

Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credits: Susie Holderfield

MILLER, Benjamin F. 22 Aug 1862

Captain Benjamin Miller was age 29 when he entered service. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant from Sergeant on 15 Mar 1863; to Captain on 21 Mar 1864; captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point on the Red River, Louisiana; transferred to Co. G 114th OVI on 27 Nov 1864. Mustered out 31 July 1865, by order of War Dept.

Father: Benjamin MILLER

Mother: Martha HEMPHILL

Birth: 2 Oct 1832, Mt Pleasant, Westmoreland Co PA

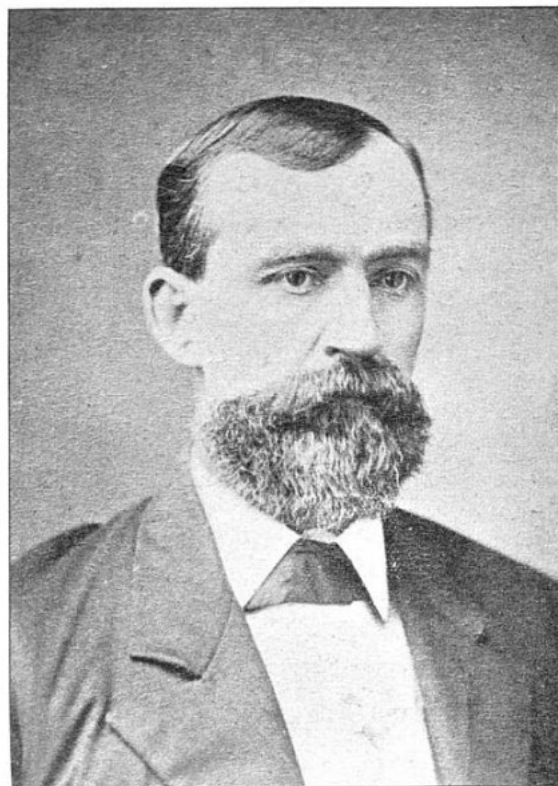
Marriage: Julia A. BAUMGARDNER, 28 Sep 1865

Death: 15 Feb 1906

Cemetery: Wooster Cem, Wayne Co OH

There is a Civil War soldier Miller, B.F. 1832-1906 buried at Wooster cemetery, Wayne county, OH.

Pension Index: Benjamin F MILLER, G 114th and D 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 1879 Oct 10, Application 314801, Certificate 283706, filed in OH. Pension Card: Benjamin died 1906.



CAPT. B. F. MILLER.

[The Bright Side of Prison Life:](#) experiences, in prison and out, of an involuntary sojourner in rebeledom: by Samuel [Seth] A. Swiggett, Press of Fleet, McGinley, 1897. [Seth A. Swiggett was a captain in Co B, 36th IA. He had the following bio in his book. In the book he told the story of his time in the Civil War which included his escape from Camp Ford, Texas, along with Captain Benjamin Miller of Co D 120th OVI and Captain Joseph Rummel of Co B 120th OVI.]

Page 236:

"Captain B. F. Miller. B. F. Miller was born in Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on October 2, 1832, of native parents, but of English and Scotch descent, his father being Benjamin Miller, and his mother's maiden name being Martha Hemphill. His business was farming until four years before the war, when he went west, spending two years of the four in the Rocky Mountains.

"Coming east again, he enlisted at Wooster, Ohio, in Company D of the 120th Ohio Infantry, and served as private, sergeant, first lieutenant and captain. He was captured on May 3, 1864, at Shaggy [sic should be Snaggy] Point, on the Red River, in Louisiana, and was imprisoned at Camp Ford, Texas, except during the attempt to escape, until exchanged on June 1, 1865. He as mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, on June 30, 1865.

"On September 26, 1865, he married Julia A., sister of L. S. Baumgardner, of Toledo, Ohio, and farmed in that State

until about three years ago, when rheumatic afflictions caused his cessation of active work. He then moved to Wooster, Ohio, where he now lives with his family, having but one child, a daughter. It is unnecessary to say more of Captain Miller, as he is mentioned frequently elsewhere [in the book]. His photograph is inserted opposite page 167."

See Photo.

In the same book, about the end of their journey of escape, Swiggett wrote:

Page 173: "...we walked right into a picket post of nine men, or, rather, right into plain view of them, they being fifty yards distant." [That was the beginning of the end of their journey.]

Page 176: "After our hosts had finished their supper we started for Arkadelphia [in Arkansas]....." "This was our twenty-first night out since leaving the stockade, and we were not 275 miles from Tyler, Texas, and fifty miles from Little Rock----'so near and yet so far.'" [They were eventually discovered to be Federals after a valiant effort to lie their way out of it, and were made prisoners. They were then taken down to Washington, AR, then to Magnolia AR, and then to Shreveport, LA. They were kept at Four Miles Springs for six weeks. Page 207: Swiggett was then sent back to Tyler, Texas, but Rummel was not sent with him because he was ill. Swiggett does not mention Miller at this point.]

Contributed by James Tracey: Nancy Miller, Benjamin's sister, married John Long who was James Tracey's gggrandfather's brother.

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN F. MILLER BIO: Commemorative Biographical Record Wayne and Holmes Ohio Beers 1889 p 536 - 537

Captain Benjamin F. Miller, son of Benjamin and Martha (Hemphill) Miller, natives of Pennsylvania, was born October 2, 1832, at Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co., Penn. John Miller, the grandfather of Benjamin F., came to Wayne County, Ohio, about 1825, and located in Wayne Township, where he was engaged in farming. He died there in 1846. Benjamin Miller, father of Benjamin F., and the eldest of John's family, was born in Juniata County, Penn., in 1799. He remained with his parents until eighteen years of age, when he went to Westmoreland County, Penn., and here he met the lady whom he married. After this event they first located at Stewart's Station in the same county. In 1846 they came to Wayne County, and took up their residence in Wayne Township for about one year, when they purchased a farm in Chester Township, same county. In 1863 they retired from the farm, and moved into Wooster, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Miller was an active member of the Whig, and afterward of the Republican, party, and filled several township offices in Chester Township. They died in 1880 and 1879, respectively, prominent members of the Associate Reformed Church. They reared a family of nine children, all of whom are living except Margaret, who married John Cherry, and died in Iowa. Those living are Elizabeth, wife of David B. Funk, of Wooster, Ohio; Nancy, wife of John Long, also of Wooster; John, in Chester Township; Sarah Ann, wife of Thomas Van Sweergin, of Congress Township, Wayne County; Mary, a maiden lady, also in Wooster; Benjamin F., our subject; Derinda, a maiden lady, in Wooster, and Lucinda, wife of Alex Postleweight, in Orrville.

The subject of this sketch came to Wayne County with his parents in 1846, and was reared on the farm, receiving his education at the township schools. In 1848 he proceeded overland to the rocky Mountains and California, spending four years in that section. In August, 1862, he enlisted in company D, One Hundred and Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted to fifth sergeant, then to first lieutenant, and finally to captain of his company. He was captured at Snaggy Point, La., on the Red River steamer "Belle, " and confined at Camp Ford, near Tyler, in Northeast Texas, for thirteen months. He and some fellow prisoners escaped in December, and reached the northern lines in March, having traveled between 600 and 700 miles. He then served his country until his honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, June 30, 1865. After the close of the war Capt. Miller returned to farming and lumbering, and in 1874 he purchased his present farm.

September 28, 1865, he married Miss Julia A. Baumgardner, daughter of Peter Baumgardner, of Wayne Township, and they have one child, Ora Eveline, living at home. Capt. Miller votes the Republican ticket, and although living in a Democratic township has held various offices, having served as school director for twelve years. He is a member of Givens Post, No. 133, G. A. R., of Wooster, and is a prominent member of the Wooster Presbyterian Church, having served as one of its trustees for six years.

1850 Census, Chester Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 6, Family 6: Benjamin MILLER, age 51 PA, farmer; Martha A., age 54 PA; Mary, age 20 PA; Margaret, age 16 PA; Benjamin, age 18 PA farmer; Sarah A., age 22 PA; Dorinda, age 12 PA; Lucinda, age 11 PA.

Benjamin wasn't living with his parents in 1860. He was travelling out West, but I haven't found him in the census.

1870 Census, Series M593 Roll 1280, Chester Twp, Wayne Co OH, page 54: Benjamin MILLER, age 38 PA, farmer; Julie, age 36 OH; Angeline BUDORF, age 18 PA, housekeeper.

1880 census, Series T9 Roll 1077, Franklin township, Wayne county, Ohio, page 188: B. F. MILLER Self M Male W 46 PA Farmer PA PA; Julia A. MILLER Wife M Female W 43 OH Keeping House PA PA; Ora E. MILLER Dau S Female W 8 OH PA PA; Sarah MILLER Aunt S Female W 70 PA PA ATLANTIC

1890 Veterans Schedule: Franklin Twp, Wayne Co OH: Line 2, House 6, Family 6: Benjamin F. MILLER, Capt, Co D 120 OVI. Post Office: Wooster, Wayne Co OH.

Wayne County Democrat, 29 July 1896 page 3

Captain Benjamin F. Miller is in a serious condition of health at his home on Pittsburg Avenue, suffering from tuberculosis in left knee, with which for months he has been afflicted, and continually growing worse under the best medical treatment.

1900 Census, Series T623 Roll 1332, West Liberty St, 3rd ward Wooster, Wayne Co OH, page 162: Benjamin F MILLER, age 67 PA, born Oct 1833, widowed, landlord, parents born PA; Ora E, daughter, age 27 OH, single, born May 1873.

Wooster Daily News, 15 Feb 1906 page 1

Old Soldier Passes Away

Captain Benj. F. Miller Possessed Enviably Record as Veteran and Citizen.

Capt. Benjamin F. Miller died in Wooster at 6:15 o'clock Thursday morning at his home on North Market street. He was stricken with paralysis Tuesday evening, and did not rally, remaining unconscious until his death.

He was in his 74th year of his age, having been born October 2, 1832, at Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland county, Pa. He was a son of Benjamin Miller, who came to Wayne county in 1846, with his family and first settled on a farm in Chester township. Capt. Miller was reared on the farm, receiving his education at the township schools. In 1848 he went overland to California where he lived for four years and returned to Wayne county and engaged in farming. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, 120th Regiment O.V.I., and was successively promoted from Sergeant finally to Captain of his company.

With others of his regiment he was captured at Snaggy Point, Louisiana, on the ambushed Red River steamer, City Belle, and confined at Camp Ford, Texas, for thirteen months. He and some fellow prisoners escaped in December 1864, and reached the northern lines in March, having travelled between 600 and 700 miles. He then rejoined his regiment and was mustered out of service at Columbus, O., June 30, 1865.

At close of the war Capt. Miller returned to farming and lumbering in Wayne county. On September 28, 1865 he married Miss Julia A. Baumgardner, daughter of Peter Baumgardner, of Wayne township the union resulting in one child, Ora Evaline. Mrs. Miller died in Wooster August 18, 1896. Their daughter survives them, and was the housekeeper for her father until his death.

About 15 years ago he removed to Wooster from his farm three miles east of Wooster. He proved himself to be one of the best of citizens, a conservative man, taking interest in public affairs, and enjoying the pleasures of social life. He was a member of the First Presbyterian church, of which he was a trustee and Deacon. For several years he was a Trustee of the Wooster Cemetery Association, and was a School Director of Wooster township for twelve years. He was a prominent member of Given Post, G.A.R.

He was a brother of Mrs. David B. Funk of Canton; Nancy, wife of John Long of Wooster; John Miller, of Chester township; Sarah Ann, wife of Thomas Sweegrin, of Congress township; Miss Mary Miller, of Wooster, and Lucinda, wife of Alexander Posteweight, of Orrville.

The funeral will be held at the residence Saturday afternoon under auspices of Given Post G.A.R.; the church services conducted by Rev. Dr. Hershey, at 1:30 o'clock.

Wayne County Democrat, 21 Feb 1906, page 1

Funeral of Capt. Benj. F. Miller

The Funeral of Capt. Benj. Miller was held in Wooster Saturday afternoon at the family residence on North Market street. The attendance was large and floral offerings many. The funeral was under auspices of Given Post, G.A. R., who held ritual services after the church services had been conducted by Rev. Dr. Hershey, pastor of the First Presbyterian church. The pall bearers were:

James W. Christy, L. C. Carr, Samuel Metzler [?difficult to read], John R. McKinney, John F. Barrett and J. B. Taylor. Interment in Wooster cemetery.

Sons of Union Veterans Grave Database: born 2 Oct 1832, died 15 Feb 1906