

MERCER/MILLER FAMILY

by Ruth Maria Mercer Miller

1840-1930

transcribed by E. C. Shaeffer January 25, 1994

(see Family History Library catalog #1598155/4)

August 17th, 1917

The following history of my ancestors is what was told me by my parents and Aunt Mary Kannals, especially by her the last time she visited Mother about the year 1892 in Tiffin, Ohio and also what I have seen and heard myself.

Great Grandfather Thomas Hawkins married Elizabeth Hargrow and lived on a farm near Wheeling, West Virginia. [They] were thrifty and good Christian people. One of their grandsons, a Mr. Hardgrow, lived in Wood County, Ohio and we were well acquainted with him. He was a splendid man and we were proud to own him for a relative [even] if it was a long, long way off.

Here on the farm near Wheeling were their eight children born. Their names were William, Elizabeth, John, Absalom, Thomas, Ruth, Richard and Robert. Elizabeth was our grandmother. Thomas in afteryears moved to Columbiana County [Ohio] with his family. [He] was a very prosperous farmer and owned a great many sheep, a wealthy, influential good man [who] lived to be ninety-three years old and [was] blind many years. His children thought it so much trouble to care for him so his step daughter cared for him in his last days for which he richly rewarded her. I have his photo in my family bible. His wife died many years before he did. Robert was a Christian preacher and very greatly loved. I will write more about him later on. I don't remember hearing anything about the rest of this great family.

Our grandmother Elizabeth Hawkins was born February 23rd, 1778, died August 13th, 1855. She married Alexander McCoy. He was born in Ireland, a very smart man. It was said his memory was so good that when he heard a verse read in the Bible that he could tell book, chapter and verse. He came from Ireland and lived near Wheeling, West Virginia where he and grandmother were married and settled on a farm where their nine children were born: Sarah, Margaret, Thomas, Eliza, Ruth, Matilda and her twin brother James who died aged six years of dropsy of the head, Absalom and [the] last one [was] Mary. About the year 1813 they, with their family, moved from Wheeling to the far west and settled on a farm near New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio. [They] came all the way in a big covered wagon, camping out nights and eating their meals by the roadside. One noon after dinner they missed their little Matilda, at this time 'most four years old, and began to hunt for her going back on the road. They met a man who informed them that he had seen a little girl a long way back going as fast as she could and had told him she was going back to her own room. When they found her she had gone three or four miles back and was determined not to return back to the wagon, but kicked and screamed, saying, "I want my room." But [she] was taken back all the same.

They worked very hard on the new home. Uncle Thomas being the oldest boy took charge of the farm as Grandfather had the palsy and [was] helpless. I often heard mother say she never remembered seeing her father walk and was unable to feed himself, but was a great lover of tobacco and would beg for it and sometimes cry for it and when Grandmother would give it to him it would bring on bowel trouble and make her so much work and hurt his feelings, too. He was not able to be useful any longer so passed over the dark river September 9th, 1826.

Grandmother was a great manager and they were very religious and raised a splendid good family [of] great workers. One of my Uncles that used to know Grandmother well, often said if she was a man she would be just the right one for President of the United States. He thought her so wise and thoughtful.

Her home was the preachers home and often church was held in her home. It was in her home that Uncle Robert Hawkins came and held a meeting as he did frequently and after church she served lunch. [And they] passed the pie first to Uncle Robert before the[y] did to Mr. Secrest, another preacher, and he was jealous and angry and would not accept any pie. [He] said he came to watch and pray, not to eat and thus began the division of the church. Uncle Robert's part was called the Bible Christian Church and Secrest's part called the Disciples of Christ or Church of Christ, the division brought about by Secrest's jealous spirit and difference of opinion about common manners, etc., [and] because Uncle Robert was so well loved. He came three hundred miles on horseback to get to preach at Church Hill Church, [in] Columbiana County, Ohio, and when he would come into the church with his saddlebag on his arm (a long leather bag then used instead of a valise, carrying it behind him on the saddle and this was the way of carrying extra clothing and things those days) and see the great crowds gathered from many miles to greet and hear him preach. Standing in the door with hat in his hand and the tears rolling down his cheeks for joy, he would say, "Precious people," and there would not be a dry eye in the house, so great was the enthusiasm and far-reaching, and his influence for good will never die.

[FROM OLDER TEXT]: After Elizabeth married Alexander McCoy they lived and farmed near Wheeling where their children were born:

Sarah married Andrew Barns, had 7 children

Margaret married Thomas Crocket, had 5 children

Thomas married Eliza, had 3 children

Eliza married David Thompson, had 9 children

Ruth married Thomas Pike, had 4 children

Matilda married John Mercer, had 4 children

James, Matilda's twin brother died young

Absalom married Pheba, had 6 children

Mary married George Kannals, had 2 children

All good children, not a black sheep among them and great workers and good managers, a lovely Christian family.

The oldest, Sarah, married Andrew Barns and settled near New Lisbon on a farm. When I visited them along with father and mother about the year 1854 they still lived in their log houses. There was two or three of the log houses then. I remember so well how nice Aunt's big feather bed looked and all so neat, but not very convenient.

Here their seven children were born (from memory):

1. Elizabeth, the oldest child, who married a Mr. Cox and both so nice and friendly. I think they had no children.
2. Catharine, who married Mr. Switzer, a nice family and had several children. They lived in Elk Run where their son Abbie Switzer and I corresponded for years. He married and we lost knowledge of each other.
3. Margaret was lots like her father and was not very happy with the rest of the family. She married and moved off some distance. It seems that she was not as congenial in the family as the others.
4. John--I got best acquainted with him and had lots of fun. He and I were standing in the open doorway having a fine visit when Uncle Andy, as we called him, yelled out at us, "Get out of that door you rascals, you." And you better think we did get out. We were terribly scared and saw nothing more of him until we were called to the table for dinner. He hardly waited until all were seated and thanks returned until he grabbed up a large dish of Aunt Sarah's nice preserves and emptied about half of them on his plate and set the dish down and began to eat. And when the dish was passed on by others he would say to those that took, "You must like them preserves." I could not see one good or pleasant thing about him. His children all seemed to dread him. But Aunt Sarah seemed so different, so lovely, but so care worn and weary.
5. Thomas, a nice looking gentleman; md. Eliza, (3 children).
6. William's wife's name was Rachel. She and I corresponded for years. They were a loveable couple, but for many years have not heard a word from any of the families.
7. George, I think, was the oldest son and seemed so busy that I saw but little of him.

Aunt Margaret married Thomas Crocket. (5 children) She died March 2nd, 1840. Her oldest son, Abner Crocket visited us in Wood County, Ohio, when I was a little girl. I remember he was so kind to us and I can see yet just how he looked. I have seen others of the family but Uncle and Aunt both died before I was born. But they were a nice family.

Thomas married Eliza [] and he, being the oldest boy bore much of the responsibility and care. He cared for Grandmother many years. They lived on the farm with Grandmother and kept lots of sheep. About the year 1844 my father and mother took me with them to visit Grandmother and the relatives and I think Aunt Mary and family must have been living on the farm too, with Uncle Thomas for I know cousin Elizabeth Kannals was staying there and Father and Mother left me [to] stay with Elizabeth while they went on to Pennsylvania to visit Father's sister, Aunt Charity Taylor. I remember going out with Elizabeth who was three years older than I to see Uncle Thomas and a lot of others shearing sheep. The barn looked so big and [there was] such a big lot of sheep, too. It was a big sight to me. Uncle Absalom said to us to come to him and he would cut our ears off and we were so frightened, but Uncle Thomas said, "No he won't. I won't let him." So we were comforted, for it seemed to me everybody ought to obey Uncle Thomas for he was so wise

and good and kind. He was very religious and a great financier. After Elizabeth and I got in from the barn Grandmother had us to get the little chairs and sit down and was going to teach us to sew. She got us each a needle and thimble and some quilt patches she had cut out for the occasion. I can see just how they looked. We were to make a double nine patch quilt. This was my first attempt at sewing and oh, my, but I felt big. And Uncle Thomas praised our work. He was naturally kind and helpful to everybody and a man of wide influence. In time he moved into New Lisbon and went into the banking business and often heavy in [the] wool business.

In 1854 Father and Mother visited our relatives and at that time Grandmother was still living with them and seemed proud of him. Yes, they were proud of each other and he was so kind and respectful to her and she stayed with him as long as she lived and was buried from his home [in] 1855.

His three [sons] George, Alfred and Absalom were born on the farm. George lived and died a farmer. Alfred moved to New Lisbon with his father and became a successful banker, married Jennie and after moved to Rensselear, Indiana and engaged in general banking and livestock.

Absalom when a young boy, perhaps fourteen, went into the stable and a horse kicked him on the nose which caused his death. After his son Alfred moved to Indiana, Alfred Thompson came and worked for Uncle in the bank and finally Geo. Kannels and wife moved in with Uncle and worked in [the] bank, which like all other banks had its ups and downs, but was counted very wealthy.

But in time [they] loaned very heavily to an iron mill company which failed or nearly so and one of the clerks in Uncle's bank reported that it would break Uncle up and caused a stampede and depositors took out their money and Uncle could not help himself and so [it] used him up. Some of the relatives felt and talked very hard about him but he would have come out all right had not that man started that report and Uncle was not to blame. But it grieved him beyond measure and broke him in spirit and in health. He had once been a great lover of strong coffee. One cup of ground coffee would make him one cup of coffee to drink, then [they'd] pour water on the grounds to make coffee for the rest of the family. But after his failure he refused it, saying he felt he ought not to eat when he had robbed so many people. He moved to Rensselear with his son Alfred but there was no more joy for him any place. He could not get reconciled or be comforted. His heart was full of grief so that he lived but a short time and died April 7th, 1875 of a broken heart. But his was a great life. His wife, Eliza, still remained with her son Alfred until her death.

Alfred had two children, Thomas and Mattie. Thomas went into banking with his father and finally had charge of it while his father looked after other part[s] of the business. Thomas married and had one son. In some years by some mistake he made his bank was closed. His angry depositors burned his nice house. He was tried and sent to the penniter [penitentiary] for a while, came out and went into the cattle business in Chicago, Illinois. His so[n] was wayward.

Mattie married Mr. Rhineheart, a nice man. They lived in Buffalo, New York some years. [He] was in business in the stock years there. From there [they] moved to Iowa on a big farm. And

Alfred and wife moved and lived with them after their bank failure where they grieved out their lives, for they could enjoy things no more.

Eliza McCoy married David Thompson and settled on a farm in Hancock County, Ohio. Here their ten children were born: Isaac, Matilda, Elizabeth, Alfred, Hiram, David, Simon, Thomas, Mary and Hawkins who died in his teens. Aunt Eliza was a very religious and smart lady, a great worker. She made cheese many years. Beside her many cares [of] raising her large family, she, like many others, did not have many privileges. It was the common idea those days that the wife should be in submission unto their husbands in all things and their blessed privilege was to work late and early. But her children and all others loved her and called her blessed. She loved to do charity, but hated tobacco. In her last sickness the doctor who attended her was a smoker and he knew smoke was poisonous to her, but for some reason he stood by the open window and puffed the smoke into her room which made her deathly sick and unable to raise her hands to her head. [She] lived but few days. But before she died she said, "That doctor has poisoned me with his smoke," and asked them to report him in the newspaper that he did so.

Her husband, David Thompson, was an honest, prosperous farmer, but had many peculiar ideas. He thought it hardly right to have a looking glass in the house, (James, chapter 1: verses 23 & 24), nor rocking chairs for they encouraged laziness and extravagance, nor to wear shoes in the summertime [as] it was too expensive and useless, and really but few in his days had means to get these comforts of life. But his children all went to the other extreme. Isaac Thompson married Louisa and settled on farm near his father where his five children were born.

Isaac was a conscientious Christian man and his [was] a happy family and they all settled close around him on farms. He understood law quite well and settled many cases of trouble and was wise in his counsel. He wrote my father's will and lots of others and [was] so careful to have them fair and just. His object in life seemed to be to do good to all. I enjoyed coming to see my parents and they enjoyed him. I remember so well one time when he was at our house. He told how sick one of his boys was with inflammatory rheumatism and all [the] doctors failed. He found in a [?] a sure cure for the same, "a strong brine made of rock salt and hot water applied thoroughly with two flannel cloths wrung out of the hot brine applied--turn about on the parts afflicted until pain stops," and thus cured his boy in one night. His surely was safe council. His wife died a number of years before he did.

Matilda Thompson was a lovely spirit. Justice was everything to her. She felt her father's ideas meant oppression which she felt so hard to bear. She felt it was not right that she had to go to church barefooted and many other like things, and she did so long for appreciation. She came to my parents for comfort. They took her and my sister Eliza to visit in Columbiana County, Ohio about the year 1851 in May, which was a great satisfaction to her. She cared but little for male company and never married.

Elizabeth Thompson married Joseph Martin and lived near Hardin County, Ohio, a happy Christian family. But Elizabeth went to Heaven quite young leaving three children. Joseph married again.

Alfred Thompson learned the banking business in New Lisbon, Ohio with his uncle Thomas McCoy where he was much appreciated. He later was married to Helen [] and settled in Rensselear, Indiana where they were among the leading ones and where he succeeded in the banking business and apparently in everything he attempted to do. They planned large financially. [They] had three children. He and his wife were full hearted Christians and members of the Church of Christ. But as was common in those days, a division arose on the subject of the soul sleeping until the resurrection morn. This doctrine they imbibed [?] and left the other church and met with those of like faith of their own. When Alfred passed away Rensselear greatly mourned for they felt a great man had fallen. Helen lived a number of years longer than Alfred.

Hiram Thompson remained on his father's farm and cared for his mother until her death and here his sister Mary died. She took sick about the time he was to be married and I was sent for to attend his wedding and when I got there found the wedding was deferred on account of Mary's sickness. But I stayed a few days and had a very enjoyable visit as Hiram and all were so kind and pleasant. But the country seemed to be full of biliousness then called Milk Sickness from which disease many died. After Mary's death Hiram married [] and had one child but Hiram lived only a few years longer.

David Thompson was a lover of humanity. [He] was so kind and all children loved him, but he never married. At [the] time of his death [he] resided in Rensselear, Indiana.

Simon Thompson gained a fine education and engaged in the law business in which he was a fine success and had a great desire that all might be educated. He married [] and had [] children. He was a busy man. He died leaving his wife whose mind was weakened.

Thomas Thompson was the same kind turn, settled in Rensselear, married [], had one son, Roy. But she, a tender, kind mother died quite young and Thomas married [] for his second wife [] who tenderly still cared for Roy after his father passed away.

Ruth McCoy married Thomas Pike, had children Thomas, Matilda. Aunt Ruth like the rest of her family was a great church worker.

FEBRUARY 22ND 1928: Ruth M. Miller. For some reason I left off finishing the balance of mother's family history so I will begin again. But [I] am now eighty-seven years old and so forgetful, but will try.

Aunt Ruth died March 25th 1840 the year I was born and she, being next older to my mother and so kind--they loved each other--so I was named for her. Mother told me she wanted me to be good like Aunt Ruth. My mother Matilda McCoy was born May 31st, 1809. When six years old [she] moved with her parents and family from a farm in West Virginia to a farm near New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio in a covered wagon. [She] was early taught to spin and weave. She only got to go to school three weeks as there was but few schools those days, but then learned to read and spell. She greatly delighted in church-going and her mother's home was often the meeting place and home for the preachers. She would sometime spin or weave until four o'clock in the morning so she could go to a big meeting (so called then) and take a nap and then sometimes walk twelve miles to the meeting place. At the common meeting place after [a] while

she saw a young man sitting up among the elders and deacons and so active, so she enquired who that fellow was and was told it was John Mercer. And in time they became acquainted. [They] were married March 4th 1830 and lived close to his father's home. Here their son Robert Hawkins Mercer was born January 31st, 1831 and Charity Jane Mercer was born January 30th, 1834.

About this time the Mercers and others began to hear very interesting news from Wood County, Ohio, [about] what grand rich black soil [there was] and so very productive, and [that] cut hay for their cattle cost nothing but the labor. And so John and his brother [Ab?] George thought best to go and see for themselves. George bought eighty acres in Liberty Township and John eighty acres [in Liberty] and John also one hundred sixty acres in Portage Twp. [They] returned home to get ready to [go to] this new country in 1834.

They started in a covered wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen containing their household goods, themselves and two children. On the way one day the oxen got thirsty and being close to a river smelt the water and ran away to get a drink [and] upset the wagon and threw all out and broke Matilda's collar bone. The oxen were brought back and soon hitched to the wagon and all reloaded and started on their journey. Matilda suffered much with her broken bone but had to bear it the best she could.

All [were] sleeping in the wagon nights and cooking and eating by the wayside. Others of the Mercer family were along. George had three yoke of oxen to his wagon and wife and four children and drove forty-six head of cattle. The journey lasted about two weeks (200 miles), John cutting out the brush part of the way for the wagon. The ... little log hut he had built with shelves along the sides of the house for their beds, [was] all in one room.

This proved to be very wet country, full of mosquitoes and wild beasts--wolves, deer, coons. Trees [were] very large and tall. Everyone worked hard early and late so as to get their land cleared for their crops. One day their cows went away and as John was busy, Matilda started to hunt them. About dark she heard the bell quite away off. She hurried to get there and lost her way, but started the cows and followed them and got home safely but late.

Soon as they could John built a good log cabin [with] two large rooms on [the] ground floor and sleeping rooms up above. And [he] set out apple and peach orchard. Their third child, Mary Eliza Mercer, was born May 23rd, 1837, a beautiful baby named for Matilda's two sisters. [She was] a very useful person all her life. July 18th, 1840 Ruth Maria Mercer [myself] was born named for mother's sister Ruth that died the year I was born and for the lady that was doctor when I came (Maria), for regular doctors were not to be found those days.

Now our family was complete in number and as time passed on was a united and devoted family. I heard my mother tell that before they had fences to keep their cattle in that they all strayed away seemingly to go back to their old home. And Father started on horseback to find them one night. While he was gone she [Mother] dreamed that the Indians had come to kill her (for there were many of them). Then she awoke and found the front door wide open and she got up and shut the door and went back to bed and went to sleep but she got very anxious about Father and did not care for the cattle if only he would come home, for he was gone four days. No one can now

realize the many hardships those early settlers had to go through with sickness and poverty. The Indians were kind to those that were kind to them.

The oldest girl had dark curly red hair, a lovely useful industrious girl [who] learned rapidly and was a fine sewer. [She] took cold and then [got] what then was called Ague Cake [which] form[ed] in her side--a lump that moved from one side to the other across her stomach, at which times her sufferings were terrible and could not be [?]. Father put a footboard on the cradle we all had been rocked in so she could lay her feet on it and when suffering worst I would lay on the floor beside her cradle and rock her to still her pain. In this cradle she lay and pieced two beautiful quilts and under her pillow she kept her New Testament which she loved to study and would also sing:

There is a place where I hope to live
When life and its labor are o're
A place to me the Lord will give
And then I shall suffer no more
That blissful place is my Father's land
By faith it's delight I explore
Come favor my flight angelic band
And waft me in peace to its shore.

She sang it beautifully but I then did not realize its meaning. She was so very anxious to be baptized that Father sent for a Christian minister to come and they [put her] in a big wagon on a bed to the Portage River and Father and Brother Wade carried her into the water and immersed her, after which she was so happy and improved in health for several weeks but again began to fail. And in the morning of [] Father called my sister Eliza and I to get up for Charity Jane was dying. We soon were by her bedside. Brother sat on her bed holding her left hand, Mother and Father on chairs in front of her bed. She first took Eliza's hand [and] asked her to be a good Christian and obey her parents and read the Bible. And sister said she would. Then she kissed her and bade her goodbye. Then [she] took my hand and said about the same and kissed me goodbye. Then [she] looked at Father and [said], "Won't you see they keep their promises?" He said he would, then folded her hands across her breast and closed her eyes. Just then Uncle Abram came in at the door and the foot of her bed she opened her eyes and said, "Goodbye Uncle Abe," then closed her eyes and was gone. We missed her sorely, but went on earnestly.

Brother Robert was very active and studious. [He] kept his New Testament in his pocket and when he was plowing and wanted his horses to rest would take it out of his pocket and read it and [at] other rest times. He was so anxious for an education that he went away to Antioch College in Green County, Ohio and taught school and singing to support himself. He was too anxious and studied too hard and brought on brain fever. They sent for Father who was with him two weeks when he passed away and was brought home in his coffin. He was mourned by many and a sorrow from which my parents never recovered, as they planned he would be their refuge in their old age.

Mary Eliza was born May 23rd, 1827. [She] was very studious and active and united early in life, taught one term of school and was married to Frank Outhwaite at her home on [] and went to live with him on his father's farm near Rockaway, Seneca County, Ohio. They had plenty. We

visited together often and she was a great comfort to all. [She] had five children, Robert, Matilda, Frank, Elizabeth, Eddie. [She] was so helpful and kind to all, but took the measles and was delirious and passed away February 23rd, 1886. She was greatly missed and I was the only one living of my parents' children.

But when Robert and I married it was our agreement to stay with my parents and work together. At first we worked for them for wages. But soon Father felt he was too old to care for business and gave us the farms and all his livestock, and the same value to sister Eliza, his only two heirs. And [then] he cared only for his money and what he enjoyed doing and we did all [the rest], supported the family and carried on all the business.

All went well until about May 1887 when Mother had a stroke from which she never recovered, but was tenderly cared for by the family. And Father cared for her nights. He read and studied his Bible which he enjoyed so much, trying all the time to be useful. But he took a cold which caused pneumonia and the doctor said he could not live. He said he was willing to abide what might come and passed away March 4th 1890, the anniversary of his marriage. I folded his hands and closed his eyes. [I] was so grieved [I] took a chill [and] was very sick three weeks. Many wept over his face saying, "This man has helped so much and saved my home for me." He never sued anyone nor was he ever sued. He left an estate of \$60,000 which was divided equally between sister Eliza's children and me. Robert had for some years been dealing largely in livestock and did well and wisely.

But [I] must first tell about our family. We were married June 1st, 1862.

1. Our son John William Daniel [Miller] was born May 11, 1863. He married Rose M. Stafford, had two children, Myron md., Alice md. Carl Brown. Deceased Sept. 11th, 1892.
2. Thomas Abram Austin [Miller] was born May 6th, 1867. On Nov. 6th, 1889 married Laura Haverstock at her home, had three children: Geneva, md. Brown, Robert David, and Dortha, md. Gerry Lyons.
3. Elizabeth Matilda ["Mattie"] Alta [Miller] was born May 23rd, 1872. Married William C. Cook June 28th, 1894, passed away May 1925, had four girls: Margaret, married, Lois, md., Florence, md. Esther.
4. Mary Pearl Oak [Miller] was born Sept 3rd, 1878, was married to Dallas Osborne at her home in Tiffin, Ohio April 7th 1897, had four children: Alberta married Walter Milton, Dallas, Helen married Earl Shaeffer, Ruth M. at home.

I started to tell about our business affairs and Robert was a natural farmer and stockman. But the land that Father had given us and all we had bought had proven to be good oil land and our sons Daniel and Abram suggested that we attend to drilling our own territory. Robert acting as President and Treasurer, Daniel as manager of machinery and drilling, Abram as manager of teaming and all woodwork and leased other lands, too. All went well and they had the name of being the best oil men in the country. The price being only fifteen cents per barrel as the standard then had full control. All were happy and prosperous until Daniel being so anxious that all should

be done right stayed up all night to see a well come in and took a hard cold causing Typhoid Pneumonia and five doctors did their best to cure him. He passed away in a few days Sept. 16th, 1892. Everyone mourned this great loss to the world. His sickness was in his own home in Mermill, Ohio, where he left two little children, Myron D. and Alice and his wife. [He] was buried in Rudolf Cemetery close to the church where he was a faithful member and great worker and where he was so greatly missed.

After this great loss Abram and his [?] were so discouraged and lost that they dreaded going about the wells where they missed Daniel so much. So [they] finally sold all oil working interest to [] for \$70,000 cash but kept royalty interest, went to Tiffin, Ohio, bought Geo. Buskirk home for Abram. There they moved and his father and I rented our farm and house all furnished to Lew Caruthers and May 20th 1893 left the Wood County farm and moved to Tiffin, Ohio in a carriage and took my mother along with us and we lived with Abram in their home on Melmore St. until September when we got possession of the Naylor home across the street which we had bought--a fourteen room house and acres of land and all enjoyed it greatly. [We] soon formed the Miller and Sons Banking business and located on [] St. Robert Miller as President and Abram Miller as manager, Ed Rhodes as helper. All went well and enjoyable and had pleasant church privileges. But built a splendid new stone church which all enjoyed and so did my mother [whom] we took regularly until Feb. 11th 1895 when she got worse and could not go and passed away the next Sunday eve. When I asked if she knew she was very sick and that Jesus was soon coming for her she smiled sweetly and said, "That will be sweet." These were her last words, but calmly breathed her last. [She] had no fear of death. [She] was taken back to Wood County and her body laid beside Father's.

Our two girls, Matilda and Pearl were sent to Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio to get an education. Here Matilda got acquainted with William C. Cook and Pearl with Dallas J. Osborne. After our girls left Hiram and began to go to Hidleberg College in Tiffin, Mr. Cook came to help in our bank and he and Matilda were married at our home June 28th 1894 and went to housekeeping in a nice home we gave her.

Pearl went to Bethany College, West Virginia for a while to learn music and came home and was married to Dallas J. Osborne the 7th of April, 1897 at our Tiffin home by G. C. Brelas, our minister. They went to keeping house in a nice home we gave them. He had been for some time a very influential preacher in the Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, but thought best to come to Tiffin and help in our bank.

All went well for a while. Then it was thought best to organize a bank in Chicago, Illinois with \$50,000 capital. [We] sent W. C. Cook and family and Abram Miller there to operate it with Dallas Osborne to care for the Tiffin Bank. But Dallas' health failed and he had to move to New Mexico. Then we had to have Abram and family come home to Tiffin to care for our bank.

Dallas in his new home went into [the] butchering business and gained in health in Las Vegas, New Mexico and visited Denver which he liked very much and soon sold his farms in Las Vegas and moved to Denver with his family and went into the wool business. [He] was a prominent officer in the Colorado Christian Childrens Home, the YMCA society and the Central Christian Church and also Pearl, too.

All went well for a while but he, gradually failing in health, [was] finally unable to attend strictly to the care of business and he lost out. In a short time he passed away suddenly of the hemorrhage of the lungs and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery leaving his wife and four children, Alberta, Dallas, Helen and Ruth living in the home he had built. His death occurred Feb. 17th, 1913.

Soon after Abram left Chicago W. C. Cook closed our little bank there, uniting it with the Chicago Trust Bank and he went to work in it as one of its head officers and all went well and all seemed happy until his wife Matilda's health began to fail. She had been a great manager, a kind friend and helper to all and a great church worker. But suddenly passed away May 17th 1922 leaving four girls, Margaret (married and one child), Lois, Florence and Esther, all missing her so much and her husband W. C. Cook left so lonely and sad that he married a nice wealthy lady the 31st of the next December and felt at home once more.

Husband and I went to our darling daughter's funeral. The sermon Dr. Willett preached [used] this text: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." But all so sad. Then Alice took us to her home in Cleveland, Ohio and thence to our old home at Bowling Green where at the church we had our 60th wedding anniversary [with] about three hundred guests.

We had visited Pearl and Dallas in their home in Denver and stayed quite a good while and liked the city and country. [It was] the best place we ever saw and we felt [we] would like to live where we liked it so. [We] went home to Tiffin and stayed with Abram and family and made a sale and sold all our furniture that we did not want to take to Denver and all our livestock and outdoor fixings and left Tiffin where we had lived for fifteen years and arrived in Denver December 24th, 1908 and settled in 2104 Vine St. opposite to where Pearl and Dallas lived and [we] rented there. [We] stayed there until we bought the Royal Apartments on 1571 Humbolt St. and moved into 1751 July 1st 1912. [We] also bought the S{B ranch but lived in the apartment until after Dallas' death when Pearl needed our help. Then we left our apartment all furnished May 5th 1913 and lived with Pearl in the home they had built and where Dallas died. For Pearl needed us and we begged Abram and family to come and live here and help us to get our affairs in better shape. So they came July 14th, 1914 and occupied our furnished apartment in the Royal and Abram sacrificed his \$10,000 insurance policy then due and all he had to get our affairs in safe shape. Robert and I worked on the farm and at Pearl's as best we could until in 1914 we traded our two lots near Pearl's home on Clermont St. and her home for a double house on Adams St., 1611 and 1609. We moved into 1611 for a real home which we greatly enjoyed.

But Robert's health being poor the last thirty years caused from a nervous breakdown, we had to depend on Abram to attend to our business affairs which he faithfully tried to do and rented our S{B farm to Dr. Pruett for a hog farm at \$8,000 per year. This being wartime, hogs in price went up to 27 1/2 cents per lb. and the company had five thousand head of large fat fine hogs when the price began to go rapidly down to 6 cents when the company was forced to sell, which broke the company. They lost every cent and crippled us greatly and worried Robert badly and he failed fast.

June 8th, 1925 we went to church together at Central Christian Church which he enjoyed as usual and delighted in. But Sunday the 15th he said he could not go, but wanted me to go as he had promised mother he would never hinder me from going to church and to my surprise when I got home he had dinner ready and seemed so cheerful. The next day was nice and warm [with] sunshine and he picked up a chair and a glass of water and went out in the back yard to sit in the warm sun. [He] set the chair down on the cement walk and went to sit down on the chair but missed it and fell on the cement walk. Our grandson Robert D. was in the back yard fixing the fence and saw him fall, picked him up and carried him and found he could not stand up and seemed unconscious. We undressed him and put him in his bed and sent for Dr. Ramsey who said his right hip was broken and he could not live. The next day, June 17th 1925 in the evening he opened his eyes, saw our daughter Pearl standing at the foot of his bed. He said "How are you, Pearl?" very low, then turned his face and looked at me, raised his right hand and waved us goodbye and was gone. [The funeral was the next Sunday afternoon at Central Christian Church. [The] sermon [was] by Bro. Davis. Olinger choir sang so beautiful, "Asleep in Jesus, Blessed Sleep, Shall We Gather at the River." [He] was buried in Pearl's cemetery lot close to her husband Dallas J. Osborne in Crown Hill Cemetery. We were all left so lonely and sad.

At this time Abram and family were living in our upstairs apartment. [Abe was] doing all in his power to get our finances fixed satisfactorily and his own land saved, but money [was] so scarce all deals failed and [we] could borrow no money on our fine farms nor could we lease or rent or sell or trade them. No one wanted farms. They became worthless and we had to loose them all and no chance to get any employment of any kind here in Denver. Abram and his son Robert left Denver about the first of Sept. 1926 to find a place of employment or a place of business as best they could leaving Laura and I to do the best we knew how.

Times got no better here for war times had [created] very hard [times]. So Laura left Denver Jun 9th 1927 and went to Tiffin, Ohio to care for her sick mother, 92 years old, leaving everything she had here in her daughter Dorthea's and husband's care and depending on them to care for any of her or Abram's [business] that might come up and me to do the best I can.

This family history owned and written by Ruth M. Miller. After my death I want all this collection to be given to Pearl O. Osborne or her family.

March 22, 1928
Ruth M. Miller

[Additional notes made by Ruth Mercer Miller:]

Family History May 20th 1893

Left Wood County farm May 20th, 1893. Robert, Mother and I left about two o'clock in the afternoon in double carriage with pillows for Mother if she got tired. Had little [mat?his] sorrel drivers that played a tune on street and brought out many to see prance so proudly. Got to Abes about six o'clock all feeling fine and not tired. Stayed with Abe in his home, the old Geo. Berskirk home in Tiffin, Ohio, and lived with them until September the same year when we got possession of our own home, the Naylor property, and moved into that. Here history of 15 years in Tiffin

where we lived until 1908 when we left Tiffin and reached Denver Dec. 24th 1908 and lived on Vine St., 2104.

From there bought and moved into the Royal apartment July 1st, 1912, into apartment 1751 Humbolt St. and furnished it up nicely and lived there and on the farm and bought a nice horse and buggy to ride around in but proved it to [be] too expensive and too much trouble and left buggy and horse at farm and left this home all furnished May 8th 1913 and went to live with Pearl in her home 2312 Clermont St. as she needed help and protection and lived there until June 11th, 1914 when we traded Pearl's home and our two lots next to it for double house 1611-1609 Adams St. Moved into 1609 along with Pearl June 14th 1914. We furnished and fixed it up and helped Pearl rent it to Flournoys for \$40 per month to Sept. 3rd. Pearl and her three girls left for her mountain home to take a rest and get well. I stayed and finished up the work and mopped the floors and introduced Mr. Flourney to her new home. Then Pa, Dallas and I rode with the express man up to our 1751 Humbolt home and stayed there until Laura and her two girls came July 14th 1914. Then we left there Wednesday eve the 15th for the farm and had my birthday dinner there, the 18th. Dallas had gone the Sunday before with Robert to the farm. Late this fall we left farm and came to our 1611 Adams home got carpets and things of Pearl's to furnish house and let Abe live in our Humbolt furnished home and Mr. Cannans hated so to leave this 1611 Adams that we let them live there just as long as we could.

1904 April 7 mush and milk supper at Tiffin, Ohio. Had for guests Bro. and Sister Smith, Bro. & Sister Nicervander, Cora Outhwaite, Mr. & Mrs. T. A. Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Barnum, Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Baker, Minnie Baker.

1904 June 8 Farmers supper Wednesday: Guests: Mr. & Mrs. John Naylor, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Buskirk, Mr. & Mrs. Arlington Dunn, Old Mr. & Mrs. Mathews, Bro. Smith & wife.

Third supper in Sept: Guests: Mr. & Mrs. Blare, Mr. & Mrs. Fenley, Mr. & Mrs. T. A. Miller, Clara Dunn and Edith Harn, Bro. & Sister Smith.

J.V. Updike died March 29th 3 o'clock, 1907, corner Taylor and Vale at Bloomington, Ill, buried at Lima, Ohio.

Caroline Boozer and Cora M. Daniels, Galewood, MO
Florence McCloskey, Locust Hill, Ohio

HISTORY OF OUR VISIT TO CLEVELAND

Here [?] we stayed over night and after dinner Geo and Tillie took us all to Elyra where we bid them goodbye. Elizabeth returned with them and Carl and Alice met us and took us to their home. [Perhaps it was at Lakewood, Ohio, where Carl and Alice Brown lived for many years.]

17th - Monday. We rested at Alice's.

[July] 18th - Spent my 76th birthday with Alice and Bro. Wilcox came for supper.

19th - Carl and Alice took us to Bancrofts in evening. Got there after dark. Halls' mother Cook came to see us.

20th - Thursday. Had dinner at Halls. Stayed over night and Bancrofts. Saw college, saw Hertzogs, Deans, Pounds, Wakefields. Alice and Alberta went to Cleveland.

21st - Went to Hertzogs and Nat Johnston and had dinner and Halls. Bro. Johnston took us to Garrettsville where we met Myron who came to cousin Enos Taylor's with us.

July 22nd 1916 - Enos Taylors and 2nd wife Bertha live in Enos Valley, one son, Roy, in Michigan lumbering, and William on old Taylor farm. Clifford always lived with his grandparents, his mother dying at his birth and Mable who is married and lives [...]

22nd July at noon

Jennie Douglas. Geo. has died. Her son Charles and wife Francis living on her farm and Charles is only son. His boys Geo, Robert all living together there. Daughter Annie Raney living in Sharon, PA, married to a high school teacher & has two boys, Orvil & William. Had a good dinner and supper here and Myron drove the Ford auto here for us all the way and got a flat tire, got stalled going uphill on the way going Enos called John out. Had a nice chat with him. He is 80 years old, works on his farm every day, has two sons and one daughter but has housekeeper as his daughter could make more working in store in town, so John was left alone with hired help. After supper at Genieva's we went and called on Aunt Harriet. She looks so very bad and ill shaped.

Monday 24th - We [are] now at noon at Lee Taylor, in afternoon at Maud Sherers for supper. Lees daughter Charl Martins man brought us to Lees. Charland has three children, Eva, Robert & Douglas, all so nice. Sherer took us to streetcar at Mahoningtown to come to Newcastle on to Jo. Taylors.

25th - Jo's wife Cora took us to Addie's. Stayed for dinner, came back to Jo's on car and Cora took us to see cousin Emma Gillmore and her daughter Mable McCaslin, her son John, a dentist in Youngstown and Gri Gillmore on farm close to Lee's. Stopped on way home and saw Addie's Annie Bonzo and Joe's son Lee wife and Lee's son's wife Sammie and baby.

26th - Morning Jo & Cora took us in their auto to Jo's daughters Robinson who had married an only child and was so nicely fixed and she kept help, had two little girls, Dortha and ____ then on to Will McCloskeys to stay all night but found so many that they went home as Florence had married a Presbyterian minister and Bessie a teacher in Minneapolis and all were at home. Their son

Charles' wife and boy came in evening from Palestine in auto and went home but did not see Davie but Charles the two Brother worked in the same bank in Palestine.

27th - The preacher brought us to _____ and then we took car to _____ and then to Columbiana where we phoned Lizzie Galbraith that we would take dinner with her. In evening saw Charles Mercer, Uncle Dan's William's son who looked like Linie Mercer and a nice Holstein cow man, had three children, boy 17 Clarence. Mildred and Howard.

28th - Cousin Jason has two boys. Jessie a farmer near N Geo[rge]town Holmeworth, PS, Marion, Daniel living in Pittsburgh a trader. Lizzie P0 is RFD 2 Salem, O. Cousin Jason took us in buggy to cousin William Mercer his Debora has seven children, Charles F, Georgiana, Mercer. Their children, Clarence, Mildred md Howard. Albert E md. Pearl Mercer, their children Orvie W, Chester L md. Herbert Mercer, Frank War md Bertha M Mercer Ward. Their children Esther D md Paul F. Ward., John Kuhl md Ida L. Mercer Kuhl, their children Russell, Ruth, Kenneth md Mary Kuhl, Jesse B. md Mary Mercer, their children Kenneth E and Agnes D. Mercer. Vernon D and Bertha M. Mercer. Merle M. Mercer. [in margin]: Sandy Cemetery

28th Friday eve - Ella Scattergood, Uncle Dan's youngest daughter sent her oldest daughter Leora in auto to bring us to Ella's nice home. Her oldest daughter married Webster, live close to her mother but has no children, and not well. Ella looked young and her husband Frank soon came, and after supper he and rest went for Maud and husband and brought Maud and Husband over to spend the evening. She looked pale. Her husband had long nose, not good looking, but good worker and kind. Been married 12 years and no children. Ella's oldest girl Leora was very large and great worker.

29th - Frank took us to Jessie Gilbreth's. Elizabeth's son and his wife and two little boys Roy and Elvin and after she got her bread baked they took us to Will Browns and all ate a splendid dinner and had an excellent visit and then Jessie took us to Alliance where we took train to Cleveland went on streetcars to Alice's.

30th - All went to church and S.S. to Franklin Circle Church. Bro. Rothenberger preached. He read 11th Psalm and dwelt on [it]. After dinner Alice, Carl took Myron, Robert, Alberta and I to see his Medina farm and on to Ben Waters she went with us to see the cemetery where Aunt Eliza was buried and to see where Father Miller built and lived and to see Aunt Sarah at _____ who is taking such good care of her. Then back to Ben's where Anne had cheese sandwiches and lemonade and Myron and Alice kissed us, Carl & Alberta, goodby and returned to Cleveland. Myron wept. We stayed at Ben's.

31st - Monday went to see Aunt Sarah again and then to Bessie Teppet's where she is keeping house for her father and they were busy making ice cream and we had all we could eat and supper there and in evening Ben came and took us to his brother Frank Waters where we met Frank's wife and mother-in-law and he was unreasonable. Ben came after us at 10 o'clock and we stayed all night there.

Aug. 1st. In morning Ben & his wife Anne took us to Cleveland and eat dinner at Alice's after dinner bid us goodbye and returned. Alice took us to see Mary Lyons and she went with us to see

sister Gerals who was so glad to see us and we stopped to see Mary Lyon's house on our return. Had a happy time all the day.

Aug. 2 - Went downtown to try to get Alberta a dress. Got Helen and Ruth stuff for dresses. Alberta got a \$5 white waist. In evening called on Roy Brown. Had a fine time and saw him write his nice writing. This our last evening with Alice.

Aug 3rd - Left Alice at 8:40 got to Rose Carrothers 10:30 paid for clear to Chicago and stopped over at Toledo. Took trunk to depot. Gave Myron at Medina \$10, Alberta \$10, Alice \$10, Alice for Alberta \$10, Spent at Toledo car fare & etc. \$75. Stayed overnight with Rose and had a good and profitable time with her, but she was not well- too hot so we arranged to leave at 10:10 but Pa went to get his watch fixed.

4th - Found the place he wanted but got lost and did not find his way back until it was too late to go and he came near passing Roses street but Alberta saw him and ran after him and both came home. We were so glad to see him but had to stay for 2:40 train and so had our last Ohio dinner with Rose on 10th St. at Mirena Apt.

5th - Got to Chicago last eve at 10:30. Took street car (15 cents) and came to Mathes as they had not got our telegram. Mathes and children got up and let us in and we had a good night's rest. We stayed at home and Mathes and told our visit over.

6th - Went to S.S. taught Margaret's class but poor Rose Miller came for dinner. Stopped at Museum. Had a fine ride up city and Margaret's beans. Jack Davis helped get and eat supper.

7th - Wash day. I fixed white dress and waist.

8th - Girls went up town and got black hats. Alberta got her a silk dress. I hemmed napkins and fixed Will's silk shirt cuffs. Had lunch, etc.

9th - I cut it out and sewed on it.

10th - Worked on Alberta's dress in evening called on Sister Kemp. Got back before it rained and then had a splendid rain.

11th - Friday. Did not sew on Alberta's dress, as she would not try it on. Pa, Alberta, Florence, Lois, Mathe & I all went to park and municipal pier. Auto wheel broke a little, left it in shop and came home on car to BrynMawr. Had a lovely time. I was tired and laid down and slept until bedtime and then slept good. Pa went a walking and got some stomach tablets.

12th, Sat. - Nice sunshine morning. Sewed at Alberta's dress, stitched waist in. Evening, Rose came for supper. Had chicken. After supper Will took us to city and back. Rook Rose home.

13th - Went to S. S., taught Margaret's class about Nehemiah building the wall. Pa, Florence, Lois and I went and stayed to communion. After dinner Will took all but Florence, she was not well, to Gary [Indiana], a new big town forty miles out. Had a grand ride, sure.

[date missing] Then back to Ben's and had cheese sandwiches and lemonade and then Carle & Myron and Alberta bid us goodbye as Myron had to go to his farm. But, dear boy, how he wept as he knew it would be a long time before he would see us again. Everybody loved him. He is so congenial and true, just like his father, but is badly in debt and feels much discouraged as his alfalfa and wheat froze out last winter and makes it very hard for him and so wet this spring too, but his crops look fairly good now and he is trying to build silo and go some into milk business fast as he can. We stayed at Ben's two nights and he and wife took us to Cleveland in his Ford and she has one too, and each [pages missing]

This is a song my Father sang to all my children while little as they sat on his lap:

This New Country

This wilderness was our abode
Full forty years ago
And when good meat we used to eat
We caught the buffalo.

Of deer skins we made moccasins
To wear upon our feet
A checkered shirt was thought no hurt
Good company to keep.

And when a visit was to pay
On a winter's night or summer day
The oxen drew our ladies' sleigh
In this new country.

Our house was made of logs of wood
Rolled up in squares and dabbed with mud
If the bark was tight the roof was good
In this new country.

The Indians often made us fear
That there was danger nigh.

Ruth M. Miller

How the foregoing came to me, Ellen Claire Weaver Shaeffer:

Christmas 1963

My Dear Ellen Claire,

Your letter about Grandmother's family records warmed my heart and so I called my brother in Mansfield and he agreed that you should have it to keep. There is no one now known to us who will care as much as you do and if they do we will give them your name, so please keep the book with our blessing.

Bobby Jo has given you a great buildup and we accept her judgment. You have a splendid hobby, so worth while.

The Osborns are intellectuals, teachers, preachers, etc., quite a contrast and indeed a fine mixture with the country folk, farmers, stockmen and oil men of the Miller Mercer branch.

My very best to you and yours. May this be a great Christmas to you and yours.

With love,

Alice Matilda (Miller Brown)