

Guide to the Benjamin Lincoln Collection

Ms Coll 33



Finding aid by Toby A. Appel

2011

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Custodial History	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Associated Materials	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Benjamin Lincoln, 1819-1835	6
Series II: Thomas Lincoln and the Lincoln Family	8
Selected Search Terms	10

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 33

CREATOR: Lincoln, Benjamin, 1802-1835

TITLE: Benjamin Lincoln Collection

DATES: 1816-1944

BULK DATES: 1819-1896

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Benjamin Lincoln, physician, anatomist, and medical educator, taught anatomy and dissection at the University of Vermont. Papers include family correspondence, two journals of travel to New Orleans and to New Brunswick, circulars, publications in the *Burlington Sentinel*, ephemera, and photographs, letters, pamphlets, and ephemera by or related to members of the Lincoln family.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0033>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0033>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 2011.

Custodial History

Collection is from the family archive, passed down through Edmund Lincoln and Dr. Thomas R. Lincoln, sons of Benjamin Lincoln's brother Thomas Lincoln.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Yale does not own copyright.

Preferred Citation

Benjamin Lincoln Collection, Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Associated Materials

Papers of Benjamin Lincoln, 1823-1835, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Biographical / Historical

Benjamin Lincoln, physician, anatomist, and medical educator, was born in Dennysville, Maine on October 11, 1802, the son of Theodore Lincoln, a judge and founding settler of Dennysville, and Hannah (Mayhew) Lincoln. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1823. In the period 1825-1827, he spent part of his time in Boston studying medicine under George Cheyne Shattuck and attending selected courses at Harvard Medical School. In 1825-1826, he accompanied an ailing friend, Dr. Henry Little, to New Orleans for Little's health. He received his M.D. from Bowdoin in 1827, after which he began practice in Boston. He was invited to teach the course on anatomy at the University of Vermont in 1828 and was named professor the following year. At the invitation of Nathan Ryno Smith, he taught at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1831. Lincoln was a medical reformer who wanted to upgrade standards for admission to medical schools and graduation from them. He became embroiled in an acrimonious controversy over medical education with Dr. Theodore Woodward, Dean of Castleton Medical College in Castleton, Vermont, detailed in two pamphlets Lincoln published in 1833. He published at least four additional pieces on medical education in the Burlington Sentinel in 1834. Long suffering from rheumatism and by 1833 from tuberculosis, Lincoln left Burlington in 1834 to return to his family in Dennysville, where he died on February 26, 1835.

Thomas Lincoln, born in 1812 in Dennysville, Maine, was the youngest son of Theodore Lincoln. In 1829 he aided his brother Benjamin Lincoln with making anatomical preparations for medical education in Burlington, Vermont. In 1833, he accompanied John James Audubon to Labrador. The Lincoln's sparrow, located and shot on this trip by Lincoln, was named by Audubon for him. He attended the Medical School of Maine at Bowdoin College in 1830 but did not complete an M.D. there. Independently wealthy, Thomas Lincoln oversaw the farm on the family estate in Dennysville until his death in 1883. His sons were Dr. Arthur Talbot Lincoln and Edmund Lincoln.

Scope and Contents

Papers include letters by Benjamin Lincoln to his family, 1819-1834; a journal of his travel to New Orleans and journal of a geological and natural history voyage to New Brunswick; ephemera from his student

period at Bowdoin and from Burlington, Vermont; four letters on medical education published in the Burlington Sentinel; copies or drafts of letters and other writings on slavery and other issues by Thomas Lincoln; photographs of the descendants of Theodore Lincoln and of the family home in Dennysville, Maine; pamphlets; and a copy of the Centennial commemoration of the settlement of Dennyville, Maine, 1886, with genealogical information on the Lincoln family. A lengthy letter by Edmund Lincoln, son of Thomas Lincoln, described his travel to Japan in 1896.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: 1. Benjamin Lincoln. 2. Thomas Lincoln and the Lincoln family.

Collection Contents

Series I: Benjamin Lincoln, 1819-1835

b. 1, f. 1	Letters to family 3 items. Letters to his father, Theodore Lincoln, and mother, Hannah (Mayhew) Lincoln from Brunswick, Maine where Lincoln was an undergraduate at Bowdoin College.	1819-1821
b. 1, f. 2	Letters to family 3 items. Letters to his father on his voyage to New Brunswick, Canada, and on his medical studies in Boston. See Folder 10.	1824-1825
b. 1, f. 3	Letters to family 5 items. Letters to his father and mother on his voyage to New Orleans with Dr. Henry Little. Recent transcripts of these letters by Rebecca Bernardos. See Folder 11 for a diary of the voyage.	1825-1826
b. 1, f. 4	Letters to family Letters to his father, mother and brother Bela from Brunswick, Maine, and Boston.	1827
b. 1, f. 5	Letters to family 7 items. Letters to his father, mother, and brother Bela From Burlington, Vermont, where Lincoln was teaching anatomy at the University of Vermont and creating preparations for an anatomical cabinet. His brother Thomas was assisting him in his dissections in 1829. One letter is from Thomas and Benjamin to their brother Bela. The last letter discusses the offer from Nathan R. Smith to teach at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.	1828-1830
b. 1, f. 6	Letters to family 2 items. Letters to his father from Baltimore, including a long description of the University of Maryland.	1831
b. 1, f. 7	Letters to his father, sister, Mary, and brother Thomas 10 items. Letters written from Burlington. Includes discussion of the cholera epidemic and a printed notice by the Board of Health (Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary) "To the Inhabitants of the Town of Burlington and its Vicinity," June 25, 1832	1832
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to family 13 items. Letters to his father and to his brothers, Thomas, Bela, and Edmund on his growing surgical practice, his private students, his ambitious plans for research and writing and for improved medical education, his controversy with Theodore Woodward, his publications, and his health. Includes a printed circular for his pamphlet, <i>Hints on the present state of medical education and the influence of medical schools in New England</i> (1833). The final letter, dated May 23, 1824, from Thomas and Benjamin to Theodore, is about Benjamin returning to Dennysville because of debilitating illness.	1833-1834
b. 1, f. 9	Letters to Benjamin Lincoln from his father 2 items.	1819, 1824

b. 1, f. 10	<p>"Journal of a Voyage from Boston to New Orleans"</p> <p>Lincoln was invited by Dr. Henry Little, a botanist, to accompany him on a voyage to Louisiana in order to alleviate Little's suffering from tuberculosis. The journal describes the voyage by ship to Louisiana and travel up the Mississippi to New Orleans. Lincoln described plantations and slavery, the physical, economic, and social conditions, and medicine and public health in New Orleans. The journal includes a separate daily report on the condition of Dr. Little, who died on the voyage home. Folder also includes a transcript of the journal by researcher Rebecca Bernardos.</p>	1825 November 10-1826 March 26
b. 1, f. 11	<p>Journal of a Voyage from Eastport, Maine to New Brunswick</p> <p>55 pages. Lincoln sailed from Eastport, Maine, not far from Dennysville, to St. John, New Brunswick, and visited several other towns in New Brunswick. He carried out a geological survey of New Brunswick, probably encouraged by Parker Cleaveland, geologist and mineralogist at Bowdoin College. The journal includes a variety of other observations, including those on Indians.</p>	1827 July 20 - 1827 August 29
b. 1, f. 12	<p>Miscellany from Bowdoin College, Boston, and Burlington</p> <p>Pencil drawing, presumably of Benjamin Lincoln; itemized receipts for tuition at Bowdoin College, 1820-1823; notes to Lincoln concerning student societies; an engraving of John Doane Wells, M.D. (1799-1830), Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at Bowdoin College, 1822-1830, sent by the Medical Faculty at Bowdoin College to Lincoln in Burlington; commencement admission cards; receipts in Boston; card for the Burlington Assemblies, 1830-1831.</p>	1820-1834
b. 1, f. 13	<p>Benjamin Lincoln's copy of <i>Catalogue of the Library of the Medical School at Maine of Bowdoin College</i> (Brunswick, Maine: Bowdoin Press, 1830)</p>	1830
b. 1, f. 14	<p>Benjamin Lincoln, "Letters addressed to Joseph A. Gallup, M.D." in the <i>Burlington Sentinel</i></p> <p>Four weekly issues, February 28, 1834, March 14, 1834, March 21, 1834, March 28, 1834, containing articles by Lincoln on the poor state of medical education and the ignorance of many physicians. Joseph Gallup, of Woodstock, Vermont, was a leading physician in the state, who had founded a medical college in Woodstock and later resigned from it.</p>	1834
b. 1, f. 15	<p>Obituary of Benjmin Lincoln in a separate broadside of the <i>Eastport Sentinel</i></p>	1835 August
b. 1, f. 16	<p>John Wheeler, <i>Historical Sketch of the University of Vermont</i> (1854)</p> <p>Rev. John Wheeler was president of the University of Vermont from 1833 to 1848. On Lincoln, see pp. 27-28.</p>	1854

Series II: Thomas Lincoln and the Lincoln Family

b. 1, f. 17	Thomas Lincoln manuscripts on slavery and the Civil War Thomas Lincoln sought protection for fugitive slaves.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	Thomas Lincoln, other manuscripts "Disregard of the feelings of a Marble Statue"; "Anatomy of the Alphabet" (two drafts); letter to "Friend Frothingham," December 9, 1870 on alcohol (two drafts); "Proceedings at the annual Town Meeting"; draft petition to the U.S. House of representatives concerning rocks obstructing passage and commerce in Cobscook Bay, Maine; note on Macauley and current history; and the Constitution of the Burlington Society for the Promotion of Temperance, signed by fourteen people, but neither Benjamin nor Thomas Lincoln.	1870 and n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	Other items related to Thomas Lincoln Includes a small oval color painting Thomas Lincoln; a printed "Memorial. Thomas Lincoln," 1883, and a reprint, sent to Thomas Lincoln, of John Bachman, "An account of some experiments made on the habits of the Vultures inhabiting Carolina, the Turkey Buzzard, and the Carrion Crow, particularly as it regards the extraordinary powers of smelling, usually attributed to them," 1834, on John J. Audubon's experiments, and with pencil corrections.	1834, 1883 and n.d.
b. 1, f. 20	Receipts related to Theodore Lincoln Five items. The last relates to money owed from the University of Vermont.	1816-1839
b. 1, f. 21	Other family correspondence Bela Lincoln, Rockingham, Iowa, to Thomas Lincoln, August 7, 1839; Mary O'Brien, Boston, to Mr. and Mrs [Theodore] Lincoln, August 1844; Edmund Lincoln (son of Thomas Lincoln), Kyoto Japan, to Mrs. S. E. Whittier, Lowell, Massachusetts, March 26, 1896. This letter, describing Japan, is on a sheet of paper several feet long folded into an envelope.	1839, 1844, 1896
b. 1, f. 22	Lincoln family miscellany Receipts and notes.	1832, 1836, and n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	Letters to Mrs. Arthur T. Lincoln Dr. Arthur T. Lincoln was the son of Thomas Lincoln. These two typed letters to Mrs. (Anna?) Lincoln from Frederick F. Black, Searsport, Maine, and from George Cheever Shattuck, Harvard Medical School, relate to the disposition of Benjamin Lincoln's books and papers.	1927, 1944
b. 2, f. 24	Photographs of the Lincoln homestead, Dennysville, Maine Four postcards, five photographs, a photograph of unidentified men building a cabin, and a newspaper advertisement for the sale of the Lincoln home.	
b. 2, f. 25	Photographs of members of the Lincoln family Photographs of Arthur T. Lincoln, Frederick Bromly Staines, Janet (Jessie) McIndoe Staines (1803-1884), and miniature photographs, presumably of Frederick Bromly Staines as a child. Captions were probably written by Edmund Lincoln's wife, daughter of F. B. Staines and granddaughter of Mrs. Janet Staines. Folder contains comments and genealogical information by a descendent of the Staines family, John Muirhead, in 2017.	

b. 2, f. 26	Photograph albums of the Lincoln family Two tiny decorative leather-covered albums, 9 cm x 8 cm. One is stamped Edmund Lincoln, Dennysville.	
b. 2, f. 27	<i>Memorial of the 100th Anniversary of the Settlement of Dennysville, Maine, 1886</i> Signature of Edmund Lincoln. Includes a brief genealogy of the Lincoln family.	1886
b. 2, f. 28	Pamphlets	1839-1922
	<i>Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the University of Vermont, October 1839</i> With signature of Thomas Lincoln, Dennysville, Maine.	1839
	Thomas Gray, <i>An Elegy in a Country Churchyard</i> . English Classic Series Signature of Edmund Lincoln.	1885
	Andrew Summers Rowan, <i>How I Carried the Message to Garcia</i> Inscribed by the author to Mrs. Edmund J. S. Lincoln.	1922

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.

Subjects

Anatomy, Comparative
Dissection
Medical education -- Vermont
Medicine -- Study and teaching -- United States
Slavery -- Louisiana

Geographic Names

Dennysville (Me.) -- History
Japan -- Description and travel
New Brunswick -- Geology
New Orleans (La.) -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats

Journals
Photographs

Names

Gallup, Joseph A. (Joseph Adams), 1769-1849
Lincoln, Arthur T., 1856-
Lincoln, Benjamin, 1802-1835
Lincoln, Edmund, 1870-
Lincoln, Theodore, 1764-1852
Lincoln, Thomas, 1828-1883
Little, Henry, 1802-1826
Shattuck, George Cheyne, 1783-1854
Smith, N. R. (Nathan Ryno), 1797-1877
Wells, John Doane, 1799-1830
Woodward, Theodore, 1788-1840

Families

Lincoln family

Corporate Bodies

Bowdoin College
Bowdoin College. Medical School
Castleton Medical College (Castleton, Vt.)
University of Maryland at Baltimore. School of
Medicine
University of Vermont. College of Medicine