

**AYERS, ALEXANDER MILLER, 1827-1902.**  
**Alexander Miller Ayers papers, 1851-1921**

Emory University  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Ayers, Alexander Miller, 1827-1902.  
**Title:** Alexander Miller Ayers papers, 1851-1921  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 276  
**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel (MF)  
**Abstract:** Microfilm copy of the papers of Alexander Miller Ayers of Ohio mainly relating to his Civil War service in the 125th Illinois Infantry Regiment.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Source**

Loaned for microfilming by Dr. W. D. Overdyke, 1956.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Alexander Miller Ayers papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Acquired as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Southern history.

**Processing**

Processed by MRD.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Alexander Miller Ayers (1827-1902) was born September 28, 1827, probably in Ohio; attended school in Vermillion and Bucyrus, Ohio; completed two years of college and then taught school, about 1857-1855, at Mansfield, Ohio. He apparently studied law on the side and was admitted to the bar at Mansfield, Ohio, May 27, 1854. He married Mary Jane Glenn at Mansfield, November 22, 1855. In the latter part of that year the couple moved to Urbana, Illinois where Ayers established a law practice. On August 29, 1862 he was mustered in as Quartermaster, apparently in the grade of Captain, of the 125th Illinois Infantry Regiment. His first service was with Buell in Kentucky. After Perryville the Regiment did garrison duty at Nashville. His Regiment was in the Murfreesboro fight, but Ayers was in Nashville when the fight took place. The 125th was also in the Chickamauga fight and the Chattanooga campaign as part of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 14th Corps. Ayers from time to time acted as brigade quartermaster and for a period probably acted as division quartermaster. He was in the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta - his regiment was in the thick of the Kennesaw Mountain fight and lost heavily there - and after the fall of Atlanta moved north to chase Hood. Ayers returned to Atlanta in time to go on the march to the sea and thence through the Carolinas (he was in the fight at Bentonville) and on to Washington for the Victory parade. He returned to Illinois in June 1865, became county judge of Champaign County and for a few years was postmaster at Urbana. He died November 10, 1902, in the Soldier's Home at Kansas City, Missouri. He had six children.

### Scope and Content Note

The papers consist of a microfilm copy of 160 letters written while Alexander Miller Ayers was in the Union Army; three small diaries, one for 1855 when Ayers was teaching school and practicing law in Mansfield, Ohio, one for 1864 and another for 1865 while he was serving in the army. Twenty-one miscellaneous items include an undated photograph of Ayers. The majority of the letters are from Ayers to his wife but some are addressed to his children. They are concerned chiefly with the scenery and the people he meets, the hardships of army life, his feelings about the war, particularly about his enemies, and his longing to be at home with his family.

