

Introduction

Thomas Curtis Miller

Thomas Curtis Miller was born on July 16, 1890 in Chatham, Sangamon County, Illinois. He was the oldest of three brothers born to John T. Miller[1] and Ann Maria Baucom[2]. In addition, Tom had a half-sister, Bertha Irene Miller, from his father's first marriage to Florence Whisman.

Children of John T. Miller and Florence Whisman

Bertha Irene Miller, born February 3, 1883-84. married Ern Hayes

Children of John T. Miller and Ann Maria Baucom

Thomas Curtis Miller, born July 16, 1890 married Elinor Hodgen
William Raymond Miller, born July 24, 1892 married Merle
Walter Robert Miller, born June 27, 1897 married Pearle Mortimer (from Alberta)

In 1911, John T. Miller moved his family to Alberta, Canada[3]. Bertha Miller did not make this trip. John T. and "Annie" would remain in Alberta the remainder of their lives[4]. Of John T.'s sons, only Tom would eventually return to Sangamon County.

Tom Miller did return briefly to Sangamon County to marry Elinor Hodgen on August 11, 1915. The young couple returned to Alberta and it was there that they began raising a family. All six children of Tom and Elinor were born in Alberta.

Children of Thomas Miller and Elinor Hodgen

Charles Thomas Miller, born March 20, 1918 died in 1936 unmarried
George Robert Miller, born December 7, 1919 married Suzanne Walech
Mildred Miller, born June 11, 1922 married Robert Coons
Arabelle Miller, born June 11, 1922 married Louis Dyson
Dorothy Jean Miller, born July 28, 1925 married James Stone
Elinor Ruth Miller, born November 14, 1927 married Robert Edwards

Tom and Elinor remained in Alberta until 1929 when they moved their family back to Illinois[5] renting a farm of Millard Megredy located in Section 4, Ball Township. It was in the Sangamon County vicinity that Tom and Elinor would reside for the remainder of their lives[6].

Ella "Elinor" Florence Hodgen

Ella "Elinor" Florence Hodgen was born February 21, 1888, presumably at her parent's farm just outside Pleasant Plains, Illinois[7]. She was the second youngest of nine children born to Philip Oscar Hodgen[8] and Emma E. Harrison[9].

Children of Philip Oscar Hodgen and Emma E. Harrison

William O. Hodgen, born 1873, died June 1, 1912 unmarried
Clara M. Hodgen, born September 27, 1874 married Sidney Barnes

Cora Elizabeth Hodgen, born March 9, 1877 married Henry Hanson
Phillip Arthur Hodgen, born August 8, 1879 married Susan Mae Morrison
Mary Mable Hodgen, born 1881, died 1882
Clifford Claud Hodgen, born September 17, 1882
Fredrick Hodgen, born October 24, 1884 married Myrtle
Ella Florence Hodgen, born February 21, 1888 married Thomas Curtis Miller
Eva Louisa "Lulu" Hodgen, born January 28, 1891 died 1905 unmarried

Following her parents' deaths in 1894, Elinor traveled by wagon train from Iowa to Costilla County, Colorado, and lived there for several years with the James G. Watterson family[10]. By 1910, Elinor was back in Sangamon County, living as a "private residence" servant in the home of Millard F. and Arabelle Megredy. In 1912 Elinor was living in Taylorville, Illinois.

Endnotes

[1] John T. Miller is the grandson of Jacob Miller and Lucinda Poats. Jacob Miller was a soldier and farmer. He fought in the Battle of Tippacano, the War of 1812, and was nearby when Tecumseh died at the Battle of Thames in western Ontario. He also fought in the Black Hawk Wars defending settlers against Indian attacks. According to Jacob's son William Gibson Miller's biography in The History of Sangamon County:

Jacob Miller was born in Kentucky [actually he was born in Virginia], married in that State, and came to Illinois in 1824, locating in what is now Chatham Township. At the outbreak of the Black Hawk War, he enlisted to defend the homes of white settlers against the ravages of the Indians and did valiant service. After the war he returned to his home, where he resumed farming and stockraising and became one of the leading men of his community. Jacob Miller had left his native State on account of slavery, and there is little doubt that he would have enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War had not his age prevented. He always taught his sons to abhor even the thought of slavery, and instilled in them the love of country that they always evidenced in their after lives. Mr. Miller was a staunch Whig in early days, and later became a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, in whose office he became acquainted with the Great Martyr. Mr. Miller passed to his final rest July 27, 1862, his wife following him to the grave on November 2, 1877, both dying in the faith of the Hard Shell Baptist Church.

It is also very likely that Jacob Miller's grandfather was the immigrant ancestor, Jacob Miller, who immigrated with his parents into Philadelphia and then to near Lancaster, Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1749. This Jacob Miller and his wife Elizabeth were killed by Indians in 1782. Their son Abraham would travel to Clark County, Kentucky and raise a very large family there before following his son Jacob to Illinois.

[2] Ann Maria Baucom Miller is the eldest daughter of Thomas Leads Baucom and Marie Shewmaker.

Children of Thomas Baucom and Marie Shewmaker

Ann Maria Baucom, born July 27, 1863 married John T. Miller
Sarah R. Baucom, born 1866 married Tom Hatcher
Edwin Pleasant "Plez" Baucom, born October 12, 1869 married Lillie Bates
William Baucom, born February 14, 1871 married Nora Van Meter
John Vardiman Baucom, born 1874 married Georgia Miller
Mary Elizabeth "Puss" Baucom, born 1877, married William "Willie" Miller

Note: Georgia Miller and William Miller are siblings and John T. Miller's cousin.

[3] Tom Miller diary entry: March 19, 1941. *Thirty years ago today our cars of household goods, livestock and poultry arrived in Langdon, Alberta, Canada.*

[4] John T. Miller died on August 10, 1946 and is buried at Burnsland Cemetery, lot 159, block 6, section L. Ann Maria Miller died March 21, 1954, and according to Tom Miller's diaries is also buried at Burnsland.

[5] Tom Miller diary entry: January 7, 1943. *Fourteen years ago we landed in Springfield from Alberta.*

[6] Elinor Miller died December 9, 1979 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Tom Miller died March 15, 1981 at the Sunrise Health Care Center in Virden. Both are buried at Sulphur Springs Cemetery in Loami, Illinois.

[7] Section 6, Cartwright township, Directory of the Farmers and Land Owners of Sangamon County, Illinois, 1887. Printed by the Sangamon County Genealogical Society, 1987.

[8] Philip Oscar Hodgen is the great grandson of Robert Hodgen and Sarah Larue. Robert Hodgen established a mill on his farm, which, with impetus and persistence of Philip Hodgen's grandfather John Hodgen following Robert Hodgen's death, would later become Hodgenville, Kentucky. It is for Robert Hodgen that Hodgenville is named. Hodgenville is located in Larue County, which was named primarily after Sarah Hodgen's brother Jacob Larue, but also for other Larues who settle the area.

[9] Emma E. Harrison is the daughter of George M. Harrison, MD and his second wife Mary Megredy. This line of Harrisons, the "Rockingham County Harrisons", can be traced back to the 1300s in England, however it is Emma's more recent ancestors who played a role in settling and shaping America. Emma's grandfather Ezekiel Harrison was a Revolutionary War soldier and pioneer who fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant and other campaigns throughout The Revolution. The Sheriff of Rockingham County for several years, Ezekiel Harrison would eventually move his family to the wilds of Sangamon County. Ezekiel Harrison's father (Emma Harrison's great grandfather) Thomas Harrison, along with a few brothers and his father pioneered the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He also established and named Harrisonburg, Virginia.

[10] 1900 Census finds Ella Hodgen enumerated as a boarder with James G. Watterson, his wife Mary and daughter Florence (who was just a few months younger than Elinor).