

**Myrtilla Miner Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2010**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78033027>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010088>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010  
Revised 2024 March

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Myrtilla Miner Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1825-1960

**Bulk Dates:** 1851-1861

**ID No.:** MSS33027

**Creator:** Miner, Myrtilla, 1815-1864

**Extent:** 600 items

**Extent:** 4 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 1.2 linear feet

**Extent:** 4 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78033027>

**Summary:** Educator. Correspondence, school essays, notes, clippings, printed matter, an unfinished biography of Miner by Lester Grosvenor Wells, and other papers relating to the Normal School for Colored Girls in Washington, D.C., slavery, the Civil War, feminism, and spiritualism.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Beecher, William H. (William Henry), 1802-1889--Correspondence.

Cecil, Walpole, approximately 1836- --Correspondence.

Miner family--Correspondence.

Miner, Achsa--Correspondence.

Miner, Myrtilla, 1815-1864.

Rhoads, Samuel, 1806-1868--Correspondence.

Southworth, Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte, 1819-1899--Correspondence.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896--Correspondence.

Tatham, Benjamin--Correspondence.

Wells, Lester Grosvenor.

### Organizations

Normal School for Colored Girls (Washington, D.C.)

### Subjects

African Americans--Washington (D.C.)

Education--Washington (D.C.)

Feminism.

Slavery--United States.

Spiritualism.

### Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

### Occupations

Educators.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Myrtilla Miner, educator, were given to the Library of Congress by Sophia M. Albe and Lester Grosvenor Wells in 1952.

## Processing History

The papers of Myrtilla Miner were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1982 by Paul Colton. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Myrtilla Miner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Myrtilla Miner 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.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Myrtilla Miner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1815, Mar, 4	Born near Brookfield, New York
1840-1844	Educated at Clover Street Seminary, Rochester, N.Y.
1846-1847	Taught at Newton Female Institute, Whitesville, Miss., but denied permission to conduct classes for African-American girls
1851	Opened Normal School for Colored Girls, Washington, D.C.
1861	Moved to California to improve health
1864, Dec. 17	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Myrtilla Miner (1815-1864) span the years 1825-1960, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1850-1861. The collection includes correspondence, school essays, notes, clippings, printed matter, an unfinished biography by Lester Grosvenor Wells, and other papers relating to the Normal School for Colored Girls in Washington, D.C., slavery, the Civil War, feminism, and spiritualism. Correspondents include William Beecher, Walpole Cecil, Achsa Miner, Samuel Rhoads, Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Benjamin Tatham, and members of the Miner family.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein alphabetically.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,727

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	Atwaters, Mary, Stephen, and Charles, 1844-1852
BOX 1 REEL 1	Boon, H. T., 1861
BOX 1 REEL 1	Church, Ruth, 1847-1855
BOX 1 REEL 1	Clark, Urania, 1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	Jones, Harriet, 1852
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, A. E. Gale, 1857, 1858
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, A. I., 1848
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Achsa, 1844-1850
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Amanda, 1849-1850
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Celia, 1858
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Charles, 1859
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, E. G., 1843-1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Isaac Newton and Sophia, 1847-1862
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, L., 1857
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Lydia, 1861
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, S. G., 1850
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miner, Seth, 1839-1857
BOX 1 REEL 1	O'Conner, Nelly, 1859-1861
BOX 1 REEL 1	Wilson, Mary, 1864
BOX 1 REEL 1	General correspondence, A-Z, 1844-1886, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Subject file
BOX 1 REEL 1	Cecil, Walpole
BOX 1 REEL 1	Background information, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1852-1853, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Writing by Miner concerning Cecil, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Education/school
BOX 1 REEL 1	Building plans, 1857 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	"A-Z" miscellaneous
BOX 1 REEL 1	1851
BOX 1 REEL 1	1852
BOX 1 REEL 1	1853
BOX 1 REEL 1	1854
BOX 1 REEL 1	1855
BOX 1 REEL 1	1856
BOX 1 REEL 1	1857
BOX 1 REEL 1	1858
BOX 1 REEL 1	1859-1861
BOX 1 REEL 1	Undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Gale, A. E., 1856-1861, undated

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2 REEL 1	Gale, Elisa G., 1855-1856
BOX 2 REEL 1	Gale, L. D., 1857
BOX 2 REEL 2	Rhoads, Samuel
BOX 2 REEL 2	1851-1853
BOX 2 REEL 2	1854-1860
BOX 2 REEL 2	Smith, Gerrit, 1850
BOX 2 REEL 2	Tatham, Benjamin, 1859-1861
BOX 2 REEL 2	Williamson, Thomas, 1852-1854
BOX 2 REEL 2	Essays and drawings by students, 1852-1854
BOX 2 REEL 2	Essays or letters by Miner regarding her school, 1852-1860
BOX 2 REEL 2	Friendship Academy, 1846-1851
BOX 2 REEL 2	List of donors and receipts, 1853-1859, undated
BOX 2 REEL 2	Printed matter, 1851-1876
BOX 2 REEL 2	Washington Association for the Education of Colored Youth, 1856, May 23
BOX 2 REEL 2	Essays and notes by Miner, 1825-1861
BOX 2 REEL 2	Magnetism, phrenology, and spiritualism, 1860-1940
BOX 2 REEL 2	Slavery, 1850-1860
BOX 2 REEL 2	Wells, Lester Grosvenor, biographical files concerning Miner
BOX 2 REEL 2	Clippings and articles, 1837-1943
BOX 2 REEL 2	Correspondence
BOX 2 REEL 2	1940-1941
BOX 3 REEL 3	1942
BOX 3 REEL 3	1943-1947
BOX 3 REEL 3	"Myrtilla Miner," paper read by Wells, 1941, Sept. 12
BOX 3 REEL 3	Notes, circa 1940-circa 1960
	1 of 3
	2 of 3
	3 of 3
BOX 4 REEL 3	Photocopies, 1852-1943
BOX 4 REEL 3	Typed notes, undated
BOX 4 REEL 3	Unfinished manuscripts, undated
BOX 4 REEL 3	p. 1-62
BOX 4 REEL 4	p. 63-128
BOX 4 REEL 4	Miscellany
BOX 4 REEL 4	Business cards, undated
BOX 4 REEL 4	Newspaper clippings, circa 1847-1942
BOX 4 REEL 4	Printed matter and envelopes, circa 1860-1950
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Oversize, 1857
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Education/school
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Building plans, 1857 (Container 1, Reel 1)