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## Underwood Collection (MSS 58)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 58 UNDERWOOD Collection**

**4 ½ boxes. 67 folders. 869 items. 1791-1912. Originals.**

**2011.96.1**

***BIOGRAPHY***

Joseph Rogers Underwood (1791-1876) was born in Goochland County, Virginia, the eldest son of eight children of John Underwood and Frances (Rogers) Underwood. In 1803, he moved to Barren County, Kentucky, with his maternal uncle, Edmund Rogers. Underwood attended various local schools, graduated from Transylvania University in 1811, and later studied law under Roger Wickcliffe. Enlisting in the army in 1813, he was wounded at Dudley's Defeat at Toledo, and returned to Kentucky embarking on his law career. From 1816 to 1820, Underwood represented Barren County in the state legislature. In 1817, he married Eliza M. Trotter (1800-1835), the granddaughter of the noted Methodist preacher David Rice, by whom he had eight children. Eugene, Julia, Eliza "Light," and Jane were the only children who lived to adulthood.

In 1823 Underwood moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and was chosen a presidential elector on the Clay ticket in 1824. He was elected to the state legislature from Warren County in 1825, but was defeated when he ran for lieutenant governor in 1827. Underwood was appointed an associate justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 1828 and served until 1835. He was then elected to the U.S. House as a Whig Representative, serving from 1835 to 1843. In 1839, while serving in Congress, Underwood wed Elizabeth Threlkeld Cox (1818-1884), a daughter of Georgetown mayor John Cox. They were also the parents of eight children.

In 1844, Underwood was a presidential elector for the Whig ticket of Clay and Frelinghuysen, and in 1845 he was elected to the state legislature and served as Speaker of the House until 1847 when he was elected to the United States Senate. Underwood was not a candidate for reelection, so he resumed his law practice and farming operations in Kentucky. He served in the state legislature from 1860 to 1863, attended the Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1864, and practiced law and engaged in agricultural operations in Bowling Green, Kentucky, until his death.

Warner Lewis Underwood (1808-1872), a younger brother of Joseph Rogers, was born also in Goochland County, Virginia. He came to Kentucky when he was seventeen, but returned to Virginia for his education. Following his graduation from the

University of Virginia in 1830, he moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to practice law. In 1831, Underwood married Lucy Craig Henry (1816-1893) and they were the parents of ten children. While continuing his law practice in Bowling Green, Underwood visited Texas frequently, actively engaging in land speculation between 1833 and 1840. In 1848 Underwood was elected as a senator to the state legislature, and to the House of Representatives in 1855. He served until 1862, when President Lincoln appointed him as consul to Glasgow, Scotland. The family returned to the United States in 1864, living in San Francisco for two years, and in 1866 they moved back to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

John Cox Underwood (1840-1913), the eldest son of Joseph Rogers and Elizabeth Cox Underwood, was born in Georgetown, D.C. He grew up in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and received his early schooling there. At the age of fourteen, John Cox attended high school in Illinois and later graduated in 1862 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in civil engineering. He was the only member of his family to embrace the Southern cause in the Civil War. He served as military engineer in Virginia in 1862, joined General Bragg's command at Tullahoma, Tennessee, where he contracted typhoid fever, and was captured by the Federal Army upon Bragg's retreat in the spring of 1863. John Cox was imprisoned in Cincinnati and Boston, but finally obtained a parole from President Lincoln. He returned to Bowling Green and in 1868 became city engineer. Later he served as a member of the city council as well as mayor. In the state political arena, John Cox was elected lieutenant governor in 1875. Following his term, he sought the governorship but was defeated. He then entered the field of journalism, owning newspapers in Bowling Green, Louisville, and Cincinnati. John Cox's interest in genealogical research was his all-consuming endeavor during his later years.

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*Who's Who in America*, 1910-1911.

### **THE COLLECTION**

The collection consists chiefly of the correspondence of Joseph Rogers Underwood, his wife, his children, and his brother Warner Lewis Underwood; other

Rogers family members; genealogical research; and the writings of John Cox Underwood. The materials are divided into three series with Series I containing the Joseph Cox Underwood family papers dating from 1791 to 1896 (446 items). The majority of the letters are those of Underwood and his second wife, Elizabeth Cox, covering the period 1849 to 1853, which included his last four years as a U.S. Senator from Kentucky. Series II comprises the papers of the Warner Lewis Underwood family dating from 1826 to 1902 (12 items), and includes diaries, a journal, Bible records, a passport, and a few letters. Series III includes the writings of John Cox Underwood dating from 1863 to 1912 (411 items); several holographic and typescript manuscripts of his writings and genealogical notes; and correspondence that concentrates on his associated families, especially the Rogers family, which he incorporated in his book, *Lineage of the Rogers Family*.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>SERIES I</b>	<b>JOSEPH ROGERS UNDERWOOD - FAMILY PAPERS</b>	<b>1791-1896</b>	<b>447 items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Underwood Family Correspondence</b>	<b>1791-1857</b>	<b>386 items</b>
Folder 1a	Inventory, articles and correspondence relating to the collection		
Folder 1	Underwood family – Correspondence	1807-1857	32 items
Folder 2	Edmund P. Rogers – Letters to	1791-1813	13 items
Folder 3	Joseph Rogers Underwood – Letters to Elizabeth (Cox) Underwood	Nov. 23, 1849- Oct. 2, 1850	60 items
Folder 4	J.R. Underwood – Letters to Elizabeth C. Underwood	Nov. 22, 1850- March 2, 1851	26 items
Folder 5	J.R. Underwood – Letters to Elizabeth C. Underwood	Nov. 26, 1851- Sept. 7, 1852	50 items
Folder 6	J.R. Underwood – Letters to Elizabeth C. Underwood	[Dec.] 1852- March 12, 1853	21 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth C. Underwood – Letters to Joseph R. Underwood	Nov. 22, 1849- Sept. 23, 1850	82 items
Folder 8	Elizabeth C. Underwood – Letters to J.R. Underwood	Nov. 24, 1850- Feb. 24, 1851	35 items

Folder 9	Elizabeth C. Underwood – Letters to J.R. Underwood	Nov. 15, 1851- Aug. 20, 1852	67 items
<b>Box 2</b>	<b>Correspondence, Diary &amp; Papers</b>	<b>1791-1903</b>	<b>61 Items</b>
Folder 1	Elizabeth C. Underwood – Letters to J.R. Underwood	Dec. 11, 1851- Feb. 25, 1853; Feb. 13, 1863	23 items
Folder 2	J.R. Underwood – Correspondence, including a document signed by Robert J. Breckinridge, Millard Fillmore, and Simon Bolivar Buckner	1841-1861	6 items
Folder 3	J.R. Underwood – Journal	Nov. 2, 1825- Sept. 27, 1832	1 item
Folder 4	Elizabeth Cox – Awards from Ladies’ Academy of the Visitation, Georgetown, D.C.	1829-1833	7 items
Folder 5	J.R. Underwood – Certificate of election as U.S. Senator	Aug. 18, 1835	1 item
Folder 6	J.R. Underwood-Certificate of Power of Attorney and Justice of the Peace commission signed by James Buchanan (as Secretary of State)	April 14, 1845	2 items
Folder 7	J.R. Underwood – Resolution of the Bar of the Court of Appeals upon Underwood’s death	Sept. 4, 1876	1 item
Folder 8	Underwood and Cox families – Genealogical charts	n.d.	2 items
Folder 9	Underwood and Rogers families – Miscellaneous typescripts	1791-1875, n.d.	11 items
Folder 10	“Life of Joseph Rogers Underwood” as dictated to his daughter, (original in Rodes Collection)	n.d.	1 item; 16 p.

Folder 11	John Cox Underwood – Letters from James H. Gardner regarding route Underwood’s father might have taken from Ohio to Kentucky in 1813	1903	6 items
<b>SERIES II</b>	<b>WARNER LEWIS UNDERWOOD - FAMILY PAPERS</b>	<b>1826-1902</b>	<b>14 items</b>
<b>Box 1</b>	<b>Warner Lewis Underwood Family Papers</b>	<b>1826-1902</b>	<b>14 items</b>
Folder 1	Warner Lewis Underwood – Miscellaneous correspondence	1826, 1835, 1856	3 items
Folder 2	W.L. Underwood – Journal about trip to Texas (typescript)	1834-1835	1 item; 33p.
Folder 3	W.L. Underwood – Diary containing financial, legal, and political notes	1848-1850	1 item; 2 copies
Folder 4	W.L. Underwood – Certificate to practice law in Kentucky	Sept. 1830	1 item
Folder 5	W.L. Underwood – Passport from London Legation and signed by Charles Francis Adams (In C1-D1, F21)	June 25, 1863	1 item
Folder 6	W.L. Underwood – Family Bible records	n.d.	1 item; 3p.
Folder 7	Henry Lewis Underwood – Diary kept while in Glasgow, Scotland (typescript, 20 p.); phrenological character sketch (1 p.), and European diary including expense account (typescript, 12 p.)	Jan. 2-Sept. 16, 1863	3 items
Folder 8	John Cox Underwood – Letter from George Baber recalling George D. Prentice’s comments about his uncle W.L. Underwood	1902	1 item; 2p.

<b>SERIES III</b>	<b>JOHN COX UNDERWOOD - WRITINGS, DOCUMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND GENEALOGICAL RECORDS</b>	<b>1863-1912</b>	<b>411 items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>John Cox Underwood – Writings and documents</b>	<b>1863-1895; n.d.</b>	<b>19 items</b>
Folder 1	“Early Construction of the Colony of Virginia”	n.d.	1 item; 5 p.
Folder 2	“Common Sense Military Preparation for the U.S.A. (typescript, 24 p. and page proof, 15 p.)	n.d.	4 items
Folder 3	Civil War Essays:	n.d.	3 items
	a: “Covering the Retreat from Horseshoe Bridge”	n.d.	1 item; 8 p.
	b: “The Last Battalion in the Field With President Davis – Its First and Last Payroll”	n.d.	1 item; 4 p.
	c: “The Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg)”	n.d.	1 item; 8p.
Folder 4	“Rogers Family” (typescript)	n.d.	1 item; 36p.
Folder 5	“Initial Argument” (typescript)	n.d.	1 item; 54 p.
Folder 6	“Kings and Queens of France” (typescript, incomplete)	n.d.	1 item; 13p.
Folder 7	“Kings and Queens of England”	n.d.	1 item; 50p.
Folder 8	Hautville family – Genealogy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 9	“Lincoln, Sumner & Corwin” – Reminiscences (typescript)	1876-1879	1 item; 6p.
Folder 10	“Within the Enemies Lines”, written while in Fort Warren prison (typescript); also two letters of Underwood	1863-1864 1899	1 item; 10p.

Folder 11	Underwood's documents concerning Confederate record (typescript)	1894-1895	1 item; 3p.
<b>Box 2</b>	<b>Genealogy – Notes and correspondence – A-L</b>	<b>1900-1912; n.d.</b>	<b>207 items</b>
Folder 1	Allen family – Genealogy	n.d.	7 items; 7p.
Folder 2	Ball, Pollard, Watts, and Taylor families – Genealogy notes and correspondence	1911-1912; n.d.	34 items
Folder 3	Brown, Fowke, and Threlkeld families – Genealogy	n.d.	10 items
Folder 4	Byrd family – Genealogy a. Elizabeth Cabell Moncure – Letters of (6) b. Cassie Moncure Lyne-Letters of (29)	1911-1912	35 items
Folder 5	Byrd family – Genealogy	1900-1902	31 items
Folder 6	Clark family – Genealogy	n.d.	4 items
Folder 7	Copeland, Sara (Ball) – Correspondence and Genealogy	1912	17 items
Folder 8	Cox, Fowke, and Thorogood families – Genealogy	n.d.	6 items
Folder 9	Curd family – Genealogy	n.d.	6 items
Folder 10	Fowke (Fawke) family – Genealogy	n.d.	5 items
Folder 11	Furneaux family – Genealogy	1905; n.d.	16 items
Folder 12	George family – Genealogy	n.d.	5 items
Folder 13	Greenberry family – Genealogy	n.d.	2 items
Folder 14	Hollingsworth family – Correspondence and genealogy; also Ball, Scurry, Strother, Taylor, and Watts families – Genealogy	1911-1912; n.d.	18 items



Folder 15	Holmes and Pollard families – Genealogy	n.d.	7 items
Folder 16	Lewis family – Genealogy	1902	4 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Genealogy – Notes and Correspondence – M-Z</b>	<b>1896-1912</b>	<b>185 items</b>
Folder 1	Pendleton, Pollard and Taylor families – Genealogy	n.d.	3 items
Folder 2	Pollard family-Genealogy; Gallaher, Molloy, and Pollard families – Correspondence	1911-1912	25 items
Folder 3	Redd family – Genealogy and correspondence	1911-1912; n.d.	26 items
Folder 4	Rice, Trotter, and Underwood families – Genealogy	n.d.	1 items
Folder 5	Crabb, Greenberry, Hutchins, and Ridgely families – Genealogy; J.D. Warfield – Correspondence	1902; n.d.	19 items
Folder 6	Rogers family – Genealogical charts	n.d.	2 items
Folder 7	Rogers family – Genealogy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Rogers family – Genealogy	1896-1912	61 items
Folder 9	Rogers family – Genealogical miscellaneous notes	n.d.	21 items
Folder 10	Ball, Ballard, Moore, Pollard, Strother, Talman, Taylor, Underwood, and Watts families – Genealogical notes	n.d.	11 items
Folder 11	Thorogood and Twyman families – Genealogy	n.d.	4 items
Folder 12	Rutledge, Underwood and Younglove families – Genealogy	n.d.	11 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS UNDERWOOD Collection 1791-1912

58

Correspondence, diaries, papers, and genealogical materials of Joseph Rogers Underwood, U.S. Senator from Bowling Green, Kentucky, his wife Elizabeth Cox, his brother Warner Lewis Underwood, and his son, John Cox Underwood.

4 ½ boxes. 67 folders. 869 items.

Originals.

2011.96.1

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**SEE AND SEE ALSO**

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See

Proctor, Maria Louisa (Gorin) Bell

Cox, Elizabeth Threlkeld

See

Underwood, Elizabeth Threlkeld (Cox), 1818-1884

Genealogy – Fawke

See

Genealogy – Fowke

Gorin, Maria

See

Proctor, Maria Louisa (Gorin) Bell

Underwood, Eliza “Light”

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Underwood, Jane “Jeanie”

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Rogers, Jane (Underwood), 1830-19??

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Wilson, Jane (Underwood), 1808-ca.1883

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Nazro, Johanna Louisa (Underwood), 1840-1923

Underwood, Malvina

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Todd, Malvina Mildred (Underwood), 1805-1885



Underwood, Mary Norton, 1857-1920

See

Crump, Mary Norton (Underwood) Poyntz

***FAMILY CONNECTIONS***

Joseph Younglove's sister Margaret married Thomas Calvert.

Joseph Younglove's daughter Emma married Robert Underwood (son of Elizabeth Cox and Joseph Rogers Underwood).

Jeffrey 04/07/2011