

Title: Binckley, John Milton Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1315

Inclusive Dates: 1878, 2019

Quantity: 000.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss

Abstract: John Milton Binckley was born in Ohio on July 26, 1831. He relocated to Washington, D.C. in the 1850s and initially worked in the General Land Department. When the Civil War broke out, he was asked to leave his position because his wife was a niece of Confederate General Joe Johnston. During the war, Binckley studied law and earned a medical degree from Georgetown University. After the war ended, he served as assistant attorney general and solicitor for the Internal Revenue Department under President Andrew Johnson. During his years in Washington, he made powerful enemies, especially connected to his investigation of the "Whiskey Ring" Scandal. Pressure from his political enemies forced his removal from office, and he moved west. He eventually settled in Milwaukee and worked as a journalist and opened his own law office but did not have much success. He also was involved in state Democratic politics and was a founding member of the Greenback Party. He grew despondent over his declining relationship with his wife, who moved the family to Tennessee. His condition was such that he walked into Lake Michigan and drowned in May 1878. His death was ruled a suicide.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of copies of newspaper articles concerning Binckley's apparent suicide.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Notes: The material was furnished by William T. Meyers, 2017-2019.