth,” read before the LGB, 1957
14. “Lincoln as an Appeaser,” 1943
15. “Abraham Lincoln and the Constitutional Division of Powers,” 1st draft, undated
16. “Abraham Lincoln and the Constitutional Division of Powers,” 2nd draft, undated

Box 2
Folder
1. “Abraham Lincoln and the Constitutional Division of Powers,” final draft, April 11, 1942
2. Material on Robert Barton after his death. Includes correspondence of Page, written tributes by Page, and more, 1954
4. Introduction/foreword by Page to a William Barton publication, “Lincoln at Gettysburg,” 1930
5. “Walter Tully Recalls Lincoln’s First Cavalry Escort,” read before the LGB, 1940
6. “A Check-List of Lincolnianna by the Late F. Lauriston Bullard,” 1953

Series 2: Correspondence and Lincoln Group of Boston Material

Box 2 (con’t)
Folder
7. Correspondence to Page from other LGB members (mostly Kenneth Bernard), and LGB related mailings, 1963-1970
8. Correspondence to Page from other LGB members, and other LGB material, 1954-1970
10. LGB ephemera, facsimiles, and other similar material, 1940-1963
11. Correspondence, mostly between Page and LGB member F. Lauriston Bullard, 1941-1951
12. Correspondence between Page and Lincoln Memorial University President Robert L. Kincaid, 1951-1952
13. Correspondence between Page and Roy P. Basler of the Abraham Lincoln Association, 1952
14. Letter from Page to Kenneth Bernard about the “Memoir of Jeremiah Mason,” 1961

Series 3: Papers and Related Material Written By Other People

Box 3
Folder
1. “Index to Witnesses for Prosecution of Samuel A. Mudd,” possibly created by Arthur W. Eckman in 1955
8. “If Lincoln Were Here Today,” by Raymond L. Buell, 1943
15. “Address of Abraham Lincoln” at Gettysburg ceremony, 1920
16. Abraham Lincoln Certificate – Life Director of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, undated
18. Miscellaneous material, including a paper honoring F. Lauriston Bullard after his death by unknown writer, 1952, undated