



## **The Mary Baker Eddy Library**

Frederica L. and William N. Miller Papers, 1857-1939, n.d.

a finding aid

**The Mary Baker Eddy Library  
Archives & Special Collections**

200 Massachusetts Ave.

Boston, MA 02115

617-450-7000

## Collection Description

**Collection Title:** Frederica L. and William N. Miller Papers

**Collection Number:** LSC027

**Creator:** Miller, Frederica L. (c. 1846-1934)  
Miller, William N. (1838-1913)

**Date:** 1857-1939, n.d.

**Extent:** 6 LF

**Language:** Materials are in English.

## Acquisition Information

Donation, 1990

## Access

Collection is open for research and available to the public during research room hours. Association records within the collection are closed.

## Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may apply.

## Processing Information

Collection processed by Sarah Schelde, Assistant Archivist, October 2019 to March 2020

## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Frederica L. and William N. Miller Papers, LSC027, The Mary Baker Eddy Library.

## Biographical Note

Frederica L. Miller (c. 1846–1934):

Frederica Lash Miller (c 1846–1934) was born in Ontario, Canada, the daughter of William Lash and Margaret Fannon.

Her brother, Zebulon Aiton Lash, studied law in Dundas, Ontario, under William N. Miller, whom she married in 1864. Their first child, William Lash Miller (1866–1940), became a prominent Canadian physical chemist. They had two more children, a daughter, Ethel, and another son, Henry.

The Millers turned to Christian Science in 1889, after Henry's untimely death. They became students of Pamela J. Leonard, CSB, and joined The Mother Church on December 29, 1894. She served as First Reader of Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Toronto, and along with her husband was a student in Mary Baker Eddy's last Normal class, taught in November 1898. The Millers traveled to London, England in April 1899, in connection with William's work on the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Miller was first listed in The Christian Science Journal as a practitioner (healer) in Toronto in 1899, and she later served as a teacher and practitioner of Christian Science in London for the remainder of her life. Among her students were Frederick L. Rawson and Annie C. Bill, who became outspoken dissidents in the Christian Science movement after Eddy's death.

Some of the Miller's students voted to form Third Church of Christ, Scientist, London, England, on February 20, 1905, and they invited the Millers to become members. Both joined on March 5.

Frederica Miller remained dedicated to her healing and teaching work until her passing on June 18, 1934

## William N. Miller (1838–1913):

William Nicholas Miller (1838–1913) was born in Dundas, Ontario, Canada, the eldest son of Cornelia Cheseboro and William Miller, who later served as a county court judge in Waterloo, Ontario.

In 1861 he graduated from the University of Toronto and began his vocation as a lawyer. In 1864 he married Frederica Lash, the sister of his student and eventual colleague Zebulon A. Lash. They had three children: William, Ethel, and Henry. In 1885 he was made Queen's Counsel, an appointment recognizing merit in lawyers in the British Commonwealth.

After the death of their son Henry, circa 1888, the Millers looked first to their orthodox church for solace but didn't find it. It was their introduction to Christian Science in 1889 that offered the comfort they needed. Along with his wife, William took Christian Science Primary class instruction with Pamela J. Leonard, CSB, and joined The Mother Church on December 29, 1894. They were both present in November 1898 at Mary Baker Eddy's last Normal class.

In 1899, while he was serving as Second Reader of Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Toronto, Eddy appointed William Miller to the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. She sent him to London, England, in that capacity in April, where he helped to formally organize First Church of Christ, Scientist, London. He was elected First Reader of that church. He also taught alongside his wife until the time of a 1904 amendment to the By-Laws of the Church Manual, which permits annual teaching by only one spouse (see Article XXX, Section 7, in the current edition of the Manual). He no longer taught classes after that time. He was first listed in The Christian Science Journal as a practitioner (healer) in Toronto in 1899, and continued his listing in London for the rest of his life. He served on the Christian Science Board of Lectureship until 1910.

On February 20, 1905, some of the Millers' students were among those who voted to form Third Church of Christ, Scientist, London. He became a member on March 5 and was elected the church's president on April 25. He served the church until the time of his passing on January 8, 1913.

### **Sources:**

- Adam, G. Mercer. "The Law Courts and the Legal Profession." In Toronto, Old and New, 89–101. Toronto: The Mail Printing Company, 1891.
- Miller, William N. "Christian Science." The Christian Science Journal, December 1899. <https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1899/12/17-9/christian-science>
- Regeher, Theodore. "LASH, ZEBULON AITON." Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 14. Toronto: University of Toronto/Université Laval, 1998. Accessed January 6, 2020. [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/lash\\_zebulon\\_aiton\\_14E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/lash_zebulon_aiton_14E.html)

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Frederica L. and William N. Miller Papers consist primarily of correspondence, notes and drafts of writings, and some printed materials. The materials in this collection are organized into two series, with Series I being subdivided into four subseries.

Series I. Correspondence, 1857–1939, n.d.

- Subseries A. Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1857–1932, n.d.
- Subseries B. William N. Miller Correspondence, 1868–1912, n.d.
- Subseries C. Miller Family Correspondence, 1862–1939, n.d.
- Subseries D. Additional Correspondence, 1868–1927, n.d.

Series II. Notes, Drafts, and Writings, 1893–1928, n.d.

Series I makes up the vast majority of the collection. It consists primarily of original letters sent to Frederica L. Miller and William N. Miller, but also includes original letters sent to other members of the Miller family; drafts and copies of letters by the Millers; and correspondence both written by and addressed to people other than the Millers. Correspondence is both dated and undated. While the earliest items date to 1857, and the latest to 1939, the bulk of dated correspondence was written between 1890 and 1930.

Most of the correspondence is handwritten, although there are also some typescript and printed letters. Some letters are accompanied by their original envelopes, but most are not. A folder of just envelopes is present at the end of Subseries D.

The majority of correspondence originated in Europe, particularly Great Britain and Ireland. Significant correspondence also came from North America, and some originated in Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. The international quality of the materials in the collection reflects the reach of the Millers, particularly through the students they taught, who included nobility, diplomats, artists, and businesspeople.

The topics of correspondence range from personal updates to professional business. They reflect the numerous positions the Millers held throughout their lives, particularly after their introduction to Christian Science. Personal topics include updates from family, especially their daughter, Ethel, as well as friends and former students. Some letters discuss strictly personal topics, but many combine personal updates with business updates and requests.

The bulk of the correspondence relates to the Millers' work in Christian Science, particularly as teachers, practitioners, and church officers. Many letters include requests for Christian Science treatment and updates from patients receiving treatment. Most of these letters are addressed to Frederica, but some were also sent to William. Letters relating to the Millers' work as Christian Science teachers include requests to join classes, as well as requests for information about the cost, location, and timing of class instruction. Many letters from former students express gratitude for class instruction and give updates on the students' continued study and work in Christian Science, including their own healing work as practitioners. As members of The Mother Church and teachers approved by the Christian Science Board of Education, the Millers also received requests to endorse or countersign applications for Mother Church membership.

Correspondence is open in this collection relating to, but not explicitly referencing, the students' association that the Millers taught together prior to 1904, as well as their work at various branch churches. This includes correspondence such as RSVPs from students sent to both the Millers and to Augusta J. R. Bruce, Frederica's association secretary, as well as questions regarding association meeting logistics. Branch church correspondence includes letters sent to the Millers in their capacity as Readers and church officers, including requests to join branch churches sent to William N. Miller.

Correspondence is arranged into four subseries. Subseries A consists of correspondence sent to and from Frederica. This includes correspondence not directly addressed to her but most likely sent to her. Correspondence regarding her association, addressed to her secretaries or those working on her behalf (including Augusta J.R. Bruce, Lillian Porter, and E. Lucy Varley), is also included.

Subseries B similarly consists of correspondence sent to and from William, including correspondence determined to be his based on content.

Subseries C houses materials sent to both Frederica and William, as well as correspondence that was sent to one of them but in which the specific recipient cannot be determined. This subseries also includes letters sent to Ethel Miller, their daughter, as well as to other members of the extended Miller family (including the Lash family, on Frederica's side). Letters by Ethel addressed to one of her parents are located in that parent's own subseries.

Subseries D contains correspondence neither addressed nor written by the Miller family, excluding material sent to those working on behalf of a Miller family member (for example, Frederica's secretaries; see subseries A). This subseries includes letter fragments or incomplete letters for which neither the sender nor the recipient can be determined.

Within these subseries, materials are arranged chronologically where possible. Undated correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the creator.

Series II, Notes, Drafts, and Writings, contains non-correspondence material not sent as enclosures with letters. This includes notes taken by the Millers. These materials are by nature informal and generally undated, untitled, and unsigned. Dated notes and drafts of writings are organized chronologically across three folders at the beginning of the series. These materials date from between 1893 and 1928.

Undated notes include eight folders of "General Notes," largely relating to the Millers' work in Christian Science. These focus on metaphysics, treatments for patients, and branch church work, among other topics. Many are written on scrap pieces of paper and can be fragile. Personal notes, including shopping lists and recipes, are housed together in one folder.

Drafts of written materials include branch church documents, lectures on Christian Science, and addresses (non-association). These materials make up three folders within the series.

A folder of printed materials not sent as correspondence is present in this series. This includes newspaper clippings, advertisements, and printed information cards dated from 1895 to 1918, as well as undated materials.

The majority of materials in the collection are open for research. Materials relating to classes taught by the Millers, as well as those from their students' association, are closed.

### **Separated Materials**

Two original letters from Mary Baker Eddy to the Millers were separated from the collection at the time of donation and added to The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, Outgoing Correspondence (see L15686 and L15687). Additional materials added to Outgoing Correspondence at a later date include three telegrams (two from Eddy to the Millers, and one from Marjorie Colles to the Millers). See L16203, L16205, and L18141.

Materials relating to the official work of branch churches (Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Toronto, Ontario; First Church of Christ, Scientist, London, England; and Third Church of Christ, Scientist, London, England) were removed from the collection during processing and added to the Field Collection.

### **Related Collections**

Additional materials relating to this collection can be found in the Subject File, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, and the Non-CSPS Pamphlet and Serials Collection.

Material on Frederica Miller and William Miller not donated with this collection can be found in the Subject File. Materials on prominent correspondents present in this collection, including Pamela J. Leonard, Annie C. Bill, and Frederick L. Rawson, can also be found in the Subject File. See LSC017, the William P. and Daisette D.S. McKenzie Papers, for materials relating to these additional correspondents and colleagues of the Millers.

Letters sent by the Millers to Eddy can be found in The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, Incoming Correspondence. The Wycliffe Bible gifted by Frederica and William Miller to Eddy, discussed in correspondence present in this collection, can be found in The Mary Baker Eddy Book Collection, B00033.

Published writings by William N. Miller, as well as Annie C. Bill and Frederick L. Rawson, are located in the Non-CSPS Publications and Serials Collection.

## **Series I, Correspondence, 1857-1939, n.d.**

### *Series Scope and Content Note*

This series includes original letters and telegraphs; drafts and copies of letters; addressed receipts and invoices; and some printed material sent as enclosures. The series is divided into four subseries, based on primary recipients of materials. The materials are first arranged chronologically. Undated material is arranged alphabetically by creator. Material in these subseries directly relating to class instruction and association business are closed.

## **Subseries A, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1857-1932, n.d.**

### *Series Scope and Content Note*

This subseries contains correspondence sent to Frederica L. Miller, as well as some drafts and copies of correspondence sent by Miller. Material not directly addressed to Miller but that was determined to be sent to her based on its content, as well as material sent to those working on her behalf (such as personal and association secretaries), is included in this subseries. This subseries also contains correspondence sent to Miller by her daughter, Ethel Miller.

### **Box . Folder**

- 01           Box 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1857-1906
  
- 01.01       Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1857-1898
  
- 01.02       Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1899
  
- 01.03       Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1900
  
- 01.04       Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1901-1902
  
- 01.05       Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1903
  
- 01.06       Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1904
  
- 01.07       Folder 7, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1905
  
- 01.08       Folder 8, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1906
  
- 02           Box 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1907-1909
  
- 02.01       Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1907/01-1907/06
  
- 02.02       Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1907/07-1907/12
  
- 02.03       Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1908

- 02.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1909
- 02.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1909/01-1909/06
- 02.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1909/07-1909/12
- 03 Box 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1910-1919
- 03.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1910
- 03.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1911
- 03.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1912
- 03.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1913
- 03.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1914-1916
- 03.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1917-1919
- 04 Box 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1920-1932
- 04.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1920-1921
- 04.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1922

- 04.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1923
- 04.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1924/01-1924/05
- 04.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1924/06-1924/12
- 04.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1925-1926
- 04.07 Folder 7, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, 1927-1932
- 05 Box 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, A-E, n.d.
- 05.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, A, n.d.
- 05.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Ba-Bo, n.d.
- 05.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Br-Bu, n.d.
- 05.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, C, n.d.
- 05.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, D, n.d.
- 05.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, E, n.d.
- 06 Box 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, F-Lean, n.d.



- 06.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, F, n.d.
- 06.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, G, n.d.
- 06.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, H, n.d.
- 06.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, J-K, n.d.
- 06.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, L, n.d.
- 06.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Lean, n.d.
- 07 Box 7, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, M-R, n.d.
- 07.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Ma-Me, n.d.
- 07.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Mi-My, n.d.
- 07.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Miller, n.d.
- 07.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, N-P, n.d.
- 07.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, R, n.d.
- 08 Box 8, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, S-N/A, n.d.

- 08.01 Folder 1, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, S, n.d.
- 08.02 Folder 2, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, T, n.d.
- 08.03 Folder 3, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, V, n.d.
- 08.04 Folder 4, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Wa-Wi, n.d.
- 08.05 Folder 5, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, Wo-Wr, n.d.
- 08.06 Folder 6, Frederica L. Miller Correspondence, N/A, n.d.

**Subseries B, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1868-1912, n.d.**

*Series Scope and Content Note*

This subseries consists of correspondence sent to William N. Miller, as well as drafts and copies of correspondence by Miller to others. Material not specifically addressed to Miller, but that were determined to belong to him based on its content, is included in this subseries. This subseries also contains correspondence sent to Miller by his daughter, Ethel Miller.

**Box . Folder**

- 09 Box 9, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1868-1904
- 09.01 Folder 1, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1868-1898
- 09.02 Folder 2, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1899
- 09.03 Folder 3, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1900

- 09.04 Folder 4, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1901
- 09.05 Folder 5, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1902
- 09.06 Folder 6, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1903
- 09.07 Folder 7, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1904
- 10 Box 10, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1905-1912, n.d.
- 10.01 Folder 1, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1905
- 10.02 Folder 2, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1906
- 10.03 Folder 3, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1907/01-1907/04
- 10.04 Folder 4, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1907/05-1907/12
- 10.05 Folder 5, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1908-1910
- 10.06 Folder 6, William N. Miller Correspondence, 1911-1912
- 10.07 Folder 7, William N. Miller Correspondence, A-D, n.d.
- 10.08 Folder 8, William N. Miller Correspondence, E-L, n.d.

11 Box 11, William N. Miller Correspondence-Additional Correspondence, 1862-1939, n.d.

11.01 Folder 1, William N. Miller Correspondence, M-Z, n.d.

### **Subseries C, Miller Family Correspondence, 1862-1939, n.d.**

#### *Series Scope and Content Note*

This subseries contains correspondence sent to both Frederica L. and William N. Miller, as well as correspondence addressed to one of the Millers but for which the precise recipient is unclear. This subseries also contains correspondence to Ethel Miller and other members of the extended Miller-Lash family. Letters written by Ethel Miller to one of her parents can be found in that parent's respective subseries.

#### **Box . Folder**

11 Box 11, William N. Miller Correspondence-Additional Correspondence, 1862-1939, n.d.

11.02 Folder 2, Miller Family Correspondence, 1862-1899

11.03 Folder 3, Miller Family Correspondence, 1900-1905

11.04 Folder 4, Miller Family Correspondence, 1906-1910

11.05 Folder 5, Miller Family Correspondence, 1911-1930

11.06 Folder 6, Miller Family Correspondence, 1931-1939

11.07 Folder 7, Miller Family Correspondence, n.d.

### **Subseries D, Additional Correspondence, 1868-1927, n.d.**

#### *Series Scope and Content Note*

This subseries consists of correspondence sent to and written by individuals other than the

Miller family. This excludes materials sent to those working on behalf of one of the Millers and letters sent as enclosures to a member of the Miller family. Incomplete letters without a determined creator and recipient are filed in this subseries. A folder containing just envelopes is located at the end of this subseries.

**Box . Folder**

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|-------|---|
| 11    | Box 11, William N. Miller Correspondence-Additional Correspondence, 1862-1939, n.d. |
| 11.08 | Folder 8, Additional Correspondence, 1868-1899                                      |
| 11.09 | Folder 9, Additional Correspondence, 1900-1902                                      |
| 11.10 | Folder 10, Additional Correspondence, 1903-1905                                     |
| 12    | Box 12, Additional Correspondence-Notes and Drafts, 1893-1928, n.d.                 |
| 12.01 | Folder 1, Additional Correspondence, 1906-1910                                      |
| 12.02 | Folder 2, Additional Correspondence, 1911-1925                                      |
| 12.03 | Folder 3, Additional Correspondence, 1926-1927                                      |
| 12.04 | Folder 4, Additional Correspondence, A-L, n.d.                                      |
| 12.05 | Folder 5, Additional Correspondence, M-Z and N/A, n.d.                              |
| 12.06 | Folder 6, Envelopes, n.d.   |

**Series II, Notes, Drafts, and Writings, 1893-1928, n.d.**

*Series Scope and Content Note*

This series contains dated and undated notes, drafts of writings, and manuscripts of writings, as well as printed materials, not sent as enclosures with correspondence. Notes include loose pages and scrap slips of paper on topics such as metaphysics, Bible quotations, Christian Science healing and the treatment of patients, branch church work, and personal topics. Drafts and writings include branch church materials, newspaper articles, lectures on Christian Science, and addresses. Materials in this series related to class instruction and associations are closed.

**Box . Folder**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 12    | Box 12, Additional Correspondence-Notes and Drafts, 1893-1928, n.d. |
| 12.07 | Folder 7, Notes and Drafts, 1893-1903                               |
| 12.08 | Folder 8, Notes and Drafts, 1904-1910                               |
| 12.09 | Folder 9, Notes and Drafts, 1911-1928                               |
| 13    | Box 13, General Notes (1 of 8)-General Notes (5 of 8), n.d.         |
| 13.01 | Folder 1, General Notes (1 of 8), n.d.                              |
| 13.02 | Folder 2, General Notes (2 of 8), n.d.                              |
| 13.03 | Folder 3, General Notes (3 of 8), n.d.                              |
| 13.04 | Folder 4, General Notes (4 of 8), n.d.                              |
| 13.05 | Folder 5, General Notes (5 of 8), n.d.                              |
| 14    | Box 14, General Notes (6 of 8)-Drafts and Writings (2 of 3), n.d.   |

- 14.01 Folder 1, General Notes (6 of 8), n.d.
- 14.02 Folder 2, General Notes (7 of 8), n.d.
- 14.03 Folder 3, General Notes (8 of 8), n.d.
- 14.04 Folder 4, Personal Notes, n.d.
- 14.05 Folder 5, Drafts and Writings (1 of 3), n.d.
- 14.06 Folder 6, Drafts and Writings (2 of 3), n.d.
- 15 Box 15, Drafts and Writings (3 of 3)-Printed Materials, 1895-1918, n.d.
- 15.01 Folder 1, Drafts and Writings (3 of 3), n.d.
- 15.02 Folder 2, Printed Materials, 1895-1918, n.d.