

THE HENRY HUNN THOMPSON COLLECTION
MSS. COLL. No. 20

Scope & Contents

The Henry Hunn Thompson collection consists of the papers and memorabilia of Henry Thompson, a native of Onondaga, N.Y. Mr. Thompson was in the Ford Theater when President Lincoln was shot. Among the items in the collection are: a United States flag that was flown over the U.S. Treasury Building upon the death of Lincoln; a copy of the *New York Herald* for April 15, 1865, containing the story of the assassination; a diary which includes Mr. Thompson's eye-witness account of the shooting of Lincoln; and assorted correspondence, photographs, documents and newspaper clippings.

Provenance

The collection was a gift to St. Lawrence University from Ralph Douglas Gentles through Atwood Manley. St. Lawrence University does not own the literary rights to the collection.

Biography

Henry Hunn Thompson was born in Pompey, N.Y. in 1824 and educated at Hamilton College. In 1863 he was appointed chief clerk in the office of the United States Treasury. It was while serving in this office that he witnessed the shooting of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Thompson was in a third row seat at the Ford Theater on the night that the President was assassinated.

At the close of the Civil War, Mr. Thompson resigned his office in the Treasury and organized a National Bank at New Berne, N.C. In 1877 he became cashier of the Erie Railroad under General Bird W. Spencer. When General Spencer later organized the People's Bank and Trust Company of Passaic, N.J., Mr. Thompson left the railroad and joined him in the new venture. He became a cashier at the bank and remained with it until his death in 1918.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

- I Correspondence. Arranged chronologically. Contains correspondence to and about Henry H. Thompson and members of the family
- II Diary (1865-1870) of Henry Thompson & photos & sketches from 1865 to 1870.
- III Clipping File. Contains newspaper clippings about Henry H. Thompson.
- IV Biographical File. Arranged chronologically. Contains material about Henry H. Thompson and members of his family.
- V Miscellaneous. Includes a piece of lace from a window in a room in which Lincoln lay in state and a lamp wick used during a celebration in the city of Washington after a victory.
- VI Flag flown over the Treasury Building at the time of Lincoln's assassination.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

BOX FOLDER

I CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 1 1776 August 30. a.l.s. Amos Hitchcock to Mrs. Amos Hitchcock. New York. 2 l.
- 1913 November 6. a.l.s. Dillon Wallace to Henry H. Thompson. Matteawan, N.Y. [2.]
- December 12. a.l.s. Dillon Wallace to Henry H. Thompson. Matteawan, N.Y.
- December 13. a.l.s. Dillon Wallace to Henry H. Thompson. Matteawan, N.Y.
- 1914 December 2. a.l.s. H.J.W. Alcot to Henry H. Thompson.
- 1915 February 11. t.l.s. William T. Hornaday to Henry H. Thompson. New York.
- July 28. a.l.s. Amelia E. Barr to Henry H. Thompson. Long Island. [2 leaves.]
- 1917 July 23. t.l.s. Theodore Roosevelt to General Bird W. Spencer. New York.
- 1918 February 14. t.l.s. Bird W. Spencer to Henry H. Thompson. New York.
- May 2. t.l.s. Bird W. Spencer to Roy H. Barbour. Attached is a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the People's Bank and Trust Company of Passaic, N.J. and a clipping about the death of Henry Thompson (envelope).
- June 1. t.l.s. National Press Bureau to Mrs. Henry H. Thompson. New York.

1 2 II Diary 1865-1870.

Contains an eyewitness account of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

3 III Clipping File

4 IV Biographical

- 1776 October 16. a.d.s. Amos Hitchcock appointed to second corporal. Signed by Major Edward Mott.
- 1801 December 8. a.d.s. Hunn Hitchcock appointment - appointed as Sergeant. Signed by Lt. Col. Solomon Cowles.
- 1808 May 25. Printed document, signed. Hunn Hitchcock appointment to Ensign. Signed by Jonathan Trumbull. (2 copies)
- 1911 September 19. "Remarks of the Reverend James S. Young at the Funeral of Mrs. H.H. Thompson".
- 1918 June 6. Hamilton Chapter of Alpha Delta Phi memorial to members. Included is Henry Hunn Thompson.

1 5 **V MISCELLANEOUS**

A piece of lace from a window in a room in which Lincoln lay in state and a lamp wick used during a celebration in the city of Washington after a victory.

3 page handwritten article entitled "Reminiscences"

2 page handwritten article entitled "Retrospection" on Peoples Bank and Trust Company stationery.

Miscellaneous notes on Henry Thompson

Sketch of Indian teepee and canoe

Four photos of Henry Hunn Thompson

2 **VI FLAG.**

34-star flag flown over the Treasury at the time of Lincoln's assassination.