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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.BARTONCODEX

Title Lincoln Collection. Barton Codex Manuscripts

Date 1861-1940

Size 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract The Barton Codex Manuscripts are bound materials compiled by William E. Barton, a pastor in Oak Park, Illinois, who published and lectured on Abraham Lincoln. The collection includes books, scrapbooks, pamphlets, published addresses, and periodicals. Of particular interest is the volume titled Lincoln and His Cabinet. These codex manuscripts form part of the William E. Barton Collection of Lincolniana.

Information on Use

Access
This collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Lincoln Collection. Barton Codex Manuscripts, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
The Rev. William Eleazar Barton (1861-1930) was one of the early twentieth century’s most prominent writers and lecturers on the life of Abraham Lincoln. Born in Sublette, Illinois, in the same year Lincoln assumed the presidency, Barton grew up in an environment heavily influenced by reverence for Lincoln. After pursuing undergraduate studies at Berea College in Kentucky, Barton earned his divinity degree from the Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1890. He served parishes in Tennessee, Ohio, and Massachusetts before becoming the pastor of the First Congregational Church of Oak Park, Illinois, a position he held until his retirement in 1924. Four years later, Barton accepted an appointment as lecturer at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he also organized and served as pastor of the Collegeside Congregational Church.
Barton’s work as a writer produced a number of denominational manuals and a series of books presenting the wisdom and parables of a character he named Safed the Sage. For the last ten years of his life, however, Barton was best known to the public as a prolific author and lecturer on Abraham Lincoln. His publications about Lincoln included The Soul of Abraham Lincoln (1920), The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln (1920), The Life of Abraham Lincoln (1925), The Great and Good Man (1927), The Women Lincoln Loved (1927), and The Lincoln of the Biographers (1930).

In the course of compiling material for his writings and talks, Barton visited Lincoln sites in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois; interviewed surviving Lincoln relatives and acquaintances; and traveled as far as California and England to collect information and conduct genealogical research on the ancestry of the Lincoln family. While acquiring a large collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, manuscripts, and ephemera related to Lincoln and the Civil War era, Barton also purchased privately or at auction historical materials amassed by other Lincoln collectors such as John E. Burton and Osborn H. Oldroyd.

**Scope Note**

The Barton Codex Manuscripts is made up of bound materials compiled by William E. Barton, a pastor in Oak Park, Illinois, who published and lectured on Abraham Lincoln extensively. Barton also maintained connections with fellow Lincoln experts and carried out multiple research projects that delved into the many facets of Lincoln’s life, times, and family history. This collection divided into three separate series: books, scrapbooks, and lastly, pamphlets, published addresses, and periodicals. Of particular interest is the volume titled Lincoln and His Cabinet. These codex manuscripts form part of the William E. Barton Collection of Lincolniana.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**

- Barton, William Eleazar, 1861-1930
- Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
- Collectors and collecting -- United States
- American Civil War, 1861-1865
- Church History

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Books**

**Volume 1**

Lincoln and His Cabinet - Collection of photographs, autographs, and manuscripts of Lincoln and members in his cabinet, 1861-1865

**Box 1**
Folder 1

Box 1
Folder 2

Box 1
Folder 3
The Abraham Lincoln Association. Lincoln in the Year 1858: Being the Day-by-Day Activities of Abraham Lincoln During that Year, The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1929

Box 1
Folder 4

Box 1
Folder 5

Box 1
Folder 6

Box 1
Folder 7
Barton, William E. Lieutenant William Barton of Morris County, New Jersey, and his Descendants. Oak Park, Ill.: Vaile Press, 1900

Box 1
Folder 8
Barton, William E. The Women Lincoln Loved, printer’s dummy, autographed copy, Bobbs-Merrill, 1927

Box 2
Folder 1

Box 2
Folder 2
Hale, Edward E. Seven Spanish Cities. Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1883

Box 2
Folder 3
MacDonald, Edward. Old Capp’s Hill and Burial Ground with Historical Sketches, Industrial School Press

Box 2
Folder 4
Smith, T.V. Lincoln, Living Legend, The University of Chicago Press, 1940

Box 2
Folder 5
Order for Evening Worship, Boston: F. H. Gilson Company, 1892. notes and news-clippings tipped in, 1911-1928

Series II: Scrapbooks
The majority of Barton’s scrapbooks consist of published texts into which he pasted folded newspaper clippings, prints, and notes. For additional scrapbooks see Lincoln Collection. Barton Scrapbooks.

Box 2
Folder 6
- Set of clippings titled "Epitaph on the XXXVII Congress: Anti-Lincoln Tract," 1862
- Set of clippings titled "The Parentage of Abraham Lincoln by D.J. Knotts" and subtitled "Articles affirming that he was the son of John C. Calhoun," 1911
- Set of clippings regarding Barton’s lecture series titled "The Religion of the Ancient Poets," 1923

Box 2
Folder 7
 Untitled scrapbook filled with hand-written notes, an excerpt from John Wilkes Booth’s diary, prints, and photocopied manuscripts, 1865-1925

Box 2
Folder 8
 Set of clippings titled "Recollections of Lincoln," 1866-1904

Box 3
Folder 1
 Press notices of sermons and addresses by William E. Barton, news-clippings and notes tipped in, 1894-1907

Box 3
Folder 2
 Catalogue of relics owned by William E. Barton and Esther T. Barton, his wife, in William Barton’s hand, which also contains a reprint of Barton’s "Quest of an Ancestor" from The New England Magazine, 1898

Box 3
Folder 3
 Ledger of church finances containing notes and financial correspondence, 1903-1915

Box 4
Folder 1
 Addresses and articles on ministry, containing correspondence, reprints, and news-clippings, 1911-1928

Box 4
Folder 2
 Addresses and articles on the fine arts, mostly reviews (by Barton and others) of painters and paintings, from The Advance, 1913-1914

Box 4
Folder 3
Set of news-clippings and reprints from Barton’s column "The Wonder of Music," 1913-1914

**Box 5**
**Folder 1**
Addresses and articles on education, containing interleaved notes, articles, and reprints (some not by Barton), 1913-1926

**Box 5**
**Folder 2**
Church programs and bulletins from Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, 1914-1923

**Box 5**
**Folder 3**
Sermon notes and outlines (of Barton’s), contains news-clippings, 1915

**Box 5**
**Folder 4**
Notes and news-clippings in volume titled "Annual Handbook, Central Congregational Church," 1915

**Box 5**
**Folder 5**
Calendar, contains interleaved notes and news-clippings, 1917

**Box 6**
**Folder 1**

**Box 6**
**Folder 2**
Collection of Lincoln letters and articles written by Nathaniel Howard from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1924

**Box 6**
**Folder 3**
Several Lincoln autographs folded into pages of extant text, n.d.

**Series III: Pamphlets, Published Addresses, and Periodicals**

**Box 6**
**Folder 4**
Barton, William E. "Message to a Young Man," published address delivered at the forty-third anniversary of the Boston YMCA, 1894

**Box 6**
**Folder 5**
- Program from the Boston Congregational Club Forefathers Festival (at which Barton spoke), December 21, 1897
- Barton, William E. "Our Fight for the Heritage of Humanity," sermon published by the Men’s Bible Class, Congregational Church, Oak Park, Illinois, 1917
- Bulletin for service at First Congregational Church, Oak Park, Illinois, where Barton’s delivered the sermon, "The Abiding Influence of George Washington," 1920
• Bulletin for service at First Congregational Church, Oak Park, Illinois, where Barton delivered the sermon, "Theodore Roosevelt," 1920
• The Open Court: A Monthly Magazine, vol. XXXVII (No. 10), 1922
• Information for visitors to the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, 1923
• The Open Court: A Monthly Magazine, vol. XXXVIII (No. 9), 1922 "Dr. Barton as a Father," toast delivered by his son Robert Barton, March 12, 1924