Stewart, Richard H.

Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material
1861-2009

Abstract: The Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material comprises artifacts, prints, postcards, stamps, coins, clippings, publications, notes and research, and an 1861 appointment signed by Lincoln. The collection documents the nation’s mourning of Lincoln through contemporary and commemorative ephemera, artifacts, and prints and reflects the collecting and research pursuits of native Delawarean, University of Delaware alumnus, and DuPont executive Richard H. Stewart (1936-2013).
## Descriptive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Identification:</strong></th>
<th>MSS 694</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>Stewart, Richard H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
<td>Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusive Dates:</strong></td>
<td>1861-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent:</strong></td>
<td>.3 linear feet and 4 oversize boxes (5 boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language:</strong></td>
<td>Materials entirely in English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Administrative Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Citation:</strong></th>
<th>MSS 694, Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shelving Summary:</strong></td>
<td>Box 1: Shelved in SPEC VAULT MSS; Box 2: Shelved in SPEC VAULT MSS oversize boxes (18 inches); Box 3: Shelved in SPEC VAULT MSS oversize boxes (20 inches); Box 4: Shelved in SPEC VAULT MSS oversize boxes (17 inches); Box 5: Shelved in SPEC VAULT MSS oversize boxes (28 inches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: <a href="http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/">http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong></td>
<td>Gift of Joan B. Stewart, in memory of Richard H. Stewart, Jr., June 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processing:</strong></td>
<td>Processed and encoded by Maureen Cech, July 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access Restrictions:</strong></td>
<td>The collection is open for research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terms Governing Use and Reproduction:</strong></td>
<td>Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, <a href="http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi">http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Biographical Note

Native Delawarean Richard H. Stewart (1936-2013) was an avid student of history and collector of Civil War and Abraham Lincoln artifacts and memorabilia.

Stewart was born in New Castle in 1936, where he attended P.S. DuPont High School. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1957 and was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Following his service in the United States Army, Stewart attended Boston University for his graduate studies. Stewart married Joan Bernard in 1959, with whom he had two children, Susan and Richard, Jr.

Stewart worked with the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Company for thirty-two years, retiring as an advertising director. His served as a lay minister at the Wilmington, Delaware, Emmanuel Episcopal Church and was a longtime member of the Masons. He was also very active in local theatre.

Stewart’s son, Richard Jr., died in the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. He was a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald. Stewart and his son shared a love of history and the Civil War.

After 2001, the Stewarts relocated to Wilmington, North Carolina. Stewart became a charter member of the Richard Hansell Stewart, Jr., American Legion Post 543 in St. James, North Carolina, named in honor of his son.

Sources:


The Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material comprises artifacts, prints, postcards, stamps, coins, clippings, publications, notes and research, and an 1861 appointment signed by Lincoln. The collection documents the nation’s mourning of Lincoln through contemporary and commemorative ephemera, artifacts, and prints and reflects the collecting and research pursuits of native Delawarean, University of Delaware alumnus, and DuPont executive Richard H. Stewart (1936-2013).

The collection contains a variety of Lincolnia dating between 1861 and 2009. Richard H. Stewart was a careful collector and often kept documentation about the provenance of his items. For example, the two original Currier & Ives lithographs in the collection had once been owned by renowned Lincoln collector Oliver R. Barrett.

Another highlight of the collection is an 1861 appointment signed by Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward. The document appoints Joseph M. Sterrett to the position of deputy postmaster of Erie, Pennsylvania. Also included is a pair of Civil War-era handcuffs known as Phelps handcuffs. Orson C. Phelps patented his handcuffs in 1866, though this pair does not bear the typical patent stamp. The collection contains two reproductions of the April 15, 1865, edition of The New York Herald, which provided one of the most well known accounts of Lincoln's assassination.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

**Topical Terms**

Presidents--United States--History--19th century.

Assassins--United States--History--19th century.

**Geographical Terms**

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

**Form/Genre Terms**

Lithographs.

Airmail stamps.

Postage stamps.

Coins (money)

Commemoratives.

Plates (dishes)

Clippings (information artifacts)

Publications.

Documents.

Flow blue (ceramic glaze)

Notes.

Paperweights.

Photogravures (prints)

Handcuffs.

Ephemera.

**Occupation**
Collectors.

**Personal Contributors**

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.


Rice, Moses P.

Stewart, Richard H.

**Corporate Contributors**

Currier & Ives.

**Related Materials in this Repository**

MSS 465 Autograph Abraham Lincoln documents

MSS 521 Lincoln Club of Delaware Abraham Lincoln collection

**Materials Cataloged Separately**

The Richard H. Stewart collection of Abraham Lincoln material includes over 50 volumes from Stewart's library pertaining to Lincoln, Lincolniana, and the Civil War. The volumes have been cataloged separately with imprints in Special Collections and can be accessed by searching DELCAT Discovery with the keywords "richard h. stewart collection."
Detailed Description of the Collection

Notes and research, undated [Box 1 F1]

Includes Stewart's notes and research on Lincoln, particularly his homes.

Clippings and publications, 1861-1898

Illustrations from The Illustrated London News, 1861-1865 [Box 2 F2]

Includes four clippings of illustrations of Lincoln's 1861 inaugural address (March 30, 1861); New Year's Eve ball at the White House (February 1, 1862); Lincoln's second inaugural address (April 8, 1865); and the funeral procession [May 20, 1865].

New York Herald reproductions, undated [Box 5 F2]

2 items

McClure's Magazine, 1898 December [Box 1 F2]

Includes "The Later Life of Lincoln" by Ida Tarbell.

Postcards, 1906-1961, undated [Box 1 F3]

Signed Lincoln appointment, 1861 March 27 [Box 2 F4]


Prints and portraits, 1865 and undated

Includes a photograph and a card regarding the provenance of the Currier & Ives prints. The card notes that these prints "were once part of the famous printers' residue stock and later an item in the famous Oliver Barrett Collection." American writer Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) published a volume on American lawyer Oliver R. Barrett's (1873-1950) collection titled Lincoln Collector: The Story of the Oliver R. Barrett Lincoln Collection (1949).

"Abraham Lincoln: The Nation's Martyr—Assassinated April 14, 1865" Currier & Ives lithographic print, [circa 1865] [Box 3 F5]

Framed.

"The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre" Currier & Ives lithographic print, 1865 [Box 3 F5]

Framed. Also includes a 1952 letter from former owner Julia Newman about the provenance of the two Currier & Ives prints in this collection. Originally laid into Stewart's copy of the auction catalog for the 1952 sale of the Oliver R. Barrett collection, which can be found cataloged with imprints in Special Collections.
Moses P. Rice print of Gardner Lincoln portrait, undated [Box 1 F5]

Washington, D.C., photographer Moses P. Rice copyrighted this popular 1863 Alexander Gardner photograph in 1891. This print bears Rice's copyright statement on Lincoln's shoulder. This copy was once part of the Lincoln Collection formed by Oliver R. Barrett.

Reproduction of 1860 Hessler photograph, undated [Box 1 F5]

Reproduction of a print based on Hessler's 1860 photograph of Lincoln. Hessler's photograph was made from the negative that had been owned by Philadelphia photographer George B. Ayres.

Stamps and coins, 1894-2009

3-cent Lincoln stamp, 1926 [Box 1 F6]
Issue of 1926.

4-cent Lincoln stamp, 1894 [Box 1 F6]
Issue of 1894.

5-cent Lincoln stamp, 1903 [Box 1 F6]
1902 series, issue of 1903.

25-cent Lincoln airmail stamp, 1960 [Box 1 F6]
Issue of 1960.

Lincoln wheat pennies, 1909 [Box 1 F6]
2 items

Abraham Lincoln 1 5/16" bronze medal, 2009 [Box 4 F6]
Issued by the United States Mint.

Artifacts, circa 1865-1975

Pair of Phelps handcuffs, circa 1866 [Box 4 F7]
Does not bear the 1866 patent stamp of Orson C. Phelps.

1975 penny paperweight, circa 1975 [Box 4 F7]
Bears serial number 5CAAA7 on verso.

Royal Copenhagen Aluminia Faience Abraham Lincoln plate, circa 1965 [Box 4 F7]

Three-inch dish bearing mark of Royal Copenhagen Aluminia Faience.
