Preface

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum, located on the Minnesota Air National Guard 133rd Airlift Wing adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, is a private, philanthropic organization chartered as a nonprofit corporation under the statutes of the State of Minnesota, funded by the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation.

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum (hereafter “MNANG Museum”) is home to historically significant aircraft and ancillary artifacts, historical documents, photographs, manuscripts, and books. Its cornerstone collection is the Brigadier General Ray S. Miller and Eva Hope Miller Collection.

Introduction and Administrative History

While most of the records of the B.G. Ray S. Miller and Eva Hope Miller Collection originated with General Miller, acquisition and accession records are missing and/or incomplete. At least one artifact, General Miller’s Minnesota Aeronautics Commission notebook may be irrevocably lost, though digital photographs and a control black-and-white photocopy exist.

Transfer of custody to the MNANG Museum has been reconstructed where possible, and establishing provenance is an ongoing task, as there may exist other items that have become separated from the collection. Donors other than the Miller family or estate also contributed to the collection. There are also three significant accretions: two (2) microfilm rolls, one of the 64-panel exhibit, and one of all six (6) oversized scrapbooks; a scrapbook about General Miller’s plane, the Curtiss Oriole, compiled by George Thomas (“Doc”) Wier; and reproductions of photographs from the MNANG Museum’s restoration of the Seversky P-35 aircraft.

Biographical History

A key figure in the development of Minnesota aviation, Ray Miller was born in Van Wert, Ohio on August 14, 1891. He trained at the Curtiss School in Newport News as a pilot, and served in World War I in the Aviation Section, Signal Corps, U.S. Army. He worked for the Curtiss-Northwest Airplane Company in St. Paul and was also a flight instructor. In 1920 he and his partners, Brigadier General W.F. Rhinow and Lieutenant Colonel William Garis, made the week-long flight from St. Paul to Washington, D.C. in a Curtiss Oriole bi-plane, to lobby for their idea of an Air National Guard. The Minnesota 109th Aero Squadron (later the 109th Observation Squadron) received federal recognition in January 1921 and became the first federally recognized Air National Guard unit in the United States. Miller was the unit’s first commander, and as Major, inaugurated the Air Guard’s search and rescue and disaster relief missions until World War II, when he was called to active duty.

In the 1930s, Miller also headed the Minnesota Aeronautic Commission, licensing aircraft and pilots. He served at Wright Field during World War II, and later in Korea. Miller resumed active military service on February 10, 1941 and relinquished his command in favor of other assignments due to the rapid expansion of the Air Forces. At the age of 52, he married Eva Hope, a businesswoman, civic leader, and philanthropist, born on July 29, 1896. Eva Miller
subsequently made it her life’s work to support the work of the Air National Guard. Miller was promoted to Brigadier General on March 31, 1950. He retired in 1951, and died in 1961. Eva Hope Miller continued to support the Air National Guard, hosting receptions and barbeques, purchasing baseball tickets for Guard members and their families, establishing the NCO club, and providing financial support until her death in 1994. She and her estate donated most of the collection.

**Scope and Content Note**
Documents and photographs related to Ray S. Miller’s military career and Eva Hope Miller’s social life and support of the Air National Guard after her husband’s death; mementos and certificates of service; drawings and scrapbooks; artifacts.

Item of note include a 64-panel exhibit displayed in the Miller home; full color reproductions of Ray S. Miller’s pilot air service books, pilot certifications, and pilot licenses; log of flying time report; retirement and benefits papers; and the original propeller from the Curtiss Oriole. Also significant are the photographs of Eva Miller with Seversky (see related material), and correspondence and a Departer’s paper related to the Angel Flight awards.

**Subject Headings**

Aeronautics, Military—Bibliography.

**Conditions of Use**
In order to retain the value of the work that has been done in organizing and inventorying the Miller Collection, and to ensure the safety and security of the collection, the following practices should govern access to and use of the collection. These are best practices common to the management of archival collections.

- Designate a specific place within the Museum storage area for the Miller Collection, and keep the collection all together in that place.

- Permit access to the collection only with permission to Museum staff, or designee approved by the Board.

- Use the collection only on the Museum premises, with a Museum staff member or designee present.

- Use only one box at a time; one folder out of the box at a time.

- Leave materials in order within each folder, and folders in their original order within the box.
No collection materials should be removed from the Museum without written permission from Museum staff.

If items are removed from the collection for display or other purposes, leave a removal memo in its place in the collection, with a copy in a separate staff file.

Adhere to the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Core Value Statement and the Code of Ethics (both attached).

Series:
Separate and overlapping activities of Ray and Eva Miller are indicated, and constitute ten series:

- Documents
- Scrapbooks
- Negatives and Photographs
- Mementos
- Certificates
- Drawings/Artwork
- Subject Files
- Realia
- Photograph Albums
- Artifacts

Related Material:
MNANG Museum, Library, Scrapbook, Seversky P-35 Restoration, 1974-75

Related Material in Other Repositories:
Minnesota Historical Society, Aeronautics Department Subject Files, Minnesota National Guard, 34th Division Aviation, [Ray S. Miller’s correspondence], 1938-1940, Box 8 (1 folder)
Minnesota Historical Society, Aeronautics Department Subject Files, Minnesota National Guard, 34th Division Aviation, [Ray S. Miller’s correspondence], 1938-1940, Box 9 (2 folders)

Box Lists

Box 1

Ray Simeon Miller, Document, biography by Mayme Miller Shoemaker, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Document/Realia reproductions, 1920-1948
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, flying time report, 1922-1955
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, correspondence, 1940-1955
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, 109th Squadron, Camp Beauregard, LA, 1941
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, Germany service records, 1945
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, retirement and benefits, 1945-1953
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, service and medals, 1945-1961
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Holman Report, 1949
Ray Simeon Miller, Certificate, Brigadier General, 1950 (on exhibit)
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, death announcement, 1961
Ray Simeon Miller, Certificate, Brevet Major General, 1988 (on exhibit) See also Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Document, Brevet Major General, 1988

Box 2

Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, Doc Weir’s Vast and Expansive Storage Vault of Knowledge on the Curtiss Oriole, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Hope Furs Insurance Binder, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, clippings, 1929-1980
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Submarine Boat Corporation, 1930
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, miscellaneous, 194?-1967
Ray Simeon Miller, Documents, Carl J. Wanka documents, 1942-1944
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Document, marriage register, 1943
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Document, U.S. flag honor/presentation, 1977
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Document, Brevet Major General, 1988 (on exhibit) See also Ray Simeon Miller, Certificate, Brevet Major General, 1988
Ray Simeon Miller, Mementos, Season’s Greetings, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Memento, bumper sticker, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Mementos, United Kingdom, n.d. (1940s)
Ray Simeon Miller, Mementos, programs, 1950-1957
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Scrapbook, Air Guard and Millers’ Early Days, 1931-1961
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Memento, birthday card, 1946
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Memento, Ray Simeon Miller funeral guest book, 1961

Box 3

Ray Simeon Miller, Negatives, various, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Photographs, 1918 - n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Photograph, Curtiss Field, 1920
Ray Simeon Miller, Photographs, Formal Portrait, 1942
Ray Simeon Miller, Photograph, Burtonwood Depot Signal Corps Drawing, 1944
Ray Simeon Miller, Photographs, funeral, 1961
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Fletcher Hill NCO Dedication, 1976(?)
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Tri-Service Review, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, miscellaneous, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, presenting Miller Award, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Angel Flight Awards, 1966-1968
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, receptions, 1968-1972 (including “Honorary Angel,” 1968)
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Air Force ROTC Award, 1970
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, MNANG 50th Anniversary Book, 1971
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, ball and formal portrait, 1972
Eva Hope Miller, Photograph, Business and Industry Day, 1976
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Minnesota Room Dedication, 1981
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, MNANG 70th Anniversary, 1991  See also Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (metal), MNANG 70th anniversary, 1991
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Lockheed SR-71 “Blackbird,” 1992

Box 4

Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, receptions, n.d. (folder 1)
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, receptions, n.d. (folder 2)
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, miscellaneous, n.d.

Box 5

Eva Hope Miller, Document, notes, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Document, correspondence, 1961-1986
Eva Hope Miller, Document, correspondence, 90th birthday, 1986  See also Eva Hope Miller, Mementos, 90th birthday, 1986
Eva Hope Miller, Document, correspondence/Air Force Association, 1989-90 (includes issues (3) of Air Force Association Flight Log)
Eva Hope Miller, Document, death announcement, 1994
Eva Hope Miller, Documents, clippings, 1970-n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Arnold Air Society and Angel Flight, 1968-1982
Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Angel Flight, Departer’s Paper, 1970
Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Angel Flight, correspondence, 1968-69
Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Seversky P-35 restoration, 1974-75
Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Miller Oil Portrait, 1994
Eva Hope Miller, Mementos, birthday, 1976-1981
Eva Hope Miller, Mementos, miscellaneous, 1979-
Eva Hope Miller, Mementos, 90th birthday, 1986  See also Eva Hope Miller, Document, correspondence, 90th birthday
Eva Hope Miller, Certificates, n.d. – 1992
Eva Hope Miller, Certificate, NCO Academy Graduate Association, 1973
Eva Hope Miller, Certificate, NCO Academy Graduate Association, 1974

Box 6

Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album, (small blue), n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (tall gray), n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (white, album 1), 80th birthday, 1976
Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (white, album 2), 80th birthday, 1976
Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (small red), 95th birthday, 1991

Box 7

Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (green with initials), miscellaneous receptions, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Photo Album (metal), MNANG 70th anniversary, 1991 See also Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, MNANG 70th Anniversary, 1991

Oversize Box 1

Ray Simeon Miller, Photograph (Wright Studio), n.d.  
Ray Simeon Miller, Photographs, n.d.  
Eva Hope Miller, Photographs, Spaghetti dinner and miscellaneous, n.d.  
Eva Hope Miller, Certificates, 1971-1976  
Ray Simeon Miller, Drawings, n.d. ("N.W.A.")  
Eva Hope Miller, Drawing, n.d.

Oversize Box 2

Eva Hope Miller, Photograph, “Mother of Air Guard,” 1994 See also Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Subject File, Miller Oil Portrait, 1994, Box 5  
Eva Hope Miller, Certificate, Governor Proclamation, Eva Miller Day, 1994  
Ray Simeon Miller, Drawing, 1931 ("Jude")  
Eva Hope Miller, Document, 95th birthday entrance sign, 1992

Oversize Box 3

Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, 1917-1928  
Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, 1928-1938  
Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, 1938-1944

Oversize Box 4

Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, 1945-1961  
Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, 1961-1971  
Ray Simeon Miller, Scrapbook, Aerial Photographs – General

Artifacts, Realia, and Original Documents Box

CONTENTS RESTRICTED – NOT FOR PUBLIC HANDLING OR REFERENCE

Please refer visitors and researchers to the folder “Ray Simeon Miller Document/Realia Reproductions, 1921-1948.”

Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Embossed Pilot’s License Case, n.d. (2)  
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Aero Club of America Certificate, 1917  
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Pilot’s Book, 1918-19__  
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Curtiss Oriole Flight and Fire, 1920-1921  
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Federal Recognition of Officer, 1921  
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Rank Appointment (Major), 1921-1929  
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Realia, Rating Certificate, 1922
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Pilot’s Book Air Service I, 1922-1931
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Pilot’s License, 1929
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Itinerary, 1930
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Transport Pilot’s Rating, 1930
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Transport Pilot’s License, 1930
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Pilot’s Book Air Service II, 1931-1932
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Pilot Certificate of Registration, 1935
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Identification Card, 1938
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Hard-Backed Identity Card, 1939
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Commercial Pilot License, 1940
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Airman Rating Record, 1941
Ray Simeon Miller, Realia, Laminated Identity Card, 1944
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Instrument Flying Test, 1944
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Commercial Certificate, 1948
Ray Simeon Miller, Document, Promotion to Colonel, 1948

Artifacts, Box 1

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifact, Holmen Field license plate, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifact, lapel pins, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifact, American Airlines protractor, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Artifact, Minnesota Twins garter belt, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Artifact, Angel Flight National Honorary Member Plaque, 1973-74

Artifacts, Box 2

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifact, leather snap case, embossed, n.d.

Artifacts, Box 3

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, collar insignia, 1914-18 (2)
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, collar insignia, 193_ (2)

Artifacts, Box 4

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, name tag, n.d.

Artifacts, Box 5

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Minnesota Distinguished Services Medal, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, unlabeled medal, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, unlabeled chains, n.d.

Artifacts, Box 6
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, dog tags, n.d. (4)

**Artifacts, Box 7**

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, uniform patches, n.d. (5)
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, laminated photographs, n.d. (2)

**Artifacts, Box 8**

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Paladin 21 medal, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, trap shooting medal in green cloth snap case, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, pistol D medal, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, pistol medals, n.d. (3)

**Administration Box**

Ray Simeon Miller, Negatives, “Material in Eve and Ray Miller’s Personal Collection of Air Guard Memorabilia, 1920-1961”
Ray Simeon Miller, Microfilm, Master Negative, “Eve and Ray Miller’s Personal Collection of Air Guard Memorabilia, 1920-1961”
Ray Simeon Miller, Microfilm, Positive, “Eve and Ray Miller’s Personal Collection of Air Guard Memorabilia, 1920-1961”
Ray Simeon Miller, Microfilm, Master Negative, “Aerial Photos General, ANG 1917-1928”
Ray Simeon Miller, Microfilm, Positive, “Aerial Photos General, ANG 1917-1928”
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Empty Labeled/Numbered Artifact Boxes/Plastic Bags/Paper Backings (Labeled plastic boxes, plastic boxes numbered with self-adhesive orange stickers, notebook paper backings numbered with self-adhesive orange stickers containing item descriptions)

**On Exhibit**

Ray Simeon Miller, “Eve and Ray Miller’s Personal Collection of Air Guard Memorabilia, 1920-1961,” 64 panel MULTIFLEX Display unit
Ray Simeon Miller, Drawings/Artwork, Oil Painting, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Green Leather Chair belonging to Ray Miller, given to father Phil Knight by Eva Miller after Miller’s death, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Name Plate, “Maj. R.S. Miller”, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Navigational Leather Case, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Zippered Case, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Curtiss Oriole wooden propeller, 1921
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Trophy, Minnesota Air National Guard, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Plaque, Outstanding Service, USAF, 1970 (needs conservation)
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Plaque, Minnesota Air National Guard Meritorious Service Award, n.d.

**Large Artifact Box**

(Needs proper housing and preservation)
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Plaque, 109 TAS/CC 1921-1941, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Memento Box, n.d.
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Ship’s Wheel Calendar, n.d. (needs conservation)
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Air National Guard Music Box, n.d.
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Eva Miller Appreciation Day shield, wood, 1976
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Eve H. Miller Appreciation Silver Plate, 1976
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Happy Birthday Silver Plate, 1986
Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Plaque, 90th Birthday, 1986

Unprocessed Box 1010

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Unprocessed pins and medals, n.d.

Artifacts, Unknown Location

Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Flying jacket, Winter Type B3
Ray Simeon Miller, Artifacts, Pair of Flying Trouser, Winter Type, A3
Ray Simeon Miller and Eva Hope Miller, Artifacts, Folded flag from Ray S. Miller’s casket and Mrs.’ Casket, n.d.

Archives, Unknown Location

Ray Simeon Miller, Photographs, Framed color photos of events, Queen Elizabeth visit (2)