

Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm88065919>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008114>

Prepared by Michael Spangler

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Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence

Span Dates: 1854-1887

ID No.: MSS65919

Creator: Miller, Samuel Freeman, 1816-1890

Extent: 185 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Extent: 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm88065919>

Summary: Lawyer and associate justice of the Supreme Court. Letters from Miller to his brother-in-law, William Pitt Ballinger, relating to a broad range of political and judicial issues and a microfilm edition of Ballinger's diaries.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Ballinger, William Pitt, 1825-1888--Correspondence.

Ballinger, William Pitt, 1825-1888. William Pitt Ballinger diaries. 1871-1886.

Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911.

Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Miller, Samuel Freeman, 1816-1890.

Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

United States. Electoral Commission (1877)

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Constitutional law--United States.

Courts--United States--Officials and employees.

Justice, Administration of.

Law--United States.

Practice of law--Texas--Galveston.

Presidents--United States--Election--1860.

Presidents--United States--Election--1876.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Places

United States--History--1865-1898.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Titles

Samuel Freeman Miller papers

William Pitt Ballinger papers

Occupations

Judges.

Justices, U.S. Supreme Court.

Lawyers.

Provenance

The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller, lawyer and associate justice of the Supreme Court, was given to the Library of Congress by Lucy Cocker Clarkson via Charles Fairman in 1988.

Processing History

The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller was arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Freeman Miller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Freeman Miller are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels for use in the Manuscript Division. The microfilm is not available for purchase and may not be borrowed on interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller (1816-1890) spans the years 1854-1887 and contains Miller's holograph letters to his brother-in-law William Pitt Ballinger, an attorney in Galveston, Texas. Miller comments on a broad range of political and judicial issues, including Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860, Reconstruction and relations between North and South, various judicial appointments, the nomination of John Marshall Harlan to the Supreme Court, Republican Party politics, and Miller's service on the electoral commission appointed by Congress to decide the disputed 1876 presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden. The collection also includes three reels of microfilm reproducing typewritten transcripts of Ballinger's diaries in the Texas Archives at the University of Texas Library.

Miller, who served on the Supreme Court from 1862 until his death in 1890, relates news of the court and the status of various cases pending before it. In a confidential letter to Ballinger in 1866, he reports the Court's five to four ruling in the test oath cases striking down loyalty oaths after the Civil War. Miller briefly describes the reasoning in his dissenting opinion in the cases, yet quickly adds, in deference to Ballinger's circumstance as a former Confederate official, that he is "... not sorry that the result is adverse to my opinion, on your account and generally because I think the requirement unnecessarily harsh at present." The letters also contain news of family members.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1854-1875 (11 folders)
BOX 2	1876-1887, undated (11 folders)
REEL 1-3	Diaries of William Pitt Ballinger, 1871-1886 Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,814.