

Long Family Papers, 1835-1946

Repository: Hingham Public Library

Quantity: Half document box

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Access:

Related Materials:

Lincoln Family Papers and Subject Files also have information on the Long Family.

John Davis Long papers, Massachusetts Historical Society.

Margaret Long Papers, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

Provenance

This collection was created and donated by Joseph Richardson in 1976 and 1980 as part of the Bicentennial Collection. Some materials may have been donated by Margaret Long in 1943 or 1946. The collection includes papers created by members of the Long Family, including Governor John D. Long, his father Zadoc Long, and his children Peirce, Margaret, and Helen Long.

Biographical Note

John Davis Long was born in Buckfield, Maine on October 27, 1838. He corresponded regularly with his father Zadoc Long. John D. Long attended Hebron Academy and Harvard University (class of 1857). After two years as headmaster of Westford Academy in Westford, Massachusetts, Long attended Harvard Law School and became a member of the Massachusetts bar in 1861. He practiced law in the Boston area and settled in Hingham in 1869. He married Mary Woodford Glover of Hingham in 1870 and the couple had two daughters, Margaret (1873-1957) and Helen (1875-1901), before Mary's death in 1882. He remarried to Agnes Peirce in 1886 and the couple had one son, Peirce (1887-1941).

John D. Long became involved in local politics in Hingham in 1870. At the start of his political career he was somewhat independent, although he was a strong supporter of Temperance and later joined the Republican party. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1874-1878 and served three relatively uneventful terms as the 28th Governor of Massachusetts from 1880-1882. Long was a member of the United States Congress from 1882 until 1889. During his time in Congress, he became a close friend of William McKinley, who was elected president in 1896. John D. Long served as Secretary of the Navy from 1897-1902, during which time the Spanish-American War was fought. In the eight years between his time as Congress and Secretary of the Navy, Long had a private law practice and also served on a committee overseeing the expansion of the Massachusetts State House. After

McKinley was assassinated in 1901, Long resigned from his post as Secretary of the Navy in 1902 and resumed his private practice, although he retained an interest in party politics. In addition to being a politician and lawyer, Long was also a writer. He kept an extensive private journal and published *The New American Navy* and a translation of Virgil's *Aeneid*. Long died in Hingham on August 28, 1915.

John Long's affinity for writing came from his father Zadoc Long (1800-1873) and was passed on to his children, Helen, Margaret, and Peirce Long. Zadoc was a storekeeper and farmer in Buckfield, Maine. He kept a journal, which was edited by Peirce and published by Margaret in 1943. Margaret Long graduated from Smith College in 1895 and Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1903. She moved to Denver, Colorado in 1905 where she conducted epidemiological research and co-founded the Sands House Sanatorium. Margaret also published travel works, poetry, and edited family papers for publication, including her father John's journal. Helen Long enjoyed writing and playing piano, like her siblings and her father. She acted as her father's official hostess while he was Secretary of the Navy and died of tuberculosis in 1901. Peirce Long was a Harvard graduate, a Greek and Latin scholar, and an ensign during WWI. He lived in Hingham and practiced law in Boston.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists mainly of John D. Long's correspondence with his father Zadoc Long between 1850 and 1869. Also included are letters received by John D. Long between 1853 and 1872. Other materials include speeches by and ephemera relating to John D. Long. The collection contains a small amount of material created by Long's family, including correspondence and published writings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. John D. Long, 1850-1916
 - Subseries I. Correspondence, 1850-1913, bulk 1850-1872
 - Subseries II. Speeches and Commemorative Exercises, 1880-1916
 - Subseries III. Ephemera, 1872-1882, undated
- Series II. Other Long Family Members, 1835-1946
 - Subseries I. Correspondence and Photo, 1835-1946, undated
 - Subseries II. Writings, 1928-1943

Series I. John D. Long, 1850-1916

Subseries I. Correspondence, 1850-1913, bulk 1850-1872

This subseries includes two 1897 telegrams from William McKinley and one 1913 letter

written to Susanne Willard (in regards to Simon Willard's Memoir, from whom he is descended). The bulk of this subseries consists of letters written and received by John D. Long, which, at the time of accession, were bound into 8 volumes:

Letters of John D. Long to Zadoc Long, 1850-1867

V.1 1850-1859

V.2 1859-1864

V.3 1864-1867

In these letters, John writes to his father describing the weather, his health, family and friends, and his daily life in general. He inquires about home, his father's activities, current events, and asks for books and other things to be sent to him. In earlier letters, John describes his studies. In later letters, John writes about his parents' relationship and his desire for something similar, his unhappiness in the city, uncertainty of remaining in law and in Boston, and his failure to gain a foothold.

Letters of Zadoc Long to John D. Long, 1853-1869

V.1 1853-1856

V.2 1860-1863

V.3 1866-1867

V.4 1868-1869

Zadoc writes to his son describing daily life at home, family members, the scenery, the weather, and hometown news. He gives his son fatherly advice and wisdom, asks John to pay bills for him in Boston, and talks about plans. He also discusses what he's been reading lately and writes about history, politics, and current events. Zadoc transcribes from sources such as the Buckfield Weekly Journal (which he was editor of) and the U.S. Census and even writes poetry for his son.

Letters received by John D. Long, 1853-1872

Examples of correspondence included in this volume are: from John's teachers to his father Zadoc about topics such as class rank; from family members such as his brother and his nephew; from RB Jewett discussing the sale of household goods and furniture in Buckfield (circa 1869); sent from abroad by his friend Thomas F. Cordis about money, bills of lading, and his travels; and from John's first wife Mary discussing her health, her activities, and their plans.

Subseries II. Speeches and Commemorative Exercises, 1880-1916

This subseries includes printed booklets of speeches given by John D. Long and a copy of the Commemorative Exercises held by the Massachusetts House of Representatives in honor of John D. Long (1916). His speeches include two different addresses to the two

branches of the Massachusetts Legislature (1880 and 1881) and an address given to commemorate Abraham Lincoln at the Centennial in Symphony Hall, Boston (1909).

Subseries III. Ephemera, 1872-1882, undated

This subseries includes an undated picture of John D. Long, political broadsides, 1874 Hingham Journal news clippings about John D. Long, a negative booklet titled the “The Public Record of Hon. John D. Long” published by the Republican Committee in 1879, and a handwritten bill to John Todd from the Hingham Tree Club, approved by Long in 1882.

Series II. Other Long Family Members, 1835-1946

Subseries I. Correspondence and Photo, 1835-1946, undated

This subseries includes an 1835 letter from Zadoc Long to his wife Julia Temple Davis during a time when they were separated, discussing what he and the family had been doing, and what they would do when she got home (oversized folder). It also includes an undated photo of Peirce Long, a 1919 letter from John’s second wife Agnes Long to the editor of the Boston Transcript asking for one of John’s poems to be printed on his birthday, a 1925 postcard from Peirce to Margaret, and 1946 notes from Margaret about Peirce and donating his manuscript to Hingham Public Library.

Subseries II. Writings, 1928-1943

This subseries includes two copies of “The Persians of Aeschylus Done Into the Modern Idiom” by Peirce Long (1928); a pamphlet, “Pageant of Buckfield, John D. Long Centennial” written by Shirley Hall and Peirce Long (1938); a book of poetry entitled “Enchanted Forest” by Margaret Long (1942); and “From the Papers of Helen Long 1876-1901 Verses and Prose” published by Margaret Long in 1943 (which includes a poem about Helen written by her father John).