

Collection of :

An Inventory of the Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creators:** Kennedy, John Pendleton, 1795-1870 and Bliss, Alexander, 1827-1896
- Title:** Collection of *Autograph Leaves of our Country's Authors*
- Dates:** 1837-1864, undated
- Extent:** 1 oversize box (osb), 1.20 linear feet
- Abstract:** The collection consists of a bound volume of original manuscripts submitted by American authors for an 1864 publication (*Autograph Leaves of our Country's Authors*) that was assembled by John Pendleton Kennedy and Alexander Bliss and sold for the benefit of Union soldiers during the Civil War. Among the contributors are Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Henry David Thoreau.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-54148
- Language:** English, Italian, Latin,
- Access:** Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
- Use Policies:** Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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Administrative Information

- Preferred Citation** Collection of *Autograph Leaves of our Country's Authors* (Manuscript Collection MS-54148). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- Acquisition:** Purchase, 1958, Hanley I Collection
- Processed by:** Joan Sibley and Richard Workman, 2019 **Note:** This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
- Repository:** Harry Ransom Center, [The University of Texas at Austin.](#)
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Scope and Contents

During the American Civil War the U.S. Sanitary Commission promoted "sanitary fairs" in northern cities to raise funds for medical and other assistance for the Union troops. One such fair, the Maryland State Fair for U.S. Soldier Relief, was held in Baltimore from 18 April to 2 May 1864. Alexander Bliss, assistant quartermaster general of the Union army, and John Pendleton Kennedy, Maryland writer and politician, concocted a plan to solicit handwritten manuscripts from well-known American authors for publication in facsimile in a book to be sold at the fair. (Some sources say they also attempted to sell the original manuscripts.) The resulting printed book was titled *Autograph Leaves of our Country's Authors*. After the book was produced, the original manuscripts were pasted into a bound volume, given the title, *Autograph Leaves: 1864*, and retained by Bliss and his heirs.

Noted authors represented in the collection include John Quincy Adams, William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Julia Ward Howe, Washington Irving, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Herman Melville, Charles Eliot Norton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry David Thoreau, and Daniel Webster. Writings include primarily short prose pieces, fragments of longer prose writing, and poetry. The original manuscripts are arranged in the bound volume in no apparent order; in this guide they are listed alphabetically by the author's last name, with page numbers given for ease of location.

The contents of the manuscript volume and the printed book differ somewhat. The bound volume originally contained 98 manuscripts (including the Preface by Bliss and Kennedy), of which five were physically removed before the volume was acquired by the Harry Ransom Center, namely: a letter from Noah Webster to James Greenleaf; a letter from Lindley Murray to Robert and Elizabeth Pearsall; two excerpts by Louis Agassiz, one untitled and the other from his "Methods of Study"; and Abraham Lincoln's handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address. The Webster, Murray, and Agassiz items are listed in the table of contents of the manuscript volume, but do not appear in the printed version. Present in the printed book but not in manuscript is a copy of "The Star Spangled Banner" in the hand of Francis Scott Key. In several instances an author is represented in the printed book by a different document than that included among the manuscripts. The printed book reproduces 93 documents in all.

The reasons for the removal of the Webster, Murray, and Agassiz items are not known, nor is there any indication of what became of the Key manuscript. The Lincoln address remained with the collection until about 1949, when it was removed by the Bliss heirs and sold at auction to a private collector. The new owner eventually bequeathed the document (known as the Bliss copy, one of five in existence in Lincoln's hand) to the White House, where it now hangs in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Autograph Leaves, 1864 (1837-1864). From the Hanley Collection. Formerly cataloged as MS X-1. Consists of 93 separate handwritten documents pasted into a bound volume:

Abbott, Jacob, 1803-1879. How to influence the young, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 107.

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891. Philosophy comes after events and gives the reason of them..., excerpt from address for New York Historical Society, 20 November 1854, signed handwritten manuscript, 22 February 1864. Pages 53-54.

Benjamin, Park, 1809-1864. From a poetical essay, written in 1854, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 137.

Bethune, George Washington, 1805-1862. Ode to America, God's blessing be upon..., handwritten manuscript with signature attached, undated. Page 121.

Bliss, Alexander, 1827-1896. See Kennedy, John Pendleton, 1795-1870 and Bliss, Alexander, 1827-1896.

Boker, George Henry, 1823-1890. Dirge for a soldier, In memory of Gen. Philip Kearney, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 109-110.

Botta, Anne Charlotte Lynch, 1815-1891. Sonnet, Prometheus, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 96.

Botta, Anne Charlotte Lynch, 1815-1891. Sonnet, The sun and stream, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 96.

Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878. The snow shower, signed handwritten manuscript, 10 February 1864. Pages 34-36.

Butler, William Allen, 1825-1902. At Richmond, signed handwritten manuscript, 1859. Pages 59-60.

Calvert, George Henry, 1803-1889. The salute, signed handwritten manuscript, 1857. Pages 29-30.

Carey, Alice. Song, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 133.

Carey, Henry Charles, 1793-1879. Social science, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 95.

Channing, William Ellery, 1818-1901. O golden green, signed handwritten manuscript, 1850. Pages 101-102.

Child, Lydia Maria Francis, 1802-1880. Letter from New York, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 83-85.

Choate, Rufus, 1799-1859. Notes for Missouri salvage case, handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 118.

Cooper, James Fenimore, 1789-1851. The Water Witch, Chapter XI / excerpt, handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 128.

Cooper, Susan Fenimore, 1813-1894. The satchel / excerpt, An historical note, New Amsterdam, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 144.

Cox, Arthur Cleveland, Bishop, 1818-1896. The great rising, signed handwritten manuscript, 1 March 1864. Page 94.

Cozzens, Frederick Swartwout, 1818-1869. Spice Islands, signed handwritten manuscript, 10 February 1864. Page 145.

Cozzens, Frederick Swartwout, 1818-1869. Summer friends, signed handwritten manuscript, 24 February 1864. Pages 81-82.

Cummins, Maria Susanna, 1827-1866. The Lamplighter / excerpt, pages 55-56, Gerty's prayer, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 90-91.

Curtis, George William, 1824-1892. Prue and I / excerpt, All this must be: for consider how few years since it was your grandmother who was the belle..., signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 78-80.

Cushman, Charlotte Saunders, 1816-1876. Signed handwritten letter to A. H. Fiske, 19 September 1863. Page 154.

Dana, Richard Henry, 1787-1879. Factitious life / excerpt, The sea, signed handwritten manuscript, February 1864. Pages 12-13.

Dana, Richard Henry, 1815-1882. Public rumor, Rev. Dr. Croswell, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 47.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882. This is he who felled by foes..., handwritten manuscript, signed, undated. Page 92.

Everett, Edward, 1794-1865. The heavens seen by the naked eye, signed handwritten manuscript, address delivered 28 August 1856. Pages 8-11.

French, Benjamin Brown, 1800-1870. Hymn, composed at Gettysburg for the consecration, 19 November 1863, signed handwritten manuscript, 17 February 1864. Page 140.

Fuller, Margaret, 1810-1850. Signed handwritten letter to Ralph Waldo Emerson, August 1838. (Originally cataloged under Ossoli, Sarah Margaret Fuller, marchesa d'). Page 129.

Gould, Hannah Flagg, 1789-1865. American hymn, signed handwritten manuscript, 9 July 1861. Page 142.

Greenwood, Grace, 1823-1904. Arnold de Winkelried / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. (Originally cataloged under Lippincott, Sara Jane Clarke). Page 127.

Greenwood, Grace, 1823-1904. Lights in the war-cloud / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. (Originally cataloged under Lippincott, Sara Jane Clarke). Page 146.

Halleck, Fitz-Greene, 1790-1867. Hark! a bugle's echo comes..., signed handwritten manuscript, April 1864. Page 49.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864. Earth's holocaust / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, 16 February 1864. Pages 23-25.

Hillard, George Stillman, 1808-1879. I confess that increasing years bring with them an increasing respect for men..., signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 44.

Holland, Josiah Gilbert, 1819-1881. Bitter Sweet / excerpt, Hymn, signed handwritten manuscript, 15 March 1864. Page 138

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894. Army hymn, signed handwritten manuscript, 15 February 1864. Page 6.

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894. The flower of liberty, signed handwritten manuscript, 22 February 1864. Pages 50-52.

Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910. Our orders, signed handwritten manuscript, 1861. Page 115.

Irving, Washington, 1783-1859. Bracebridge Hall, handwritten manuscript signed Geoffrey Crayon, undated. Page 4.

Irving, Washington, 1783-1859. Life of Washington / excerpt, handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 5.

Kemble, Frances Anne, 1809-1893. An answer, handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 113.

Kemble, Frances Anne, 1809-1893. Winter, a sonnet, handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 113.

Kennedy, John Pendleton, 1795-1870 and Bliss, Alexander, 1827-1896. Autograph Leaves, Preface, handwritten manuscript in hand of Kennedy, 19 April 1864. Preceding Table of Contents.

Kennedy, John Pendleton, 1795-1870. Swallow barn / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, 18 February 1864. Pages 41-41a.

Kirkland, Caroline Matilda Stansbury, 1801-1864. Memoirs of Washington / excerpt, The death of Washington, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 14-16.

Leslie, Eliza, 1787-1858. The fourth of July, signed handwritten manuscript, 1852. Page 61.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872. Civil Liberty / excerpt, on same page with signed handwritten letter to John Pendleton Kennedy and Alexander Bliss, 25 February 1864. Pages 122-123.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872. A song on our country and her flag, signed handwritten manuscript, 26 February 1864. Pages 65-66.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872. Signed handwritten letter to John Pendleton Kennedy and Alexander Bliss, 25 February 1864. On same page as excerpt from Civil Liberty. Page 123.

Lippincott, Sara Jane Clarke, 1823-1904. See Greenwood, Grace, 1823-1904.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882. Excelsior, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 45-46.

Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891. The courtin', signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 69-73.

Mayer, Brantz, 1809-1879. Mexico as it was and as it is / extract titled A sketch of the Valley of Mexico, signed handwritten manuscript, 22 February 1864. Pages 67-68.

Melville, Herman, 1819-1891. Inscription for the slain at Fredericksburgh, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 132.

Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908. My farm of Edgewood / preface, signed handwritten manuscript, 22 February 1864. Pages 63-64.

Mitchell, Maria, 1818-1889. Signed handwritten letter to Mrs. Bowen, 8 January 1864. Page 156.

Motley, John Lothrop, 1814-1877. Character of William the Silent, handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 130-131.

Neal, John, 1793-1876. Our battle-flag -- hurrah!, signed handwritten manuscript, 2 March 1864. Pages 125-126.

Norton, Andrews, 1786-1853. Signed handwritten letter to Johann Friedrich Blumenbach, undated. In Latin with tipped in signature. Page 86.

Norton, Charles Eliot, 1827-1908. Sonnet from The new life of Dante, in Italian and English translation, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 76-77.

Ossoli, Sarah Margaret Fuller, marchesa d', 1810-1850. See Fuller, Margaret, 1810-1850.

Owen, Robert Dale, 1801-1877. Signed handwritten letter to Ticknor and Fields, 21 May 1863. Page 153.

Parker, Theodore, 1818-1860. Lecture / excerpt, handwritten manuscript, genuineness attested to by F. B. Sanborn, undated. Page 99.

Parton, James, 1822-1891. Life and times of Benjamin Franklin / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, February 1864. Pages 32-33.

Paulding, James Kirke, 1788-1860. The backwoodsman / excerpt, Home, handwritten manuscript, signature attached, undated. Page 107.

Paulding, William Irving, 1825?-1890. The Union stands, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 119.

Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884. Autograph with short quotation from Goethe, January 1864. Page 143.

Pierpont, John, 1785-1866. National hymn, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 116-117.

Read, Thomas Buchanan, 1822-1872. The Wagoner of the Alleghenies / excerpt, The brave at home, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 105-106.

Ritchie, Anna Cora Ogden Mowatt, 1819-1870. Signed handwritten letter to her brother, 9 May 1860. Page 120.

Sargent, Epes, 1813-1880. A life on the ocean wave, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 136.

Saxe, John Godfrey, 1816-1887. The explanation, signed handwritten manuscript, 18 February 1864. Page 31.

Sedgwick, Catharine Maria, 1789-1867. Home / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, 4 March 1864. Pages 103-104.

Sigourney, Lydia Howard Huntley, 1791-1865. Fall of the Charter-oak, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 39-40.

Sparks, Jared, 1789-1866. Life of Franklin / excerpt, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 28.

Spofford, Harriet Elizabeth Prescott, 1835-1921. Signed handwritten letter to Mrs. Bowen, 18 January 1864. Page 157.

Sprague, Charles. The brothers, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 42-43.

Stoddard, Richard Henry, 1825-1903. Twilight on Sumter, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 26-27.

Stowe, Harriet Elizabeth Beecher, 1811-1890. Only a year, signed handwritten manuscript, 9 July 1858. Pages 20-22.

Street, Alfred Billings, 1811?-1881. August, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 87-89.

Strother, David Hunter, 1816-1888. A pen and ink sketch by Porte Crayon, signed handwritten manuscript (illustrated), undated. Pages 144-152.

Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874. Signed handwritten letter to Fields, 25 September 1863. Page 153.

Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878. The song of the camp, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 62.

Thoreau, Henry David, 1817-1862. Life, handwritten manuscript, signature attached, undated. Page 135.

Ticknor, George, 1791-1871, translator. Miguela and Juanilla, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Translated from the Sexta Parte de Flor de Romances Nuevas, Toledo, 1594, folios 27-29. Pages 18-19.

Tuckerman, Henry Theodore, 1813-1871. The Indian summer, signed handwritten manuscript, 24 February 1864. Pages 55-56.

Warner, Anna Bartlett, 1827-1915. Ready for duty, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 97-98.

Warner, Susan, 1819-1885. Wide, wide world / excerpt, Vol. 2, page 173, Watching, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Pages 74-75.

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852. Signed handwritten letter to Blatchford, 31 October 1848. Page 124.

Wheaton, Henry C. Signed handwritten letter to Dr. Wheaton, 15 November 1837. Page 141.

Whipple, Edwin Percy, 1819-1886. Wit and humor, signed handwritten manuscript, undated. Page 17.

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892. Thy will be done, signed handwritten manuscript, 12 February 1864. Page 7.

Willis, Nathaniel Parker, 1806-1867. A beautiful girl at prayer, signed handwritten manuscript, 1 March 1864. Page 139.

Willis, Nathaniel Parker, 1806-1867. The dying alchymist, signed handwritten manuscript, 26 February 1864. Page 100.

Winthrop, Robert Charles, 1809-1894. Let us remember that we are not engaged in a war of the North against the South... / excerpt from address on Boston Common, 27 August 1862, signed handwritten manuscript, 1864. Pages 37-38.

Winthrop, Theodore, 1828-1861. Cecil Dreeme / excerpt, Chapter XIII, pages 58-59,
handwritten manuscript, signature attached, undated. Pages 57-58.

Wise, Henry Augustus, 1819-1869. Captain Brand / excerpt, handwritten manuscript signed
Harry Gringo, undated. Page 134.

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date