

Collection #
M 0123
BV 1369–1371
OM 0161

ELIZABETH JANE MILLER HACK PAPERS, 1875–1941

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department

William Henry Smith Memorial Library

Indiana Historical Society

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscripts: 2 boxes, 3 bound volumes, 2 oversized folders
Visuals: 1 box photographs, 1 box of OVA photographs,
1 OVC photograph

COLLECTION DATES: 1875–1941

PROVENANCE: Mrs. G. S. Marsh (Ms. Eleanor Hack), Henderson, Kentucky,
June, 1968 and June, 1975

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1968.0804; 1975.0609

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

This collection traces the careers of three members of the Miller family, which often lived in Indianapolis.

Samantha West Miller (1850–1928) was married to Timothy Miller (d. 1912). The family lived in New Ross, Indiana, but moved to Indianapolis in 1883, and lived on Prospect St. Mrs. Miller did some free-lance writing, and published a magazine called The Cabinet Maker. She was involved in the Women's Relief Corps, and was an active sponsor of patriotic activities. After a strenuous campaign, she obtained an appointment on one of the women's juries for the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893.

Her son, **Ralph Miller** (1874–1903), attended public schools, and graduated in 1893 from Indianapolis High School (later Shortridge), where he had served as drillmaster for the High School Cadets. He was employed by the Bobbs Merrill Company. In 1898 he enlisted in the 128th Indiana Regiment and became a sergeant-major. After the war, in 1900, he enlisted in the regular army, serving in the cavalry in the Philippines, and rose from private to sergeant to lieutenant. He died in 1903 of kidney infection.

Ralph Miller had two brothers, Otto and Percy, and one sister, **Elizabeth Miller** (1879–1961). The latter graduated from Manual Training High School, and took classes at Butler University and Indiana University. In 1904, under the name Bessie Miller, she had an historical-religious novel, *The Yoke*, published by Bobbs Merrill. This was followed by *Saul of Tarsus* (1906), *The City of Delight* (1908), *Daybreak* (1915), and *The Science of Columbus* (1921). In 1907 Purdue University invited her along with James Whitcomb Riley, Meredith Nicholson, George Ade, and Charles Major to an Authors' Reading. She married Oren Hack in 1908, and had a daughter and three sons. In the 1920s the family lived in Boggstown. Though she wrote comparatively little after her marriage, Mrs. Hack continued her association with local literary figures like Laura Smith, Anna Nicholas, and Esther Griffin White.

Sources:

Information in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists primarily of documents and letters of Hack and her family in Indianapolis from the period 1894–1920 and includes correspondence about her writing and family matters and her diaries from 1894–1903 as well as copies of her magazine and newspaper stories. Also contained are the papers of Ralph Miller from 1895–1903 including his diaries and papers from the Philippines, 1903.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0123).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.