

The History of the George W. Miller Family

George Whitley Miller, youngest of the five children of Tobias and Katherine (Brawner) Miller, was born in Davis County, Missouri, March 31, 1850. Tobias was a leading farmer and held various county offices during his life time. He died August 9, 1851. Three years later his wife died. The orphaned children went to live with Tobias's sister and husband, David and Margaret (Miller) Henderson, who had a number of children of their own. As each of the Tobias Miller children became of age they were granted a portion of the land belonging to Tobias.

George engaged in farming for a time and later moved to Gallatin, Missouri, where he owned and operated a hardware store. He was married to Martha (called Mattie) Louise Keith, born March 22, 1859. She was the daughter of Richard Ferrall Keith. Her mother died while she was quite young and her father married a young woman named Lea. She died after Mattie was married so Mattie's father came to live with her. "Pa" was welcome and loved by all the family. He was licensed as an Exhorter in the Southern Methodist Church. He died June 25, 1899 and is buried in the Brown cemetery near Gallatin, Missouri.

George, Mattie and their five children, George Ferrell, Earl Tobias, Nannie Lee, Richard Keith and Mary Emelyn, moved from Gallatin in 1900 to Oakland, California. Mattie had hay fever and the only remedy in those days was a change of climate. They lived in Oakland six months. George did not feel quite safe in the city with a wife and five children to support so they chose a University town in Oklahoma where the children could be educated easily. They moved to Norman and lived in a house in the 400 block on East Gray. Norman was a small town then and the University was housed in one building.

George bought a hardware store in partnership with Mr. J. C. Minter. The store was located on Main Street where the Security National Bank now stands.

He also bought a farm located six blocks south of Main Street, where he planted wheat. He built a two story square house at the point closest to town. The family moved from East Gray to this home. It was here that Lewis Winfield was born, November 1, 1902.

Mr. Anton Classen of Oklahoma City helped George convert this farm into an addition to Norman. They called it the Classen-Miller addition. The two principle streets running north and south are Miller Avenue and Classen Boulevard. Miller avenue is an extension of South Peters Avenue. George planted elm trees bordering all the streets and as a memorial to him some are still standing after almost seventy years.

George, Mattie and the children joined the Southern Methodist Church. George was active in the church, serving on the Board of Stewards and Mattie was active in the Women's Society. Nannie and Emelyn, during their college years played the pipe organ for the church.

George sold his interest in the hardware store to Mr. Minter and devoted his time to selling lots and houses. The family lived in five new houses planned by Mattie.

George lived to be seventy-five. He died of concussion of the brain caused by a fall at his home. He is buried near Norman. Mattie also lived to be seventy-five and is buried in Norman.

George and Mattie were the parents of six children as follows:

I. George Ferrell Miller, who was born January 4, 1884. He died July 2, 1934 and is buried in Norman, Oklahoma. He contracted chronic hydrocephalus when he had whooping cough at the age of six months. He was intelligent and educated himself by reading as he dropped out of school at an early age because of his affliction. Such books as "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" interested him. He had the ability to add a column of figures at a

glance. In 1920 he had a nervous breakdown and had to be committed to the Mental Institution at Norman where he died at the age of fifty.

II. Earle Tobias Miller, who was born June 3, 1886, died November 13, 1950 and is buried at Norman, Oklahoma. Earle did not actually receive a degree from the University as he changed his major. He had more hours than required for a degree but not in the right subjects. He belonged to the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was honored by being asked to serve on the Board of Regents of the University. He moved to Tulsa where he was quite successful in the oil business. He married Mabel Davis, who was teaching in Tulsa, June 20, 1920. She died September 23, 1956 and is buried in Norman. Mabel had a degree from the Normal School in Durant, Oklahoma. She had a wonderful personality which won her many friends.

Later Earle and family moved back to Norman. He bought some land south of the Classen-Miller addition and had it plotted into an addition called Southridge. He built a home at 503 Shawnee street. He later moved back to Tulsa. He was living there at the time of his death.

The children of Earle Tobias Miller and Mabel (Davis) Miller were:

A. Earle Payne Miller, born 1921. He died in 1945 in a training flight in World War II and is buried in Norman. Earle Payne had a keen sense of humor and was well liked. He attended the University of Oklahoma where he was a member of Beta fraternity.

B. John Keith Miller, born April 19, 1927 was married June 4, 1949 to Mary Allen Hess of Durant, Oklahoma. Mary Allen graduated from the University with a B.M. degree in piano. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Keith served in World War II in the navy. He graduated from Oklahoma University with a Business Administration degree. He was a member of the Beta fraternity.

After graduation Keith became successful in the oil business but he decided he wanted to be a minister. He attended Berkeley Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut and also Earlham College, a Quaker school in Richmond, Indiana. He received his ED degree but has never been ordained as a minister. He became a Counselor at Laity Lodge, near Leaky, Texas. He then turned his talents to writing and lecturing. He has written three books: "The Taste of New Wine" in 1965, a second, "Touch" in 1969, and "The Habitation of Dragons" in 1970, all best sellers in the religious category. He is also talented as a poet. Keith and his family live in Austin, Texas. He has quite an impressive schedule as a speaker and lecturer on college campuses and before church and church related groups all over the United States, in Hawaii and in Europe. He was the main speaker at the Easter service in the Rose Bowl in the spring of 1970.

The children of Keith and Mary Allen Miller are:

1. Leslie Winfield, born June 27, 1951. She is presently a second year student at Oklahoma University. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.
2. Kristin Susan, born Oct. 12, 1953 is a senior in high school.
3. Mary Keith, born April 15, 1958 is almost a teenager having started the seventh grade.

III. Nannie Lee Miller, born Nov. 26, 1889, died April 30, 1965. She was unmarried. Nannie Lee received her B.M., and M.A. degrees from the University of Oklahoma. She was a Pi Beta Phi. She taught Business Administration in Central High School in Tulsa until her retirement at the age of sixty-five. She was a person of much enthusiasm and lived life to the fullest. Her main hobby was photography. She attended a school for amateur photographers in Vermont and another one in Carmel, California. She had visited in Hawaii and also in Europe. She was very unselfish and was happy when she was doing for others.

IV. Richard Keith Miller was born March 16, 1892 and died December 18, 1941. He is buried in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Richard Keith received his B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1915. He belonged to the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was a born mimic and would have liked to have been an actor but ended up by working for the Shell Oil Company in the land department. His work took him to California and other western states. He married Annie Rowland whose home was in Shawnee. They met at Norman where Annie graduated from the University. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Keith died of a heart attack when he was fifty. He was working in Michigan at the time of his death.

V. Mary Emelyn (Miller) Bagby was born May 31, 1894 and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.M., B.A and M.A. degrees. She was a PiBeta Phi. She taught one year in Hugo, Oklahoma where she met her future husband, William Edward Bagby, salesman for the Paris Wholesale Grocery Co. He was later made manager of a branch house in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Emelyn became a P.E.O in 1943. She is quite active in the First Presbyterian church, serving as President of the Women of the church for two years. She was once president of the Standard Club, which is a Literary Club. She is on the Library Board.

The children of Mary Emelyn and William Edward Bagby are:

A. Martha Ted (Bagby) Miller, born August 25, 1924. She married Nov. 29, 1946, Charles Hardie Miller, born June 1, 1924. Their home is in Streator, Illinois. Martha Ted attended Sul Ross College in Alpine, Texas for one and a half years. She is a graduate of Texas Women's University at Denton, Texas. She is a D A R. She taught school for one year in Mt. Pleasant, Texas and did office work in Texarkana, Texas. She is active in the Presbyterian church in Streator holding the office of Deaconess. She is presently a housewife and

full time school teacher. Charles and Martha own a house trailer and they travel for recreation. They belong to a trailer club.

The children of Martha Ted (Bagby) Miller and Charles Hardie Miller are:

1. William Raymond Miller, born June 14, 1951. He is presently serving in the army in Germany.

2. Robert Charles Miller, was born June 14, 1951. He is a second year student at a Junion College near Streator.

3. Martha Iyur Miller was born August 22, 1953. She is a senior in Streator high school.

4. Theodore Edward Miller (called Ed), was born September 21, 1960.

B. William Henry Bagby was born July 8, 1927. He was married Oct. 14, 1955 to Claire Louise Walker, born Feb. 12, 1931. Clare is a graduate of Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kansas. She is a member of Alpha Chi sorority. William Henry (Billy) attended Arlington Jr. College for one year. He served in World War II. Then he went to Paris Junior College where he graduated. He took his last two years of college at Texas Christian University at Fort Worth. After graduation he was employed by the General Electric Co. in the Lamp Division with an office in Dallas. The family lived in Irving, Texas. Billy was sales manager over an extensive territory in Texas and Oklahoma. He was promoted to sales manager, Chicago Sales District, in the large Lamp Division with an office in downtown Chicago. Their home is in Northbrook, a suburb of Chicago.

William Henry and Claire Louise Bagby are the parents of two children:

1. Bruce William Bagby, born July 16, 1951.

2. Laura Claire, born June 15, 1954.

C. Nancy Lee Bagby was born December 24, 1951. She died October 27, 1953. She was buried in Sulphur Springs, Texas. She married Billy Gene O'Shield,

who was born February 18, 1929. He died Dec. 11, 1950. Nancy dropped out of high school when she married. She later finished high school after the death of her husband. She took nurses training in Blackwell, Oklahoma.

The child of Nancy Lee (Bagby) O'Shield and Billy Gene O'Shield is:

1. Billie Jean (Bagby) O'Shield. She was born Jan. 23, 1951 after the death of her father. She was adopted by William Edward and Mary Emelyn Bagby and her name changed to Bagby. Billie Jean is presently working toward a high school diploma by correspondence. She was married to James Carroll Cotten, June 15, 1968.

The child of Billie Jean and James Carroll Cotten is:

A. James Carroll Cotten Jr. who was born May 2, 1969. He is called Jimmy and at this writing is nineteen months old.

VI. Lewis Winfield Miller was born Nov. 1, 1902. Winfield attended the University of Oklahoma for three years. He married Ruby Bulles whose home was in Oklahoma City. Ruby was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. They moved to Chicago where Winfield attended and graduated from a School of Optometry. He was practicing in Ardmore when he enlisted in World War II. After his discharge he resumed his practice. Ruby died and is buried in Oklahoma City. Winfield is now married to Ernestine (Tiny) Long. They own a trailer house and spend a part of each year traveling. Both are interested in photography and collecting unusual rocks. Winfield also enjoys fishing.

Written in Dec. 1970 by Mary Emelyn(Miller) Bagby.