Lyman Copeland Draper: An Archivist's Reappraisal

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THE CASUAL OBSERVER IN MADISON, WISCONSIN, in 1852 could hardly have guessed that the neurotic, five-foot-tall newcomer, Lyman Copeland Draper, was about to become an individual of significance for historians. Within one year, however, Draper had assumed a leading role in reorganizing the Wisconsin Historical Society. Within two years, he had been elected its corresponding secretary, had secured a $500 appropriation (the first such state support of a historical society), and had launched a program to build the Society to national preeminence. While doing this Draper also built a wide personal reputation. Reuben Gold Thwaites, his successor, called Draper "practically the architect of this Society and for a third of a century its guiding spirit."[1] Clifford L. Lord, another successor, enumerated Draper's contributions in a full-length history of the Society. Draper's highly diversified activities, he wrote:

> made Madison the site of one of the continent's great collections of Americana and a place closely watched for new developments. These activities included his program of foreign exchanges, his drive for federal land grants for historical societies, his cultivation of eastern and foreign depositories, his pioneering and successful promotion of annual legislative appropriations without loss of political independence or corporate identity, his publications-for-edification and publications-for-exchange, as well as his manifold resourceful tactics as a collector.[2]

Generations of the Society's Draper experts have echoed and refined this judgment in numerous articles and speeches. Outsiders have not always been so complimentary, however, alleging that Draper's methods were unethical and that he stole manuscripts. In 1906 Thomas M. Owen, Sr., director of the Alabama Archives, suggested that

[1]Reuben Gold Thwaites. *Lyman Copeland Draper: A Memoir* (Madison, 1892), 1.

[2]Clifford Lord and Carl Ubbelohde. *Clio's Servant: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1846–1954* (Madison, 1967), v.

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Lyman Copeland Draper, 1854. *Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.*

much of this may have been self-vindication. The normal excuse used, he said, to explain the absence of historical materials in the South was either that they had been destroyed by Yankee soldiers during the Civil War or that Draper had carried them off to Wisconsin.[3] Although the attacks on Draper's reputation have reached the level of legislative action, no evidence has been found to substantiate the charges.

The only break with the generally favorable assessment appears in William Hesseltine's full-length biography, *Pioneer's Mission: The Story of Lyman Copeland Draper,* which was published by the Society in honor of the Draper centennial in 1954. Hesseltine noted that much of Draper's reputation rests on half-truths (many of which Draper, a skilled promoter, had manipulated himself), that his work as the first director of the Wisconsin Historical Society was characterized by energy rather than innovation, and that his numerous neuroses frustrated his personal historical ambitions. Because he was a historian himself, it is natural that Hesseltine dwelt on that aspect of Draper's career. For a similar reason, Lord's book focused on Draper's administrative record. However, the many aspects of historical agency endeavor that comprised Draper's work and that

[3]Waldo G. Leland. "Recollections of an Itinerant Historian," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* (61): 292.

have now emerged as separate professions are unexamined. Librarians, for example, recently considered omitting Draper from a biographical dictionary because his contributions were unclear. Archivists have been equally remiss, essentially regarding him as the collector of a large body of genealogical material on the trans-Allegheny West and as the initiator in some unspecified way of the highly regarded manuscript collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

To properly assess Draper as an archivist one must separate his career into its two distinct archival phases: his work as a private collector of manuscripts, books, and other historical materials, which lasted from the 1830s until a few days before his death in 1891; and his work as head of the Wisconsin Historical Society in building its manuscript resources, which began in 1854 and lasted until his retirement in 1887. Unfortunately neither the records of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin nor Draper's own papers reveal a great deal about the man as an archivist, and many of the conclusions in this paper rest on inference from fragmentary clues. Draper's correspondence at the Society is divided into two collections: the famous Draper Papers, which he collected, and the less well-known Draper and Wisconsin Papers, which include both his own and official Society correspondence. Both of these collections consist chiefly of incoming letters. This absence of a record of outgoing letters is particularly unfortunate for historians, and, as the Wisconsin Legislature pointed out in 1877, contrary to the Society's constitution. Other useful records include Draper letters in a number of other Society collections; collections held by the American Antiquarian Society and the New-York, Virginia, Ohio, Iowa, Tennessee, Minnesota, Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland historical societies; and the published *Proceedings* and *Collections* of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The Draper Papers today comprise nearly 500 volumes of manuscripts, reminiscences, letters written in reply to inquiries, extracts from historical documents, and detailed notes on interviews with aged pioneers and their descendants. It is important to understand that the Draper Papers began as a personal research collection intended as the basis for future writing and not as a manuscript library. This fact explains why three quarters of the collection are not original manuscripts. It should not detract from the collection's importance to archivists, however, for the originals of many documents Draper so laboriously copied by hand have now disappeared.

While still a student at Granville College Draper dedicated himself to writing the history of the frontier. Although this early commitment to record the contributions of pioneers mixed romanticism and religious belief, his determination to seek historical truth by turning to the sources established him as a transitional figure in the development of scientific history. In 1851 he wrote to William Maxwell, a leading member of the Virginia Historical Society, about a historical account that had recently been published. "While I am glad to see it, as I am every new effort to elucidate border history," Draper wrote, "I am sorry to see the usual quantum of error, haste & blunder. [The author] has been quite too sparing of credit to both his printed and original authorities, leaving us often times in doubt whether to believe his narrative. An eyewitness may narrate on his own authority, but he who writes of events which transpired long before his day should always carefully fortify his

text with references to authorities. I look upon any historical work with distrust where this is neglected."[4] At the same time, Draper's awareness of the rapid passing of the sources marks him as a modern figure by archival standards.

Draper began his research in 1836 by assembling a lead file of pioneers. As his first tactic he wrote postmasters and other public officials of the Old Northwest and asked for the names of early residents of their area. "I wrote to Judge [Joseph Rogers] Underwood of your state and your worthy kinsman," he explained to one woman, "also to Judge Hugh L. White of Tenne & desired that they wd refer me to all the leading Pioneers of their respective states, I naming the Pioneers. They kindly complied with my wishes & thus I got a clue to start by & went to work & wrote to their descendants—and they told me all they could and referred me to others—so the thing has progressed."[5]

Over the years Draper developed his correspondence techniques. Consumed by love of historical detail (many would say handicapped by it), he prepared long, detailed questionnaires and asked his informants to reply in a format that would make their answers easy to incorporate with his other research material. Draper's continued reliance on letter writing as a collecting technique gave rise to difficulties. It was an expensive method, and Draper, who had only the funds supplied by his patron, Peter Remsen, the husband of his cousin Lydia, could ill afford the costs. At one time postal rates of 25 cents per letter led him to seek appointment as a postmaster and, when that failed, to combine with Congressman William B. Campbell of Tennessee to use his franking privilege. Even more troublesome from a research point of view was the fact that many correspondents failed to reply. In 1836, for example, Draper wrote 119 letters and received 69 replies; the following year he received 175 answers to his 250 inquiries. In addition, he realized that correspondence was an inherently unsatisfactory method of gathering information from a group whose members included many illiterates.

Continued support from Remsen made it possible for Draper to undertake in 1843 the first of a series of research trips through the Old West to personally interview pioneers. The documents indicate that he excelled in the areas now known as oral history and donor relations, listening attentively to the old people's stories, flattering their egos with promises that he would rescue their tales from oblivion, asking knowledgeable questions, and taking careful and copious notes. (One can only wish that Draper might have had the benefit of a tape recorder.) Despite a romantic preoccupation with warfare and heroic exploits that sometimes biased his historical objectivity, Draper appreciated that the memories of the elderly must be taken with "many grains of allowance" as historical evidence.

Like modern field archivists Draper also found that his collecting took him far from the beaten path. In quest of history he walked literally hundreds of miles and often slept under the rudest shelter. The circular he issued in 1846 described him as "still collecting through summer's heat and winter's storms, sometimes climbing mountains and other times wading streams."[6] Surprisingly, the delicate, hypochondriac Draper seemed to thrive under such conditions, and he always returned from his collecting trips mentally and physically invigorated.

[4]Draper to Maxwell, August 18, 1851, Virginia Historical Society Mss.

[5]Draper to Lucy Semple, May 16, 1849. Draper Mss, 10J46.

[6]The January 1, 1946, circular is in the Draper and Wisconsin Mss.

Draper uncovered many original letters, diaries, and historical documents during the course of his travels. On some occasions he did not have time to take notes, so he asked to borrow the material to work with at his leisure. In other cases, donors were so impressed by his lofty purpose and his scholarly demeanor that they simply gave the documents to him. Draper eventually preferred the latter approach, and he aggressively sought collections of original manuscripts. As he wrote Congressman Martin:

> I shall select such old documents from Yr father's papers as I think will be serviceable to me & then without any scruples ask yr brother to give or loan them to me—for I take it for granted they'll be too voluminous to think of tarrying to copy them. In such matters I have learned not to be too fastidious & for the reason that I deem myself to be laboring for the public, for my country, I do not feel Myself at liberty to neglect my duties from mere motives of delicacy.[7]

Research experience gradually converted Draper from a simple concern with preserving the past through written historical narratives to an awareness of the importance of preserving the physical records. The size of the task necessarily made this the work of historical societies. As early as 1849 he wrote J. R. Eakin of Tennessee: "While I flatter myself that I have been exceedingly successful in my labor. . . I am nevertheless persuaded that it is utterly out of the question for any one individual however industrious to think of gathering up all the scattered fragments of western history. The field is altogether too vast for the faithful cultivation of any single antiquarian."[8]

Private collections also exposed Draper to the threats that poor storage conditions, fire, and neglect posed to historical documents. In 1846 he began a memorandum to the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio on that subject: "By accident of fire and water, by vermin and wanton destruction," he wrote, "large quantities of invaluable papers relating to Western history have been lost beyond recovery. It behooves us to make redoubled efforts to rescue the few remaining scattered fragments from a similar fate."[9] He then went on to enumerate collections that he knew were irretrievably lost. Discouraged by the length of the list, he left the memo unfinished.

After each of the nine trips Draper made between 1843 and 1851 he returned to his patron's residence in the East to sort and arrange his materials. Guided by research needs and manuscript practices then generally accepted, Draper grouped his papers and notes by broad subject, arranged each subject chronologically, indexed the contents, and had both the papers and indexes bound together. The extensive indexing was necessary because his collecting methods scattered information on a single topic. Unfortunately this technique was also very time-consuming, and though Draper acquired the bulk of the private collection before his move to Wisconsin in 1852, during the next 40 years he managed to bind and/or arrange only about 100 volumes.

Personal research also acquainted Draper with the leaders and activities of the nation's historical societies and archives. He visited the New-York

[7]Draper to Martin, July 18, 1844, Draper Mss, Tennessee Mss 3XX30.

[8]Draper to J.R. Eakin, June 8, 1849. Tennessee Historical Society Miscellaneous Collection.

[9]This report is reprinted in William Hesseltine and Larry Gara's "Lyman Draper's Account of the Lost Western Manuscripts," *Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio* (July 1953): 192–204.

Historical Society, the Pennsylvania and Virginia archives, the Library of Congress, numerous departmental offices in Washington, D.C, and many courthouses and churches. He was also a member of several societies, and his correspondence indicates an active, lifelong interest in their affairs.

Thus when Draper became corresponding secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1854, he already had a knowledge of historical agencies and their operations equal to any man of his era. He also had a national reputation as a collector and historian. Although he certainly never thought of himself as an archivist (and only rarely used the term), Draper's background suggests that he should have been the ideal person to build an important collection of Wisconsin manuscripts. Such a collection did ultimately develop and a few important manuscripts were acquired during his administration, but Draper's role in the initiation and growth of the collection was much less than has generally been assumed. Indeed the manuscript collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society during the Draper era does not compare favorably with many of its contemporaries with regard either to size or content.[10] Draper placed so little emphasis on manuscript collecting for the state that on several occasions members actually had to urge him to adopt a more aggressive posture, and as late as 1880 the annual report noted only two manuscript accessions for that year. Careful reading of the Society's existing records for the 19th century suggests that the credit for establishing an aggressive, systematic manuscript collection for the Society really belongs to Reuben Gold Thwaites.

It is not immediately clear why Draper assigned manuscript collecting a low priority. While his definition of manuscripts may have differed from the current one, his early career indicates that original documents were of crucial importance to him as research material. In addition, his familiarity with historical societies in the eastern United States must have made him aware of the importance they placed on collecting original documents.

As early as 1849 the members of the Wisconsin Historical Society seemed to share these views, and the records indicate that a manuscript collection was anticipated. The importance of manuscripts is also evident in the charter that emerged from the reorganization in 1854, a document in which Draper had an influential hand. The object of the Society, the charter stated, was to "collect, embody, arrange, and preserve in authentic form a library of books, . . . manuscripts, . . . and other materials illustrative of the State; to secure from oblivion the memory of its early pioneers and to obtain and preserve narratives of their exploits, perils, and adventures [this portion is pure Draper] . . . and to diffuse and publish information relating to the description of the state." Additional evidence of the importance that manuscripts held for Draper is contained in the far-sighted mission statement that he drafted in 1869.[11]

Although it is fragmentary, the evidence suggests that the low priority given manuscript collecting can be attributed to Draper's impoverished personal economic condition. Then, as now, one did not grow rich in service to Clio. When Draper arrived in Madison

[10] *Public Libraries in the United States of America: Their History, Condition, and Management: A Special Report of the U.S. Commissioner of Education* (1876 edition reprinted, Totowa, N.J., n.d.): 373.

[11] *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* (I, 1855 edition reprinted Madison, 1903) xlix and (VI, 1872 edition reprinted Madison, 1908): 32–34.

at age 37 he was only moderately educated and he had been gainfully employed only briefly. His research and collecting had been entirely underwritten by his patron in exchange for service as Lydia Remsen's companion and for occasional attention to Peter Remsen's business. Due to Remsen's speculative finances, this arrangement was not entirely satisfactory for Draper. During the late 1840s Charles Larabee, a former college friend who had settled in Wisconsin, began urging Draper to move there. Larabee had become prominent, and he held out a succession of inducements: he would get Draper the state librarianship or possibly the history chair at the state university. After the 1849 reformation of the historical society, the corresponding secretaryship, a position Draper knew often to be salaried in historical societies in the East, also became a possibility. Nevertheless, Draper hesitated until Remsen's death forced his hand. Remsen left a small estate, but Draper, who now had the added responsibility of the widow and her adopted daughter, clearly required supplemental income. No doubt it was his bleak employment outlook that finally induced Draper to move to Wisconsin.

He arrived in Madison in 1852, however, to find that Larabee's promises had evaporated. Only the Historical Society held any possibility of employment, and because of its dormant condition that was only a vague possibility. Resolutely Draper set to work to transform the Society into the kind of active, prosperous institution he thought it should be—the kind of institution that could provide him with an income. His first contribution included drafting the charter and inducing the legislature to authorize a $500 appropriation. This landmark bill did not provide a salary for Draper, by then the full-time corresponding secretary, but the possibility now existed.

To achieve his financial goal Draper planned to build the Society as rapidly as possible and thereby to demonstrate to the legislature that a historical society could be an asset to the state and that it warranted continued support. It was at this point that his experience as researcher, collector, and historical-society member was most useful. Draper determined to focus on that area that might be built the most rapidly: the library. His experience had clearly demonstrated that manuscript collecting required time-consuming work in the field and that even then results were doubtful. Closely identifying his own economic interests with the welfare of the Society, for the next several years Draper dedicated himself entirely to developing the library.

He began by issuing a circular that offered membership in the Society to virtually anyone throughout the country who might be a "lover and promoter of history" and that asked for donations to the Society. Although the circular evinced interest in historical materials of all types, Draper knew that books and printed materials would be the most frequent accessions. There was nothing new in Draper's issuing of circulars: what was new was the energy with which he pursued his task. In the first month he wrote 600 letters; in the first year he sent out more than 1,300.

Draper also developed an aggressive exchange program—another well-established method of collection-building for historical societies. Here the problem for Draper was that the young Society had little to exchange. He solved this by initiating a publication program and by persuading the state to underwrite the costs by defining the Society's *Collections* volumes as reports to the governor. Publication of the first

volume in 1855 gave the Society's manuscript collection its start because, in the absence of material to disseminate, Draper was forced to solicit historical narratives from members and to reprint newspaper articles.

These papers, which he referred to in his reports as "manuscript papers," were actually reminiscences, local histories, and obituaries. Few were manuscripts in the sense we use the term today, and even fewer were appropriate for inclusion in such a volume. Their overall quality was affirmed by Thwaites, who omitted such items from the volumes he later edited in favor of the "legitimate material for Wisconsin history" he had recently acquired. While some of Draper's "manuscript papers" were of permanent value, his inability to discriminate in this matter stands as one of his greatest failings in archival work.

The results of the multifaceted attempt to build the library soon began to pour in, just as Draper knew they would. Some of the gifts and exchanges now appear out of scope for a historical collection, but the overall statistics were truly remarkable. In the first year 1,000 volumes were added to the 50 books the Society owned when he assumed leadership. Certainly Draper needed such impressive statistics, for 1855 found him in acute financial straits. Thanks to intensive lobbying efforts by his supporters, the legislature made the Society a trustee of the state, renewed its appropriation, and awarded Draper a $500 salary. The salary was renewed each year and eventually increased, but Draper was never free of financial worry. The necessity to provide impressive statistics on the growth of the library thus continued throughout his administration.

A second reason for the lack of emphasis on Wisconsin manuscript collecting can be attributed to the fact that, dedicated as he was to the Society, Draper never had the consuming personal interest in Wisconsin history that he had in his own research. During several periods of personal problems and political harassment, he virtually relinquished administration to Librarian Daniel Durrie in order to turn to the refuge of his own research. The Civil War years found him turning more and more to his personal collection. In 1863, 1866, and 1868 he left Madison for extended research tours, and in 1865 he moved to a farm seven miles from Madison from which for two years he only infrequently visited the Society's rooms.

Despite these hindrances, the Draper years did witness a beginning of a manuscript collection. It is important to note that it was a collection of private manuscripts, and that although public documents were an important part of the library, the Society collected no unpublished public records. No formal policy statement guided these early efforts, though Draper did issue circulars naming "manuscript statements and narratives of pioneer settlers [and] old letters and journals relative to the early history and settlement of Wisconsin and the Black Hawk War"[12] as items of significant interest. Draper himself had a broad understanding of history, and he urged preservation of material on many aspects of society, but this circular and the items he accessioned reflect his personal preference for frontier exploits. Perhaps the two most important collections received during the period concern the fur trade activities of John Lawe and Jacques Porlier.

The same mixing of originals and copies that distinguished Draper's personal collecting also marked the Society's collection. A transcribed diary from historian Francis Parkman was

[12]Scrapbook, Increase Lapham Mss, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

one of several such items Draper gladly accepted. Although Thwaites is well known for collecting copies of foreign documents relating to Wisconsin, Draper also made some efforts in that direction.

One of the most interesting aspects of the manuscripts Draper acquired is the role played by members of the Society, who in some cases even initiated the contacts. At other times Draper used members as an informal network to meet with donors. The sources do not clearly explain the motivation for these contacts, and it is possible that Draper originally approached some donors not with the immediate goal of acquiring manuscripts, but rather to gather editorial information for the *Collections* volumes. Cyrus Wood, the Society's first manuscript donor, provided numerous leads to pioneers in the lead-mining district and even offered to pay the expenses for Draper to interview one old resident.

Draper did conduct a few oral history interviews of Wisconsin pioneers, the most notable being his conversation with Augustin Grignon, an early Indian trader in the Green Bay area, which was published in narrative form in the *Collections*. The interview is a highly valuable source on early Wisconsin history, but in view of Draper's past enthusiasm for oral history, it is noteworthy that Society members rather than Draper initiated the conversation.

Draper was personally responsible for several collecting initiatives. One of his first actions at the Society was a search for papers on the Black Hawk War "for the purposes of securing the same." He later experienced political difficulty from the legislature because of the suspicious proximity of his personal collecting interests to those of the Society, and one notes with interest that at the same time he began this search he was also writing to his literary partner, Benjamin Lossing, that he planned to publish a history of the Black Hawk War.

Less self-serving was his solicitation of Civil War diaries and letters. As early as July 1861 he wrote to naturalist Increase Lapham, an officer of the Society, that he was already planning "how to turn the war to the Society's account or rather how to have the Society do its full duty in making its usefulness felt and acknowledged."[13] As part of this effort he distributed among the officers of Wisconsin regiments circulars explaining the importance of saving manuscripts and relics. The immediate donations were less than Draper hoped, but the valuable collections of Civil War materials later accessioned might not have been acquired without his foresight.[14] Draper was also responsible for an ongoing collection of pioneer reminiscences. Although the accessions were of questionable permanent importance, the tactics Draper used to encourage donations are noteworthy. In 1856 he assisted in organizing the Wisconsin Pioneers Association, one of the purposes of which was to urge the deposit of written reminiscences at the historical society.

Because accessions were limited, we know little about the day-to-day handling, organization, and description of manuscript material during the Draper era. However, a few practices may be abstracted from the Society's records and from an examination of the materials Draper collected.

The most consistent concern with the physical item expressed by Draper was

[13]Draper to Lapham, July 31, 1861, Lapham Mss.

[14]A much-repeated Society legend states that Draper distributed diaries to soliders passing through Madison on their way to the front. Unfortunately there is no evidence to support the tale.

fear of destruction by fire. Year after year his annual report spoke of such losses suffered by other societies and futilely urged that the legislature appropriate funds for fireproof quarters. Beyond this basic concern, however, Draper's attention to physical preservation, either of his own collection or of the Society's manuscripts, was limited.

With increasing use of the Society's collections and the move to larger rooms in the addition to the south wing of the Capitol, security became an important issue. In 1885 the Society adopted a set of rules that included the regulation that rare books, manuscripts, and photographs were to be stored in the vault in the librarian's office and that manuscripts could be removed from the building only by Draper or members of the publications committee. Transcription of documents was prohibited without special permission. Beyond this, however, the rules were mute on the subject of manuscripts.[15]

Daily administration of the collection was most likely handled by Librarian Daniel Durrie. Although virtually unknown today, Durrie shares a portion of the responsibility for the Society's early reputation. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that he initiated any practices with regard to manuscripts without his superior's approval, for he was very much intimidated by the imperious Draper.

Draper and Durrie meticulously accessioned all manuscript donations. All items, whether books, manuscripts, or artifacts, were listed together, however, so reconstruction of the Draper-era manuscript collection is impossible from this source. By the 1870s they had begun stamping library books and bound manuscripts with the Society's imprint and year of receipt in order to prevent theft. Manuscript volumes were often filed with their letters of transmittal and handwritten spine and cover labels were prepared for easy identification on the shelf. At this time the Society used no system of press marks or catalog identification for manuscripts. Instead volumes were marked with their location in the vault. This vault index, which is still in existence, lists collections and some individual items in alphabetical order with their shelf locations. This locator system apparently proved so useful that it was continued for some time during Thwaites's administration.

Loose collections of manuscripts received even less special handling, perhaps only being given a protective wrapping in brown paper. There is no doubt that it was Draper's plan that these papers should be bound together in chronological order, and he established a special binding fund for that purpose. Unfortunately the interest from this fund was never sufficiently large to permit binding during his tenure. For the manuscripts, reminiscences, and other small collections, the evidence suggests the Society arranged them in a numerical file.

Intellectual access to the limited number of manuscript holdings was not a problem, and Draper and Durrie were able to rely upon their memories to service patron requests. The absence of a manuscript catalog or other type of finding aid is surprising because the Society was a leader in the field with its printed book catalog and because inclusion of manuscripts in published catalogs was not uncommon in the 19th century. It is even more surprising because the Society's constitution of 1854 directed that "the Librarian shall have charge of all the books, manuscripts, and other collections of the Society; he shall keep a catalogue of the same, together with all additions made during his official

[15]Minutes of the *Proceedings,* Volume 2, 354–7.

term."[16]

Lyman Draper never thought of himself as an archivist, and this investigation was not intended to fit him into what is essentially a 20th-century mold. Yet examination of his career from that perspective does lead to some important conclusions. From that special point of view it becomes clear that Draper built the Society's early reputation—and, incidentally, his own economic welfare—at the cost of a state manuscript collection. Even after this reputation was secure, the collecting of Wisconsin manuscripts took a back seat to his personal research interests. Draper accessioned only a few state manuscript collections and the majority of these were of limited importance. His methods of administering and handling these materials also mark Draper as a 19th-century figure. On the other hand, Draper's personal research collection remains an important, frequently-used archival resource. A number of his ideas and projects, such as his issuing circulars to solicit Civil War materials and his realization of the importance of oral history and the fragility of the sources, strike the contemporary archivist as forwardlooking. His energy and enthusiasm for history remain virtues to emulate. Certainly a curious blend of old and new, Lyman Copeland Draper contributed much to what today's archivists are and what they do.

[16]Minutes of the *Proceedings,* Volume 1, 38.