



**Walter Havighurst Special Collections  
Miami University Libraries**

**John B. Ballinger Collection  
1904-1939**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Title: John B. Ballinger Collection  
Dates: 1904-1939  
Media: Manuscripts  
Quantity: 1 cubic foot  
Location: Closed stacks: Manuscript shelving

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

This collection includes correspondence of the John B. Ballinger family between 1904 and 1908, essays and poetry written by John Ballinger, invitations to Horace Ballinger's graduation from Versailles High School and Miami University, John Ballinger's diary kept between 1930 and 1939, and other family documents.

**PROVENANCE OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection was donated by Mrs. Rachel B. Clarke of Pasadena, California on October 18, 1992. Mrs. Clarke is the granddaughter of John Ballinger and daughter of Horace Ballinger.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

According to the items contained in this collection, John B. Ballinger was a doctor in Bradford, Ohio. He and his wife had five children: Horace, Homer, Mary, George, and Helen. He was born on September 8, 1855 and died December 18, 1939.

Alumni directories indicate that all five Ballinger children graduated from Miami University. After serving as president of his class, Horace Ballinger graduated from Miami in 1908. He taught math and science at a high school in Nelsonville, Ohio in 1908 and 1909. He was principal of a high school in Arcanum, Ohio in 1909. Later, he worked as a lumber merchant in Greenville, Ohio.

Homer Ballinger graduated from Miami in 1910. Later, he managed Clark County Lumber Company in Springfield, Ohio. Mary Ballinger graduated from Miami in 1915 and taught in Springfield, Ohio. After graduating from Miami in 1919, George Ballinger worked in the lumber trade in Springfield, Ohio. Helen Ballinger graduated from Miami in 1923.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection begins with letters that John Ballinger wrote to his son, Horace, while Horace was a student at Miami University.

Letters sent early in Horace's freshman year discuss expenses associated with attending school and advice to Horace not to join a fraternity or participate in flag rush so that he can concentrate on his studies.

After Horace requests that his father send him several books from home, his father suggests in a letter written October 4, 1904 that "there must be some way of using the library to advantage. I think you will find there are classified catalogues of the books to assist you in finding what you want. Sometime when you have time you ought to investigate, and try to find how to use it."

After telling Horace how much the family appreciates his letters and what a comfort they are to them, Ballinger takes the opportunity to praise his composition, but asks Horace to "please accept a kind word of caution: Do not allow bad spelling to mar an otherwise excellent manuscript. I know you may be short of time and compelled to hurry, especially when writing letters, but recollect that habits of careless spelling contracted in writing letters may sometime mar a more important and valuable document. But we are very glad for all the letters you have time to write. It is the only substitute we have for your own presence at home, and we are all interested in knowing what you are doing and what is going on about you, and we appreciate the pains you take in telling us." (October 12, 1904)

In this same letter of October 12, 1904, Ballinger continues about appreciating the advantages of attending college. "The opportunity to see and hear 'distinguished visitors,' and men of various kinds of learning and accomplishments, will add much of value to your experience. The mental training, the knowledge of how to study, together with your experience and special knowledge gained, will give you strength that you can feel when you once run up against the knotting and embarrassing things that one encounters out in the world. It was the fond dream of all my early years to obtain such an educational training as the best schools could give, and never realized it in its fullness; if I could see you obtain my coveted prize it would make amends

to some degree for my own disappointment. To that end I am ready to make any sacrifice that, in justice to myself and the rest of the family I can afford to make, if you make good use of the opportunity.”

When Horace injured his arm, his father observed that “it illustrates the doctrine that I have long held, that there is nothing more than a little local glory in physical contests of any sort, but injury often results. The fact remains, however, that a Bantam rooster is always ready for an encounter no matter what the size of his antagonist.” (November 1, 1904)

After reading an account of the laying of the cornerstone of Hepburn Hall, his father writes on November 8, 1904, “This was another new scene for you to witness and perhaps, for aught I know, take part in. But it is only a single unit in one long drawn out experience which goes to make up the training which you are now receiving. I hope you have already had enough of this experience to make you realize and appreciate its value; and that you will ever kindly cherish a memory of us for having made it possible for you to start upon such an extended course of training at as early an age as you have; and that the recollection of our own zeal and enthusiasm for this same cause of yours will be a never-failing inspiration to you, filling you with high hopes, and impelling you on with renewed industry and a determination that knows no defeat to achieve everything possible that can contribute to the purity, nobleness, and usefulness of character. A thorough preparation for a life of highest usefulness and honor, with the knowledge of having thereby brought happiness to your nearest friends and secured their appreciation, will amply, even doubly repay you for the greatest effort you can make.”

Reflecting on the good influence of teachers and friends, he writes on November 18, 1904, “Every good influential friend you gain advances you one step farther on the road to success. The confidence of these same men in your ability and integrity means a position of trust and profit to you in the end. I hope you remember the substance of all my teaching, for it is correct, viz.: that your industry, capability, and integrity, is the combination that unlocks the door for your advancement. I can feel all the emotions of my youth rise up in me when I contemplate the opportunities that confront you, and I cannot express the height of my desire that these opportunities bear fruit abundantly and of the purest quality. And to this end may the counsel of Him who is above us all guide you and help you.”

After being exposed to a case of scarlet fever in his dormitory and a resulting quarantine in December 1904, Horace is affected by follicular tonsillitis in January 1905. Hearing this news, his father writes on January 18, 1905, “Take good care of your health first, and then do the best you can with your work.” After two months of illness, Horace recovers, prompting his father to write the following words of advice on March 16, 1905: “I want you to simply do the very best you can, and that may be better than you think. Do not get uneasy and disturbed and lose your bearing. Keep cool and work judiciously, not forgetting to rest enough to keep your mind clear. I know that I have been reasonably successful in efforts of a like nature when I was almost ready to give up in despair beforehand. You may not pass as good an examination as you did at the end of the first term; it is likely you will not; you have had much to contend with. But I still hope that you will do well enough to keep your place in your class. I hope you have already

made and will continue to make a heroic effort to accomplish that. I assure you I sympathize with you, and fully appreciate your situation, and would be glad to help you, if such were honestly possible, but I can do no more than encourage you and express my confidence and interest in you; and I hope that with your own efforts and the prestige you had gained the other term will be sufficient to take you through."

The Ballingers then decide whether Horace should continue in school or teach next winter. On May 10, 1905, Ballinger writes Horace that the family agreed that he should go to school. "I am willing to undertake my side of the risk and if you keep well I think you can pay out without making me any trouble. You have enough encouragement before you to stimulate you to make a heroic effort and to do excellent work, and that will afford us much pleasure at home."

When Horace works in Middleboro, Kentucky during the summer of 1905, his father asks him not only to write home often, but also not to be annoyed by their concern about him. In a letter dated June 29, 1905, he writes, "I hope you will do your best to avoid keeping us in suspense. For we know just enough about conditions down there to make us uneasy and not enough to give us confidence." Continuing on July 1, 1905, he writes of his fears about the social and moral conditions of the miners in Kentucky. "I hope you will take every precaution necessary to make yourself safe....Look out for your own safety, preserve your honor and self-respect at any cost."

When Ballinger hears that Horace is smoking, he writes the following on October 8, 1905: "The information came in such a way that we feel obliged to entertain it until satisfactory explanation is given. It sent a thrill through my body that took away my ease, and a sadness has settled upon me, that all the cheerfulness of this bright day could not dispel. I never expected such a thing of you. You have been taught by precept and example not to use tobacco. Why should you shatter our confidence that you would follow your house teaching, by acquired a vile habit that often leads to harm?...Think not that I am a 'fogy,' but simply that I am older than you and advise you from the standpoint of more extensive opportunities for observation. Must a college student possess some noxious habit or other to be in good standing among his fellows? Have you not the moral courage to repel every inducement to acquire pernicious habits, or in any way to depart from the principles of the highest and most perfect manhood as these principles have been taught you in the home? However great or slight the error on your part that set this report afloat, can you not assure us that tobacco stains or any other unsightly marks will not be allowed to remain upon your record? We hope you will prefer to follow our example in habits and morals rather than the practice of the multitudes of the world which is almost without limit or guide."

Acknowledging Horace's response about the smoking matter, Ballinger writes on October 13, 1905 that he is satisfied with the response and admires his admission and the "manly assurance" he gave of his future intentions. "Such a resolution in regards to all questionable or harmful habits will place your character-ideal high above that of the multitudes around us who maintain that it is not so particular what we do so many are doing the same. This little occurrence however shows how important it is 'to avoid even the appearance of evil,' lest

someone will misunderstand, or seize upon it with intent to do us evil. May you ever find strength to follow the highest ideals.”

When business takes Ballinger to Columbus, Ohio, he has the opportunity to hear Washington Gladden, a prominent minister in Columbus at the time, preach on the subject of the religion of the student, but could not. Writing on November 2, 1905, Ballinger says that he read a newspaper account of Gladden’s sermon and that he “showed in a very reasonable and plausible way, the effect of religion on the college student. He condemned the brutality of football and other athletic sports...the reckless, and luxurious spending of money, and showed how religion would affect these things. He said it would lead to honesty of purpose, a spirit of fairness and devotion to duty and work.”

When Ballinger hears of Horace meeting with an accident involving a stone on a sidewalk, he writes on January 31, 1906, “There surely must be something lacking in your watchfulness as to yourself and where you place yourself. It is something strange to me that you lived so long with me without accidents and with very little sickness, and so many things must happen to you in so short a time down there. If matters do not take a different turn soon, I will surely feel it necessary to advise you to come home as a matter of safety.”

When Ballinger takes a business trip to Chicago, he sends Horace descriptions of sightseeing he is able to enjoy. For example, on May 21, 1906, Ballinger writes of what he saw while visiting Lincoln Park, the zoological garden, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Marshall Field Museum.

On May 31, 1906, Ballinger congratulates Horace on being appointed as associate editor of the Miami Recensio. “It matters much you know how things are done,” he writes. “Sometimes the lightning strikes, not the tall towering tree, but an unobtrusive one that simply happened to be in the path of the shaft. For aught I know you may have been only a “squatty elm” that happened to stand in the line of greatest attraction. If instead however your efforts have gone out in concentric waves until they affected the official instruments set for the correct measurement of human endeavor, then I am the more pleased. For surely the contrast between the heights of human attainments and the depths of human depravity grows in my eyes day by day.”

Similarly, when Horace reports on the outcome of college elections, his father responds on May 10, 1907, “I appreciate the honor shown you in them, not that I value the positions so much, or feel so much like courting popular approbation, but simply as indicating to some degree that you have been faithful to us and to yourself. I would have been glad to have seen you have the Editorship of The Student because it would have been a valuable experience for you along a line that you may prove to have some taste, and I hope ability for. But I have no doubt you counseled the wiser heads among your friends before you declined to run. I presume it would have been of more value to you than any other position you mentioned, even including the Presidency of your class. Mere honors, of course, do not increase a man’s knowledge, though they might be of some material benefit hereafter, but as you are probably one of the youngest

men of your class, I hope it is not a case of all 'politics' but an expression of faith begotten by true manliness of character."

After Homer joins Horace at Miami, Ballinger frequently writes letters to both of them. In one dated February 24, 1907, Ballinger addresses their interest in singing. "I want you to get what you can of it – reasonably, and I have nothing in particular to say while it is there about school; but I do not believe either of your fortunes depend upon it, and when it comes to going away to some other town to sing I think 'it is paying too much for the whistle.' I think your time will be worth more in Oxford. Were I in your places, I think I would 'cut out' all such juvenile efforts at traveling for exhibition. All this is given as an opinion from a conservative stand-point."

The last letter in the collection that Ballinger wrote to Horace is dated March 9, 1908. In it, Ballinger writes, "...I appreciate your assurances of loyalty, your protestation of innocence of any intentional act of ingratitude, your declaration of sincerity and honesty of purpose." He responds to Horace's "branding" him "as one absolutely devoid of feelings" by stating that he is not ashamed of him, or does he think he has ruined his reputation. He recognizes Horace's achievements in his reputation among students, of his hard work in school, and his attention to business, but he criticizes his courtship "which at present appears to me very much needs to be moderated." Concluding by reiterating his efforts to "speak courteously" on the matter, he states that he does not want Horace's ill will.

Other correspondence in the collection includes letters to Horace Ballinger from his mother; his siblings, Horace, Mary and George; and one letter from Guy Potter Benton, president of Miami University when Horace was a student there.

Invitations to Horace's graduation from Versailles High School on April 22, 1904 and from Miami University in June 1908 can also be found in the collection, together with Horace's one-year teaching certificate from the Darke County Examiners, dated June 25, 1904.

Manuscripts in the collection include Homer Ballinger's oration on "Japan's Progress in Civilization" and several papers by John Ballinger, including "The Pulse in Diagnosis and Therapeutics" and "The Medical Paper, Its Preparation and Delivery." Other examples of poetry written by Ballinger can be found here. For example, "In Memory and Appreciation of My Children's Mother," a poem written by Ballinger in August 1935, expresses his thoughts about his wife, who died more than 15 years previously. "Her charms were not begot'n of scholar's art,/But welled-up from a gen'rous human heart," he writes. A birthday verse that Ballinger wrote to Homer in March 1927 is also included in the collection.

Ballinger's "The Story of My Children's Ancestors" offers insights into the character and times of his ancestors. It also reveals details of his childhood.

The diary that John Ballinger kept from January 1930 to August 1939 provides details of family activities, such as Mary's teaching in Springfield, Ohio and Horace and Homer's work in the lumber business. It also records the occurrence of an earthquake at his home on September

20, 1931; the death of Thomas Edison on October 19, 1931; and the deaths of several friends. He also provides details of Homer's work with the NRA in Washington, D.C., serving as chairman of the executive committee of code authority in setting codes for the retail lumber business of the United States. On August 15, 1935, Ballinger notes the celebration not only of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with his children and their families, but also of the deaths of Will Rogers and Wiley Post.

Writing on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 8, 1935, Ballinger observes, "I am very thankful for the extent of life that has been granted to me. While a considerable number of people live considerably longer, very, very many do not live to a like age. I feel that I owe this, first, to my Creator; next to a fairly good ancestry, heredity, my father passing 78, my mother 84; on my own account I have determinedly led a strictly temperate life, eschewing intoxicating drinks, tobacco, and to a large extent tea and coffee. How much my strict habits have added to my life I have no means of knowing. I surely think they have been to my advantage, at any rate I feel that it was a duty I owed to Him who gave us life, and I confidently commend such a course of life to anyone who may chance to read these lines."

In his diary, Ballinger also notes the deaths of Senator Huey Long, King George V of England, and Rudyard Kipling, as well as the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, listening to the entire proceedings on the radio. Ballinger's last diary entry, written on August 27, 1939, records a trip he and Mary took to Indian Lake, where they ate dinner and explored the surroundings in Mary's automobile.

The collection concludes with a genealogical and historical sketch of the Ballinger family, including the derivation of the Ballinger name from the French word "Boulangier," or "baker."

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

### Series I: Correspondence

- Subseries I: Correspondence from John B. Ballinger to Horace Ballinger
- Subseries II: Correspondence from Mrs. John B. Ballinger to Horace Ballinger
- Subseries III: Correspondence from Homer Ballinger to Horace Ballinger
- Subseries IV: Correspondence from Mary Ballinger to Horace Ballinger
- Subseries V: Correspondence from George Ballinger to Horace Ballinger
- Subseries VI: Miscellaneous Correspondence to Horace Ballinger

### Series II: Manuscripts

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

The following correspondence between John Ballinger and Guy Potter Benton is located at Miami University Archives:

- Guy Potter Benton to Horace Ballinger (August 9, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to Horace Ballinger (August 25, 1904)
- Horace Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (July 13, 1905)
- Guy Potter Benton to Horace Ballinger (July 18, 1905)
- Horace Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (November 22, 1905)
- Horace Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (November 27, 1905)
- Guy Potter Benton to Horace Ballinger (November 28, 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (September 15, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (September 16, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (September 22, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (September 30, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (October 3, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (November 17, 1904)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (November 15, 1904)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (November 15, 1904)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (March 27, 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (April 1, 1905)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (May 16, 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (May 19, 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (November 15, 1905)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (November 18, 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (December 2, 1905)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (December [5?], 1905)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (January 4, 1906)
- Guy Potter Benton to John B. Ballinger (January 6, 1906)
- John B. Ballinger to Guy Potter Benton (January 8, 1906)

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- Access:** This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries.
- Preferred Citation:** Researchers are requested to cite the *John B. Ballinger Collection* and *The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries* in all footnote and bibliographic references.
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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the box and folder numbers shown below.

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries I: Correspondence from John B. Ballinger to Horace Ballinger**

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
1	1	Letter from [Guy Potter] Benton offering to assist him; being careful about taking medicine and looking at label before he takes anything from a bottle	September 19, 1904
1	2	Sending money; how he came out in physics, what he did about it, and whether it affected his classification; study of mathematics and English; letter from Dr. Benton about his roommate; glad to hear he is being treated with respect; news of Homer, Mary and George; would like to receive a letter from him about his work	September 24, 1904
1	3	Recitations; school costing more money than he wanted it to take; thoughts about leaving fraternity out that year; staying out of flag rush; advice about same; will be sending books; visiting as an objection from rooming in dormitory	September 30, 1904
1	4	Expects to ship boxes the next day; what books and other items for his room that were enclosed; Homer's grades; thoughts about different word to have used in his letter; encloses bill of lading from the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway Company for three boxes; suggests investigating the library and using it to advantage; boys not interfering with his work	October 4, 1904
1	5	Suggestions for telling him when he needs money and how he would like him to pay for things; concern about unruly boys and whether they disturb or annoy him; offer from friend to take anything he might need to Oxford; request for information about the gymnasium; taking advantage of attending lectures	October 7, 1904
1	6	How much the family appreciates his letters; caution	October 12, 1904

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		about his spelling and letting careless habits "mar an otherwise excellent manuscript;" appreciating the advantages of a college course and the value of seeing "distinguished visitors"; glad for detailed account of rush and that it is over; how physical contests antagonize the purpose of college training; glad he will be attending series of sermons to young men; trying to do everything he can to better his mental, moral and physical nature; Homer's 100 on geometry test; sending four literature volumes	
1	7	Upcoming operation; sending money; financial matters; taking lecture course; whether he would rather teach or go to school; whether he could find time to make up physics in the laboratory and stay out the next year to teach, saving expense of a summer term; sorry to hear he was in the annual shirt tail parade	October 16, 1904
1	8	Injury to arm; how college authorities dealt with hazers; coming home if his power of resistance to vice weakens; expects better things of "Old Miami" in building a noble character on the foundation laid at home; glad he is getting along well in work; sacrifices to have him there; coming home at Thanksgiving	November 1, 1904
1	9	News of family and friends; reading Post account of laying cornerstone of Hepburn Hall; making the most of the experience; account of Horace's walk in the country; train schedule for coming home for Thanksgiving	November 8, 1904
1	10	Convention for nomination of ticket for Board of Education in the Webster District; news of acquaintances	November 12, 1904
1	11	Staying up late to think; deaths of acquaintances; school board election; attentions from Professor Chapman; injury to his arm; talking about board matter when he is home; travel plans for Thanksgiving; buying a hat	November 15, 1904
1	12	Relationship with Professor Chapman; good influences of teachers and friends; attended medical meeting in Dayton; travel plans for coming home; borrowing picture of Mr. Rupert to show to them	November 18, 1904
1	13	How satisfying Thanksgiving vacation was to everyone; election news; news of his medical practice	December 1, 1904

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	14	Seeing St. Louis Exposition through Prof. Chapman's eyes; using best judgment about what lectures to attend so examinations and daily work are not spoiled; election news	December 6, 1904
1	15	Studies; glad he appreciates his advantages; election news	December 10, 1904
1	16	Newspaper coverage of the eruption of Mt. Pelee and destruction of St. Pierre; unable to find information on subjects in books at home; suggests going to the library instead; advice on preparing for examinations	December 15, 1904
1	17	Consulting doctor about what to do regarding scarlet fever case in his dormitory; advice about quarantine	December 15, 1904
1	18	Scarlet fever and quarantine; discussion with Dr. Benton regarding same; coming home for Christmas	December 17, 1904
1	19	Discussion with Dr. Benton about scarlet fever and quarantine; staying with Professor Chapman	December 19, 1904
1	20	Coming to Versailles; what to do during layover in Dayton	December 20, 1904
1	21	Advice about recovering from illness; seeking advice from the doctor at school	January 13, 1905
1	22	Recovering from follicular tonsillitis; his roommate being sent home; attended medical society at Greenville; satisfied with his last term's work	January 14, 1905
1	23	News from home; eating more than the daily ration of the University Inn; advice to take care of health first and then do the best he can with his work	January 18, 1905
1	24	Includes letter from Mrs. Ballinger about how concerned those at home were about him and news of acquaintances; advice to clean up his room and disinfect everything so that he can see his friends	January 19-20, 1905
1	25	Includes letter from Homer to his brother about gymnasium at school and other news about school and acquaintances at home; what he thinks of Horace's friends and how he appreciates the kindness they show to him	January 20-21, 1905
1	26	News of family; glad his sickness is over and hopes he does not have to "suffer another imprisonment" during his stay at Miami; attended lecture in Versailles course; number of cases of scarlet fever in Versailles	January 22, 1905
1	27	Went to Versailles to talk to Dr. Benton about his affairs; difficult to get satisfaction about how he is	January 25, 1905

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		recovering	
1	28	Includes a chlorine prescription for his throat, rather than using Listerine; taking care of himself and being patient about his recovery; destroying letters rather than disinfecting them	January 26, 1905
1	29	Additional expenses incurred during illness; thoughts about chlorine prescription; news from home	January 27, 1905
1	30	News of his recovery; how others contracted the disease; glad that boys are kind to him	January 29, 1905
1	31	Importance of conserving his strength and time until he has fully regained his health and position in studies; cannot afford to keep struggling against ill health and overwork due to loss of time from sickness; cannot afford to drop out; pleased by respect and consideration shown him by the faculty	February 8, 1905
1	32	Sending money; wish for doctor to look after him when he needs anything medical; visit by president of the Township Board of Education to principal and suggestions to keep better order and correct various abuses at school	February 11, 1905
1	33	Importance of getting back into shape; continued difficulties with sore throats; weakness of his eyes; telephone call about how his health was improving; sickness in family; news of acquaintances	February 12, 1905
1	34	Suggestions about taking care of his throat; thoughts about disease	February 15, 1905
1	35	Improvement in health; cost of medicine; glad he is enthusiastic enough about his education to be concerned about making some money to carry on the work and thoughts about teaching next winter; request for information about Mr. Rupert's symptoms	February 23, 1905
1	36	Glad to hear he has nearly caught up; advice to work as hard as he can; hopes that his ambitions for him will inspire him to make every effort to stay physically and mentally safe; being careful with his clothes	March 1, 1905
1	37	Glad he is feeling well; advice to be determined with his examinations; hopes to speak with Dr. Benton while he is in Greenville	March 10, 1905
1	38	News of family and acquaintances; wishes he could help him with chemistry studies; advice about doing the best he can; plans for and cost of trip home	March 16, 1905
1	39	Glad to hear good results of mathematics	April 17, 1905

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		examination; singing in church choir or the Miami quartet and advantages of both opportunities; not much difficulty in getting him a school if he can get himself properly prepared and get a good certificate; prospects for teaching; not being discouraged about money	
1	40	Advice on courses listed in the Miami catalogue	April 25, 1905
1	41	Effect of decision about courses if he decides to stay out of school next winter; thoughts about what courses to take; suggests talking to Dr. Benton about it	April 26, 1905
1	42	Postcard with request to write Arthur Rhoades and give him the name and place of the manufacturer of his bicycle tire so he knows where to send it to exchange it for another one	May 1, 1905
1	43	Postcard listing courses required for a high school [teaching] certificate	May 6, 1905
1	44	Advice from others about going to school instead of teaching next winter; plans for him to do the same; thoughts about Dr. Benton's proposition for same; how the Miami quartet is getting along	May 10, 1905
1	45	Sorry to hear he is sick again; advice on keeping healthy	May 12, 1905
1	46	Precautions against relapses; what causes complications of mumps	May 15, 1905
1	47	Glad to hear he is improving rapidly; medical advice; difficulties in telephoning him; Alumni Association dues	May 17, 1905
1	48	Glad to hear he is feeling better; Homer not coming to Oxford; visit home during commencement to talk before he stays several weeks in Kentucky; financial matters	May 22, 1905
1	49	Straightening out matters with Alumni Association; wishes he had not chosen such an inconvenient place to work; shipping possessions; financial matters	May 30, 1905
1	50	Sending money to pay doctor; bringing home bedding and some books and leaving other things there	June 5, 1905
1	51	Thoughts about working in Kentucky; expenses for same; opportunity to study conditions of that class of society and learn something of that class of labor conditions; grades	June 21, 1905
1	52	Disappointment in not hearing from him; avoiding	June 29, 1905

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		keeping them in suspense because they “know just enough about conditions down there to make us uneasy and not enough to give us confidence”; how he did on examinations	
1	53	Glad to hear from him; social and moral conditions of miners; taking precautions to make himself safe	July 1, 1905
1	54	Grades received; money-making prospects	July 8, 1905
1	55	Financial transactions; would like to see the Kentucky mines; danger of explosions	July 11, 1905
1	56	Glad to hear he is feeling well, about the educational value of the trip, and the interest he seems to take in that feature of it; request for more information about mineral springs; news of family and acquaintances	July 15, 1905
1	57	Finding some Ballingers in Kentucky; arranging to see those Barboursville people to get ancestry details; interest in mineral springs	July 21, 1905
1	58	News from home; seeing the interior of a mine; financial matters; coming home soon	July 25, 1905
1	59	What it is like to write a letter on a typewriter; visiting Barboursville people; Ballinger family history details	July 28, 1905
1	60	How things are at school	September 20, 1905
1	61	Description of day’s activities; news of family and acquaintances; advice about staying away from temptation; thoughts about hazing	September 25, 1905
1	62	Financial matters; Latin experience; new rooming arrangements	September 28, 1905
1	63	Using judgment in financial matters; prospects of history course; news of family activities for the day; description of friend’s land; news of acquaintances; local school activities	October 2, 1905
1	64	News of acquaintances and family; concern about flag rush; financial matters	October 6, 1905
1	65	Encloses newspaper clipping from the Cincinnati Post about flag rush at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; description of day’s activities; request for information about him smoking	October 9, 1905
1	66	Encloses newspaper clippings from the Dayton Daily News about 600 University of Wisconsin students being ducked in Lake Mendota and President Roosevelt conferring with football authorities regarding changes in rules; thanks him for his admission [about smoking] and the assurance he gave	October 14, 1905

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		about his future intentions; thoughts about flag rush	
1	67	Encloses newspaper editorial from the Cincinnati Post about Andrew Carnegie and the fact that college training may unfit a man for business; news of family; business difficulties; news of acquaintances being hazed in Columbus	October 17, 1905
1	68	Plans to go to Columbus; news of acquaintances; encloses letter from Mrs. Ballinger with news of family and acquaintances	October 23, 1905
1	69	News of family and acquaintances; plans to go to Greenville; how this news shows "that many people, through willfulness, recklessness, bad judgment, ignorance &c. bring upon themselves unhappiness, sorrow, and sometimes even premature death"; thoughts about marriage and how the physically imperfect and the constitutionally diseased ought to be taught in youth that it is to their interest and happiness to remain unmarried; importance of subjecting natural tastes, desires and passions to judgment	October 27, 1905
1	70	Encloses draft for money; news of grandfather's ill health	October 28, 1905
1	71	Grandfather's health and not having him work on his gun; trip to Columbus for work; heard Washington Gladden preach on the religion of the student	November 2, 1905
1	72	Recent activities; grandfather's health; coming home for Thanksgiving; outcome of election	November 10, 1905
1	73	Grandfather's health; coming home to see him for Thanksgiving; news of acquaintances	November 13, 1905
1	74	Financial matters; coming home for Thanksgiving; grandfather's health	November 18, 1905
1	75	Received nice letter of sympathy from the Delta Rho; request to thank the boys for same; wrote Dr. Benton excusing his absence; sending list of examination questions for November	December 7, 1905
1	76	Going to New Carlisle, Springfield and Urbana for vacation with Homer; upcoming examinations	December 12, 1905
1	77	News of family and neighborhood; thoughts about passing a student and then asking him to make up time	January 8, 1906
1	78	Neighborhood news; matter of his report and registrar's request is closed; reason for changing	January 15, 1906

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		courses; Dr. Benton's comments being a credit to him	
1	79	News of family; thoughts about "Current Literature"; satisfaction with his change in studies; not satisfied with work done by the Versailles High School	January 22, 1906
1	80	Financial matters; what books he has to buy; Homer's new book on zoology	January 27, 1906
1	81	Sorry to hear of his accident; his safety at Miami and the necessity of coming home if it continues	January 31, 1906
1	82	Slow business; trip to Grant Hospital in Columbus; description of kidney examination and surgical clinic there; reminder about how "grief follows close on the heels of evil deeds" and how "those who sow 'wild oats' reap a bountiful harvest of sorrow"; news of acquaintance that also had an accident as a result of a stone; thoughtlessness exhibited by rude play; Homer taking a position to learn business and whether it will jeopardize his prospects of going to college; news of acquaintances	February 4, 1906
1	83	"Rent question"; Homer's business; news of family; request to hear more about his work; not devoting too much time to Margaret	February 12, 1906
1	84	Homer suffering from the mumps; glad to hear about him attending a Bible class; other news of family and acquaintances	February 17, 1906
1	85	Homer's case of the mumps; Mr. Miller offering Homer a position that would spoil his chance of going to college; uncle offering to loan money for both Horace and Homer to go to school; terms of repayment	February 21, 1906
1	86	Homer's thoughts about the school proposition; his thoughts about same; his own interest in going to Chicago for post-graduate work; received invitation to read paper before the Ohio State Medical Association which meets at Canton, Ohio	February 27, 1906
1	87	Financial matters; Homer improving	March 8, 1906
1	88	Family news; request to hear more minute details of his work; plans to travel to Columbus for work	March 8, 1906
1	89	Family news; business trip to Columbus; neighborhood news; ends with a few lines from Homer	March 11, 1906
1	90	Railroad fare; plans to come home after examinations	March 16, 1906
2	1	Hearing evangelist in Versailles; family news; received	April 1, 1906



Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		Miami catalogue; activities in his medical practice	
2	2	Family news; suffering from dyspepsia; reading on the pulse and chronic arterial hypertension in preparation for his paper	April 5, 1906
2	3	News of family and acquaintances; Mr. Miller expressing regrets that he could not get Homer; Homer thinking about writing on the progress and civilization of Japan	April 8, 1906
2	4	News of family and acquaintances; suffering from digestive trouble	April 13, 1906
2	5	Took paper to Greenville; other business in Greenville; neighborhood news	April 16, 1906
2	6	News of family and acquaintances; plans to go to Chicago	April 20, 1906
2	7	Neighborhood news; finished paper; plans to go to Chicago	April 23, 1906
2	8	Family news	April 28, 1906
2	9	Plans to go to Chicago; family news	April 30, 1906
2	10	News from Chicago	May 3, 1906
2	11	Completing Latin this term; busy times at work; visit to Lincoln Park and zoological garden	May 6, 1906
2	12	Sorry to hear he is going to participate in a minstrel show; progress in Latin studies	May 11, 1906
2	13	Need to return home from Chicago; necessity of training passions according to judgment and numerous examples of same in Chicago; importance of staying away from temptation	May 18, 1906
2	14	Rooming for next winter; work in Chicago; description of visit to Lincoln Park and zoological garden, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Marshall Field Museum;	May 21, 1906
2	15	Description of Chicago; purchasing medical instruments there; preparing to go home	May 26, 1906
2	16	Arrival home; family news; end of school approaching; Horace's appointment as associate editor of the Miami Recensio	May 31, 1906
2	17	Heard Gunsaulus preach; news of family and acquaintances; reading Longfellow; Homer wanting to go to Oxford	June 3, 1906
2	18	Correspondence with Dr. Benton about Ballinger's attitude toward Horace's continued attendance at school; business matters; news of acquaintances and family	September 21, 1906

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	19	Financial matters	September 22, 1906
2	20	Family news; move after 14 years in Bradford; result of change	September 28, 1906
2	21	Requests from his mother; family news	September 29, 1906
2	22	Pleased with his grades; news of acquaintances and family	October 3, 1906
2	23	Family's move into new house; family news	October 10, 1906
2	24	Family news; progress on house and office; dirty environment of new town; thoughts about Homer joining a fraternity	October 14, 1906
2	25	Letters from Horace and Homer; new place to live; family news; progress on house and office	October 18, 1906
2	26	Progress on house and office; family news; business plans; watching their valuable possessions	October 21, 1906
2	27	Activities at home; news of acquaintances and family	October 28, 1906
2	28	News of acquaintances and family	November 2, 1906
2	29	Financial matters; not coming home for Thanksgiving; schoolwork	November 8, 1906
2	30	Recent accident with the family horse and buggy; schedule of trains at Piqua, Ohio	November 16, 1906
2	31	Train schedule at Piqua	November 22, 1906
2	32	Recent activities; news of acquaintances	December 14, 1906
2	33	News of acquaintances	December 19, 1906
2	34	Recording deed; attending Darke County Medical Society meeting; Homer's work on harness	January 11, 1907
2	35	Work activities; plans for house; looking into street improvements and sidewalks on lot	January 25, 1907
2	36	How sore throat is; attended concert by the Roney Boys; business matters	January 28, 1907
2	37	Business matters; news of acquaintances and family; meeting with architect regarding house plans	February 1, 1907
2	38	Business activities; architect's plans for house; news of acquaintances and family	February 13, 1907
2	39	Business activities; financial matters; participating in singing activities	February 24, 1907
2	40	Business trip to Columbus; family news	March 5, 1907
2	41	Architect's work on house plans; attending Farmers' Institute; news of family; YMCA activities	March 10, 1907
2	42	Plans to come home; meeting with architect about house plans; business matters	March 20, 1907
2	43	Advice about Horace's difficulties with examinations, and a professor; business activities	April 5, 1907

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	44	News of family and acquaintances; trip to Indianapolis	April 19, 1907
2	45	Progress on house; business activities; news of family	April 26, 1907
2	46	Report of special examination in history and impressing professor; thoughts about professor's criticisms; property matters; news of family	May 3, 1907
2	47	George suffering from measles; progress in getting a house	May 6, 1907
2	48	Editorship of the Miami Student and presidency of class; progress on house; family news	May 10, 1907
2	49	News of acquaintances; progress on house; what Horace might do that summer; what is the matter with Oxford activities; expense of his calling cards; opinions about depression in the affairs of the world	May 17, 1907
2	50	Day's activities; financial matters; encloses notes written on the train and during waiting time at Piqua to keep his mind employed and shorten the time for waiting	May 21, 1907
2	51	Association dues; day's activities; getting paying work on the repair track	May 25, 1907
2	52	Business activities; architect's progress; news of family and acquaintances; submitting an entry to the Prize Story contest in "The Circle"	May 31, 1907
2	53	Life cycles; things to bring home; family news; thoughts about teaching as a profession; financial matters	June 7, 1907
2	54	Financial matters; plans to return home; plans to attend the annual picnic of the Darke County Medical Society	June 11, 1907
2	55	Family and neighborhood news; looking forward to their arrival; plans for a home	June 14, 1907
2	56	News of family and acquaintances; recent activities; Dr. Benton's recognition of Horace; plans to return home	June 17, 1907
2	57	Appreciates his loyalty and his innocence of an unintentional act of ingratitude; thoughts about Horace being "branded as one absolutely devoid of feelings"; Horace's reputation; request to moderate his courtship	March 9, 1908

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries II: Correspondence from Mrs. John B. Ballinger to Horace Ballinger**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	58	Family activities; glad he has a nice roommate; happy to have received a letter from Dr. Benton; news of family and acquaintances; how his room is fixed up; what he is doing about his washing	September 25, 1904
2	59	Family news; how his room looks; day's activities	October 10, 1904
2	60	Family activities; housekeeping activities; news of family and acquaintances	November 4, 1904
2	61	First page of letter; news of family	December 5, 1904
2	62	News of family and acquaintances	February 23, 1905
2	63	News of acquaintances	March 13, 1905
2	64	News of family and acquaintances; recent activities	April 5, 1906
2	65	Family news; recent activities; plans to make fried chicken when the boys are home; includes note from John Ballinger about news of acquaintance Roy Jamieson and that young men should prepare for life by learning to work and to bear hardships and privations; includes newspaper clippings about the death of Elam Ballinger, the assault of Kenyon College student James E. McGarvey, and the death of Kenyon College student Stuart Pierson during initiation	October 26, 1906
2	66	News of family and acquaintances	March 14, 1907
2	67	News of family and acquaintances; her visit to New Madison	April 8, 1907

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries III: Correspondence from Homer Ballinger to Horace Ballinger**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	68	Studying Caesar; how he likes "batching it"; school work ; painting with watercolor; receiving a telephone call from a girl	September 25, 1904
2	69	Attending ciphering match; upcoming entertainment at Webster School; Patterson Examination; news of friends; trouble with bicycle tire	April 16, 1905
2	70	Attended surprise party; writing a paper for literature class on "Local History"; parents considering whether to let Horace go to school next winter; news of friends; drive to friend's house	April 30, 1905
2	71	School activities; news of friends; change of books in	September 23, 1905

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		school; attending meeting at Harris creek	
2	72	News of family and acquaintances; purchasing tickets for lectures; having fun at school and getting good grades; how his taking two different girls home shocked some of the boys	October 19, 1905
2	73	News of family and grandfather's illness; attending party; news of friends; description of new horse	November 6, 1905
2	74	Postcard to remind Homer to bring his skates when he comes home	December 15, 1905
2	75	Father trying to teach George how to add without counting his fingers; news of family and friends; mother looking forward to seeing him; recent social activities	January 17, 1906
2	76	Getting the mumps; news of family and friends; rabbits	February 14, 1906
2	77	Progress with the mumps; father's proposition about both going to school and Homer's not working for Mr. Miller; news of family; rabbits	February 26, 1906
2	78	School work; news of friends and acquaintances	April 16, 1906
2	79	End of high school; final oration on "the island empire of Japan"; social activities; purchased a "daisy" suitcase	May 7, 1906
2	80	End of high school; seeing girls	May 26, 1906

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries IV: Correspondence from Mary Ballinger to Horace Ballinger**

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
3	1	Family news; also includes notes from Mrs. Ballinger and George and Helen Ballinger	September 20, 1904
3	2	School activities; family news; housecleaning; giving music lessons to George	May 9, 1905
3	3	News of family and acquaintances; trip to town for purchases; school activities; includes note from Mrs. Ballinger	January 26, 1906
3	4	News of family and friends; school activities; sled rides; Homer's rabbit	March 13, 1906
3	5	Housecleaning; news of family and friends; examination at Greenville	May 3, 1906
3	6	Going to new school; news of family and friends; school activities	October 12, 1906
3	7	News of family and friends; seeing Roney's Boys in	February 3, 1907

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
		lecture course	
3	8	Family news	April 8, 1907

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries V: Correspondence from George Ballinger to Horace Ballinger**

Box	Folder	Subject	Date
3	9	Valentine's day activities; school activities; family news	February 14, 1907
3	10	High water in Webster; family activities	March 14, 1907
3	11	Family activities; George and Helen having the measles	May 6, 1907

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Subseries VI: Miscellaneous Correspondence to Horace Ballinger**

Box	Folder	Author	Subject	Date
3	12	Maud F. Marker	Invitation to alumni reception for the class of 1905	May 22, 1905
3	13	Guy Potter Benton	Sending a copy of Miami's midsummer souvenir bulletin, "At Old Miami"; request for information about his plans for the coming college year; request for names and addresses of friends who might be attending college	July 15, 1905

**Series II: Manuscripts**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	14	Invitations to Horace Ballinger's graduation from Versailles High School on April 22, 1904	1904
3	15	Horace Ballinger's one-year teaching certificate from the Darke County Examiners	June 25, 1904
3	16	John Ballinger's paper on "The Pulse in Diagnosis and Therapeutics"	January 1905
3	17	Homer Ballinger's paper on "Japan's Progress in Civilization"	May 1906
3	18	Invitation to Horace Ballinger's graduation from Miami University, June 14-18, 1908	1908
3	19	"The Medical Paper, Its Preparation and Its Delivery,"	September 1921

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
		by John Ballinger, read before the Darke County Medical Society	
3	20	"A Birthday Letter" to Homer Ballinger, by John Ballinger	March 22, 1927
3	21	"Apostrophe to the Mountains," by John Ballinger	December 15, 1927
3	22	John Ballinger's diary	January 1930- August 1939
3	23	"The Old Doctor at the Concert," by John Ballinger	November 1931
3	24	"The Prince of Animals – The Dog," by John Ballinger	February 1933
3	25	"Growing Old," by John Ballinger	April 1933
3	26	"The Story of Our Ballinger Ancestors," by John Ballinger	1933-1934
3	27	"In Memory and Appreciation of My Children's Mother," by John Ballinger	August 1935
3	28	"Babylon and the First Depression," by John Ballinger	May 1939
3	29	"The Capture," by John Ballinger	Undated
3	30	"The Forbidden Fruit," by John Ballinger	Undated
3	31	Grandpa Ballinger's prayer, reproduced from memory by Horace Ballinger	Undated
3	32	"The Ballingers and Their Name"	Undated