

Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Michelle Krowl with the
assistance of Jewel McPherson



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Collection Summary

Title: Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence

Span Dates: 1661-1956

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1944)

ID No.: MSS32870

Creator: Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925

Extent: 1,000 items; 9 containers; 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some French and Spanish.

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

Abstract: Army officer. Correspondence addressed to Elizabeth Cameron, J. D. Cameron, Nelson Appleton Miles, and Sherman Miles

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.

People

Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917--Correspondence.

Cameron family--Correspondence.

Cameron family.

Cameron, Elizabeth, 1857-1944--Correspondence.

Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

Miles family--Correspondence.

Miles family.

Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925--Correspondence.

Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925.

Miles, Sherman, 1882-1966--Correspondence.

Miles, Yulee Noble, 1888-1953--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Sherman family--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937--Correspondence.

Organizations

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Company.

Subjects

Armed Forces--Officers--Correspondence.

Diplomats--Correspondence.

Diplomats--United States--Correspondence.

Indians of North America--Wars--West (U.S.)

Indians of North America.

Politicians--Correspondence.

Politicians--United States--Correspondence.

Spanish-American War, 1898.

Wild west shows--West (U.S.)

Places

United States--Armed Forces--Officers--Correspondence.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

West (U.S.)--History.

Occupations

Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The correspondence of the Miles-Cameron families was deposited in the Library of Congress by Nelson Miles in 1973.

Processing History

The collection was processed circa 1975, and the finding aid was revised in 2012.

Other Repositories

Additional correspondence addressed to Elizabeth Sherman Cameron and Nelson Appleton Miles by various artists is located at the library of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Miles-Cameron families correspondence is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U. S. C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Miles-Cameron families are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Elizabeth Cameron

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1857	Born, Cleveland, Ohio
1878	Married J. D. Cameron (died 1918)
1881	Began friendship with Henry Adams
1886	Daughter Martha Cameron born (died 1918)
1898	Began spending most of her time in Europe while estranged from husband
1909	Daughter Martha married British diplomat Ronald Lindsay; Elizabeth Cameron moved to Europe
1944, Aug. 17	Died in England

J. D. Cameron

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1833, May 14	Born, Middletown, Pa..
1852	Graduated, Princeton College (now Princeton University), Princeton, N.J.
1856	Married Mary McCormick
1863-1874	President, Northern Central Railway
1876-1877	Secretary of war
1877-1897	United States senator from Pennsylvania
1878	Married Elizabeth Sherman (died 1944)
1918, Aug. 30	Died, Lancaster County, Pa.

Nelson Appleton Miles

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1839, Aug. 8	Born, Westminster, Mass.
1861-1865	Served in Union Army during the Civil War; finished war as brigadier general of volunteers
1865-1866	Commander, Fortress Monroe during incarceration of former Confederate President Jefferson Davis
1866	Mustered out of volunteer army; commissioned a colonel in Regular Army
1867-1869	Assistant commissioner, North Carolina, for Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands ("Freedmen's Bureau")
1868	Married Mary Hoyt Sherman (died 1904)
1869	Daughter Cecilia born in Cleveland, Ohio
1874-1890	Participated in Indian Wars
1882	Son Sherman born in Washington, D.C.
1892	Awarded Medal of Honor for gallantry at Chancellorsville
1894	Commanded federal forces in Chicago, Ill. during Pullman Railway Strike
1895	Commanding general, United States Army
1896	Published <i>Personal Recollections of Observations of General Nelson A. Miles</i> . Chicago: Werner Co.
1903	Retired from army

1911	Published <i>Serving the Republic: Memoirs of the Civil and Military Life of Nelson A. Miles</i> . New York and London: Harper & Brothers.
1925, May 15	Died, Washington, D.C.
Sherman Miles	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1882, Dec. 5	Born, Washington, D.C.
1905	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1909	Married Yulee Noble (died 1953)
1914-1916	Military attaché to Russia
1938	Commanding officer, Fort Sill, Okla.
1939	Military attaché, London, England
1941	Chief, Military Intelligence Division
1942	Commander, First Service Command, Boston, Mass.
1945	Retired from army as major general
1947-1952	Served in Massachusetts House of Representatives
1954	Married Edith Lawrence Coolidge (died 1975)
1966, Oct. 7	Died, Beverly, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of the Miles-Cameron families spans the years 1661-1956, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period from 1862 to 1944. The collection consists of letters written primarily to Elizabeth Cameron, J. D. Cameron, Nelson Appleton Miles, and Sherman Miles. Other recipients include members of the extended Miles-Cameron family, such as Simon Cameron and Sherman Miles's wife Yulee. It is not clear if the correspondents in the earliest dated documents have any relationship to the Miles or Cameron families, or if the material was collected merely for historical interest. Some letters are written in either French or Spanish.

The Miles and Camerons were united by marriage, and members of the two families knew many prominent individuals in political, diplomatic and military circles during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nieces of General William T. Sherman and Ohio Senator John Sherman both married prominent men. In 1878 Elizabeth Sherman married Senator J. D. (James Donald) Cameron of Pennsylvania, son of Senator Simon Cameron. Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Cameron became a fixture in the social world of Gilded Age Washington, playing hostess to both American politicians and foreign diplomats. She was also an intimate friend of Secretary of State John Hay and particularly historian Henry Adams, her neighbors on Lafayette Square. Elizabeth Cameron's place on both the national and international stage is reflected in the variety of her correspondents and the foreign legations in which many of them served. Some Cameron family correspondence,

however, was received by Mrs. Cameron's husband, J. D. Cameron, and her father-in-law Simon Cameron.

In 1868 Mary Hoyt Sherman married General Nelson Appleton Miles, whose military career began during the Civil War, continued through the Indian Wars of the 1870s-1880s, and eventually led to his appointment as commanding general of the army in 1895. Due to Nelson Appleby Miles's key commands during the Indian Wars, the collection includes many letters that comment on conditions in the West and military campaigns waged by the military against Native American tribes. Researchers should pay special attention to documents written in the 1870s and 1880s. The content of General Miles's correspondence also reflects his desire for military promotions and his efforts to further his ambitions.

The most extensive correspondence within the Miles-Cameron papers belong to John Sherman and his brother William T. Sherman, both of whom wrote to their nieces and their respective husbands. Some of the correspondence includes family matters, but professional subjects also appear, especially in the correspondence from General Sherman to General Miles. J. D. Cameron and John Sherman served together in the United States Senate from 1877 to 1897, and William T. Sherman served as commanding general of the army (1869-1883) while Nelson A. Miles participated in the Indian Wars and advanced in his military career. The collection also offers a substantial number of letters written by author Edith Wharton.

Material written after 1925 is addressed primarily to General Sherman Miles, the son of Nelson and Mary Hoyt Miles, or to Sherman Miles's first wife Yulee. Sherman Miles followed his father into the army, and during his own career became acquainted with well-known military officers, such as Omar Nelson Bradley, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George S. Patton (1885-1945).

With the exception of correspondence from John Sherman, William T. Sherman, and Edith Wharton, most of the correspondents in the collection are represented by either a single letter or at most a handful of items. The content of these documents is often devoted to mundane topics, such as brief congratulatory letters for promotions received, or the correspondent's ability to attend a social function. In these cases, the historical value of the document is the significance of the sender rather than the intellectual content of the letter.

The collection is organized into two sets. Set I represents the more substantive correspondence of the two groups of documents. The Simon Cameron file in this set includes official documents relating to his appointment as the American minister to Russia in 1862, following his service as President Abraham Lincoln's first secretary of war. Buffalo Bill wrote on stationery from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Company, and commented on the Native Americans in his troupe. The John J. Crittenden file contains July 1861 resolutions written in Crittenden's own hand. A January 1865 invitation from John Hay inquired if Elizabeth Sherman would accompany Miss Harlan, Robert Todd Lincoln, and himself to the opera, and an 1887 letter from Hay to Nelson Miles requested a Civil War-era photograph, which now resides in the Hay album in the James Wadsworth Family Papers. Correspondence from Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) touches on the "embalmed beef" scandal during the Spanish-American War. This set also includes the letters written by John Sherman, William T. Sherman, and Edith Wharton.

Set II contains more documents devoted to everyday subjects of less historical interest, especially those briefly noting attendance at social functions.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized into two sets.

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BOX 1

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Alger, R. A., 1897
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Arthur, Chester Alan, 1884, undated
Asquith, Margot, undated
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1929
Barlow, Francis C., 1863-1895
Badeau, Adam, 1886
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1880
Benedict, E. C., 1895
Bigelow, Frederick, undated
Billings, Frederick, 1880
Bradley, Omar Nelson, 1942
Breckinridge, John C., 1887
Buffalo Bill, 1889-1898
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1880
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Caldwell, John C., 1863
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Cameron, J. D., 1880-1891
Cameron, Simon, 1862-1889
Cannon, Joseph Gurney, 1907
Carnegie, Andrew, 1883
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Chaffee, Andrew R., 1900
Chirol, Valentine, Sir, circa 1918
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	D'Aux, Duchesse, 1898
	Davis, Cushman Kellogg, 1898-1899
	Davis, Richard Harding, circa 1898
	Depew, Chauncey M., 1896
	Devens, Charles, 1877
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	Dorst, J. H., 1886
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	Drew, John, 1904, undated
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	Edison, Thomas A., 1882
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	Endicott, William Crowninshield (1826-1900), 1885, 1888
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	Field, Stephen J., 1889, 1896
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	Gardiner, Asa Bird, 1899
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	Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1881-1892
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	Keyes, Roger, 1934, undated
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BOX 8	Ladd, William Sargent, 1884
	Lamar, L. Q. C., 1879
	Lamington [Lord], undated
	Latrobe, Ferdinand Claiborne, 1898
	Laurie, Swinburn, 1897
	Lee, J. G. C., 1895
	Lefevre, A. A., 1889 (in French)
	Leishman, John M., undated
	Le Ghait, Alfred, undated (in French)
	Lester, James A., 1942, 1945
	Lewis, J. Hamilton, 1898
	Livermore, Thomas L., 1887, 1895
	Logan, John A., Mrs., 1898, 1920
	Long, Oscar Fitzalan, 1888
	Loring, George B., 1884
	Lowe, Frank, 1946
	Lowell, Percival, undated
	Ludington, Marshall Independence, 1886
	Lyman, Theodore (1833-1897), 1878
	Lyons, Richard Bickerton Pernell Lyons, Earl, 1862
	McBride, Horace L., 1942

MacMurray, John Van Antwerp, 1933
 McNair, Lesley James, 1939
 McNarney, Joseph Taggart, 1942
 Magruder, Bruce, undated
 Malden, C. C., 1940
 Marconi, Guglielmo, undated
 Marshall-Cornwall, James Handyside, Sir, 1939
 Maus, Marion P., 1895
 Mavrogenies [Bey], circa 1895
 Maxim, Sarah, 1906
 Maxwell, Russell L., 1942
 Meigs, Montgomery C., 1880
 Merriam, Henry C., 1891, 1895
 Merrill, Aaron Stanton, undated
 Merrill, Thomas E., 1939
 Metcalf, Lorettus Sutton, undated
 Middleton, Troy H., 1945
 Mills, Anson, 1888, 1890
 Milner, Alfred Milner, Viscount, 1921
 Mindil, George Washington, 1875
 Moffat, Jay Pierrepont, 1943
 Monroe, Robert, 1940
 Moody, Z. F., 1886
 Moore, John, 1887
 Morgan, Edwin D. (1811-1883), undated
 Morgan, Edwin, undated
 Morgan, Michael Ryan, 1889
 Moses, Andrew, 1939
 Murray, Maxwell, undated
 Nabuco, Joaquim, 1907
 Nelson, H. L., 1895
 Noel-Buxton, Noel Noel-Buxton, Baron, undated
 Novar, Ronald [Lord], 1915, 1918
 Odell, John J. P., 1891
 Paget, Alfred Henry, 1898
 Palmer, Frederick, 1943
 Palmer, John McAuley, 1939, 1943
 Parker, Edwin P. (1891-1893), 1942
 Patch, Alexander McCarrell, 1941, 1944
 Pennypacker, Galusha, 1890-1891
 Penrose, Boies (1860-1921), 1897
 Pile, Frederick Alfred, 1940, undated
 Plumley, Charles Albert, 1944
 Poe, O. M., 1886
 Pott, Herbert, undated
 Prentiss, Augustine, 1939

	Prichard, 1942
	Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1888
	Radeff, Simeon, 1928 (in French)
	Radstock [Lord], undated
	Ralston, James, 1944
	Randol, Marshall Guion, 1939
	Ransom, Matt W., 1896
	Ravensdale, Irene Curzon, Baroness, undated
	Reed, Thomas B., 1892, undated
	Reinach, Joseph, undated (in French)
	Reszke, Jean de, 1905
	Rice, Allen Thorndike, 1888
	Rice [Edmund?], 1895
	Rideing, William H., 1889, 1895
	Ridge, Matthew B., 1945
	Roberts, Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Earl, 1901, 1903
	Robinson, Fred N., 1946
	Rockhill, William Woodville, 1896, 1898, undated
	Rodgers, C. R. P., undated
	Rodgers, John I., 1894
	Romero, Matias, 1885-1896
	Romero Rubio de Díaz, Carmen, 1896 (in Spanish)
	Ronaldson, James, 1829
	Ropes, John Codman, 1883-1895
	Rosen, Roman Romanovich, Baron, 1908
	Roustan, Charles, undated
	Ruger, Thomas Howard, 1894, 1895
	Salisbury, [James Edward Hubert Gascoyne-Cecil, Marquess of?], 1919
	Samuel, Marcus, 1903
	Sapieha, John [Prince], 1940
	Sartoris, Ellen ("Nellie") Grant, 1898
	Sands, James H., 1898
	Satterlee, Henry Yates, 1900
	Satterlee, Jane Lawrence, 1900, undated
BOX 9	Schaeffer, Ignaz von, Baron, 1883-1887
	Schlözer, Kurd von, 1884
	Schlumberger, Gustave Léon, undated
	Schwan, Theodore, 1921
	Scott, Hugh Lenox, 1895
	Scott, Robert K., 1869
	Semple, Letitia T., 1899, 1900, undated
	Shea, George, 1942
	Shea, John, undated
	Shedd, William Edgar, 1939
	Sheridan, Irene, 1890
	Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1866-1869, undated

Smalley, George W., 1891, 1895, undated
 Smith, Walter Bedell, 1944
 Smith, Ralph Corbett, 1945
 Smith, William, 1890, 1892
 Somervell, Brehon Burke, undated
 Squires, Herbert G., 1898
 Stanford, Jane L., 1890
 Storer, Bellamy (1847-1922), 1899, undated
 Stratemeyer, George E., 1941, 1945
 Story, Emma Eames, 1905, undated
 Strathmore, [Lady] [Frances Dora?], 1899
 Streuve, de Marie, undated
 Studebaker, Peter E., 1892
 Sullivan, T. R. (1849-1916), 1892
 Sumner, Edwin V., 1886, 1896
 Sumner, Samuel S., 1895-1900
 Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1928
 Sutherland, Millicent, Dutchess of, 1896, undated
 Swaim, David Gaskill, 1892
 Terry, Thomas Alexander, 1946, undated
 Tower, Charlemagne (1848-1923), 1897, 1902
 Townsend, E. D., 1865
 Tuck, Julia, 1931
 Vallombrosa [Duchess], 1884, undated (in French)
 Van Deman, Ralph H., 1929
 Van Rensselaer, Schuyler, Mrs., undated
 Van Swinderen, Elizabeth, undated
 Van Vliet, Stewart, 1895
 Veragua, Cristóbal Colón de la Cerda, duque de, circa 1890s
 Vest, George Graham, 1882
 Villalón, José R., 1899
 Vincent, Edgar, 1896-1899, undated
 Wade, James Franklin, 1890-1898
 Wagner, Arthur L., 1900
 Walker, Francis Amasa, 1880-1886
 Walker, Walton Harris, 1945
 Warburton, Barclay H., 1903
 Wardman, George, 1895
 Warner, Langdon, 1942
 Warren, Emily F., 1890
 Washburn, Hempstead, 1892
 Webb, William Seward, 1897, undated
 Welsh, John, 1882
 Werts, George T., 1895
 Weston, John F., 1891, 1895
 Wheatley, L. L., 1939

Container List

Container Contents

Wheaton, Frank, 1890
Wheeler, Raymond Albert, undated
Whipple, Henry Benjamin, 1897
Wiasemsky, Dorothea Rosalie [Princess], 1940
Whitney, William C., 1887-1892, undated
Wickersham, Cornelius W., 1941
Wilder, Wilber Elliott, 1887, 1890
Wilkins, Raymond S., 1956
Wilkinson, Theodore Stark (1888-1946), 1942, 1943, undated
Willamor, Gregorie, undated
Williams, C. C., 1943
Williams, Norman, 1890
Williams, Robert, 1891
Wilson, George G., 1895
Wilson, Hugh Robert, circa 1941-1945
Wilson, James H., 1903
Wilson, John M., 1897
Wilson, Walter K., 1939
Winan, Edwin Baruch, 1930
Wint, Theodore Jonathan, 1887
Wogan, John B., undated
Wolfley, Lewis, 1889
Wolseley, Garnet Wolseley, Viscount, 1897-1900
Wright, Wallace, 1939
Zalinski, Edmund Louis Gray, 1889
Zulick, C. Meyer, 1887
Autographs on menu card from *Victoria and Albert* (yacht), 1906
Unidentified