

Samuel Freeman Miller

A Register of His Correspondence in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2008**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008114>

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence

Span Dates: 1854-1887

ID No.: MSS65919

Creator: Miller, Samuel Freeman, 1816-1890

Extent: 185 items; 2 containers; 0.8 linear feet; 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: 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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

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

Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911.

Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 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

Courts--United States--Officials and employees.

Justice, Administration of.

Practice of law--Texas--Galveston.

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

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

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

Locations

United States--History--1865-1898.

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

Related Names

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

Occupations

Jurists.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

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.).

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.

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

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