

Lucille S. and Manuel Miller
Collection, 1953-1989 (Bulk date: 1955-1956)
MSA 909

Introduction

A small collection of material relating to Lucille S. and Manuel Miller of Bethel, Vermont, publishers of the anti-communist newsletter, The Green Mountain Rifleman. Part of the collection was donated by the Vermont Department of Libraries. The rest may have come from Harold G. Rugg. The collection is comprised of five folders and housed in one archival flip-top box (.25 linear ft.).

Biographical Note

Lucille Hodges Shurtleff was born on 13 June 1910 in Randolph, Vermont, the daughter of Walter Henry and Josephine (Hodges) Shurtleff. She was raised in South Dakota and Chicago, Illinois, where she studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. After her studies, she made a living selling animal scenes painted on birch bark, calling them "Wildlife of Birthland." In 1940, Lucille moved to Vermont, locating in her family's summer cottage in Randolph. Manuel Southworth Miller was born on 28 August 1908, in Bethel, Vermont, the son of Reverend John Wesley and Helen (Southworth) Miller. In 1925 Manuel entered a three year course in Electrical Testing at the General Electric Engineering School in Lynn, Massachusetts, and then spent a year in General Electric Fabricating Department. He then returned to Vermont to set up a machine shop in Middlesex, Vermont, moving the shop to Bethel, Vermont in 1932, where he established Miller Machine Co. Lucille and Manuel met in July 1940 when Lucille brought in a car to be repaired, and were married on 30 October 1940 in Randolph, Vermont. They had four children: two sons, Manuel S. Jr. and David E., and two twin daughters, Helen M. and Josephine A. Lucille S. Miller died on 2 February 1977 in Randolph, Vermont. Manuel S. Miller died on 17 February 1993 also in Randolph, Vermont.

Lucille S. and Manuel Miller began the Green Mountain Rifleman newsletter in the spring of 1953. The newsletter was an outgrowth of Lucille's letter writing campaign against perceived communists living in Bethel and Randolph, Vermont, in particular Far East expert Owen Lattimore and arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Over time it expanded to include the supposed infiltration of the U.S. government by a Jewish communist cabal, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the use of fluoride in public drinking water. In February 1955, Lucille was arrested for counseling young men to evade the draft on the grounds that conscription was unconstitutional. Federal Judge Ernest Gibson ruled that she should be held for psychiatric evaluation. This led to an armed confrontation between the Millers and law-enforcement officers. After its resolution, Lucille was summarily committed to St. Elizabeth's Asylum in Washington, D.C. In August 1955, Lucille was sentenced to 2 years suspended sentence with 10 years probation, while Manuel was sentenced to 1 year and a day in prison. A heated public controversy arose regarding the due process aspects of the Millers' case. The Millers continued publishing the Green Mountain Rifleman until 1969.

Scope and Content

A collection of printed items written by or relating to Lucille S. and Manuel Miller. The first folder contains "Introductory material to The Green Mountain Rifleman," written by Lucille and Manuel Miller, as well as two non-political writings, and a bulletin for the 1989 service of dedication of the Miller steps at the Miller Memorial United Methodist Church. The "introductory material" contains a great deal of biographical information about the Millers.

The second folder also contains writings by Lucille and Manuel, dating between 1955 and 1956, most of which are focused on the trial and imprisonment of Lucille and Manuel. Several are issues of their newsletter, The Green Mountain Rifleman. The final three folders contain news articles written about the Millers, again focusing on their legal struggles.

Related Collections

- *Folio 343.012 M615, The Green Mountain Rifleman newsletter.
- MS 343.012 M615c, Lucille Shurtleff Miller correspondence, 1953-1956.
- *343.012 M615d, Deviationists to the mad house.
- *343.012 M615u. The United States vs. Lucille S. Miller.

Inventory

MSA 909:1	Introductory material
:2	Lucille S. and Manuel Miller writings, 1955-1956
:3	Typescripts of news articles, 1955-1956
:4	Printed articles, 1955-1956
:5	Newsletters and newsclippings, 1953-1956.

Marjorie Strong
August 2020
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