

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Greaver Lewis Miller
Title:	Greaver Lewis Miller Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1918-1959, undated
Bulk Dates:	1917-1920, 1955-1959
Abstract:	The Greaver Lewis Miller Collection contains materials from an American pilot who trained at nearby Rich Field in Waco, Texas, during World War 1. Materials include photographs, certificates, and artifacts from Miller's time in the Army.
Accession #:	3804
Extent:	2.35 linear feet (1 document boxes and 2 oversized boxes.)
Language:	Collection is in English.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

Greaver Lewis Miller was born in Yowell, Texas, on 1897 July 2. The son of A.P. Miller, Greaver worked in the automotive industry before enlisting in the Army's Signal Officers' Reserve Corps at the age of 20. His term of enlistment lasted five years.

Miller's dream of becoming a pilot required extensive study. He graduated from the U.S. School of Military Aeronautics at the University of Texas-Austin on 1918 July 13. From there, Miller moved to Rich Field in Waco, Texas, where he excelled at putting the newly-learned theories into practice. Upon passing his pilot examinations, Miller was commissioned as a "Reserve Military Aviator" on 1918 December 13. He was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant on 1919 February 15.

Not much is known about the remainder of Miller's life. Miller was a member of the Masons at Cooper Lodge #707 in Cooper, Texas. Along with learning how to fly, Miller was trained in aerial photography. Several landscape shots can be found within his collection. He occasionally collected materials concerning the Rich Field Veterans Association and their reunion dinners that were held across the United States. Greaver died on 1968 November 3. His son, Jerry, donated his father's materials to The Texas Collection in 2011.

Rich Field, the site where Miller received his training, was built near Waco, Texas, in the fall of 1917. The base was named after First Lieutenant Perry C. Rich, a member of the Philippine Scouts who had been killed in a flying exercise at Manila Bay in 1912. By 1919 January 1, the instructors of Rich Field had trained 399 graduates, including Greaver Miller. After World War 1 was over, enlistment in the military declined. The military base was closed in the summer of 1921 and the airfield was converted to civilian use.

Sources:

Rich Field Vertical Files.

Waco News Tribune, 1921 July 24.

Scope and Content:

The Greaver Lewis Miller Collection ranges in its chronology from 1918 to 1959. There are two different time periods that the collection focuses on: Miller's term of

enlistment from 1918 to the early 1920s and the mid to late 1950s in which the Rich Field Veterans Association was organizing reunion dinners for pilots like Miller who had been trained at the air base in Waco, Texas.

Most of the collection consists of literary productions and photographic materials. Literary materials includes certificates of promotion, a pilot's book, identification cards, other documents relating to Miller's time in the reserves. Photographic materials have been divided by subject matter: planes, people, buildings, reunion dinners, etc. Series III contains maps of Rich Field as well as the greater Waco area. There are also two interesting artifacts included within the collection: a pair of leather shin guards and Miller's pilot wings.

Organization and Arrangement:

This collection came to The Texas Collection with no prior organization. However, the materials were in good condition and were divided into four series: I. Literary Productions, II. Photographic Materials, III. Maps, and IV. Artifacts.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

Air warfare -- History -- 20th century.

Fighter pilots -- United States -- History -- 20th century.

Rich Field (Waco, Tex.)

Related Materials:

Rich Field Vertical Files.

Separated Materials: None

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	This collection was acquired in one gift from Greaver's son Jerry Miller. Gift from Jerry and Sue Miller, 2011 November 14.
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Citation:	Greaver Lewis Miller Collection, Accession #3804, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.
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Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Thomas A. DeShong, 2012 May 3.

Container List:

Series I: Literary Productions, 1918-1948, undated, 7 folders.

This series contains literary productions dealing primarily with the military career of Greaver Lewis Miller. Miller joined the Signal Officer's Reserve Corps of the Army in 1918 for a five-year enlistment term. He learned how to fly at nearby Rich Field landing strip. These materials are in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Literary Productions: Certificate: Appointment to Second Lieutenant	1919 February 15
	2	Literary Productions: Certificate: Reserve Military Aviator	1918 December 13
	3	Literary Productions: Diagrams: Aerial Photography	undated
	4	Literary Productions: Identification Cards	1920-1922
	5	Literary Productions: Memorandum: Pilot Book	1920 May 12
	6	Literary Productions: Pilot Book: Rich Field	1918-1920
	7	Literary Productions: Printed Materials: 1947 Reunion	1947-1948

Series II: Photographic Materials, 1955-1959, undated, 7 folders.

This series contains photographic materials collected by Greaver Miller during his time in the military. Photographs of aerial landscapes, individuals (including Miller), buildings, planes, and reunion dinners are present in this series. These photographs are in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	8	Photographic Materials: Photos: Aerial Photographs	undated
	9	Photographic Materials: Photos: Buildings	undated
	10	Photographic Materials: Photos: People: (1 of 2)	undated
1	11	Photographic Materials: Photos: People: (2 of 2)	undated

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	12	Photographic Materials: Photos: Planes	undated
	13	Photographic Materials: Photos: Rich Field Veterans Association: Reunions	1955-1959
2 OVZ	1	Photographic Materials: Photos: Rich Field Veterans Association: Reunions	1956

Series III: Maps, 1918, undated, 2 folders.

The following series contains two folders. One consists of maps that Miller collected detailing the towns that surrounded the greater Waco area. The second folder has layouts of Rich Field as it appeared in 1918, the year that Miller joined the air corps. These materials are in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	14	Maps: Waco Area	undated
2 OVZ	2	Maps: Rich Field	1918 May 3

Series IV: Artifacts, 1918-circa 1920s, 2 items.

The following series is comprised of two three-dimensional artifacts: Miller's shin guards that he wore as a pilot, and the wings that he earned after successfully passing his aviation exams. These materials are in excellent condition and are wrapped in bubble wrap for preservation purposes.

BOX NUMBER	ITEM NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2 OVZ	3	Artifacts: Pilot's Wings	1918
3 OVZ	1	Artifacts: Shin Guards	circa 1920s