



# Mary Lincoln's Insanity Case: A Documentary History

*Jason Emerson*

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## **Mary Lincoln's Insanity Case: A Documentary History** Jason Emerson

In 1875 Mary Lincoln, the widow of a revered president, was committed to an insane asylum by her son, Robert. The trial that preceded her internment was a subject of keen national interest. In this volume, noted Lincoln scholar Jason Emerson provides a documentary history of Mary Lincoln's mental illness and insanity case, evenhandedly presenting every relevant primary source on the subject to enable a clearer view of the facts. Beginning with documents from the immediate aftermath of her husband's assassination and ending with reminiscences by friends and family in the mid-twentieth century, *Mary Lincoln's Insanity Case: A Documentary History* compiles more than one hundred letters, dozens of newspaper articles, editorials, and legal documents, and the daily patient progress reports from Bellevue Place Sanitarium during Mary Lincoln's incarceration. Including many materials that have never been previously published, Emerson also collects multiple reminiscences, interviews, and diaries of people who knew Mary Lincoln or were involved in the case, including the first-hand recollection of one of the jurors in the 1875 insanity trial.

\_\_x000B\_\_x000B\_Suggesting neither accusation nor exoneration of the embattled First Lady, *Mary Lincoln's Insanity Case: A Documentary History* gives scholars and history enthusiasts incomparable access to the documents and information crucial to understanding this vexing chapter in American history.

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