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Miller, John A., Sr., 1840-1905 (MSS 514)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 514 MILLER, John A., Sr., 1840-1905

2 boxes. 14 folders. 1,048 items. 1850-1877. Photocopies.

SC2014.3.80

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John A. Miller, Sr. was born in 1840 in Coblenz, Germany, but he immigrated to the United States with his family in the 1850s. They settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where he learned the jeweler trade. By 1859, he was operating a jewelry store in Alton, Illinois. He married Kate L.F. Lohrum in 1863 in St. Louis and their first two children were born in Missouri. He moved to Paducah, Kentucky by the late-1860s and operated a jewelry store there. By 1881 Miller relocated to Cairo, Illinois, where he lived until his death in 1905. In Cairo, his jewelry store was located at the corner of Commercial Avenue and Ninth Street. He held several patents for jewelry-related tools.

Miller was an active citizen in Cairo. He was president for several years and always a vital member of the Merchant's League. His promotion of good roads led to his being elected as a county commissioner on the Republican ticket in 1899 and re-elected in 1902. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, holding the state's highest office, Grand Chancellor of Illinois in 1894. In addition, he was a member of the Germania Maennerchor and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was president of the Central Building and Loan Association and a director of the Cairo National Bank.

Miller had one son, John A. Miller, Jr., and three daughters: Minnie, Adele "Addie", and Hattie. Miller extolled the benefits of cremation, and his family carried out his wishes.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists almost exclusively of photocopies of receipts related to John A. Miller's jewelry shops in Alton, Illinois and Paducah, Kentucky. These receipts are generally for jewelry-related items and are not necessarily from the two communities listed above, but there is a good representation from Paducah, Kentucky amongst the hundreds of items. Occasionally folders will contain short pieces of correspondence (Box 1, Folder 9 and Box 2, Folder 1). Box 2, Folder 2 contains 12 items of correspondence and fragments of correspondence written in German and English. Box 2, Folder 4 includes a photocopy of a Paducah bill of lading account book showing items sent by Miller via steamboat from 1870 to 1874. Each form is dated, lists the goods shipped, the client's name and city, charges, and the steamboat on which the items

were shipped. Box 2, Folder 5 contains a day book listing items sold in Miller's store from 1864 to 1866.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Miller, John A.	1850-1877	936 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Receipts	1850-1864	106 items
Folder 3	Receipts	1865-1867	110 items
Folder 4	Receipts	1868-1869	164 items
Folder 5	Receipts	1870-1871	163 items
Folder 6	Receipts	1872	100 items
Folder 7	Receipts	1873	61 items
Folder 8	Receipts	1874	98 items
Folder 9	Receipts, orders, correspondence	1875	133 items
BOX 2	Miller, John A.	1862-1877	112 items
Folder 1	Receipts and correspondence	1876-1877	70 items
Folder 2	Receipts	n.d.	28 items
Folder 3	Correspondence written in a foreign language	1862-1877	12 items
Folder 4	Copy of bill of lading book	1871-1874	1 item
Folder 5	Account book (photocopy) 2 July 1864 to 15 January 1866	1864-1866	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS MILLER, John A., 1840-1905 1850-1877
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Receipts, correspondence, bills of lading ledger, 1870-1874, and account book, 1864-1866, for Miller's jewelry businesses in Alton, Illinois and Paducah, Kentucky. Miller later operated a jewelry store in Cairo, Illinois.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Account books – Jewelry store, 1864-1866 B2,F4-5
Businesses – Paducah – Relating to
German language B2,F3
Receipts – Paducah B1,F2-9; B2,F1-2
Steamboats – Relating to B2,F4

Sledge/Jeffrey 09/24//2014