

Milner/Ravens Family Papers 1854 – 1871

5 folders; photocopied material.

Donor: Unknown

These papers were collected by the family of Richard Willis Milner (Dick) and Sarah E. Ravens (Sallie) who were married in 1855, and lived in Zebulon, Pike County, Georgia. There were four children from this marriage. After the death of Mr. Milner, his wife later married Mr. J.H. Speer.

Sallie Ravens was the daughter of D.B. and M.E. Ravens, possibly from Americus, Georgia. Dick Milner was the son of John Holmes Milner (1792 - 1857) and Elizabeth Dabney Willis. The family moved to Jones County in 1816, and in 1836 to Pike County from Monroe County. John Holmes Milner was a Baptist preacher at Zebulon Baptist Church in Pike County, at Hebron Baptist Church in Concord, Georgia, and at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Meriwether County. Many of the letters in the collection reflect a concern for upright Christian behavior and the growth of the Baptist denomination.

Following is a listing of John and Elizabeth Milner's children and their spouses. Those with an asterisk (*) are mentioned in these papers.

Susan W. Milner	James Putnam
George Willis Milner	Mary Boland
Pitt Milner	Sophia Wright
Apsylla Ann Milner	Solomon Beckham
Elizabeth Milner	John Eppinger
Eliza Penelope Milner (Lizzie)*	Rev. Jesse Wood* (?)
Martha Rowens Milner (Row)*	Richard Ravens*
Jonathan James Milner	Nancy Caroline Boland
Richard Willis Milner (Dick)*	Sarah E. Ravens*
Mary Jane Milner (Mollie)*	Berrien Reid
Rebecca Amorretta Milner (Rettie)*	Austin Harris*

FOLDER DESCRIPTION

- 1 Genealogical Material - Contains compiled genealogical information on the Milner Family; obituaries of Sallie E. Ravens Milner Speer who died at Concord, Georgia, in 1907; and the will of David B. Ravens, probated in 1866. Includes also information on the in-laws of Mrs. Speer's daughters: biographical sketch of J.J. Lee, 1827-1880; obituary of J.W. Strickland.
- 2 Richard W. Milner Correspondence, 1855 - 1861 and undated. Includes an 1855 letter to Mr. and Mrs. Ravens concerning Dick's proposal of marriage to their daughter, Sallie; and incoming letters primarily from members of his family. One letter from Austin Harris (husband of his sister Rettie) describes his trip from Griffin to Mobile, Alabama, which is written on board the St. Charles en route from Montgomery to Mobile. The other letters are written during the Civil War (though two are undated), and contain references to Milner's serving in Virginia

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2	during part of the war. Part of an 1861 letter from a friend in the Banner & Baptist office concerns the early days of the Confederacy. Also included are undated Civil War period letters from his mother, E.D. Milner, and his sister Mollie with news of family.
3	Incoming letters to Sallie E. Ravens Milner, 1854 - 1871 and undated. Includes 1854 - 1855 letters from Dick Milner, prior to his marriage to Sallie Ravens, and an 1859 letter from Milner who writes from Arkansas of the large number of Georgians and Baptists in Arkansas. Most of the undated letters appear to be written during the Civil War, as they contain some news of Dick and his company. These Civil War correspondents include E.P. Wood (Eliza Penelope or Lizzie, Dick's sister), a cousin Maggie, and Sallie's parents who write from Americus of lonely and difficult times. Another undated letter is from her niece (Florena?) who writes concerning the purchase of sewing notions. An 1871 letter from Cousin Harris, is possibly her brother-in-law, Austin Harris. An 1859 letter from Sallie's sister Mary A. Ravens in Sumter County contains an account of their mother's death and a reference to the children and children-in-law: Brother Richard and Sister Row, Brother Mark and Sister Mat.
4	Incoming letters to Dick and Sallie Milner, 1860. Letters addressed to Brother and Sister, from members of the Ravens and Milner Families, concerning primarily family news. Correspondents include Mat (or M.J. Fr) and her niece Mittie. Mat, possibly Sallie's sister or sister-in-law, writes of the organization of a Sunday School in Potchford, where she is one of the teachers. Other correspondents are Dick's sister Mollie, and Sallie's brother R.S. Ravens, who is married to Dick's sister Row. Ravens writes from Claiborn Parish, LA and describes the clearing and fencing of his land and of his regret in moving to Louisiana where living expenses are greater than in Georgia. His letters, like most of the family letters, mention the increasing number of Baptists in the area. Ravens also shares some pre-war sentiment with his family concerning his distrust of the Republicans; that they say that "Lincoln will not coerce the South nor make attempts" but that this is just a ploy to keep the South from getting prepared for war.
5	Miscellaneous letters, 1861 and undated. Letters of unidentified family members: Mollie E. Jordan of Benwick, Lee County, Georgia; Mrs. S.E. McDowell; Cousin Fannie; and S.M.