

# George Fort Milton Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78033001>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** George Fort Milton Papers

**Span Dates:** 1828-1953

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1915-1946)

**ID No.:** MSS33001

**Creator:** Milton, George Fort, 1894-1955

**Extent:** 30,000 items ; 100 containers ; 36 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Editor, historian, advisor to diplomatic delegations, consultant to U.S. government agencies, and special assistant to Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Correspondence, memoranda, writings, research and historical source material, scrapbooks, printed matter, photographs, and biographical matter relating primarily to Milton's work as a historian of the Civil War and career as a newspaper editor and in government.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Angle, Paul M. (Paul McClelland), 1900-1975--Correspondence.  
Barr, Stringfellow, 1897-1982--Correspondence.  
Biddle, Francis, 1886-1968--Correspondence.  
Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.  
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.  
Commager, Henry Steele, 1902-1998--Correspondence.  
Coulter, E. Merton (Ellis Merton), 1890- --Correspondence.  
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.  
Douglas, Paul H. (Paul Howard), 1892-1976--Correspondence.  
Douglas, Stephen A. (Stephen Arnold), 1813-1861.  
Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976--Correspondence.  
Fort family--Correspondence.  
Freeman, Douglas Southall, 1886-1953--Correspondence.  
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.  
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.  
James, Marquis, 1891-1955--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.  
Kefauver, Estes, 1903-1963--Correspondence.  
Lilienthal, David Eli, 1899-1981--Correspondence.  
Martin, Thomas Powderly, 1887-1963--Correspondence.  
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.  
McKellar, Kenneth Douglas, 1869-1957--Correspondence.  
McReynolds, Samuel Davis, 1872-1939--Correspondence.  
Milton, George Fort, 1894-1955.  
Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971--Correspondence.  
Norris, George W. (George William), 1861-1944--Correspondence.  
Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.  
Raper, Arthur Franklin, 1899-1979--Correspondence.  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.  
Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.  
Sayre, Francis Bowes, 1885-1972--Correspondence.  
Welles, Sumner, 1892-1961--Correspondence.  
White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.

## **Organizations**

Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace (1936 : Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching.  
Tennessee Valley Authority.  
United States. Department of State.

## **Subjects**

African Americans--Southern States.  
American newspapers--Missouri--Saint Louis.  
American newspapers--New York (State)--Buffalo.  
American newspapers--Tennessee--Chattanooga.  
Lynching--Southern States.  
Pan-Americanism.  
Peace--Congresses.  
Racism--Southern States.

## **Places**

Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.  
Southern States--Race relations.  
Southern States--Social conditions.  
Tennessee River Valley--History.  
Tennessee--Politics and government--1865-1950.  
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.  
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

## **Titles**

*Buffalo evening news.*  
*Chattanooga news.*  
*St. Louis post-dispatch.*

## **Occupations**

Editors.  
Historians.  
Public officials.

# **Administrative Information**

## **Provenance**

The papers of George Fort Milton, editor, historian, advisor to diplomatic delegations, consultant to U.S. government agencies, and special assistant to U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, were given to the Library of Congress by Helen S. Milton and Alice Milton Dwight between 1957 and 1964. Additional items were given by others between 1936 and 1966.

## **Processing History**

The papers of George Fort Milton were processed in 1958, with between 1960 and 1966. The finding aid was revised in 2005 and 2013.

## **Additional Guides**

The collection was briefly described in the Library's *Information Bulletin* 16, no. 24 (June 17, 1957), and in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 15, no. 3 (May 1958): 187. In 1958, the Library published *George Fort Milton, a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

## Transfers

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of George Fort Milton in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of George Fort Milton 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.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, George Fort Milton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1894	Born, Chattanooga, Tenn.
1916	B.A., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1918-1919	With American Expeditionary Forces
1919-1924	Managing editor, <i>Chattanooga News</i>
1923-1924	Publicity director, William Gibbs McAdoo's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination
circa 1930-circa 1932	Chairman, Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching
1924-1939	President and editor, <i>Chattanooga News</i>
1934	Published <i>Eve of Conflict; Stephen A. Douglas and the Needless War</i> . Boston, New York: Houghton, Mifflin Co.
1936	Adviser to United States delegation, Inter-American Conference at Buenos Aires, Argentina
1937	Special assistant to the secretary of state
1940-1944	Consultant to the Bureau of the Budget and other federal agencies
1942	Published <i>Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column</i> . New York: Vanguard Press
1944	Published <i>The Use of Presidential Power, 1789-1943</i> . Boston: Little, Brown
1944-1945	Editorial writer, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
1945-1950	Editorial writer, <i>Buffalo Evening News</i>

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Fort Milton (1894-1955) span the years 1828-1946, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1915-1946. Organized into two overlapping parts, the collection consists of early Fort family correspondence (mostly copies), general correspondence, memoranda, speeches, writings, historical source material on the mid-nineteenth century, printed matter, photographs, and miscellaneous biographical material.

Part I contains six series: [General Correspondence](#); [Special Correspondence](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Source Materials and Notes](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Scrapbooks](#).

Part II is arranged in seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speech and Article File](#), [Source Materials and Notes](#), [Miscellany](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Daybook](#).

The collection reflects Milton's career as president and editor of the *Chattanooga News*, 1924-1939, editorial writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1944-1945, and with the *Buffalo Evening News*, 1945-1950. Also important are papers stemming from his work as a historian of the Civil War era. They include, in addition to the responses of historians and critics to his writings, extensive source materials used by him during his research. Notes and background items consisting of photostatic copies, transcripts, and other derivative materials relate particularly to Stephen A. Douglas and Andrew Johnson.

Issues of contemporary importance to Milton that are represented in the papers include the Tennessee Valley Authority, which he supported, and the problem of lynching in the South. Correspondence and subject files document his role as a member in the 1930s of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and chairman of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching. Also documented is Milton's service as special assistant to Secretary of State of Cordell Hull, including as an advisor at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace in Buenos Aires in 1936. Scrapbooks in the collection include a comprehensive compilation of Milton's editorials at the *Buffalo Evening News*. A Daybook series, as Milton described the material, consists of typewritten daily accounts he kept of his activities and conversations as a consultant to the government in various capacities in wartime Washington, D.C., 1942-1943.

Correspondents include Paul M. Angle, Stringfellow Barr, Francis Biddle, William Edgar Borah, William Jennings Bryan, Henry Steele Commager, E. Merton Coulter, Josephus Daniels, Paul H. Douglas, James A. Farley, Douglas Southall Freeman, Cordell Hull, Marquis James, Estes Kefauver, David Eli Lilienthal, Thomas Powderly Martin, W.G. McAdoo, Kenneth Douglas McKellar, Samuel Davis McReynolds, Allan Nevins, George W. Norris, George Foster Peabody, Arthur Franklin Raper, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Daniel C. Roper, Francis Bowes Sayre, Sumner Welles, William Allen White, and Fort family members.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in thirteen series in two parts:

### Part I:

- [General Correspondence, 1915-1946](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1828-1945](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1930-1945](#)
- [Source Materials and Notes, circa 1849-1945](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1928-1946](#)
- [Scrapbooks, circa 1890-1939](#)

### Part II:

- [General Correspondence, 1924-1953](#)
- [Subject File, 1912-1939](#)
- [Speech and Article File](#)
- [Source Materials and Notes](#)

- Miscellany, 1913-1950
- Scrapbooks, 1942-1949
- Daybook, 1942-1943

## Description of Series

### *Container*

### *Series*

BOX I: 1-27

#### **Part I: General Correspondence, 1915-1946**

Letters sent and received and related memoranda and reports.  
Arranged chronologically with undated items filed at the end of each year.

BOX I:28-29

#### **Part I: Special Correspondence, 1828-1945**

Family correspondence, including of Milton's Fort family ancestors (mostly copies). Also correspondence and memoranda concerning his position with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.  
Arranged by type of correspondence.

BOX I:30-35

#### **Part I: Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1930-1945**

Typewritten copies of writings, speeches, and articles. Major writings are arranged by title. Speeches and articles are unarranged.

BOX I:36-47

#### **Source Materials and Notes, circa 1849-1945**

Notes, photostats, transcripts and other copies of source materials (primarily 1850-1870) used by Milton in his historical writings.  
Unarranged.

BOX I:48-53

#### **Part I: Miscellany, circa 1928-1946**

Printed matter, photographs, clippings, and brochures.  
Arranged by type of material.

BOX I:54-70

#### **Part I: Scrapbooks, circa 1890-1939**

Mainly newspaper clippings with some pictures and miscellaneous items.  
Chronologically arranged where possible.

BOX II: 71-86

#### **Part II: General Correspondence, 1924-1953**

Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX II:87-89

#### **Subject File, 1912-1939**

Correspondence, memoranda of conversations and interviews, reports, and other material.  
Arranged by topic.

BOX II:90

#### **Speech and Article File**

Miscellaneous drafts and copies of speeches and articles.  
No arrangement.

BOX II:91-92

#### **Source Materials and Notes**

Notes, photostats, transcripts and other copies of source materials used by Milton in the writing of *Eve of Conflict: Stephen A Douglas and the Needless War and Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column*.  
Unarranged.

BOX II:93-97

#### **Miscellany, 1913-1950**

Announcements, invitations, notes, photographs, memorabilia, financial material, printed matter, and miscellaneous correspondence relating to Stephen A. Douglas.

Arranged by type of material.

**BOX II:98-99**

**Scrapbooks, 1942-1949**

Clippings from the *Buffalo Evening News* and reviews of *Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column*.

Arranged as compiled by or for Milton.

**BOX II:100**

**Daybook, 1942-1943**

Typewritten accounts by Milton of his daily activities and conversations.

Arranged chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX I: 1-27</b>	<b>Part I: General Correspondence, 1915-1946</b> Letters sent and received and related memoranda and reports. Arranged chronologically with undated items filed at the end of each year.
<b>BOX I:1</b>	1915-1928
<b>BOX I:2</b>	1929
<b>BOX I:3</b>	1 Jan.-30 Nov. 1930
<b>BOX I:4</b>	1 Dec. 1930-31 Mar. 1931
<b>BOX I:5</b>	Apr.-31 May 1931
<b>BOX I:6</b>	1 June-15 Aug. 1931
<b>BOX I:7</b>	16 Aug.-20 Sept. 1931
<b>BOX I:8</b>	21 Sept.-4 Nov. 1931
<b>BOX I:9</b>	15 Nov. 1931-15 Feb. 1932
<b>BOX I:10</b>	16 Feb.-30 June 1832
<b>BOX I:11</b>	1 July-31 Oct. 1932
<b>BOX I:12</b>	1 Nov. 1932-28 Feb. 1933
<b>BOX I:13</b>	1 Mar.-19 June 1933
<b>BOX I:14</b>	20 June-30 Nov. 1933
<b>BOX I:15</b>	1 Dec. 1933-30 June 1934
<b>BOX I:16</b>	1 July-6 Nov. 1934
<b>BOX I:17</b>	7 Nov. 1934-16 Mar. 1935
<b>BOX I:18</b>	17 Mar.-10 Oct. 1935
<b>BOX I:19</b>	11 Oct. 1935-31 May 1936
<b>BOX I:20</b>	1 June 1936-15 May 1937
<b>BOX I:21</b>	16 May-21 Oct. 1937
<b>BOX I:22</b>	22 Oct.-7 Dec. 1937
<b>BOX I:23</b>	8 Dec. 1937-20 Jan. 1938
<b>BOX I:24</b>	21 Jan.-31 Mar. 1938
<b>BOX I:25</b>	1 Apr.-31 Aug. 1938
<b>BOX I:26</b>	1 Sept. 1938-31 July 1939
<b>BOX I:27</b>	1 Aug. 1939-5 July 1946
<b>BOX I:28-29</b>	<b>Part I: Special Correspondence, 1828-1945</b> Family correspondence, including of Milton's Fort family ancestors (mostly copies). Also correspondence and memoranda concerning his position with the <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> . Arranged by type of correspondence.
<b>BOX I:28</b>	Fort family
<b>BOX I:28</b>	1828-1842 (primarily copies)
<b>BOX I:28</b>	1927-1943

## Part I: Special Correspondence, 1828-1945

### Container

### Contents

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BOX I:29	<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> , 1944-1945
BOX I:30-35	<b>Part I: Speech, Article, and Book File, circa 1930-1945</b> Typewritten copies of writings, speeches, and articles. Major writings are arranged by title. Speeches and articles are unarranged.
BOX I:30-31	Speeches and articles
BOX I:32	Memoirs of World War I, unpublished
BOX I:33	Books, typescripts
BOX I:33	<i>The Age of Hate</i>
BOX I:34	<i>The Eve of Conflict; Stephen A. Douglas and the Needless War</i>
BOX I:35	<i>The Use of Presidential Power</i>
BOX I:36-47	<b>Source Materials and Notes, circa 1849-1945</b> Notes, photostats, transcripts and other copies of source materials (primarily 1850-1870) used by Milton in his historical writings. Unarranged.
BOX I:36-37	Photostats and other copies of source materials, including:
BOX I:36-37	Douglas, Stephen A., letter to George C. Thomas, 13 Mar. 1855
BOX I:36-37	Buchanan, James, petition to the president signed by Stephen A. Douglas and others
BOX I:36-37	Douglas, Stephen A., letter to Thomas Floyd, 24 Aug. 1859
BOX I:36-37	Greeley, Horace, letter to J. L. Edwards, 13 Mar. 1849
BOX I:36-37	Hawley, S. C., letter to Thurlow Weed, 18 May 1856
BOX I:36-37	Hart, John W., letter to [?], 3 Apr. 1856
BOX I:38-47	Notes of historical source materials
BOX I:48-53	<b>Part I: Miscellany, circa 1928-1946</b> Printed matter, photographs, clippings, and brochures. Arranged by type of material.
BOX I:48	Photographs and printed matter
BOX I:49	Printed matter
BOX I:50-51	Clippings
BOX I:52-53	General
BOX I:54-70	<b>Part I: Scrapbooks, circa 1890-1939</b> Mainly newspaper clippings with some pictures and miscellaneous items. Chronologically arranged where possible.
BOX I:54-59	Pre 1900
BOX I:60	1920
BOX I:61-63	1924
BOX I:64-65	1925-1926
BOX I:66	1926-1930
BOX I:67	1930-1932
BOX I:68	1933-1935
BOX I:69	1935-1940

## Part I: Scrapbooks, circa 1890-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX I:70	1939
BOX II: 71-86	<b>Part II: General Correspondence, 1924-1953</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX II:71	5 Nov. 1924-31 Dec. 1929
BOX II:72	1 Jan. 1930-31 Dec. 1930
BOX II:73	1 Jan.-16 June 1931
BOX II:74	17 June-31 Dec. 1931
BOX II:75	2 Jan. 1932-31 Mar. 1933
BOX II:76	4 Apr.-29 Dec. 1933
BOX II:77	1 Jan.-31 July 1934
BOX II:78	1 Aug. 1934-30 Apr. 1935
BOX II:79	1 May 1935-23 Mar. 1936
BOX II:80	24 Mar.-31 Dec. 1936
BOX II:81	1 Jan.-13 Sept. 1937
BOX II:82	14 Sept. 1937-30 May 1938
BOX II:83	1 June-5 Nov. 1938
BOX II:84	6 Nov. 1938-21 May 1939
BOX II:85	1 June 1939-24 Sept. 1940
BOX II:86	12 Oct. 1940-24 Apr. 1953
BOX II:87-89	<b>Subject File, 1912-1939</b> Correspondence, memoranda of conversations and interviews, reports, and other material. Arranged by topic.
BOX II:87	Bryan, William Jennings, 1912-1930
BOX II:87	Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, Buenos Aires, Brazil 1936
BOX II:88	Lynching, circa 1930-1937
BOX II:89	Memoranda of conversations and interviews circa 1930-1943
BOX II:89	National Archives, 1934
BOX II:89	Tennessee Valley Authority, circa 1930-1939
BOX II:90	<b>Speech and Article File</b> Miscellaneous drafts and copies of speeches and articles. No arrangement.
BOX II:90	Miscellaneous
BOX II:91-92	<b>Source Materials and Notes</b> Notes, photostats, transcripts and other copies of source materials used by Milton in the writing of <i>Eve of Conflict: Stephen A Douglas and the Needless War and Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column</i> . Unarranged.
BOX II:91	<i>Eve of Conflict; Stephen A. Douglas and the Needless War</i>

## Source Materials and Notes

### Container

### Contents

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BOX II:92	<i>Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column</i>
BOX II:93-97	<b>Miscellany, 1913-1950</b> Announcements, invitations, notes, photographs, memorabilia, financial material, printed matter, and miscellaneous correspondence relating to Stephen A. Douglas. Arranged by type of material.
BOX II:93	Announcements
BOX II:93	Biographical material
BOX II:93	Calling cards
BOX II:93	General
BOX II:93	Invitations
BOX II:93	Lecture notes, 1913-1914
BOX II:93	Lists
BOX II:93	Memorabilia (largely 1936)
BOX II:93	Photographs
BOX II:93	Will of Sarah F. Milton
BOX II:94	Financial papers
BOX II:95	Printed matter
BOX II:95	1910-1936
BOX II:96	1936-1938
BOX II:97	1938-1950
BOX II:97	Correspondence with Frank Heywood Hodder regarding Stephen A. Douglas, 1931-1935
BOX II:98-99	<b>Scrapbooks, 1942-1949</b> Clippings from the <i>Buffalo Evening News</i> and reviews of <i>Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column</i> . Arranged as compiled by or for Milton.
BOX II:98	<i>Buffalo Evening News</i> , clippings of columns
BOX II:98	1945-1948
BOX II:99	1949
BOX II:99	<i>Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column</i> , reviews of book, 1942
BOX II:100	<b>Daybook, 1942-1943</b> Typewritten accounts by Milton of his daily activities and conversations. Arranged chronologically.
BOX II:100	Typewritten journal of daily activities and conversations, 1942-1943