

1948

0047: Miller-Thackston Family Papers, 1849-1941

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**REGISTER
OF THE
MILLER-THACKSTON FAMILY PAPERS**

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MILLER-THACKSTON FAMILY PAPERS, 1843-1874

Accession Number: 55, 47

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This collection was the gift of Mrs. C. C. Remmele and was received in 1948.

Linear feet of shelf space: ½

Literary rights: assigned to Marshall University

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Explanatory note:

“Bx” refers to the box in which papers are filed.
“Fd” refers to folder.

CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The bulk of the collection consists of letters written to Eugenia Miller Thackston while she was a student in boarding school in Greenupsburg, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio, by her parents in Barboursville, Virginia before the Civil War. The letters include information about family members, the difficulty in maintaining a school, and developments in the town of Barboursville. There are also some letters written during the Civil War describing the hardships of the war on the family. Other items include addresses and writings of Eugenia’s husband, Benjamin Thackston, while he was a student at Randolph-Macon College.

(Former Accession 1973/01.0055 Eugenia Miller Correspondence added to this Accession 3/26/2019)

The Eugenia Miller Correspondence contains letters from the parents of Eugenia Miller, mostly while attending the Wesleyan Female College of Cincinnati, Ohio as well as a few school compositions.

(Former Accession 1985/10.0420 Benjamin Thackston Papers added to this Accession 3/26/2019)

Found in attic of Marion Thackston home on Staunton Road. The Benjamin Thackston Papers contain holograph essays by former principal of Marshall Academy; 4 items relate to Marion Thackston's service in World War I.

A folder list of accessions 0055 and 0420 is available upon request.

MILLER-THACKSTON FAMILY

William Clendenin Miller, son of John and Sophia Clendenin Miller, married on March 6, 1836, Eliza Gardner, daughter of Josephine and Marie Therese Clothilde Raison de la Geneste Gardner. The Gardners had come from Santo Domingo by way of Greenupsburg, Kentucky to Cabell County, Virginia, where two of their daughters married; the above mentioned Eliza, and Emily, who married John Samuels. The families all lived in the Barboursville area.

William and Eliza Gardner Miller had the following children: Eugenia, born 1837; Charles, born about 1839; Frank, born about 1841; William, born about 1843; Joseph, born 1848, died 1922; Hamilton, born 1851; and Florence.

Eugenia, after schooling in Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, returned to Barboursville, where she met and married Benjamin Thackston, a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and native of Farmville, Virginia. Thackston had served as principal of Marshall College from 1858 until 1860, then went to Barboursville to conduct a school. During the Civil War, Eugenia lived with her husband's family in Prince Edward County, Virginia, while Benjamin worked in Richmond in the auditor's office of the Treasurer of the Confederacy.

After the Civil War, the Thackstons returned to Cabell County, where Benjamin again served as principal of Marshall College, from 1881 until 1884. Afterward he engaged in business in Huntington, West Virginia, where he died in 1918. Eugenia Miller Thackston lived until 1924. The couple had seven children: Mary, Kate, Sallie, Lydia, Charles, James Alexander, and William T.

From:
Cabell-Wayne Historical Society Vertical File boxes 44 and 55 Marshall University Archives.
Presidents' Files.

Matthews, Madge Lester. "Ante-Bellum Barboursville," *West Virginia History*, vol. 11, no. 4 (July, 1950), pp. 271-283.

"Official of Confederacy and Marshall President Called by Death Messenger," *Huntington Herald-Dispatch*, Aug. 26, 1918, p. 10, col. 1.

Wallace, George S. *Cabell County Annals and Families*. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1935.

MILLER-THACKSTON FAMILY PAPERS, 1843-1874

I. Correspondence

- Fd 1 William C. Miller to Eugenia Miller, 1849-1852 2 items
- 29 Dec. 1849 - to Eugenia at school in Greenupsburg, Kentucky. Makes suggestions about her comportment away from home, gives news of her friends and family. Comments on the school conducted in Barboursville by Mr. and Mrs. Vertigans.
- Fd 2 Eliza G. Miller to Eugenia Miller, 1849-1852 10 items
- 15 Sept. 1851 - to Eugenia at school in Cincinnati. Asks if she may choose her studies, or if her teachers choose them for her. Tells her to take more care with her letters, as her father will expect some improvement. Her father adds a postscript, instructing her on the use of the postage stamps that he is enclosing.
- 16 Nov. 1851 - to Eugenia in Cincinnati. Tells of her aunt and uncle's visit and comments on what Eugenia had described as her "silly behavior" when her father visited her at school. Says she understands that Eugenia was anxious to see her father and to hear news from home, but in the future she should be careful not to give her father the impression that she is unhappy at school because "you know he is very tender it would render him unhappy if he thought it the case."
- 11 April 1852 - Attributes lack of mail to the high water. Tells Eugenia that since her father has left for Philadelphia, Sarah Bartram and Mary have been coming to stay with her at night. The boys have a school, and even though she needs them at home, she cannot keep them, since they "have been so long without a school."
- Fd 3 Charles Miller to Eugenia Miller, 1852 2 items
- 9 March 1852 - Complains of the weather and not being able to get out. Even though there is no school, he has been studying at home. Since the weather has improved, he and Frank have set out some shrubbery for her.
- Fd 4 Letters received, Eugenia Miller, 1850-1864 3 items
- 3 Sept. 1864 - Letter from Mary Watson thanking Eugenia for the photograph of Alex, and describing her grief. Also comments about Eugenia's brother Frank who is a prisoner at Camp Douglas, and the difficulty that the family has had in

getting clothing to him.

Fd 5 Eugenia Miller Thackston to Benjamin H. Thackston, 1862-1863 3 items

27 April 1863, Prince Edward, Va. - Eugenia writes about family news and expresses her concern over Ben's clothing. She discusses their baby, Mary, and describes her dissatisfaction over the way the negro Eliza takes care of her: "she seems to have no idea of nursing or amusing a child and is very cross..." Knowing that Ben wishes to buy some cattle, she makes inquiries, "but can hear none on reasonable terms...Dr. Berkeley sold a cow a week since for five hundred dollars..."

Fd 6 Mr. and Mrs. Thackston to Benjamin H. Thackston, 1854, 1867 2 items

30 Dec. 1867, Prince Edward, Va. - Sallie Thackston writes to her son, telling news of the family and commenting on how poor everyone is. She tells Ben that his cattle are fine.

Fd 7 Benjamin H. Thackston to Eugenia Miller Thackston, 1863 1 item

13 August 1863, Richmond, Va. - encloses a letter from Frank, asks Eugenia to keep account of the money which he has which belongs to little Mary. He discusses his clothing and says that he will get some things from the government. He has taken Mr. Caldwell to room with him, but they are not compatible. Comments on how little they have.

II. Compositions and Printed Material

Fd 8 Addresses (holograph), undated, unsigned 4 items

Topics of most are of a political nature.

Fd 9 Compositions, Eugenia Miller 4 items

Compositions on various topics: "Man's Injustice to Women," "Flowers," "Our Native Land."

Fd 10 Pamphlet 4 items

Thackston, Benjamin H. "Lieutenant Herndon,...a Eulogy...before the Franklin Literary Society of Randolph-Macon College...January 17, 1858." Cincinnati, Ohio, 1859.

- Fd 11 Pamphlet 2 items
 Thackston, Benjamin H. "Valedictory Odes," undated.
- Fd 12 Newspaper clippings 1 item
 Thackston, Benjamin H. "The Contrast...written...on the death of...Dr. G. C. Ricketts...," undated.
- Fd 13 Thackston, Benjamin H. "Address Before the Normal Institute at Charleston, July 30." West Virginia Educational Monthly, vol. 3, no. 2 (November, 1874), pp. 74-78.
- Fd 14 Perkins, Eunice Proctor. "Major William Clendenin," typescript (carbon copy), undated. 1 item
- Fd 15 Printed material, Randolph-Macon College, 1855-1858 2 items
 Invitation to a commencement party and a program for the 1858 commencement exercises.
- Fd 16 Miscellaneous items 4 items
 Includes a fragment of a letter and a promissory note to Henry Harman for \$7.75, dated Oct. 22, 1843.

GENEALOGIES

MILLER FAMILY

First Generation

- A-1 Christian Miller md Catherine Wiseman
born
died 1836 Woodstock, Va.
- B-1 Henry Miller
- B-2 John Miller

Second Generation

- B-2 John Miller md Sophia Clendenin
- C-1 Margaret Miller md Thomas Thornburg
- C-2 William Clendenin Miller md Eliza Gardner
- C-3 Charles C. Miller md 1) Jennie Cantrell; 2) Virginia Middlecoff
b. 1811
d. 1898 Mason County, W. Va.

Third Generation

- C-2 William Clendenin Miller md Eliza Gardner
- D-1 Eugenia b. 1837
- D-2 Charles b. 1839
- D-3 Frank b. 1841
- D-4 William b. 1843
- D-5 Joseph b. 1848, d. 1922
- D-6 Hamilton b. 1851
- D-7 Florence
- D-8 John W. d. 1936

THACKSTON FAMILY

First Generation

- A-1 Benjamin A. Thackston md 1) Mary W. Elliot
2)
3) Sally Smithson
d. 1874 Prince Edward County, Va.
- B-1 Robert Thackston
B-2 Benjamin Thackston md Eugenia Miller
B-3 James Thackston, killed Civil War
B-4 Thomas Thackston, settled in New York
B-5 Frank Thackston, settled in Virginia
B-6 Bettie Thackston
B-7 Mallie Thackston
B-8 Lura Willie Reid md George E. Knight
b. 1850
d. 1921

(All children by Sally Smithson)

Second Generation

- B-2 Benjamin Thackston md Eugenia Miller
b. 1835 Farmville, Va.
m. 1861
d. 1918 Huntington, W. Va.
- C-1 Kate Thackston md Charles Remmele
C-2 Lydia Thackston md Charles Blair
C-3 Mamie Thackston md. James B. Stuart
C-4 Sallie C. Thackston
C-5 J. Alec Thackston
C-6 William C. Thackston
C-7 Charles Thackston

INDEX OF PERSONAL NAMES

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Buffington, Ann Elizabeth		Fd 2
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_____, Fanny		Fd 2
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_____, Thomas		Fd 2
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_____, Mrs.		Fd 6