

LGM

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE
MARCH/APRIL 2021

PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS

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In Roosevelt's Diaries

Love in the Comics:
A Star-Crossed Story

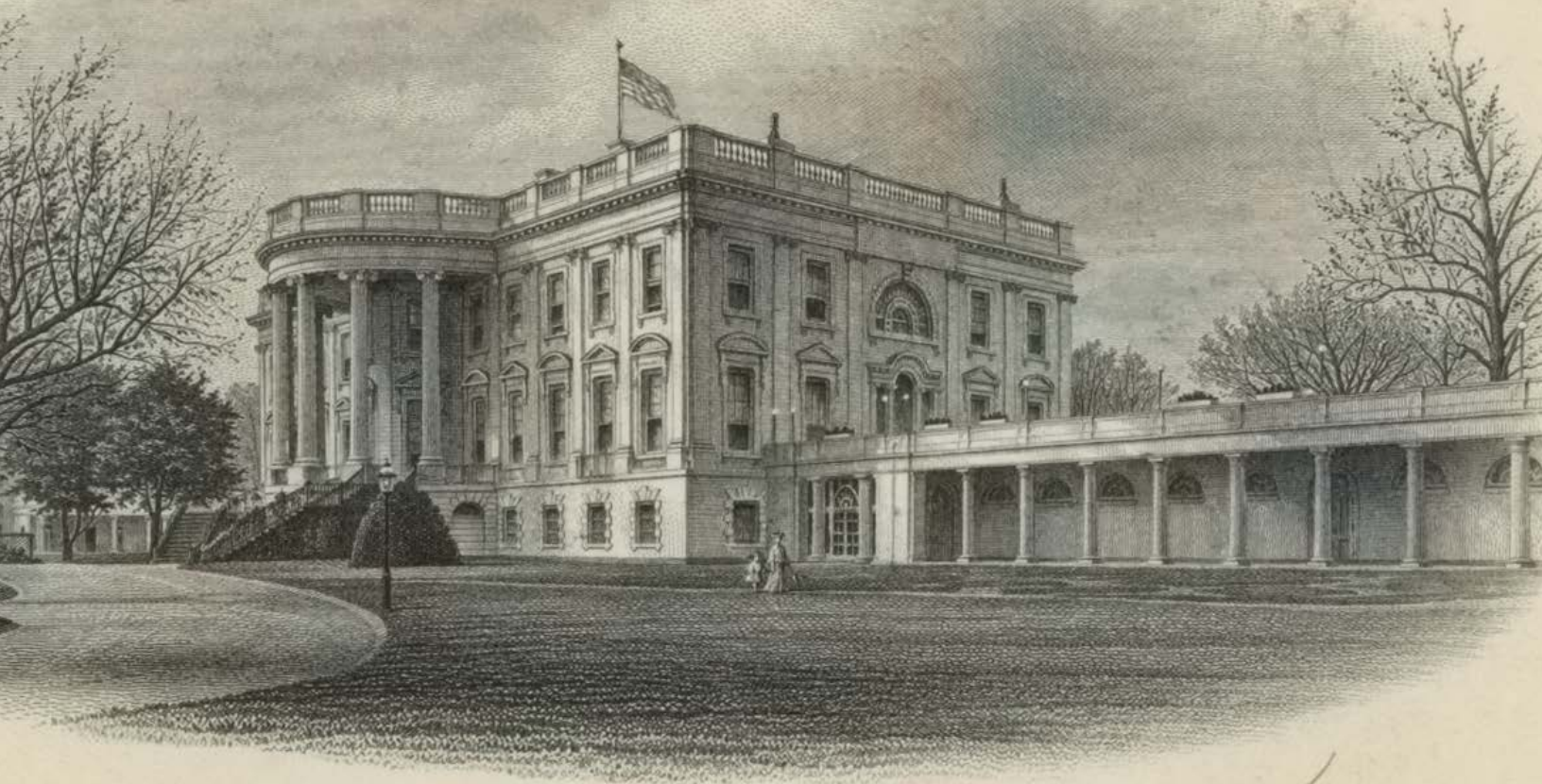
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Romance and Tragedy

In his diaries, Theodore Roosevelt recorded the story of his first love.

■ This image of the White House, signed by President Herbert Hoover, is contained within an autograph album that belonged to Theodore Roosevelt's family. The album is part of the Roosevelt papers at the Library. *Manuscript Division*

Mission of the Library of Congress

The Library's mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

Library of Congress Magazine is issued bimonthly by the Office of Communications of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, donors, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive Library of Congress Magazine on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. LCM is also available on the web at loc.gov/lcm/. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Office of Communications, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610.

news@loc.gov
loc.gov/lcm
ISSN 2169-0855 (print)
ISSN 2169-0863 (online)

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■ On the cover: The collections of presidential papers at the Library include Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence (left) and George Washington's handwritten copy of his first inaugural address (right). *Manuscript Division*

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A NEW VIEW OF ANCIENT HISTORY

■ The Kislak collection includes such rare and important pieces as (from left) this 18th-century Spanish rendering of relief carvings discovered in ancient Mayan ruins; a 16th-century map illustrating the West Indian voyage of Sir Francis Drake; and a Mayan low vase depicting animal way dancers and animal deities. *Geography and Map Division, Rare Book and Special Collections Division*

Library launches a new presentation of its Kislak collection of the early Americas.

The Library's Jay I. Kislak Collection provides a window into the complex, fascinating past of the Americas: the drama of first encounters between indigenous peoples and European explorers, the pivotal changes caused by the meeting of the American and European worlds.

Kislak, a businessman and philanthropist, spent decades building one of the premier private collections of material – archaeological artifacts, manuscripts, rare books, maps and artworks – documenting the cultures and earliest history of Mesoamerica, the Caribbean and Florida.

The Kislak collection contains important, original manuscripts written by both historic figures – King Philip II of Spain, conquistadors Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson – and ordinary folks such as a humble, 16th-century priest who traveled the Guatemalan highlands, translating prayers and Bible passages into indigenous languages.

The collection, which spans 2000 BCE to the 21st century, also includes hundreds of pre-Columbian artifacts of indigenous cultures from Mexico and the Caribbean to South America, such as a codex-style vase



with 60 hieroglyphs and a relief panel from the ruined Maya city of La Corona depicting a ballplayer.

In 2004, Kislak donated over 3,000 pieces from the collection to the Library, some of which are showcased in a permanent exhibition in the Jefferson Building.

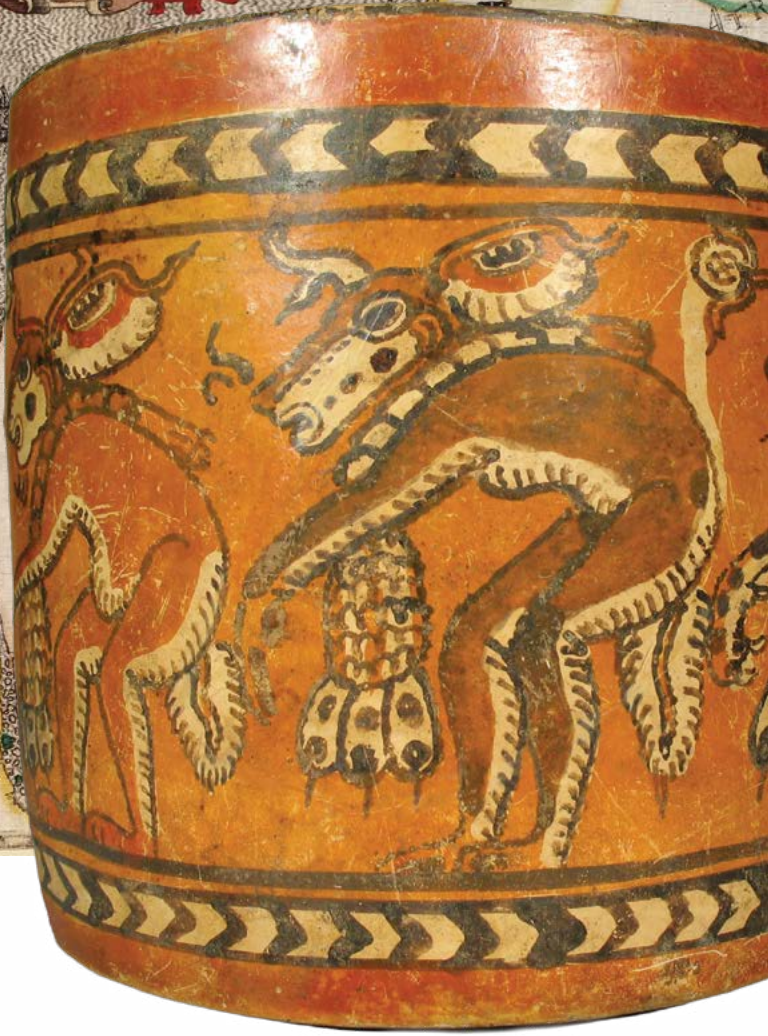
In January, the Library launched a new online presentation of nearly 350 items that offers more comprehensive access, via complete versions of digitized books and maps. The presentation also provides extensive, high-resolution images of 3D objects, allowing viewers to see, say, all angles of a vase decorated with insect monsters or a close-up of a ceramic medicinal flask in the form of a twisted face.

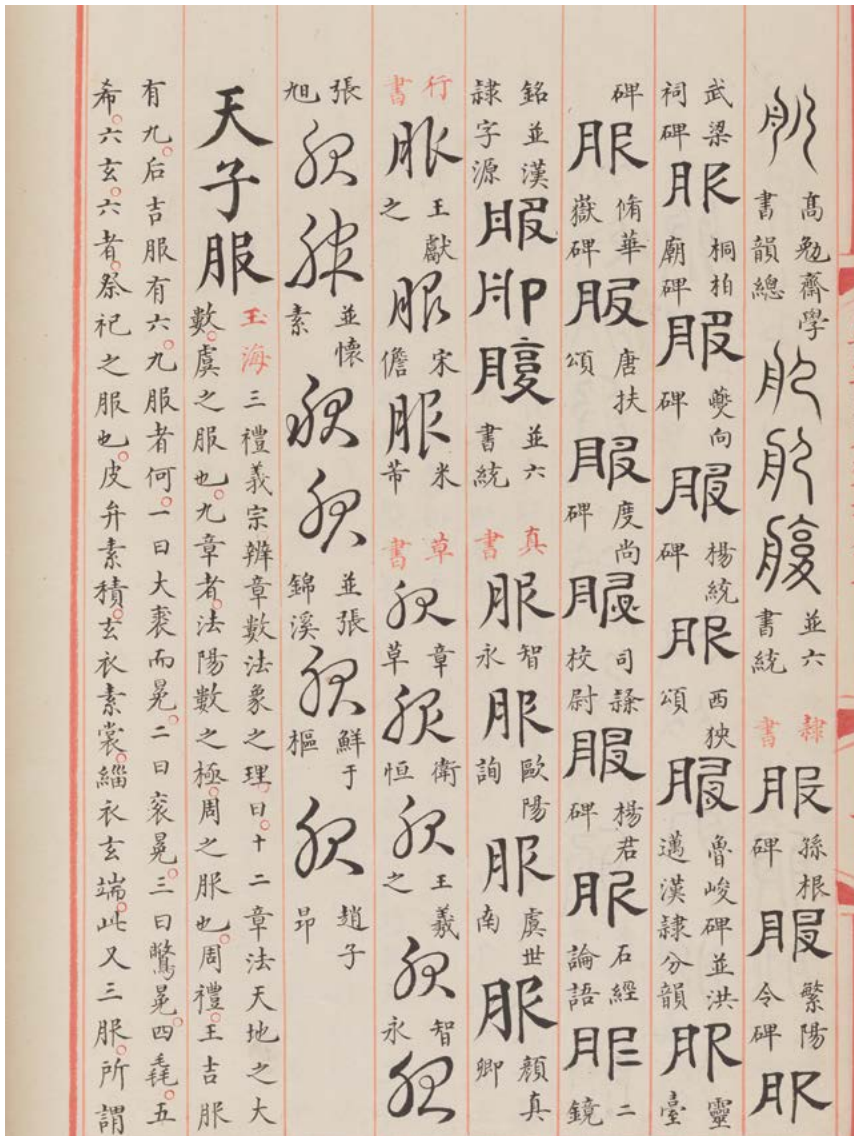
Accompanying the collection are articles and essays highlighting collection research performed at the Library, from hyperspectral imaging of Diego Rivera paintings to decoration on Maya miniature masks – ancient history, seen in new ways.

MORE INFORMATION

The Jay I. Kislak Collection
go.usa.gov/xAPEq

THE Famous West Indian voyage made by the English the first of 22 shippes and Barkes wher in were gotten the Townes of S: IAGO : S: DOMINGO, CARTAGENA and S: AVGVSTINES the same beinge begun from Plymouth in the Month of September 1585 and ended at Rotherhithe in Iulie 1586 the whole course of the said voyage beinge plainly described by the pacted line. Newlie come forth by Baptista





CHINA'S COLOSSAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

This 11,095-volume work compiled all knowledge known to Chinese civilization.

At the dawn of the 15th century, four decades before Johannes Gutenberg introduced the metal movable-type printing press in Europe, the third emperor of China's Ming dynasty, Zhu Di, ordered the kingdom's leading scholars to compile a comprehensive work containing all forms of

knowledge known to Chinese civilization.

The resulting Yongle Encyclopedia, named after the emperor's reign, comprised 22,937 hand-copied sections bound into 11,095 volumes.

Covered in striking yellow silk, these volumes incorporated a diverse range of topics, from history, art and the Confucian classics to astronomy, medicine and divination. Most of the content was drawn from sections of earlier publications. To facilitate quick searching, compilers arranged entries phonetically into groups according to a standardized rhyming scheme.

More than a century later, after a disastrous fire nearly destroyed the encyclopedia, the Jiajing emperor, Zhu Houcong, ordered a copy of the entire set. A team of 109 court scholars labored over five years before finally completing an exact reproduction in 1567.

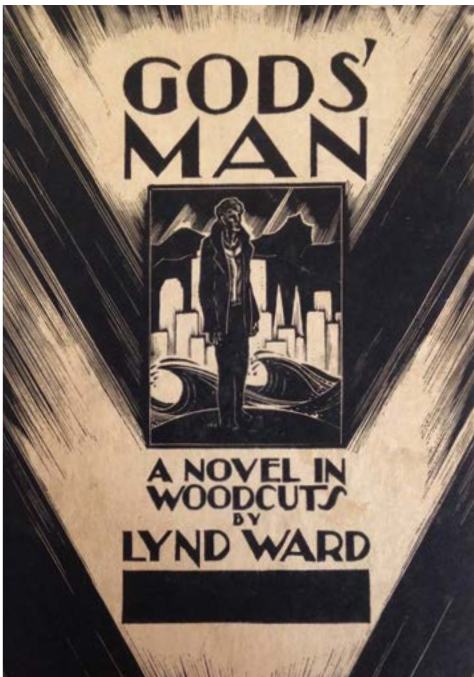
Over ensuing decades, however, the original edition was completely lost. Even now, how and when it went missing remains a mystery. Fortunately, parts of the duplicate set have survived – but just barely. Today, only 420 volumes, or 4 percent of the complete set, remain. This includes two newly discovered volumes that sold for more than \$9 million at an auction in Paris in July 2020.

Of these, the Library of Congress holds 41 unique, inconsecutive volumes in its Asian Division. Acquired during the early 20th century via purchase and donation, they form the largest assemblage of Yongle specimens outside Asia.

Thanks to collaboration among custodial, cataloging, conservation and digitization teams, the Library's Yongle collection is now fully cataloged and undergoing careful preservation work. Upon completion of a digitization project in progress, all 41 volumes of this 450-year-old encyclopedia will be made available online for readers around the world to study and appreciate up close.

–Qi Qui is head of scholarly services in the Asian Division.

■ The Library currently is digitizing all 41 volumes of its holdings of the Yongle Encyclopedia. Asian Division



THE FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL

Ward's unsettling work established a new form of storytelling.

We arrive in the glowing light of spring with a gift from the dark, shadowy recesses of the Library: A beautiful, eerily unsettling work of great American significance that, as its artwork suggests, may leave readers with images that cannot easily be dismissed.

The book is "God's Man," a 1929 black-and-white wordless novel by illustrator and woodcut artist Lynd Ward. The book, which tells a Faustian tale of ambition, love, greed and death, is widely regarded as the first American book of the form and the urtext of the graphic novel. The story is told through 139 uncaptioned woodblock prints, rendered in a dark, foreboding style that mixes Art Deco beauty with the stern lines of German expressionism. It can leave readers breathless with its craftsmanship, vision and narrative detail.

The first-edition copy of "Gods' Man" at the Library is part of its collection of hundreds

of pieces of Ward's work, from original prints and woodblocks to the woodworking tools he used in his craft. The collection is housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and the Prints and Photographs Division.

"Gods' Man" and Ward's five subsequent wordless novels were not regarded as a bold new stroke for literature in their day, but rather as Depression-era quirks. They sold moderately well and drew good-but-not-great reviews, and Ward moved on to more profitable lines of work.

Over time, artists in other fields found his work and were dazzled. Allen Ginsberg used a section of Ward's "Wild Pilgrimage" as the inspiration for a section of his poem "Howl."

And Guillermo del Toro, the Academy Award-winning director of such films as "The Shape of Water" and "Pan's Labyrinth," lists Ward as one of his key influences. In a 2015 tweet, the Mexican director summed up Ward's worldwide influence in a nutshell: "LYND WARD: American, his 'wordless novels' combine a modern graphic approach with Old Testament damnation. Fearsome."

—Mark Dimunation is chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

■ "God's Man" presents its story through uncaptioned woodblock prints, rendered in a dark, foreboding style. Rare Book and Special Collections Division

H, LLOYD
YOU'RE
EVERYTHING

D

A TRAGIC VOW



H-HARRY!

JANET, I'VE WANTED TO TAKE YOU IN MY ARMS AND KISS YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS!

307

For Janet there were two kinds of Love. One was a wondrous dream she had yet to realize; the other the faithful, unrequited love she knew from Harry. Was it hers to decide that the latter should be held until she was ready to discard it? So she thought, but Janet found that love was not doffed at convenience!

LOVE IN THE COMICS

Rare issues of African American series tell the star-crossed story of ‘Negro Romance.’

BY NEELY TUCKER

■ **Opposite: “Negro Romance” was the only Black romance comic printed between the 1930s and the 1950s, America’s Golden Age of Comics. *Serial and Government Publications Division***

It’s so romantic!

Gloria, pretty and hard-working, goes for a walk in a city park and meets kind and handsome Lloyd. Sparks fly! He takes her to meet her mom, who works nearby, then gently holds her hand, walking her home. Dinner, perhaps?

“I looked up into the tenderness of his eyes and my heart whispered a secret question,” Gloria wonders. “Had I really met this enchanting man only hours before – or was it a week – or a century?”

Such was the starry-eyed summer fling of “Negro Romance” – the only Black romance comic ever printed between the 1930s and the 1950s, known as America’s Golden Age of Comics. It was startling and rare for its positive depiction of African Americans in the era, particularly in its portrayals of young Black women as romantic heroines. But groundbreaking as it may have been, the magazine lasted just three issues in 1950 and then, with exception of one issue reprinted in 1955, almost completely disappeared from history.

The Library in 2019 acquired issues of “Negro Romance” #2 and #3, thus completing the only known collection of all four issues. The comic is so rare – only two other libraries are known to have even a single copy – that Michelle Nolan, author of “Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics,” estimated that “there are likely fewer than 50 copies extant of each issue.”

“In my 50-plus years of work with comics,” she said, “I don’t think I’ve seen a dozen copies of ‘Negro Romance.’”

Megan Halsband, a reference librarian in the Serial and Government Publications Division

who recommended the acquisition, said the completed collection offers a unique look at America at mid-century. For example, there are few white people depicted in the comic, subtly documenting segregation. The comic, written by Roy Ald, who was white, and drawn by Alvin Hollingsworth, who was Black, does not traffic in demeaning stereotypes, caricatures or dialect, contrary to the prevailing norms in pop culture.

“The research value is extraordinary,” Halsband said, “because it’s so rare for positive representations of African Americans to appear in comic books during this period.”

Each 36-page issue featured a glossy cover photograph of an attractive, well-dressed young couple. Inside, on pulp paper, were three soap-opera tales of love, deceit, treachery and romance. With stories such as “Love’s Decoy,” “Possessed” (that was Gloria and Lloyd), “Forever Yours” and “Spite!” it trod familiar territory – a handsome beau, a lithesome beauty and lots of drama. The difference was that the lovely dames and dashing gents were black, middle-class, bound for college or working professional jobs.

No one now knows how many copies were printed of “Negro Romance” or where they were distributed. There is no apparent mention of it in contemporaneous literature, journalism or personal memoirs.

Still, it’s nice to think that 70 years after Gloria and Lloyd fell in panel-by-panel love, the short-lived adventure that was “Negro Romance” has finally found a happily-ever-after home of its own.

– Neely Tucker is a writer-editor in the Office of Communications.

‘WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE’

The original pages of Lincoln’s second inaugural reveal the care he put into an address that still resonates today.

■ Opposite: Abraham Lincoln’s reading copy of his second inaugural address. Lincoln cut apart a printed copy of the address and pasted the pieces on this sheet of paper, creating visual cues that would help pace his delivery of the speech. *Manuscript Division*

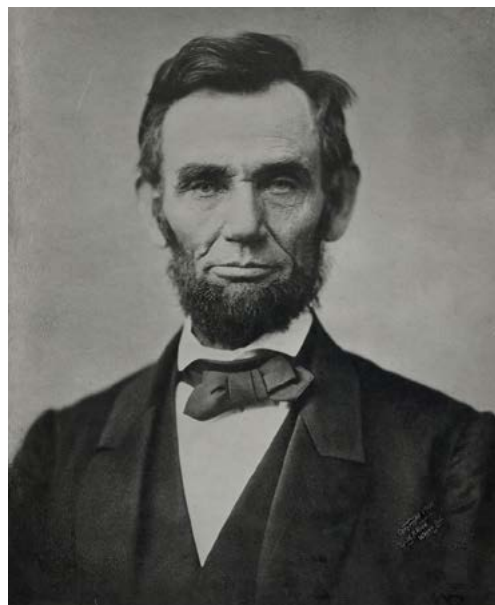
The original draft of Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address bears the hallmarks of the 16th president’s work: simple, beautiful phrasing; distinctive handwriting neatly executed with steel-nibbed pen and ink; an obvious care not just for how the speech would be read, but also heard.

Lincoln, fresh off a hard-won reelection, delivered the address from the East Portico of the Capitol on a muddy March day in 1865 – a speech historians today consider one of the greatest inaugurals ever.

With victory in a long and terrible Civil War finally at hand, Lincoln chose not to celebrate but to conciliate, speaking of shared responsibility for slavery, of the forgiveness needed to heal a bitterly divided nation.

“With malice toward none; with charity for all,” Lincoln said, “with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds ...”

In the days before the inauguration, Lincoln drafted the speech by hand, then sent the pages to the Government Printing Office to be typeset. Today, both the original, handwritten draft and the typeset version are held in the Lincoln papers at the Library.



Lincoln’s handwritten pages still bear the marks of the Government Printing Office workers who typeset it: “Flynn” – likely typesetter D.W. Flynn – is penciled on the first page. The typesetters fixed some obvious errors, including Lincoln’s misspellings such as “inaugeral” and “energies.” And someone, though not Lincoln, scrawled a salutation at the beginning: “Fellow countrymen.”

Lincoln made corrections on the printed proof, tinkered with the wording, inserted a few commas and then cut the text into 27 pieces and glued them to a sheet. This new, cut-and-paste arrangement provided visual cues for the pacing of his delivery – where to pause and breathe, where to let words linger. Lincoln folded the sheet down the middle and, likely, put it in his pocket to carry with him to the ceremony.

All that tinkering, cutting and pasting produced an address of just over 700 words that Lincoln himself believed would resonate long after he was gone.

Some 156 years later, it surely does.

–Mark Hartsell

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first.

Then, a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper.

Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented.

The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war.

All dreaded it—all sought to avert it.

While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation.

Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish.

And the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern ~~part~~ ^{part} of it.

These slaves constituted a peculiar, and powerful interest.

All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war.

To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest, was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war, while the government claimed no right to do more, than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it.

Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained.

Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease.

Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding.

Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other.

It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged.

The prayers of both could not be answered—that of neither, has been answered fully.

The Almighty has His own purposes.

“Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh.”

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both north and south this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes, which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him?

Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away.

Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, “the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with ~~the world~~ *all nations*.

CURATOR'S PICKS

PRESIDENTIAL SURPRISES

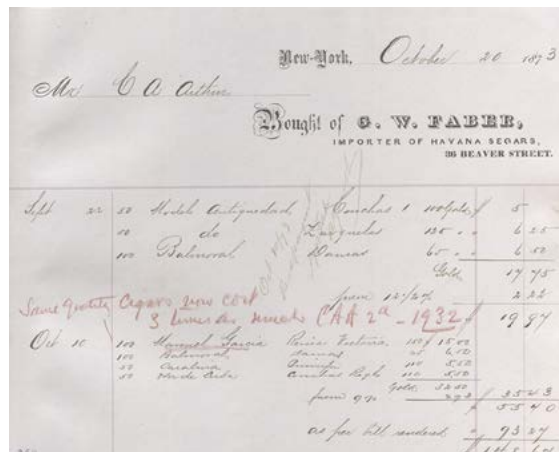
Manuscript Division historians Michelle Krowl, Meg McAleer and Julie Miller choose favorite offbeat items from presidential papers at the Library.

a statement of the Vegetable market of Washington, during a period of 8.

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Parsley.												
Spinach												
Lettuce.												
sprouts	22.				24.							
corn salad	4.				30.							
radishes.		28.			21.			15.				11.
tomel			3.									20.
asparagus			6.									26.
broccoli.			7.									24.
cucumbers			25.									27.
cabbage			3.									27.
strawberries			8.									19.
peas			9.									17.
turneps			28.									
potatoes fresh			1.									
snaps			5.		2.							17.
artichokes.			9.									16.
carrots			10.									
salsafia.			11.									
raspberries			11.									2.
squashed.			11.									18.
kidney beans			12.									6.
beets.			16.									
currants			17.									6.
parsneps			25.									
water melons			7.									4.
corn			10.									8.
tomatoes			16.									17.
melons												2.
mushrooms												11.
lima beans												27.
grapes												78.
onions.												27.
celery.												1.
eggplant												1.
cauliflower												7.

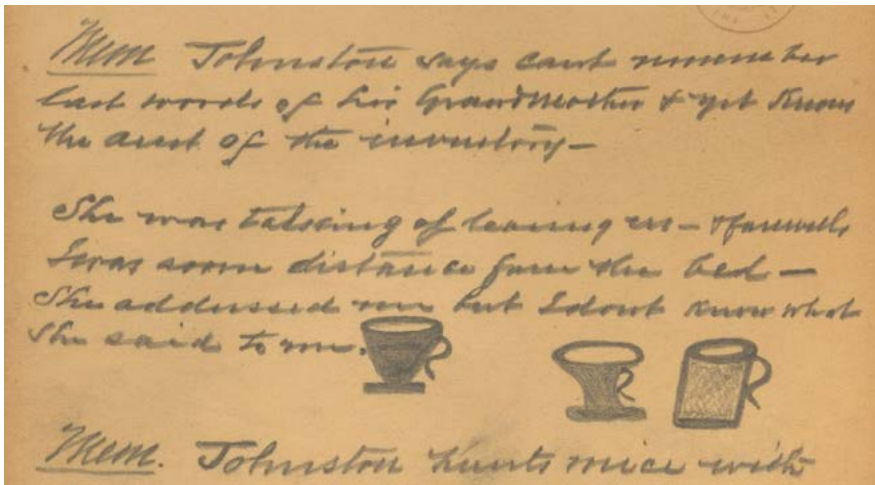
JEFFERSON'S VEGETABLES

While serving as a diplomat in France in the 1780s, Thomas Jefferson cultivated a love for delicious food that carried through his two terms as U.S. president. In this chart, President Jefferson recorded the seasonal appearances of fruits and vegetables in Washington's markets – a record of what local farmers grew in Jefferson's time, what Washingtonians ate and when, and what Jefferson served guests and family in the still-unfinished White House.



ARTHUR'S CIGAR BILLS

As a New York political operative, future President Chester A. Arthur entertained colleagues and constituents in time-honored fashion, with alcohol and cigars. Arthur's papers include this bill from 1873 for the purchase of 500 cigars in less than a month. Some 60 years later, Arthur's son scrawled a note on the bill observing that the "same quantity cigars now cost 3 times as much."



HARRISON'S DOODLES

After leaving the White House, former President Benjamin Harrison resumed his legal career and, at one time, represented a family friend in a sizable estate case. The successful, five-month trial earned him a substantial fee but also caused much stress. He distracted himself with occasional doodles – tornadoes, insects, coffee mugs – that appear in the case notes in his papers at the Library.



GRANT'S GREAT TRIP

After he left the White House, former President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia, embarked on a two-year, around-the-world journey that took them to Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land, the Near East, China, Japan and back. The Grants were in great demand wherever they went. In 1877, they were fêted at a banquet in France, where the menu offered “bombes à la Vicksburg” – an ice cream treat named after one of the Civil War hero's signature victories.

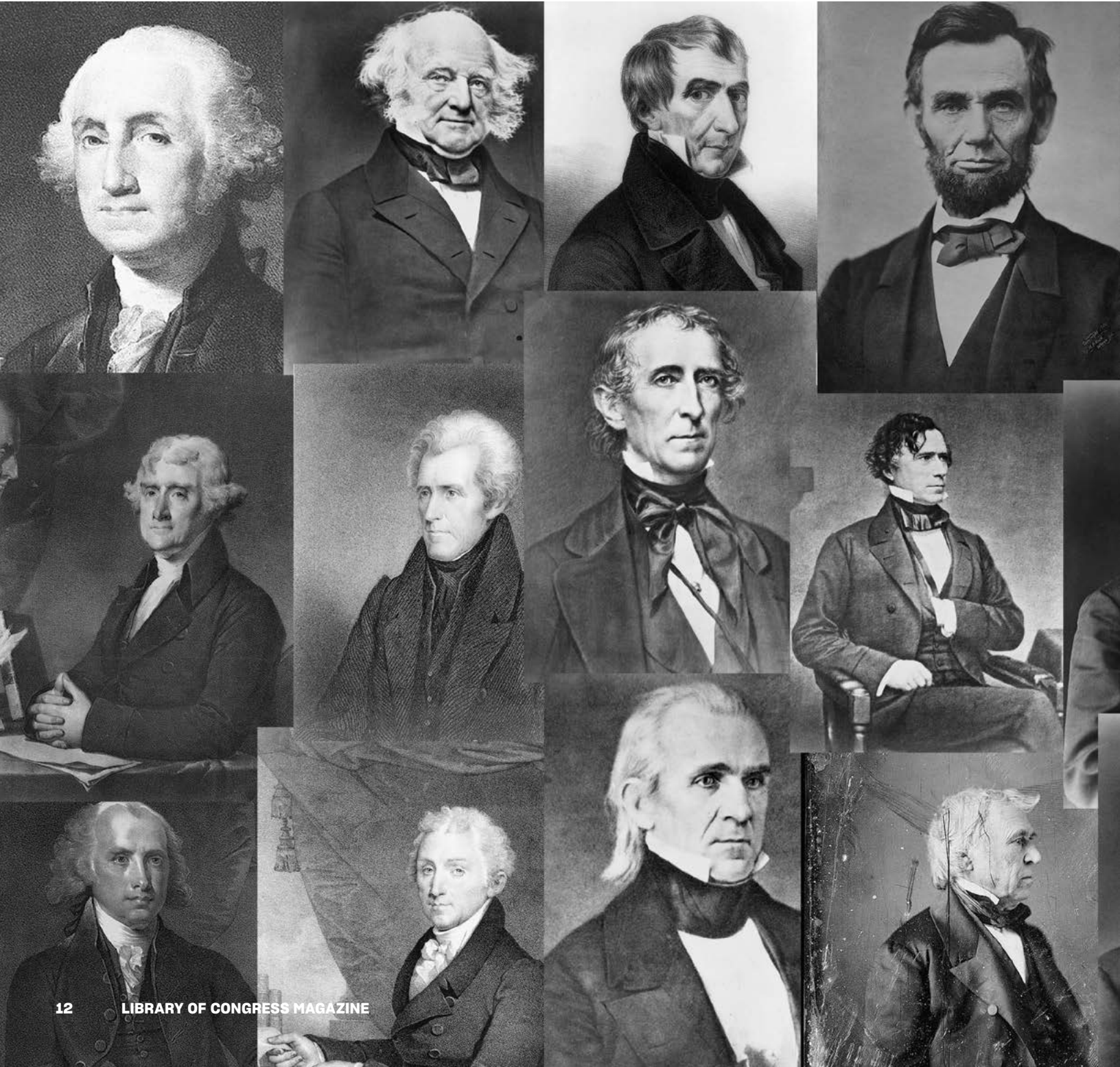


COOLIDGE'S VERMONT INAUGURATION

Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as president in the early morning hours of Aug. 3, 1923, following the unexpected death of Warren G. Harding. John Coolidge, a justice of the peace, administered the oath of office to his son in the family home in Plymouth Notch, Vermont. Boston Daily Globe photographer James L. Callahan captured Bernard “Pinkie” Sinay's official greeting of the new president at the North Bennington train station. Pinkie was the son of local carpenter Frank Sinay.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

PRESIDENTIAL PAP

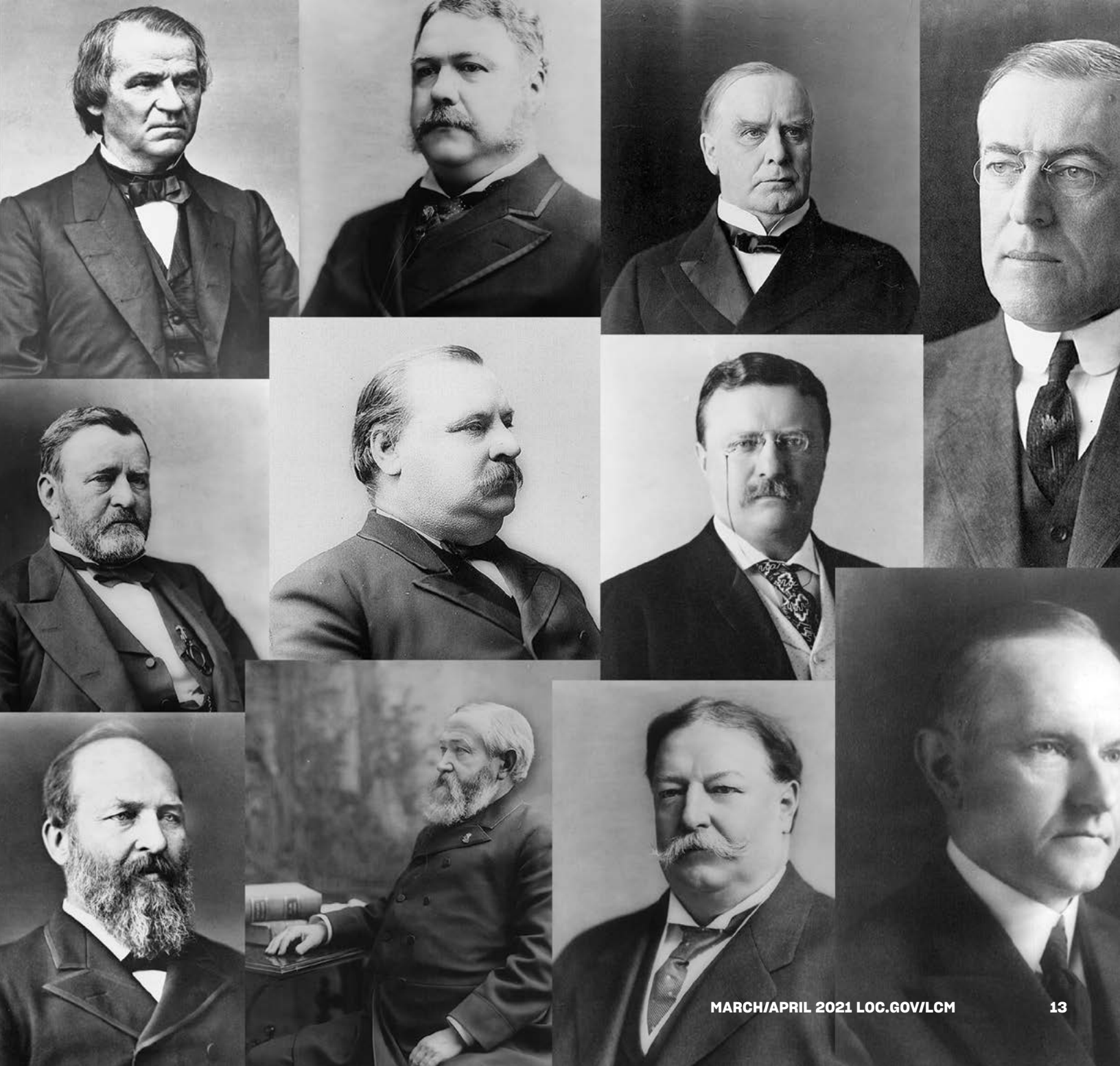


ERS

Library completes a decades-long project to place its collection of the papers of 23 presidents online.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION



■ **President Woodrow Wilson wrote this letter to Edith Bolling Galt, professing his love for her, on May 7, 1915 – the same day a German U-boat torpedoed the Lusitania, touching off a crisis that threatened U.S. neutrality in World War I. Prints and Photographs Division, Manuscript Division**

When President Woodrow Wilson's name comes up, romance isn't typically the first thing that comes to mind.

Yet, late on May 7, 1915, the recently widowed president penned these words to Edith Bolling Galt, days after confessing his love for her: "I know you can give me more, if you will but think only of your own heart and me, and shut the circumstances of the world out."

That day, the circumstances of the world were weighing heavily on Wilson's mind. Earlier, a German U-boat had torpedoed the British-owned luxury liner RMS Lusitania, killing 1,195 people, including 128 Americans. Wilson spent his afternoon and evening receiving updates about the horrific attack that threatened U.S. neutrality in a war that had already engulfed Europe and would eventually draw in the United States.

Researchers using Wilson's papers at the Library may be surprised to encounter the private – and passionate – Wilson behind the formal and somewhat aloof public figure they recall from history books or World War I-era film footage.

"I must do everything I can for your happiness and mine," Wilson continued. "I am pleading for my life."

Wilson's plea apparently was persuasive: He and Galt, a wealthy Washington, D.C., widow, married before the year was out.

The Library's collections of presidential papers hold some of the most important manuscript treasures in the nation, but they also shed light on the daily lives of the leaders and the inner circle of family, staff and confidants who helped mitigate the isolation every president feels.

Those collections are more accessible than ever before: All 23 sets of presidential papers held by the Library – a total of more than 3.3 million images – now are available and searchable online, an accomplishment more than two decades in the making.

"Arguably, no other body of material in the Manuscript Division is of greater significance for the study of American history than the presidential collections," said Janice E. Ruth,

the division's chief. "They cover the entire sweep of American history from the nation's founding through the first decade after World War I, including periods of prosperity and depression, war and peace, unity of purpose and political and civil strife."

Those vast papers include documents fundamental to U.S. history: George Washington's commission as commander in chief of the American army and his first inaugural address; Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence; the two earliest known copies of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; the handwritten manuscript memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant; and Wilson's shorthand draft of his famous 1918 Fourteen Points speech envisioning post-World War I peace.

They also reveal the personal side of these great figures.

There's a small paperbound book recording Washington's expenses in 1793-94 and receipts from Chester A. Arthur's household (including for immense quantities of alcohol and cigars, likely purchased for entertaining). There are love letters from Grant to his wife Julia Dent Grant; James A. Garfield's final diary entry, the day before his assassination in 1881; and details of the aftermath of the death of Maj. Archie Butt, an aide to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft who died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

A bereft Taft told mourners at a memorial service for Butt that, because a president's circle is so circumscribed, "those appointed to live with him come much closer than anyone else."

The Library's collection of presidential papers begins with Washington and ends with Calvin Coolidge. The National Archives and Records Administration, founded in 1934, administers a system of geographically dispersed presidential libraries that house and manage the records of presidents from Herbert Hoover onward.

The Library doesn't hold the papers of all 29 presidents before Hoover. The papers of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, for example, are at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Ohio Historical Connection

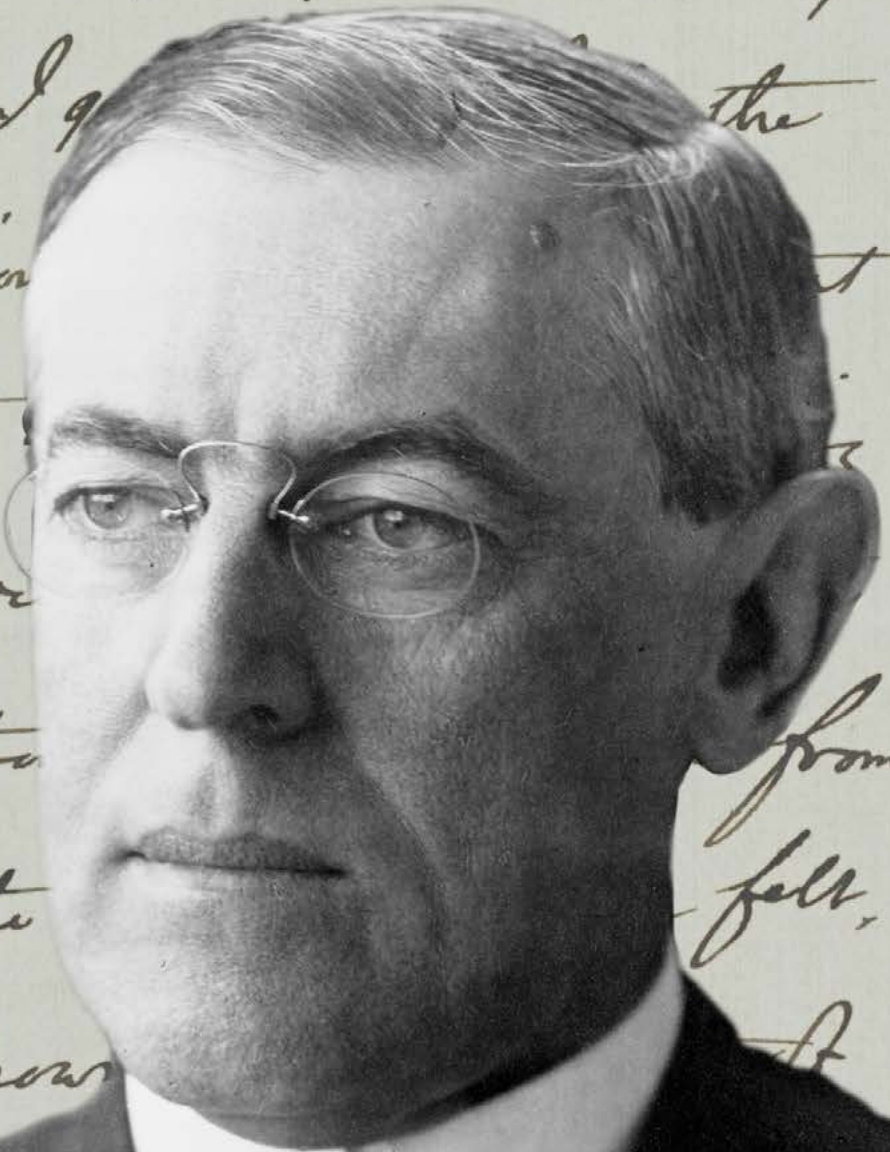
7 May, 1915



Beloved Friend,

There is something I must say
to you before I go to the
Cruel Compulsion

I must write
it in your Sw
the interpretation
the tones of the
rather than know
your th



from
felt,
It



Fort Humboldt.

Humboldt Bay
February 2nd

My Dear Wife.

You do not know how
The place is good
but at others which
Came thinking about day
It is a long time
I am waiting for orders to
You to settle my
at a word in reply
I feel again as
parated from you
and as to Ulys.
en him. He must
talking about as
him last. How
see all of you. I
what Ulys. loo
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branks with



holds those of Warren G. Harding. Rutherford B. Hayes' family retained his papers and opened a library in 1916 at his home in Fremont, Ohio.

But the collections the Library possesses, acquired through donation and purchase, are of such high value that Congress enacted a law in 1957 directing the Library to arrange, index and microfilm the papers for distribution to libraries around the nation, an enormous job that concluded in 1976.

When it became possible to digitize collections in the mid-1990s, microfilm editions of presidential papers were among the first selected for scanning. Between 1998 and 2005, the papers of Washington, Jefferson, James Madison and Lincoln were digitized and put online: What once was available only on clunky microfilm machines became accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

Several years later, work resumed on digitizing the Library's remaining presidential papers and, eventually, to migrate already-digitized collections to the Library's updated web platform, which enables easier access, including on mobile devices. Some original documents were rescanned in high resolution at that time, and others – those not captured in the microfilm editions, along with documents subsequently acquired – were added.

In 2017, for example, the Library made a reading copy of Lincoln's second inaugural address showing his editorial changes available on its website for the first time (it was not included in the microfilm edition), as well as a cigar-box label from his 1860 presidential campaign rendering his "Honest Old Abe" nickname in phonetic Spanish.

During just the past fiscal year alone, about 1.5 million new images were made available online, culminating in the release over the summer of the collections of Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, Coolidge and Taft.

Taft's papers, consisting of 785,977 images, are the largest among the Library's presidential papers, perhaps befitting a man who stood around 6 feet tall and weighed

well north of 300 pounds. Wilson's papers are the second biggest (622,211 images), followed by Theodore Roosevelt's (462,638 images).

The mammoth feat of making all these collections available online involved many hours of labor by staffers and contractors at the Library.

Among the multitude of tasks performed, they scanned documents, provided necessary conservation treatments, performed quality review of images, set up server space, created digital files, indexed records and connected them to digital images, consulted on rights issues, wrote contextual frameworks for individual collections and created web presentations on the Library's platforms.

"As they say, it takes a village," Ruth said.

All the work was, however, well worth it.

"Like the original presidential papers and the microfilm copies, the online presidential papers are being used extensively by historians, educators and lifelong learners," Ruth said.

Charles Calhoun is one such historian. Calhoun has used the Manuscript Division's collections for 50 years and last year consulted the presidential papers of Garfield, Andrew Johnson, Harrison and Grant online.

The availability of these papers online, he said, is a godsend in an era of shrinking academic research budgets and dwindling travel funds – difficulties compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant restrictions.

"The Library's decision to offer these indispensable resources online represents a tremendous boon to scholarship," Calhoun said. "It is a service that has rapidly become not merely conducive but vital to the advancement of historical scholarship."

■ **Stationed at Fort Humboldt in California, future Civil War hero and President Ulysses S. Grant expressed how much he missed his family in this 1854 letter to his wife, Julia Dent Grant. *Prints and Photographs Division, Manuscript Division***

MORE INFORMATION

Presidential papers
[loc.gov/item/prn-20-085](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-085)



■ Alice Lee (left), a member of a Boston banking family, met Theodore Roosevelt when she was 17. *Prints and Photographs Division.*

Martha Bulloch "Mittie" Roosevelt (right) was the mother of future president Theodore and the grandmother of future first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



'THE LIGHT HAS GONE OUT OF MY LIFE'

In his diaries, Theodore Roosevelt recorded the joy and tragedy of his first love.

BY MARK HARTSELL

The presidential papers at the Library of Congress tell the American story through some of the most important documents in our nation's history: Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, Madison's notes on the Constitutional Convention, Lincoln's first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The original diaries, letters and other material in the papers also reveal these great figures as ordinary men who, like their fellow citizens, experienced the joys and sorrows of everyday life – they fell in love, raised families, enjoyed happy times and prosperity, suffered terrible loss and heartbreak.

One of those was the 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt.

Roosevelt famously lived a life full of vigor and adventure: He ranched cattle in the Dakota Badlands, charged up the San Juan Heights in the Spanish-American War, hunted big game in Africa, explored an uncharted tributary of the Amazon River and fought for political reform at home.

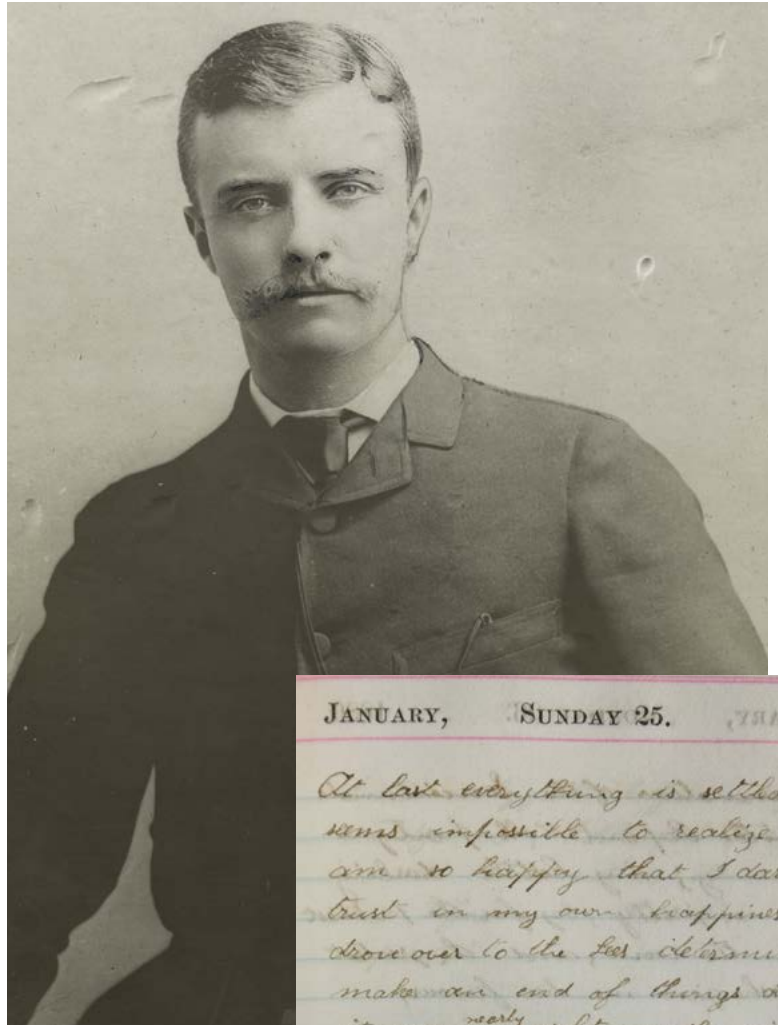
His diaries at the Library reveal other sides, too: the young romantic, falling in love at first sight; the blissful newlywed; the husband stricken with grief by the loss of those most dear to him.

Theodore grew up in a wealthy, socially prominent family in New York City and attended Harvard, where, he conceded in his diary, he "lived like a prince."

As a junior, he became acquainted with Alice Lee, a member of a Boston banking and investment family. She was 17 and full of life. He was 19 and instantly smitten by this "very sweet pretty girl," as he wrote on Oct. 19, 1878, the day after they met.

Theodore courted Alice for over a year, taking walks in the woods, attending dances and teas, playing cards and tennis, reading together quietly. His feelings quickly deepened, and he proposed the following June. She put him off. Six months later, he tried again, successfully.

"I am so happy that I dare not trust in my own happiness," he wrote on Jan. 25, 1880. "I drove over to the Lees' determined to make an end of things at last. ... After much pleading my own sweet, pretty darling consented to be my wife."



■ Young Theodore Roosevelt recounted his successful proposal to Alice Lee in the diary entry at right. "I am so happy that I dare not trust in my own happiness," he wrote. Prints and Photographs Division, Manuscript Division

JANUARY, SUNDAY 25. 1880.

At last everything is settled; but seems impossible to realize it. I am so happy that I dare not trust in my own happiness. I drove over to the Lees' determined to make an end of things at last. It was ^{nearly} over eight months since I first proposed to her, and I had been nearly crazy during the past year; and after much pleading my own sweet pretty darling consented to be my wife. Oh, how bewitchingly pretty she looked. If loving her with my whole heart and soul can make her happy, she shall be happy; a year ago last Thanksgiving I made a vow that were her I would if it were possible; and now that I have done so, the aim of my whole life shall be to make her happy, and to shield her from every trial; and, oh, how I shall cherish my sweet queen! How she is true and sweet and



FEBRUARY, THURSDAY 14. 1884.

X

The light has gone
out of my life

FEBRUARY, SUNDAY 17. 1884.

her baby was born
and on Feb 14th she
died in my arms,
On my mother had
died in the same
house, on the same
day, but a few
hours previously, On
Feb 16th they were
buried together in
Greenwood.

On Feb 17th I
christened the baby
Alice Lee Roosevelt

For joy or for sorrow
my life has now been
lived out

JUNE, MONDAY 9. 1884.

arrived at my
cattle ranch (Chimney
Butte Ranch) on the
Little Missouri,

The summer before they married was bliss.

“She is so radiantly pure and good and beautiful that I almost feel like worshipping her. ... The aim of my whole life shall be to make her happy, and to shield her and guard her from every trial,” he wrote in July.

Theodore and Alice married on Oct. 27 in Boston and honeymooned at Oyster Bay on Long Island. Their first winter as a married couple was happy and busy.

They lived in the family home at West 57th Street with his mother and siblings. He attended Columbia Law School, served as a hospital trustee, joined the St. Andrews Society, attended meetings of the Republican Party and worked on a naval history of the War of 1812. Evenings were equally full with dinners, operas, dances, concerts and parties.

In 1882, 23-year-old Theodore was elected to the New York State Assembly, where he quickly was marked as a young man to watch. In Albany, he became an outspoken champion of reform and learned the ways of New York politics – he “has the same idea of public life and civil service that a vulture has of a dead sheep,” Theodore observed of one colleague.

Meanwhile, Theodore and Alice made plans for the future, buying land at Oyster Bay with the intention of building a house of their own and starting a family.

Alice became pregnant and on the afternoon of Feb. 12, 1884, went into labor at the house on West 57th. That night, she gave birth to a healthy girl. Theodore, at work in Albany, received the good news by telegram the next morning and, delighted, accepted the congratulations of his colleagues in the Assembly.

Hours later, another telegram arrived: Alice was perilously ill with a kidney disease and Theodore’s mother, Mittie, was badly sick with typhoid fever.

■ **Opposite:** In these pages from his diaries, Theodore Roosevelt (from left) marked the day his wife and mother both died with a large “X”; confessed he felt his “life has now been lived out”; and, four months later, recorded his arrival at his Dakota ranch.
Manuscript Division

Theodore immediately headed home through a dense fog that made travel agonizingly slow. He arrived around 11:30 p.m., took Alice in his arms and stayed there until 3 a.m., when he was called to his mother’s bedside.

Mittie died soon after his arrival, surrounded by Theodore and his brother and two sisters. Eleven hours later, Alice died in Theodore’s arms. His young life was marked by losses that came far too soon: His father died at age 46, his mother at 48 and his wife at 22.

In his diary, Theodore marked the tragic day with a black “X.” Below, he wrote only, “The light has gone out of my life.”

On Feb. 16, the Roosevelts held a double funeral, with two rosewood coffins at the altar and the cream of New York society in the pews – Astors, Vanderbilts and Harrimans as well as the mayor and the speaker of the New York Assembly.

Later that day, Roosevelt recorded the milestone occasions and dates of his life together with Alice in his diary, then concluded, “For joy or for sorrow my life has now been lived out.”

In truth, he was just getting started.

Theodore, heartbroken, rarely spoke of Alice again, and he wrote nothing at all in his diary for four months.

But then, on June 9 from Dakota: “Arrived at my cattle ranch (‘Chimney Butte Ranch’) on the Little Missouri.”

His new, and enormously consequential, life had begun.

MORE INFORMATION

Theodore Roosevelt papers
go.usa.gov/xAPE7

■ Innovator in Residence Benjamin Lee trained computer algorithms to scour the millions of digitized newspaper pages from the Chronicling America collection and pinpoint photographs, illustrations, maps, cartoons, comics, advertisements and even headlines. *Serial and Government Publications Division*

MACHINE LEARNING AND HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

Innovative tool adds new dimensions to how researchers use expansive collection.

Although newspapers have long offered avenues for genealogical sleuths to track down old histories or uncover hidden branches of the family tree, cutting-edge advances in machine learning may now be taking family research in transformative new directions.

With a little help from more than a million historic images, an innovative tool from the Library is adding new dimensions to how researchers might use historical newspapers to imagine and understand the lives of their ancestors.

Newspaper Navigator, an application from 2020 Innovator in Residence Benjamin Lee, brings an expansive collection of visual memories to genealogists and family historians everywhere. Working with the Library's LC Labs team, Lee trained computer algorithms to scour more than 16 million digitized newspaper pages from the Chronicling America collection and pinpoint over 1.5 million photographs, illustrations, maps, cartoons, comics, advertisements and even headlines.

The result is one of the largest searchable datasets of visual content ever produced from a cultural heritage collection and a groundbreaking opportunity for genealogy fans to search for traces of themselves in the pages of local history.

By extracting photographs, drawings and other images from local newspapers dating as far back as 1900, this machine learning application is giving users a window into not just what their ancestors were like, but the wider context of the world that shaped their lives.

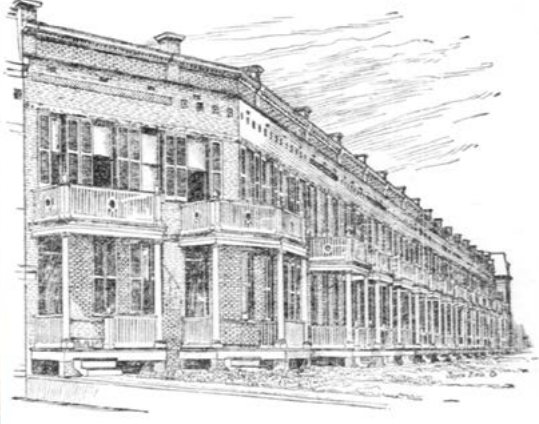
With Newspaper Navigator, users simply enter a keyword, such as a family name, to

SEPTEMBER 28, 1901.

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return an assortment of photos. From the results, more images can be selected for the application's engine to search against, giving genealogists a chance to explore machine learning as they "train" algorithms in real-time and creating exponential opportunities for even inexperienced users to discover familial stories throughout history.

—Sahar Kazmi is a writer-editor in the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

MORE INFORMATION

Newspaper Navigator
news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search



SHAWN MILLER

MAIN READING ROOM REFERENCE DESK

For researchers, the circular desk that sits beneath the soaring dome of the Main Reading Room long has been the historical heart of the Library of Congress.

The immense desk, perfectly proportioned for the vast spaces of the reading room, is the result of a request Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford made to planners during the construction of the Jefferson Building some 133 years ago.

With work on the Jefferson about to begin, Gen. Thomas Lincoln Casey of the Army Corps of Engineers asked Spofford to describe the specifications and functions of the new building.

A key request from Spofford was for a “massive circular desk or platform” in the Main Reading Room that could command the enormous space, provide a centralized spot for reference activity and connect to the stacks where books were to be shelved.

The completed desk worked just as Spofford hoped, thanks in part to a system of pneumatic tubes used to send call slips to the stacks and elevators that conveyed books from below up to the desk and thence to patrons.

As technology progressed and the Library expanded, the tubes and elevators eventually fell into disuse.

In the years ahead, the Library plans to remove the central part of the desk and replace it with a transparent floor, allowing visitors one floor below to peer up at the historic murals in the Main Reading Room dome – a project that will afford future generations a new way to experience one of the most magnificent buildings in America.

—Mark Hartsell

Michelle Krowl serves as curator of presidential papers from the second half of the 19th century.

Describe your work at the Library.

While my title is Civil War and Reconstruction specialist, I serve as the curator of presidential papers from James K. Polk to Theodore Roosevelt, as well as hundreds of collections dating from the Mexican War to Spanish-American War.

My job includes recommending new acquisitions, assisting researchers with finding the resources they need, answering specialized reference questions, consulting with reference and archival staff, participating in the Manuscript Division's digitization efforts, writing blog posts, assembling show-and-tell displays, giving presentations and interviews on our collections, recommending online collections for crowdsourcing projects, and assisting with exhibitions related to the collections in my portfolio.

It is a job that offers great variety in duties, and endless opportunities to learn.

How did you prepare for your position?

I earned a Ph.D. in history, with a concentration on the Civil War era, and anticipated pursuing a tenure-track teaching career. But my path unexpectedly veered more into public history. I worked in the library of a local historical society, assisted with an exhibit on several African American architects in Washington, D.C., wrote on historical subjects for general audiences and taught the U.S. history survey at a local community college.

Working as a researcher for Doris Kearns Goodwin frequently brought me to the Manuscript Division and provided an excellent introduction to many sections of the Library. The knowledge and skills acquired in these previous assignments have proven incredibly useful in my current position. Even the tour guiding classes I took for fun come in handy!

What have been your most memorable experiences at the Library?

There have been so many memorable experiences with collection material, researchers, colleagues, donors and



ABBY BRACK LEWIS

guests to the Library. The one that stands out most in my mind is guiding President Barack Obama through a display of materials relating to Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address when he brought his daughters to the Library on a private visit in March 2015. That experience will be difficult to top!

What are your favorite collections items?

Almost every day I add another collection item to the "favorites" list as there are so many amazing materials in the Manuscript Division.

A perpetual favorite is Abraham Lincoln's "Blind Memorandum" of Aug. 23, 1864, in which he despaired of reelection and pledged to work with the Democratic president-elect between the election and inauguration (then held on March 4) to save the union. He sealed it, took it to a cabinet meeting and asked the cabinet members to sign on the sealed flap without seeing the content of the memo. A series of subsequent events led to his reelection, after which he finally read the text to the cabinet and reminded them how dark things had looked months before.

Apart from the novelty of all the famous signatures, the "Blind Memorandum" serves as an important reminder to consult contemporary documents to understand what people knew and felt at the time. The legendary status history has accorded Lincoln can obscure how unpopular he often was in his own day and how uncertain was the outcome of his commitment to save the Union without sacrificing the promise of emancipation.

'Dark Knight,' 'Shrek' Among 25 Films Chosen for Registry

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in December announced the annual selection of 25 of America's most influential motion pictures to be inducted into the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress.

These films include the innovative silent picture "Suspense," co-directed by a woman in 1913; "Lilies of the Field," which earned actor Sidney Poitier an Oscar; the 1978 smash musical "Grease"; the animated megahit "Shrek"; and one of the biggest public vote getters, Christopher Nolan's 2008 Batman film, "The Dark Knight."

Selected because of their cultural, historic or aesthetic importance to the nation's film heritage, the 2020 titles include blockbusters, musicals, silent films, documentaries and diverse stories transferred from books to screen. They bring the number of films selected for preservation in the registry to 800.

MORE: [loc.gov/item/prn-20-082](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-082)

U.S. Poet Laureate Harjo Appointed to Third Term

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in November announced the appointment of U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo to a third term, making Harjo the second laureate to receive this extension since terms for the position were established in 1943.

Harjo's third term, to begin in September 2021, will offer her an opportunity to complete projects and programs whose timelines continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harjo will focus on her signature project, "Living Nations, Living Words." This digital project features an interactive storymap, developed with the Library's Geography and Map Division, that maps 47 contemporary Native American poets across the country – including Louise Erdrich, Natalie Diaz, Ray Young Bear, Craig Santos Perez, Sherwin Bitsui, Layli Long Soldier and Harjo herself.

MORE: [loc.gov/item/prn-20-075](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-075)

Copyright Office Launches Public Records System Pilot

The U.S. Copyright Office in December launched a public pilot of its new Copyright Public Records System (CPRS), which has been developed from the ground up to provide easier access and a stronger user interface for copyright records, including registrations, recordation and other data.

The new public record portal is the first component of the Enterprise Copyright System (ECS) to be openly released. Designed using extensive user feedback, the portal provides a modern user experience, enhanced search capabilities and improved mobile support for accessing copyright records. The public can access the new pilot at publicrecords.copyright.gov and provide feedback on their experience.

The new portal is a key part of the ECS, the bespoke IT system currently under development by the Library to integrate and improve all of the Copyright Office technology systems.

MORE: [loc.gov/item/prn-20-087](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-087)

Trethewey, Hayes Awarded '20 Bobbitt Prize for Poetry

The Library awarded the 2020 Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry to Terrance Hayes for his book "American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin" and to former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey for lifetime achievement.

The biennial prize – the 16th to be given – is awarded for the most distinguished book of poetry published in the preceding two years, 2018 and 2019, and for lifetime achievement in poetry.

Hayes' book, "American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin," was published by Penguin Books in 2018. Trethewey is the author of five poetry collections, most recently "Monument: Poems New and Selected," published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2018.

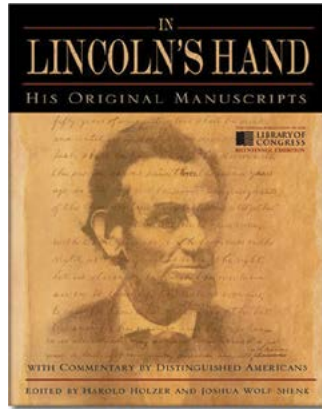
The Bobbitt prize is donated by the family of Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt of Austin, Texas, in her memory and awarded at the Library of Congress.

MORE: [loc.gov/item/prn-20-080](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-080)



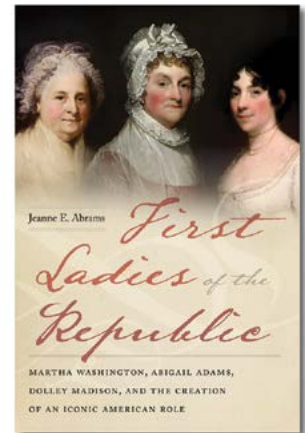
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Product #21601028
Price: \$3

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■ Order online: loc.gov/shop ■ Order by phone: 888.682.3557

REIMAGINING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Opperman Foundation gift furthers an important project at the Library.

In December 2020, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced that The Dwight D. Opperman Foundation, chaired by Madison Council member Julie Opperman, would donate \$1 million to reimagine and enhance the visitor experience at the Library.

“The Library of Congress is, in my opinion, the nation’s greatest cultural institution,” Opperman said. “I am pleased to help support this great initiative for people the world over to discover more of its unique and vast treasures.”

The Opperman gift will build on the significant investments of Congress and private philanthropy in the Library’s infrastructure. Earlier in 2020, Madison Council Chairman David Rubenstein announced a lead gift of \$10 million to support the visitor experience plan, and the Annenberg Foundation donated \$1 million.

In 2019, Julie Opperman created the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Woman of Leadership Award. A decades-long friend of Dwight Opperman, Ginsburg had personally asked Julie to establish and carry out her sole legacy award. Honored to fulfill the request, she selected the Library as the permanent home of the annual ceremony and gala.

The award recognizes “an extraordinary woman who has exercised a positive and notable influence on society and served as an exemplary role model in both principles and practice.” Agnes Gund, who has given over \$100 million to support criminal justice reform and reduce mass incarceration in the United States, was the first recipient of the award. Gund was presented the award by Ginsburg herself in the Jefferson Building in February 2020.

Julie Opperman has been a member of the Madison Council since 2011, when she made



it possible for the Law Library to acquire two volumes of an extraordinarily rare 1478 edition of the “Casus breves” of Johannes de Turnhout. Only 13 copies of the 1478 edition of “Casus breves” – the oldest – are known to exist in the world. The Law Library’s edition is the only copy in the United States. She and her husband also were the lead contributors in 2014 to the Library’s “Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor” exhibition, which commemorated the 800th anniversary of the creation of Magna Carta.

■ Madison Council member Julie Opperman, chair of The Dwight D. Opperman Foundation. Tony Powell

LAST WORD

TED WIDMER

Lincoln is not the easiest president to write about. He is so famous that it is intimidating to approach the pile of books already written, with the hope of adding another. In fact, Ford's Theatre built such a pile, in 2010. The freeform structure grew to be 34 feet tall, with less than half of all known Lincoln books, before its architects decided that adding any more would be structurally unsound and might lead to a Jenga-esque disaster.

That is more or less how I felt, when I weighed the idea of a new Lincoln book, about his 13-day train trip to Washington in 1861.

What saved my project, time and again, was access to Lincoln's papers.

I saw the great care he put into all of his speeches, written out so painstakingly, in his slow and deliberate hand. And I saw the hate mail that never stopped threatening him with violence if he dared to come to Washington and assume the presidency. It was depressing to see the uglier side of our politics up close, especially in another toxic moment. But Lincoln never bowed to the threats, and his faith in democracy was contagious.

I began to suspect that reading older documents offered him a form of therapy, just as it did for me. As he built his argument for the Union, he studied the words of earlier presidents, like a blacksmith seeking what is valuable within an ingot and discarding the rest. One of the best days of my research came when historical specialist Michelle Krowl let me see the commonplace book Lincoln used for his debate prep against Stephen Douglas. Inside the cover, Lincoln had pasted the Declaration's famous lines about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – the birthright of all Americans.

Libraries were on Lincoln's mind as he raced to Washington, afraid that the city would fall into Southern hands before he arrived. Armed militias were parading menacingly, and a widespread rumor held that they would seize the Capitol, including the Library of Congress. To possess America's documentary heritage would bestow a form of legitimacy on whichever side got there first.

Fortunately, Lincoln made it safely, and

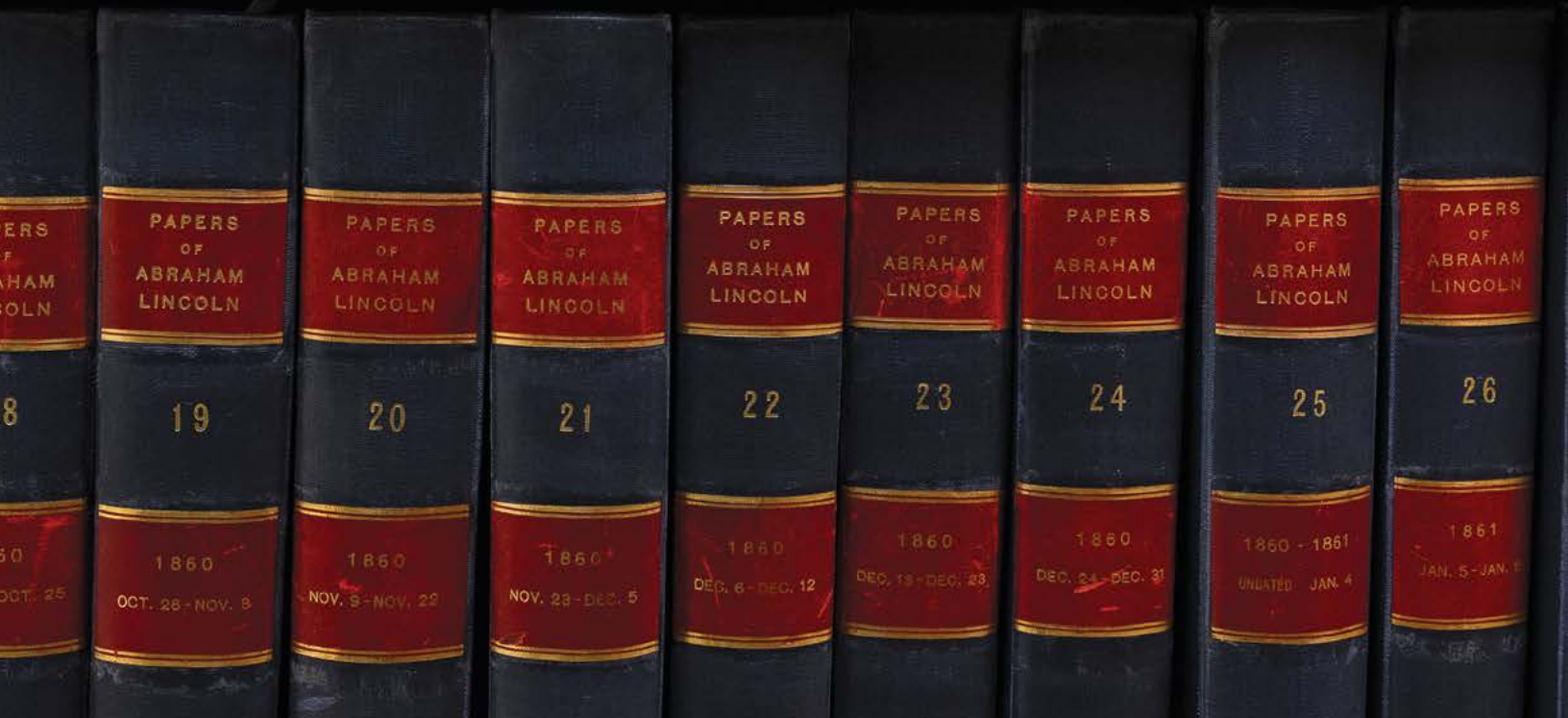
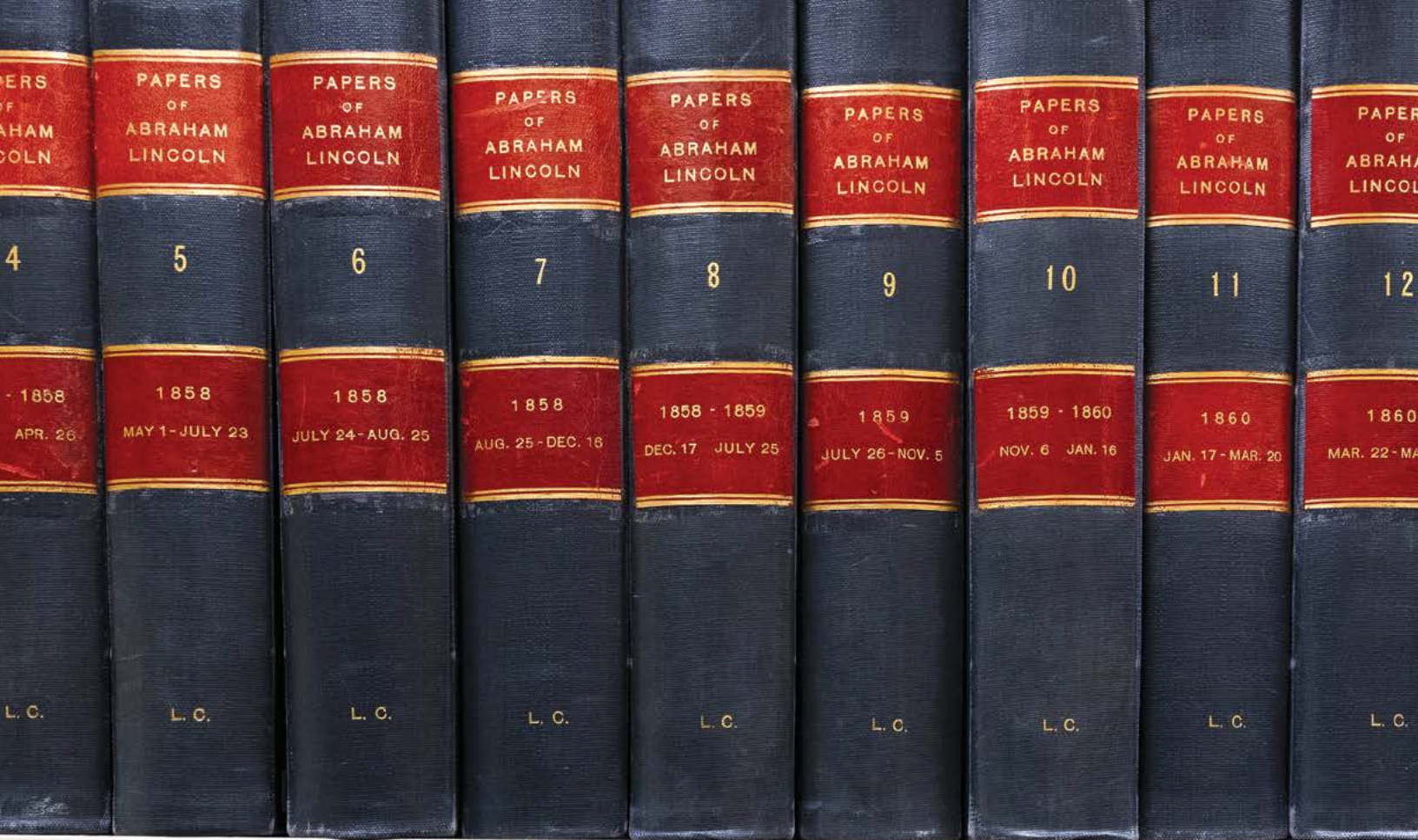


MICHEAL MCLAUGHLIN

throughout his presidency, access to the Library eased his burden. He never stopped learning from the founders, and the Gettysburg Address, which did so much to envision a better country, also looked backward, toward the Declaration. A century later, Martin Luther King Jr. would build upon Gettysburg to make a fresh new argument for democracy. The old papers help us stay focused. As John Lewis argued in his final essay, we must “study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time.”

In an 1859 speech to young Americans, Lincoln argued that reading was the “key” to unlock every mystery. By digitizing the words of so many presidents, the Library of Congress has handed out millions of new keys, just when we need them most. Seeking and sifting those words is in itself an act of democracy and builds hope that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

—Ted Widmer is distinguished lecturer at the Macaulay Honors College of the City of New York and the author of “Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen Days to Washington.”



■ Bound volumes of the papers of Abraham Lincoln, part of the presidential papers collections at the Library of Congress. Manuscript Division

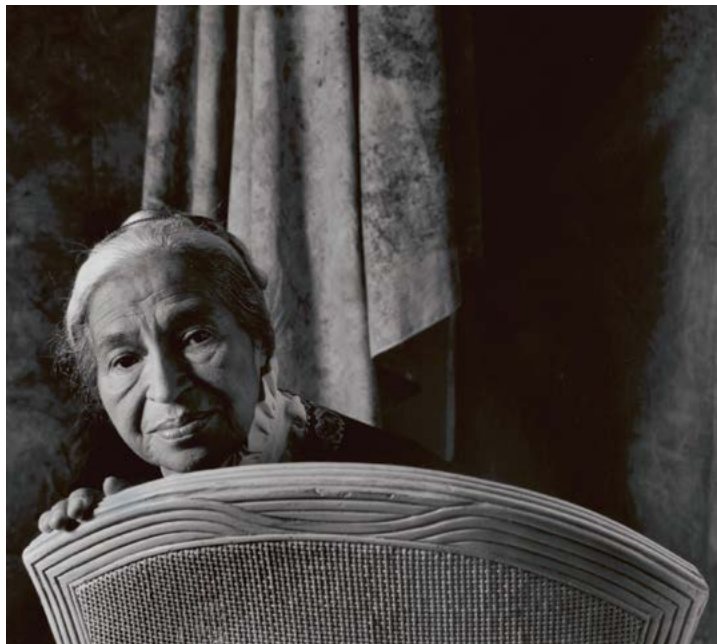
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