Manuscript Collection Inventory
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the Manuscript Collections Database (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.
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Part I: Diaries and Notebooks


This handwritten miniature diary begins March 27 and continues through December 31. It makes references to his daily affairs and movements in Illinois and especially comments on his activities as school teacher.

The first portion of the diary is devoted to credit-debit figures which appear to indicate that some of his travels or movements were for the purpose of collecting money.


This handwritten pocket diary covers the period from January 7 through April 28. There are references to business activities and family matters, but the most significant portion relates to a hunting trip to Florida.

Diary of Joseph Bodman, 1866. Original and Transcript.

This transcribed diary covers the period from January 4 through September 17. There are also references to farm and other business affairs as well as personal and family matters. Of special interest is a fishing trip to Minnesota (August 21 - September 17).


This handwritten diary covers the period from December 30, 1867, through November 17, 1868. The main part is devoted to a hunting and fishing trip to Florida, December 30, 1867, to April 14, 1868. This section includes interesting comments and descriptions of the Civil War's impact on the country and a few brief comparisons of present costs and prices with those of his pre-war trips. After this trip the entries deal primarily with local business matters and costs. Several entries deal with an epidemic of Spanish Fever among cattle.

Diary of Joseph Bodman, (Bement, Illinois) 1869. Original and Transcript.

This handwritten diary contains only twenty entries over the period January 12 through December 22, 1869. Included are a reference to Texas Fever among cattle, several addresses, and business entries.

Diary of Joseph Bodman, (Bement, Illinois) 1870. Original and Transcript.

This handwritten diary, containing 28 entries, covers the period February 15 through May 10, 1870. Most of these brief entries relate to a hunting trip to Florida. A few addresses are included.
Diary of Joseph Bodman, (Bement, Illinois) 1874.

This handwritten pocket diary contains entries for January, April, May and December. Most of the entries deal with business matters, but there is a memorandum on a mortgage of a John Cole, July 17, 1874.

Diary of Joseph Bodman, (Bement, Illinois) 1877.

This handwritten notebook diary contains entries from January 2 through April 5, 1877. Almost all the entries concern a trip to Florida, January 2 through March 3. There is one other entry, dated April 5, and a few notes.

Notebook of Joseph Bodman (Bement Illinois). Agreement forming a corporation to prospect and mine for coal. October 6, 1883.

This notebook contains the agreement, signatures, and number of shares per individual. Also there are entries on coal seams "as described by state Geologist" on Danville and Decatur coal and other deposits.
Part II: Bodman Family Correspondence

(46 items, originals)

L. (Luther) Bodman (Toledo) to Brother (Lewis), December 7, 1862 (generally concerns business - corn).

L. (Luther) Bodman (Bement) to Brother, December 14, 1862 (concerns business matters and crops).

Luther Bodman (Bement) to Brother, December 17, 1862 (concerns business, corn, and selling to the army).

Lucius B. Wing (Newark) to Lewis Bodman, March 16, 1863 (discusses cotton prices and purchases; Van Dorn's raid on Halley Springs, his capture, and the burning of his cotton; and comments on Vicksburg).

S. K. Bodman (Bement) to Uncle (Lewis Bodman), February 6, 1867 (expresses concern for health of Joseph Bodman).

S. K. Bodman (Bement) to Uncle (Lewis Bodman), February 12, 1867 (relates improvement in Joseph Bodman's health).

F. E. Bryant (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, February 13, 1867 (relates improvement in Joseph Bodman's health).

S. L. Bodman (Rome City, Noble County, Indiana) to Lewis Bodman, February 24, 1867 (on his relations with his father and Joseph Bodman's failing health).

S. L. Bodman (Rome City) to Uncle (Lewis), March 12, 1867 (business and cloth).

Joseph Bodman (Bement) to Brother, March 24, 1867 (discusses health and crops).

Luther Bodman (Williamsburgh) to Brother, June 12, 1867 (discusses business).

L. B. Wing (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, July 11, 1867 (discusses sheep and crops).

S. L. Bodman (Rome City), August, 1867 (family business and Elam's and Lewis' relationship).

L. B. Wing (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, September 2, 1867 (business).

D. S. (A. S.?) Newton (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, October 7, 1867 (discusses collection debts, mentions Wing).

Luther Bodman (Toledo) to Brother, October 23, 1867 (written on letterhead stationary of Milmine and Bodman General Commission Merchants, Water Street, Toledo, Ohio; discusses sheep, crops, freight rates, and business).
Luther Bodman (Toledo) to Brother, October 25, 1867 (written under similar letterhead; discusses business).

Luther Bodman (Bement) to Brother, November 1, 1867 (discusses sheep, crops, prices, business, farms, family?).

Luther Bodman (Bement) to Brother (Lewis), November 4, 1867 (business).

Luther Bodman (Bement) to Brother, November 5, 1867 (discusses crops, lawyers, money problems, family matters, sending sick brother to Florida).

Joseph Bodman (St. Augustine) to Brother, January 12, 1868 (discusses trip and health, compares price and area with pre-war era; mentions plight of people, share-cropping, prices).

S. K. Bodman (Bement) to Uncle (Lewis), March 17, 1868 (asks as to Joseph, mentions storm).

S. K. Bodman (Bement) to Uncle, March 26, 1868 (discusses letter from Joseph, Sam going to Michigan, mentions Wing and weather).

Luther Bodman (Toledo) to Brother, May 14, 1868 (discusses weather, note, and business).

Luther Bodman (Bement) to Brother (Lewis), May 28, 1868 (family relationships).

Joseph Bodman (Bement) to Brother, January 27, 1869 (sends blank notes, discusses health, new minister, debts).

Joseph Bodman (Bement) to Brother (Lewis), January 15, 1870 (business, his health, and trip to Florida).

A. D. Newton (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, March 25, 1872 (discusses division of property and value).

A. D. Newton (Bement) to Lewis Bodman, April 22, 1872 (farm business matters).

Frank (Bement) to Mother, May 5, 1872 (discusses boarding, Miss Smith, relatives, and fruits).

Frank (Bement) to Father, May 27, 1872 (mentions dividing tools and implements with Luther, improvements, excursion crops).

Frank (Bement) to Brother, July 21, 1872 (discusses failure of bankers Fisher and Gregory; losses of debts, and related matters).

Frank (Bement) to Father, July 22, 1872 (discusses bank failure and crops).

Frank (Bement) to Father, October 22 and 26, 1872 (discusses farming, fire, neighbors).

Frank Bodman (Bement) to Brother (Henry Bodman), November 12, 1872 (concerns affairs with A. D. Newton; also includes note from Henry Bodman to his father).
A. D. Newton (Bement) to Mr. Bodman, December 17, 1872 (talks of resigning agency, and of crops).

Joseph Bodman (St. Augustine) to Brother, April 2, 1873 (discusses health, sales of property in Florida, mentions Mimsine and Bodman settlement with Fisher and Gregory, comments on Piatts).

Joseph Bodman (St. Augustine) to Brother (Lewis), April 20, 1872 (concerns his health and return to Illinois).

Frank (Toledo) to Father, August 29, 1875 (mentions railroad trip, sickness, Newton and harvesting, weather, and farm work).

Frank Bodman (Toledo) to Father, September 5, 1875 (discusses health and business).

Frank (Bement) to Father, October 16, 1875 (discusses farm and crops).

Frank (Bement) to Mother, December 4, 1875 (mentions being called as a witness in Monticello, family, weather, Thanksgiving. Included is a note from Clare to Mother (discusses baby and family).

Frank (Bement) to Father, December 13, 1875 (mentions crops, poultry business, and Cole Case).

Frank (Bement) to Father, December 16, 1875 (discusses crops, poultry, and money matters).

Frank (Bement) to Father, December 25, 1875 (discusses freight rates, crop prices, notes).

Joseph Bodman (Bement) to Nephew, November 4, 1883 (discusses prospecting for coal, cost of new bit, list of subscribers and sale of property).
Part III: State and Federal Land Warrants

State Land Warrant (based on Federal Law disposing of swamp lands) to Joseph Bodman, in Piatt County, Illinois; December 13, 1856.

State Land Warrant (based on Federal Law disposing of swamp lands) to Joseph Bodman, in Piatt County, Illinois; December 13, 1856.


U. S. Land Warrant #22,064, assigned by Samuel A. Beall to Joseph Bodman, 160 Acres; January 10, 1855; U. S. (Danville) Land Office.


U. S. Land Warrant #18,538, assigned by Rebecca Reynolds to Joseph Bodman, 160 Acres; April 2, 1855. (Machine reproduction); U. S. (Danville) Land Office.

U. S. Land Warrant #23,641, assigned by Jane L. Davis to Joseph Bodman, 160 Acres; April 2, 1855; U. S. (Danville) Land Office.

U. S. Land Warrant #76,484, assigned by Gordon C. Solomon to Joseph Bodman, 160 Acres; May 1, 1857; U. S. (Springfield) Land Office.

U. S. Land Warrant #78,596, assigned by Thomas Hallman to Joseph Bodman, 160 Acres; May 1, 1857; U. S. (Springfield) Land Office.

Part IV: Miscellaneous Business Documents

Folder #1

Indenture (Notes) William Rea and others to Joseph Bodman, June 24, 1857.

Indenture (Property) Joseph Bodman to Elam Bodman, July 9, 1857.

Sale of Mortgaged Property belonging to William Rea and others for nonpayment of notes.

Contract (Sale of Land) Josiah Hunt to Joseph Bodman, January 1, 1860.

Warranty Deed (Property) Josiah and Maria Hunt to Joseph Bodman, May 7, 1860.

Sale and Statement of Indebtedness by Joseph F. Alvord to Joseph Bodman and others, October 19, 1860.

Affadavit of the County Clerk, Wilson F. Cox, of sale of property of William Rea for taxes to Joseph Bodman, November 28, 1860.

Sale of Mortgaged Property belonging to William Rea and others for nonpayment of notes.

Tax receipt (of Joseph Bodman), April 22, 1861.

Promissory Note, A. Yost to David Kunz, September 23, 1861.

Newspaper announcement of Mortgage sale of property of William Rea and others, January 7, 1862 (and also an exchange of notes between the Publisher of the "Bement Union" and H. A. Bodman.

Mortgage, E. Bodman to L. and I. Bodman, January 17, 1862.

Tax Receipt (of Joseph Bodman) February 3, 1862.

Deed of Conveyance of Property and receipts of Sale from Joseph Bodman to Edward C. Bodman, February 11, 1862.

Quit Claim Deed, E. C. Bodman to Joseph Bodman, March 6, 1862.

Indenture (horse and buggy) Elam Bodman to Samuel Bodman, March 29, 1864.

Indenture (sale of property) Joseph Bodman to Edward C. Bodman, June 27, 1862.

Indenture (property) Edward C. Bodman to Joseph Bodman, September 1, 1862.

Promissory Note, George Harper to Joseph Bodman, January 4, 1864.

Indenture (Mortgage) Johanna Doolin to Joseph Bodman, January 12, 1864.
Tax Receipt (of Joseph Bodman) February 10, 1865.

Sheriff's Deed (for delinquent taxes) by August Zybet to Joseph Bodman, May 27, 1866.

Bond for Deed (copy) Joseph Bodman to Seth Dawson, March 25, 1869.

Warranty Deed, Charles and Harriet Fisher to Joseph Bodman, March 31, 1869.

Bond for Deed, Joseph Bodman to Charles Watts, April 1, 1871.

Stock Share in Bloomington and Ohio River Railroad Company, July 7, 1871.

Bond for Deed, Joseph Bodman to Hannah M. Hoddy, July 10, 1871.

Memorandum of agreement (sale of property) Joseph Bodman to Thomas D. Craddock, July 13, 1871.

Abstract of Conveyances and Incumbrances on Property (Joseph Bodman), June 24, 1872.

Tax Receipt of Joseph Bodman, 1873.

Quit Claim Deed, Joseph Bodman to Thomas C. Body, February 4, 1874.

Agreement (Lease) Joseph Bodman to Boggs and Smith, March 25, 1874.

Warrantee Deed, Lewis Bodman to Joseph Bodman, September 30, 1874.

Receipt for Hotel Bill (Florida House) by Joseph Bodman, April 20, 1875.


Tax Receipt of Joseph Bodman, March 12, 1880.

Tax Receipt of Joseph Bodman, March 12, 1880.

Tax Receipt of Joseph Bodman, March 12, 1880.

Certificate of Purchase, Mary M. McDermot of Joseph Bodman, October 4, 1880.

Warranty Deed, Joseph Bodman to Lewis B. Castner, November 22, 1881.

Real Estate Mortgage, James A. Line to Joseph Bodman, December 1, 1881.


Release, E. C. Bodman to Joseph Bodman, October 2, 1883.

Receipt (of Joseph Bodman by W. C. Cloyd), December 29, 1884.

Receipt (of Joseph Bodman by J. W. Holder), May 14, 1885.
Release of Right of Way, and Damage, of Joseph Bodman by Lake Fork Special Drainage District, July 6, 1886.


Folder #2

Indenture (Property) Josiah and Maria Hunt to Joseph Bodman, March 7, 1855.

Warranty Deed, Charles and Henrietta A. Luttle to Lewis Bodman, February 4, 1856.

Warranty Deed, Charles and Henrietta A. Luttle to Lewis Bodman, July 12, 1856.

Warranty Deed, Joseph Bodman to Lewis Bodman and Charles A. Luttle, July 12, 1856.

Warranty Deed, George and Emma Milmine to S. K. Bodman, January 6, 1866.


Abstract of Conveyances and Incumbrances for S. K. Bodman, April 1, 1896.

Quit Claim Deed, Bement Building and Loan Association, Thomas Rhodes, J. L. Bodman, and __________ Alvord to Martha M. Bodman, June 20, 1903.
Part V: Miscellaneous

Constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the "Bement Lyceum:" later the "Bement Literary Society:" October 11 1859, April 12, 1860, 1884. Original. (Damaged and used for scrap book, but readable) and transcript.

Copy of a Petition of June 1, 1885 to remove the postmaster of Bement, Piatt County, Illinois, and replace him with Joseph Bodman. Addressed to Postmaster General, W. F. Vilas.

1. Petition.

2. Statement of Charges against the Postmaster, signed by Joseph Bodman (notarized), June 13, 1885.

3. Letter of introduction and recommendation for Joseph Bodman, signed A. E. Stevenson (June 9, 1885); by W. L. Ufay (?) (June 4, 1885); C. B. Smith (June 8, 1885); George A. Stadler (June 1, 1885); William Fuller (n.d.); and B. K. Durfee (June 9, 1885).

4. C. C. Clark to J. D. Bodman, June 13, 1885. (Agrees Postmaster should be replaced but has recommended another.)

5. Endorsements by H. W. Clendenin (June 15, 1885); Frank Lamler (June 13, 1885); Charles Durham (June 13, 1885); William Morrison (June 17, 1885); and Bernard Stowe (June 29, 1885).

6. W. C. Whitney to H. Bodman (June 27, 1885). (States he will bring matter to the attention of the Postmaster General.)

Copies and Transcripts I

Materials in Private Hands or in Other Libraries

Copy of letter from Joseph Bodman to J. H. Barnes; June 27, 1870 (owned by Chapin Barnes of Bement). 1 item.

Transcript of a letter from Levi Black to Lewis Bodman; September 30, 1862 (original given to Williamsburg, Mass., Historical Society). 1 item.

Copies and Transcripts II

The Herbert L. Bodman Collection

(Copied with the permission of H. L. Bodman by Robert Bodman.)

Part A: Family Correspondence

Folder 1. Inventory; includes folder item lists. Copies.

Folder 2. Letters of Albert H. Bodman, 1844-1846, 20 items. Copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 1, of H. L. Bodman Collection - Complete. List is in folder.

Folder 3. Letters of Clarissa A. Bodman, 1851, 2 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 2, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.


Folder 4a. Letters of Elam Bodman, 1838-1860, 26 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 3, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.

Folder 5. Letters from Joseph Bodman II, 1843, 1845-1859, 17 items. Copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 4, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.

Folder 5a. Letters of Joseph Bodman II, 1852-1856, 8 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 4, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.

Folder 6. Letters from Lewis Bodman, ca. 1830-1859, 62 items. Copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 5, of H. L. Bodman Collection - Complete. List is in folder.

Folder 6a. Letters of Lewis Bodman, ca. 1830-1859, 37 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 5, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete.

Folder 7. Letters of Samuel Bodman and Susan Bodman, 1838-1859, 15 items. Copies of contents of Box 1, Folder 6, of H. L. Bodman Collection - Complete. List is in folder.

Folder 8. Letter of Edward C. Bodman, March 25, 1864, 1 item. Copy of item selected from Box 2, Folder 1, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.
Folder 9. Letters of Luther Bodman Jr. to his family, 1864-1868, 9 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 2, Folder 2, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.

Folder 10. Letters of Luther Bodman (business letters, received), 1864, 1866; 2 items. Selected copies of Box 2, Folder 5, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete.

Folder 11. Letters to Philena Nims Hawks Bodman (Mrs. Luther Bodman Jr.), 1836, 1839; 3 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 2, Folder 9, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete.

Folder 12. Letters of William A. Hawks, 1853-1859, 4 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 2, Folder 10, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete.

Folder 13. Letters from James A. Hawks, 1848, 1861; 2 items. Selected copies of contents of Box 2, Folder 11, of H. L. Bodman Collection - incomplete. List is in folder.
Part B: Business Papers

L. and L. Bodman

Folder 14. L. and L. Bodman Ledger, 1866-1874, 1 volume. Typescript copy of ledger of Luther and Lewis Bodman farm partnership; copied from original in the H. L. Bodman Collection - Complete.
Part C: Business Correspondence

Milmine, Bodman, and Company

Letters from Luther Whitney Bodman to Edward C. Bodman

Folder 15. 1885: December 28, 30.
1886: January 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21 (noon), 21 (night), 21 (No. 3), 23 (A.M. and P.M.), 25, 27;
February 1, 3, 6, 9, 15, 17, 23;
March 1.

Folder 16. 1888: January 11, 13
March 3, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28;
April 4, 8, 16 (P.M.), 16, 17, 19, 25, 26;
May 2, 3, 5, 12, 26, 29;
June 2, 4;
July 9;
August 6;
September 6, 7, 18, 19, 21, 24, 28;
October 1, 3, 13;
November 24, 26;
December 6, 10, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29.

Folder 17. 1891: April 3, 13
November 6, 9, 14, 18, 19, 25, 27.

Folder 18. 1893: January 6 (2 enclosures), 16;
April 14;
June 30;
July 1, 5;
August 9, 12, 16, 21;
September 13, 28, 30;
October 16;
December 4, 14, 20, 22, 22, 28, 28.

Folder 19. 1895: March 7, 12, 14, 17, 18;
April 7, 7, 16;
May 4, 14;
July 13, 13, 21;
August 3, 7, 15, 17, 27, 29;
September 14, 17, 26, 26, 30;
October 8, 25;
December 3, 16, 26, 26.

Folder 20. 1896: January 4, 7, 28;
April 18, 24;
June 11, 15, 26;
July 5, 9, 10, 11, 23, 29;
August 18;
September 4, 5;
November 13, 18, 24, 25.
Folder 21. 1898: June 13; July 16, 18; August 2, 4, 8, 10, 16, 19, 25, 27; September 17, 19, 23; October 4, 6, 8, 10, 18, 25; December 7, 19, 21, 24, 28, 30, 30.

Folder 22. 1899: January 2, 7, 9, 20, 21, 25, 27; February 11; July 14, 18, 21, 22, 27, 30; August 5, 7, 11, 15, 16, 28, 31; September 15, 16; October 3, 10 (from Oliver Rodgers), 10, 11, 30, 31; December 8, 20, 23.

Folder 23. 1901: January 12, 17; July 12; August 12; November 21, 26.

Folder 24. 1902: May 13; July 16; September 10, 15; October 1, 18 (from Sidney Mitchell), 22; December 30, 31.

Folder 25. 1904: January 5 (1 enclosure), 23; March 3, 5; June 22, 25, 27; July 11, 15, 19, 25; August 3; October 5, 25, 28; December 2, 13, 29.

Folder 26. 1905: January 14, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30; February 8, 19, 24; April 15, 20, 28; May 24; July 26; October 16, 19, 28; November 4; December 2, 9.
Part D: Business Correspondence and Papers

Amos S. Burr Correspondence

Folder 27. A. S. Burr Correspondence, 1885, 59 items. List is in folder.
Folder 28. A. S. Burr Correspondence, 1888, 57 items. List is in folder.
Folder 29. A. S. Burr Correspondence, 1891, 1893, 42 items.
Folder 30. A. S. Burr Correspondence, 1895, 35 items.
Folder 31. A. S. Burr Correspondence, 1896-1911, 70 items.
Folder 32. A. S. Burr (Milmine and Bodman) Bills and Receipts, 1888, 31 items.
Folder 33. A. S. Burr Farm Accounts, 1888, 70 items.
Part E: Miscellaneous Correspondence and Papers - Bement Related

Folder 34. Miscellaneous Bement Related Correspondence and Bills and Receipts, n.d., 1885-1911, 27 items.

1885: September 12, 27;
1886: June 2, 12;
       October 14, 30;
       November 19;
       December 10, 15, 26.
1888: February 3;
       March 6;
       April 9, 9, 11, 13;
       September 21, 27;
       October 6.
1896: November 21.
1898: June 28.
1901: January 5.
1911: June 26;
       September 28;
       October 4, 9.
n.d.: 1 item.

Folder 35. Miscellaneous Bodman Family Correspondence, 1886, 1893, 1899; 7 items.

1886: January 30 (Luther Bodman to Whitney Bodman);
       February 15 (Luther Bodman to Whitney Bodman?);
       February 22 (Luther Bodman to A. S. Burr);
       June 3 (Joseph Bodman to E. C. Bodman);
       August 8 (Joseph Bodman to Nephew, E. C. Bodman).
1893: January 26 (Joseph Bodman to Nephew, E. C. Bodman).
1899: August 31 (S. K. and S. E. Bodman to E. C. Bodman).