

The Abraham Miller Line¹

The Surname Line

Abraham Miller (abt 1755-1833)

Abraham Miller was born on about 1755². Abraham married his first wife, and mother of most of his children, Elizabeth Mann, circa 1785, probably in Augusta County, what is now Rockingham County, Virginia. Abraham Miller and his family joined the westward migration from Virginia to Kentucky, arriving about 1795, eventually settling on the west bank of the Lulbegrud Creek in the southwest corner of Clark County. They were all members of the Lulbegrud Baptist Church.³ According to Elizabeth Miller, Abraham's daughter:

I was born in Virginia in March 1792 as the family records show. Father moved to Kentucky when I was an infant and lived sometime in the Boonesborough Station⁴ to protect themselves from Indians and afterward bought lands on the waters of the Lulbegrud Creek not far from the Baptist church which I joined when I was about 16 years old. My father's name was Abraham Miller and my mother's name was Elizabeth Mann. My grandfather's name on my mother's side was Charles Mann and my grandmother's name was Mary Trumbo.

Oral histories of Elizabeth Miller indicate that Abraham had three wives and nineteen children^{5 6}. So far, only eleven of his children have been identified. With 1st wife Elizabeth Mann:

¹ Previous researchers and many ancestry.com members connect this Abraham Miller as a son of Jacob Miller from Donegal Township, PA who was killed by Indians in 1762. In a comprehensive biography of Jacob Miller from Donegal Township list several children, there is no listing of a son of this Jacob Miller named Abraham.

² This is little solid information concerning Abraham before beginning his family in Rockingham County, Virginia. It appears that he may have attended the Linville Baptist Church and if true, he may very well be the Abraham Miller that was part of George Rogers Clark's expeditions, but currently that is speculation at best. In addition, recent DNA research indicates that this line is a descendant branch of the Bonsal surname from Derbyshire, England.

³ Letter from AH Yoder to Rev Conkwright of the Lulbegrud Baptist Church dated 4/19/1924 inquiring about Abraham Miller.

⁴ Fort Boonesborough was pretty much non-existent by 1795 although Boonesborough itself was still a striving community.

⁵ There is one family story that Abraham Miller was married a fourth time to His son's widowed mother-in-law. If in fact, Abraham Miller was married a fourth time, it is unlikely that Ms. Miller would have known about her father's fourth marriage.

⁶ A written history of this Miller line (author unknown) states clearly that Abraham Miller was married first to Elizabeth Mann, then Fannie Hoax, then Mary Hoax, then finally Lucinda Poats (Potts), mother of Jacob Miller's wife, however Abraham Miller's will states clearly that his widow was Mary.

Aaron Miller, b. 1786, married Rebecca Finlay Charles Miller, b. 1787, married Lydia
Jacob Miller, b. 1789, married Lucinda Poats
John Miller, b. circa 1790, married Margaret Fowler
Elizabeth Miller, b. March 24, 1792, married Thomas Rader
Catherine Miller, b. circa 1797, married Elijah Davis
Henry Miller, b. circa 1798, married Elizabeth "Betsy" Oliver
Isaac Miller, b. circa 1800, married Rebecca Shephard
Margaret Miller, b. circa 1800, married John Oliver

With 2nd wife Fannie Hoax or 3rd wife Mary Hoax (Fannie's sister):

Sarah Miller, b. 1803, married George Foster
James Miller, b. 1805, married Mary Finley
Matilda Miller, b. December 12, 1808, married John Redfern

The 1810 Census for Clark County, Kentucky indicates Abraham Miller had 12 children in the household, along with his wife and one slave. It is certainly possible that one or more older children, as well as any children who died very young would not be enumerated in this census.

Abraham Miller followed his son Jacob to Sangamon County, IL, and it was in Sangamon County that Abraham Miller died on August 21, 1833.

Jacob Miller (1789-1862)

Jacob Miller, one of the older sons of Abraham Miller, was born in Virginia in 1789. He was a soldier, and was mustered in Winchester, KY⁷ during his early adult years. He fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, the War of 1812, and was nearby when Tecumseh died.

Jacob Miller married Lucinda Poats (b. 12/10/1793 in Stafford County, VA). Together they had thirteen children:

Parmelia Miller, died in infancy, birthdate unknown
Robert Miller, died in infancy, birthdate unknown
Jasper D. Miller, died in infancy, birthdate unknown
Eliza Miller, b. June 1, 1815, married John Greenwood
Eunice Miller, b. May 28, 1819, married John D. Foster

⁷ History of Sangamon County, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1881, p. 828-829.

John H. Miller, b. December 6, 1821, married Elizabeth Greening
Emily Miller, b. January 13, 1824, married John Greenwood after Eliza's death
Sally Miller, b. March 20, 1826
Matilda Miller, b. September 25, 1828, married David Erving McGinnis
James F. Miller, b. August 7, 1831, married Melinda Schutt
Edmund T. Miller, b. Feb 15, 1834, m. 1st Elizabeth Stubbs, 2nd Elizabeth Trimble
Francis Marion Miller, b. February 11, 1836, married Eliza J. Trimble
William Gibson Miller, b. February 3, 1838, married 1st Sarah Hall, 2nd Nancy Baker

Upon arriving in Chatham, Illinois, Jacob “found but very few white settlers, and when he located on Government land in Chatham Township, his nearest neighbor was four to six miles away. He lived in a log cabin with no floors for many years. He prospered in his undertakings and developed a fine estate of four hundred acres of land,”⁸ and became a leading man of his community.⁹

In a biography of Jacob Miller written in the History of Sangamon County, it says:

At the outbreak of the Black Hawk War¹⁰, he enlisted to defend the homes of white settlers against the ravages of the Indians and did valiant service. 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..

⁸ Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois, Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1891, pages 415-416.

⁹ History of Sangamon County

¹⁰ The Black Hawk War was a brief conflict in 1832 which marked the last armed resistance in the Midwest between pioneers and other settlers and the native American Indian population which caused the federal removal of the eastern Indians West beyond the Mississippi River. It resulted from a disputed 1804 treaty signed by a few Sauks unauthorized to take such action. Though the tribe disavowed the treaty, federal officials acted upon it, opening lands in Illinois for settlement.

The conflict began in April 1832, when encouraged by Black Hawk, a Sauk leader, nearly 2,000 Sauks and Mesquakies crossed the Mississippi River, moving back into Illinois. That brought about the mobilization of the state militia and the movement of the U.S. Sixth Infantry into Illinois. On May 14, 1832, militiamen attacked Indians trying to parley which triggered the actual combat. For much of the summer the fighting consisted of frequent small-scale raids by groups of Indian warriors and pursuit by the militiamen. The war persuaded other tribes that they must move west or face destruction.

It is possible that Jacob Miller and Abraham Lincoln first became acquainted during the Black Hawk campaign.

John H. Miller (1821-1910)



John H. Miller (left, circa 1910,) the oldest son of Jacob Miller to live to adulthood was born December 6, 1821 in Kentucky. He moved to Chatham, Illinois with his parents when he was just a young boy. As a young man, he married Elizabeth Greening on February 14, 1849. Together they had three children:

Caroline Miller, married William H. Schumate

Eliza Miller, married George W. Stubbs

John T. Miller, married Ann Maria Baucom

A farmer, it was in Chatham that John Miller would spend his life. Elizabeth Miller was 67 years 4 months old when she died on February 27, 1898 in Chatham. Her obituary in the **Illinois State Journal** on 2/28/1898 stated "Mrs. Miller was a respected resident of Chatham where she lived for many years." John Miller died twelve years later on January 25, 1910. The **Illinois State Journal** (1/26/1910) states that at his death *"he was one of the oldest and most highly respected residents in the county."*

John Thomas Miller (1860-1946)

John Thomas Miller was born on April 9, 1860 in Sangamon County, Illinois. While little is known of his childhood, he was living with his sister Elizabeth and her family in 1880.

John T. Miller married first Florence Whisman¹¹. They had one child:

Bertha Irene Miller, born February 3, 1883 or 1884

John T. Miller married second Anna Marie Baucom¹² on August 15, 1888. They had three boys, all born in Illinois:

Thomas Curtis Miller, b. July 16, 1890, married Elinor Hodgen

Raymond Miller, b. July 14, 1892, married Merle

Walter Miller, b. June 25, 1897, married Pearle Mortimer

¹¹ Sangamon County Marriage Register, v5, p. 30

¹² Ibid, v6, p.231



The John T. Miller Family, circa late 1897, early 1898

In 1911, John T. and Annie Miller moved their family to Alberta, Canada¹³. At first renting farmland, John T. and Annie scratched out a living near Langdon and Strathmore east of Calgary during the Alberta growing seasons. In the early 1920s, John T. Miller was involved in a couple of lawsuits which worked their way through the Alberta legal system. One of these suits, ended up in the court of appeals, with the court having to decide the appropriate conduct for arbitrators. Details can be found in the Appendix.

It is in Alberta that John T. and Annie would remain the balance of their lives, as would son Walter and his family. John T. Miller died in August 1946; Annie March 21, 1954. Both are buried in Alberta.¹⁴

¹³ Tom Miller diary entry: March 19, 1941. *Thirty years ago today our cars of household goods, livestock and poultry arrived in Langdon, Alberta, Canada.*

¹⁴ 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, although there is no record of her there.



John Thomas Miller Farm 1913



Annie & John T. Miller circa 1945



JTM Ranch

Thomas Curtis Miller (1890-1981)



Tom 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 and Annie Baucom. He moved to Alberta, Canada in 1911 with his parents. Tommy Miller returned briefly to Illinois to marry Elinor Hodgen¹⁵ on August 11, 1915 at Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁵ Ella "Elinor" Hodgen was born February 21, 1888, presumably on her parent's farm in Pleasant plains, Illinois. She was the second youngest of nine children born to Philip Oscar Hodgen and Emma E. Harrison.

The young couple returned to Alberta and it was there that they began raising a family. All six children were born in Alberta:

Charles Thomas Miller, b. March 20, 1918, d. 1936

George Robert Miller, b. December 7, 1919, married Suzanne Walech

Mildred Miller, b. June 11, 1922, married Robert Coons

Arabelle Miller, b. June 11, 1922, married Louis Dyson

Dorothy Jean Miller, b. July 28, 1925, d. February 19, 1950

Ruth Miller, b. November 14, 1927, married Robert Edwards



from left to right: Mildred & Arabelle, George and Charles Miller, circa 1926

In 1929, Tom and Elinor moved their family back to Sangamon County¹⁶, and there remained the balance of their lives, renting farms in and around Loami, IL¹⁷. Tom Miller kept diaries for many years. They show a gregarious, outgoing, social family. Elinor died December 29, 1979 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois; Tom Miller died March 15 at the Sunrise Health Care center in Virden, Illinois, 1981. Both are buried at Sulphur Springs Cemetery in Loami, IL.

¹⁶ Tom Miller diary entry: January 7, 1943. *Fourteen years ago we landed in Springfield from Alberta.*

¹⁷ Upon their return from Alberta, Tom and Elinor rented a farm a few miles Northeast of Chatham in Ball township from Millard F. Megredy, Elinor's 1st cousin, one generation removed. In 1936, Tom and Elinor moved to the Murray farm, just outside Springfield, where they would remain for one year.



Tom Miller 1980