

NOTES

The following notes on some of the individuals contained in this book are not intended as biographies. They are just interesting facts and anecdotes which have been told me or which I have come across in letters, diaries, and other old records. Although they are brief and scattered, in the fourth generation especially, I hope they will provide a little background which the names and dates alone cannot supply.

First Generation

Very little written information about the first Miller couple in Gaspé has survived in either official or family records, and only a very little in oral tradition has been handed down.

I have heard of three brief explanations of Richard Miller's origin. A story written by Raymond Patterson in his "Family Gatherings" tells of him coming from England as a young man on the same ship as William Annett. I find this somewhat improbable as he married William Annett's daughter who was born in about 1777, after the family's arrival in Canada. Thus Richard would have been as much as twenty years older than his wife.

In the memoirs of Mrs. Christie West (née Christie Ascah) Richard Miller is said to have been from Sussex, England. In an attempt to discover if this were true, I approached three companies in England which do genealogical research. However, because my knowledge of Richard was so scanty and the charges for research so high, I did not pursue the search.

One story often told by my mother was that Richard Miller once owned land where the city of Sydney, Nova Scotia, is today. In order to see if I could find any evidence of him having been in Nova Scotia, I wrote to the Public Archives of that province, and, on their advice, to the Beaton Institute in Sydney, and to the Office of the Registrar of Deeds for the County of Cape Breton. The Registrar of Deeds searched their records and found no mention of Richard Miller. However, from the Beaton Institute, I received a partial list (undated) of Loyalists who made up the DesBarres Colony which tried unsuccessfully in 1784 to settle the Sydney area. On the list was a Richard Miller, given as an individual with no family. Further research into the Loyalist records might bring to light some information about this Richard Miller which might or might not establish him as the Gaspé Miller. If he were, he would be again a good many years older than his wife but perhaps not by more than ten or twelve years.

We do not know the date of the marriage of Richard Miller and Frances Annett, but judging by the dates of birth of their children, it occurred in the early 1790's when Frances was only sixteen or seventeen. Their seventh son, James, was said to have been "the seventh son of the seventh son". If this were true, that Richard was one of many brothers would be the only information known about his family.

Richard is said to have been a very small man. On the other hand, the Annett family to which his wife belonged was noted for the large build of both its men and women. It is said that the smallest one among her brother John's children was a sister, five feet eight inches tall, and there are many stories told about their unusual strength. Many of Richard and Frances' descendants were people with large bones and strong features. One can pick out certain similarities of features in the pictures contained in this book. Many of the Miller descendants that I have known had brown hair and blue or grey eyes.

A family tradition is that Richard was a tailor by trade. About twenty-five years ago a pressing iron was ploughed out near the location of his house, which might have been used by him. Tailoring was probably of little advantage to him in earning a living in Gaspé although it may have helped greatly in coping with the clothing of his large family.

The first written record of his activity here in Gaspé is his claim of Lot 2 (now Lot 29) in Peninsula in 1819, which he made before a land claims Commission which heard claims in Douglstown in that year. His claim was declared "good and valid" and he continued to live on the lot and was succeeded by his sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, etc. for the next 160 years. The lot contained 178 acres on a front of thirteen chains. In making his claim, he said he had already occupied the land for seven years and had four acres cleared. He had a house and three out-buildings. This raises the question of where he had lived from the time of his marriage until he took this lot. At about the time of his marriage, Frances' father, William Annett, petitioned for a lot of 200 acres in what is today the lower end of Rose Bridge; in 1802 her brother John petitioned for land which may have been Lot 34 or part of it and in 1819 he claimed Lot 6 (now Lot 33) in Peninsula. One can guess that Richard Miller and his family lived with William or John Annett, but there is no proof of this assumption.

At any rate it appears that Richard made good use of the land. By tradition his house was approximately in front of the existing house of his grandson and great-grandson, William and Roland Miller, near the bank, which all along that area is low, giving easy access to the fine beach of Peninsula Point. The land near the bank is level and a good stream known as Trumpet's Brook runs through it. Just to the east, on Lot 1, John Ascah had a house, and Lot 3 to the west was owned by James Baker who was married to Christianna Ascah, John's niece. At the time of the census of 1825, William Harbour, who was married to Christianna's sister Margaret, was living between Richard Miller and James Baker. From this census, we learn that Richard then had twenty acres under cultivation showing that he and his sons had not been idle in the past six years. He had 14 horned cattle, 15 sheep and 5 pigs. The census of 1831 gives his acreage under cultivation unchanged but his livestock consisting of 6 horned cattle, 1 horse, 10 sheep and 6 pigs. His crops then were 30 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of potatoes.

Among the signatures in the old church registers, Richard Miller's appears two or three times. Several of his children could write, too, as their signatures appear frequently. It is interesting that so many of the Millers and their contemporaries in other families learned to read and write when there was no proper school. Perhaps their teacher was a Joseph Peet who is said to have taught school on Peninsula Point at about the time that the Miller children were growing up.

A talent, or at least an ability, in music was one characteristic of many of the Miller descendants. They could sing and dance and play the violin and other instruments. As the McRaes and other local families were also known for their musical ability, the music in the Miller descendants may have come from more than one source.

In religion, Richard Miller and his wife and family belonged to the Church of England (Anglican) denomination. They were probably a part of the first congregation of St. Paul's Church in Gaspé which began in 1819. In succeeding decades their children and grandchildren helped with the building of the other Anglican churches around the Bay. One grandson, John Boyle Miller, and perhaps a few others joined the Methodist congregation which was formed in Haldimand in about 1890. A few of the descendants married Catholics. On the whole, a large majority of the first four generations remained members of the Anglican church.

Just as we do not know when Richard was born and married, we do not know exactly when he died as his burial is not recorded in the church registers. However, the Rev. Edward Cusack, Minister of St. Paul's Church, Gaspé Basin, wrote in a letter that when he was in Douglstown on March 29, 1841, he was called to the bedside of Mr. Miller in Peninsula who was dying. In a census taken the following year, "Francis" Miller was given as the head of the family. Frances herself died in 1843 and was described as "widow of the late Richard Miller", showing his death almost certainly did occur in 1841.

Richard and Frances and their descendants contained in this book were people of the nineteenth century. All, except their first two or three children who were born just before the century began, lived their entire lives between 1800 and 1900. Every one of their 74 grandchildren and also every one of the 286 great-grandchildren were born in the nineteenth century. Richard and Frances probably died without seeing a coaloil lamp or a stove or a steamship and their children all died before the telephone or the train reached Gaspé, but the nineteenth century was, on a worldwide level, a period of great industrial development and vast changes. In Gaspé, the whaling industry began in the early years of the century and reached its peak of activity around the 1860's. There is a little evidence that Richard himself did some whaling, but his children's lives were interwoven with the whole of the history of whaling out of Gaspé Bay. This accounts in large measure, I believe, for the fact that none of his children and only three or four of his grandchildren left Gaspé permanently. There are few alive now who remember the whalers and heard direct accounts of their experiences. No schooners or whaleboats survive and only a little whaling equipment remains. A granddaughter of Boyle and Miller whalers, Mrs. Norman Jolin, née Pearl Miller, wrote me that her Boyle grandfather was in a whaleboat upset by a whale and "was going down for the third time and they managed to haul him up by his hair". Mr. Henry Williamson wrote me about his grandfather, George Williamson, who was a harpooner. He wrote "I used to listen to him and other old whalers talking about the whales they took and the ones that got away".

When whaling declined and finally ceased in the latter part of the century which happened to be a time of depression in much of the world, the great-grandchildren and their friends and cousins began to leave Gaspé to seek a living elsewhere in Canada or the United States. My grandfather, John Phillips, and his brother David went away in 1868 to look for work and a letter which their sister wrote them from Peninsula gives us an indication of the trend of the time. She said, "We had a letter from Robert Baird.. he was in Illinois then.. I heard he has gone further on since.. I hear also that Henry Veit doth not like the place. They (Baird and Veit) are close together. H.V. is chopping wood.. They had a letter from Philip Mullin and Edward (Coffin?) from Chicago. They were offered \$2 per day to work on the railway but they went further on to the West. I hear they have more letters tonight but we don't know the news but we will soon hear.. Wyndham (Miller) is well and wishes to be remembered to you and he is lonely too for Freddy (his brother) has gone on board of Capt. Tripp for Halifax ...".

Some of the fourth generation and many of the fifth and sixth generations went far afield when they participated in the First and Second World Wars. Others of these later generations moved permanently to various parts of North America. The dispersed descendants living today are very numerous, although most individual families now are much smaller than the families of the early generations; nevertheless it may be interesting to many, as it is to me, to study the first four generations and link themselves to the branch from which they are descended and thus to that certain plot of land in Peninsula chosen by Richard Miller about 170 years ago.

Second Generation

Thomas Miller The exact date of Thomas Miller's birth is unknown but it was probably in 1795. The 1861 census gives his age as 66 and when he died in 1874 he was said to have been in his 80th year. His tombstone in the Sandy Beach cemetery gives his age at death as 73; this must be an error.

In 1819 Thomas presented a petition for Lot 2 in Sandy Beach which he said he had bought one year earlier. It was a large lot of 300 acres which, as the years passed, he shared with his brother George, his brother-in-law and sister Robert Harbour and Maria, his son-in-law Robert Pye, and his three sons Peter, Thomas, and Richard. He cleared land and farmed during his life but he was, like all his brothers, a sea-faring man. In the 1820's, he was co-owner with his brothers, John and William, and sometimes master, of the 55-ton whaling schooner "Antelope." Then he was a trader for some years, buying and selling among the fishermen along the coasts. He went back to whaling in 1836 and in about 1850 he became co-owner with William Harbour of the schooner "Breeze" and continued whaling for several years. He had a stand of salmon nets in Sandy Beach Cove, as is shown on an undated map of the nets in Gaspé Bay. When it was decided to build a church in Sandy Beach, he and his brother-in-law, Robert Harbour, were hired to put up the frame. A receipt dated June 1st, 1841, and signed by these two men shows that they received thirty pounds for the work.

John Miller There are few references to John's short life in the written records, but in 1827 he was listed as the master of the "Antelope" (see note on Thomas above). There is no record of him building a house or owning land. He probably lived in his father's house in Peninsula when he was not sailing. The record of his death in the church register states that he was a whaler.

William Miller William lived all his life in Peninsula and was known as Bill. He lived the longest of all the family. He acquired three acres probably part of what became Lot 22 and settled there becoming one of the first to live "below the Bridge" in Peninsula, that is, east of Watering Creek. He built his house approximately on the site of Mr. Bert (W.A.) Miller's store of later years. Here the bank was high but it could be climbed and there was a small beach where flats could be landed in fine weather. At least one good spring was near his house. He later acquired the rest of Lot 22 and all of Lot 21.

He must have been a man of considerable ability as he is described in the various census reports as a farmer, a shipwright, and as ship's carpenter and in another report in 1823 he was listed as master of the whaling schooner "Harmony." In the Quebec Gazette in 1824, the list of ship departures gives the following: "Harmony", Miller, cleared Quebec for Miramichi for T.W. Satherthwaite (a Quebec City merchant) Nov. 11, 1824.

In 1825 he became part owner with James Baker of the schooner "Sea Flower." Some of the ships William built were the "Caplin" registered in 1846, the "Native" built in 1848 and the "Undaunted" in 1854. He had a stand of salmon nets near the upper end of Peninsula Point. He was the postmaster in Peninsula from 1864 to 1881. He was a church warden for Peninsula in the Sandy Beach church in the 1840's and again in the 1860's. Some records indicate that he was also on the school board, probably as secretary treasurer. All of

his sons sailed, fished, whaled, worked at ship-building or were otherwise engaged in sea-going activities and some of his grandsons and great-grandsons followed the same calling.

Edward Miller No record of Edward Miller's date of birth has been found but at his death in 1885, he was said to be 84. Thus he was the fourth son in the family. My mother said that his nephews and nieces called him Uncle Ned and that he lived in Haldimand. However, at the time the planning of the Sandy Beach church began in 1840, Lot 8 on which the church was to be built was then owned by Mrs. McConnell, née Jane Baird O'Hara, and "occupied by Edward Miller". He must have moved to Haldimand as, when his children Julia and Eliza were married, they were said to be from Haldimand. I believe he took Lot B, the lot which is partly occupied today by Fort Haldimand Camp.

He was referred to in the census reports as a farmer, whaler and fisherman. At one point he was co-owner with his brother William of the 47-ton schooner "Harmony", and he was identified as a trader in 1827 and 1828 and as a whaler in 1833 and 1842.

George Miller In the 1831 census, George is given as a farmer but in the 1842 census and in some other records he is referred to as a whaler. At the baptism of his youngest daughter in 1855 he is described as "sail-maker, etc". In 1860 the schooner "Ranger" was registered with George Miller, George Douglas Miller, and John Boyle Miller as owners. The "Ranger" was sold to William Fruing and Philip Luce in 1865.

In 1831, George had 50 acres in Sandy Beach, which I believe was the western part of Lot 2 which he acquired from his brother Thomas, and had two acres cleared. Nearly all the brothers faced totally forested land when they started occupying their lots. The work of clearing the land went on, in most cases, for two or three generations field by field. Cutting firewood and logs for building material, pulling stumps, picking off stones, burning brush, all were a part of each year's work in addition to ploughing, cultivating, and harvesting. I believe that even in the earliest days at least a few of the settlers around the Bay had ploughs, but it was decades before a horse-drawn mower or binder was in use. All these men about whom I am writing cut their hay with a scythe and their grain with a sickle and so did their sons and even some of their grandsons. The houses and barns built by George and his brothers were no doubt small and humble and were added to or were torn down and replaced by succeeding generations.

Henry Brian Miller Henry's death occurred when he was still a young man as he was referred to in the church record of the marriage of his daughter, Ellen Maria, in 1851 as "the late Henry Brian Miller". He died from food poisoning when on a whaling trip on the Labrador Coast and was buried there.

When he married in 1831, he must have settled in Sandy Beach. The records of the baptism of his first three children refer to him as being "of Sandy Beach". However, when the fourth child, Frances Martha, was baptized in December, 1838, he is referred to as "formerly of Sandy Beach, now of the Southwest Arm". There is an old family story of how one of the early Millers

moved his house from Sandy Beach to Sunny Bank on the ice. An ox or oxen did the hauling and the story goes that each night a party was held in the house wherever it had halted. This was probably the story of Henry's move which must have occurred in 1837 or 1838.

He lived on Lot 21 in Sunny Bank. Like his brothers, he was a whaler and farmer. However, his sons and their descendants, like many other people living in the "Southwest", became more accustomed to paddling and poling canoes on the York River than to rowing or sailing boats on the bay. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, many of them were hired each season to guide or otherwise assist people fishing salmon and trout on the York, Dartmouth, and St. John Rivers.

Although these rivers are insignificant in size among the rivers of Canada, they are renowned far and wide among sport fishermen. For example, Lady Dufferin, wife of the Governor General of Canada (1872 to 1878) tells in her book "My Canadian Journal" about numerous family trips to Gaspé and gives interesting details showing how the local people contributed to their pleasure and comfort. They were driven by horse and wagon to a pool on the Dartmouth River. Cheese cloth or some such material was supplied to protect them from the flies in their camp on the St. John River, someone took them out in Gaspé Basin fishing tommycod, and even young boys took a turn at guiding them on the York River. One morning in June, 1873, when the usual guides were all busy at other work, the Governor General hired a young Palmer to go with him. The boy's father, James Palmer, had been drowned about a month earlier when driving logs on the York and his body had not yet been found. Lord Dufferin and the boy found the body that day.

All this happened after Henry Miller's death but working for the sports became an important occupation for many families along the rivers in all succeeding generations down to the present.

James Miller The only one of the ten brothers, besides John, who did not marry, James lived his long life in Peninsula. At the time of the 1861 census, he was listed in the home of his nephew Thomas Jr. in Sandy Beach, but in earlier years he was in his father's home. Later he lived with his brother Frederick and finally with Frederick's son, William, very close to the site of the house in which he grew up. My mother remembered him as "old Uncle Jim", much crippled and walking with two sticks. He spent his life in whaling schooners and fish boats and working on the land or on such jobs as roadbuilding. He was most famous in the family for being "the seventh son of the seventh son". If this gave him any special power, there is no record of it, although I have heard at least one story of him curing toothache by rubbing the gums of the sufferer.

Richard Miller Richard (known as Dick) was another brother who remained in Peninsula. He occupied the west side of his father's property, according to the 1861 census 53 acres on Lot 29. Like his brothers, he went whaling and he farmed and fished. In 1861, he was given as part owner of a 52-ton schooner. He or his son Felix built a house far up on the hill overlooking the more level fields cleared next to the Bay and I believe that was where he and his wife spent their last years. In 1891, his youngest son Thomas built a house nearer the road for himself and his unmarried sisters. This house and the one east of it which was built by Felix's son Edward are the two standing today on Richard's property.

I In none of the records I have seen is any of the Miller sons or their contemporaries called a woodsman, yet all them were to some extent lumbermen. The woods was a livelihood as much as or more than the sea and land were because it provided fuel and material for all sorts of essentials in their lives. Thus the men were all woodsmen and most of them were carpenters. Some were skilled enough to make delicate articles such as violins and others were only rough carpenters, but all were familiar with the axe, the whipsaw, the cooper's tools, etc. and all valued the acres of woods on their lots.

Maria Ann Miller The first girl in the family after eight boys, Maria must have held a place of some importance; but as she married before she was quite eighteen and died in her forty-seventh year, after having had eleven children, her life was full and short. She married Robert Harbour who had come to Sandy Beach from Quebec with his brother William who married an Ascah from Peninsula, his sister Mary who married Maria's brother Edward, and presumably their mother Sarah Baker who was probably related to the Sandy Beach Bakers. The Harbour father, John Lovat Harbour, had come from England to Quebec. He became coachman for Bishop Jacob Mountain and died prematurely in 1812. Robert and Maria appear to have lived in Peninsula for a short time but they acquired a lot of 50 acres in Sandy Beach from Thomas' Lot 2, and settled there. When he married, Robert was described as a trader but in the 1831 census he was given as a farmer. In the church register and other records he is shown as a whaler and a cooper. In contrast to his wife, he lived to be old and saw much sorrow as not only his wife but several of his children predeceased him. His signature at the burials appears again and again, "Robert Harbour, father".

Frederick Miller Frederick was the fourth and youngest brother to settle in Peninsula and the last of the brothers to marry. He remained on his father's property and I believe built a house of his own north of the road. That house or one built by his brother Richard blew down in a big gale. After his wife's early death in 1861, Frederick and his sons lived for a time with Richard. His youngest daughter, Helen, who was then only five was taken by relatives, possibly the Grants, and was, in the words of my mother, "brought up up the Southwest". Sarah, the oldest child, went out to work in various homes on the other side of the Bay. However, the 1871 census shows the family together in Peninsula, except for Helen and including Frederick's brother James. In the 1861 and 1871 census Frederick is given as a farmer but he also whaled and he had a stand of salmon nets abreast his property. In 1861 he built the "Flying Fish" registered as a 39-ton schooner under the ownership of Robert Pye, Thomas Miller and Richard A. Miller. I believe he spent his last years in the home of his son William. Incidentally I did not actually find a record of his birth date but deduced it from the diary entry on the day of his death by Mr. John Neil Ascah who wrote, "He was 81 yesterday".

Melinda Miller The only record of Melinda is about her burial at the age of twelve. There is no cause of death given.

Robert Miller It is difficult to arrive at Robert's date of birth as I found no record of it. At his death in 1896 the church register gave his age as 82, but in the 1861 census it was given as then being 39. Mr. John Neil Ascah recorded his death in his diary and stated, "He was 78 in September". As Mr. Ascah was a neighbour and friend of Robert's brothers, I have considered him as the best authority and deduced that Robert was born in 1818. When he married, he settled in Sunny Bank possibly on Lot 19 and he and his wife had no children.

In the 1861 census Peter Grant and his wife Catherine McCallum with their son Thomas, aged one year, were living with Robert. At this time he was listed as a farmer, but in his earlier years he must have been a crew-member on numerous whaling trips because he came to manhood when whaling out of Gaspé Bay was in its heyday. He was the last of the children of Richard Miller to die.

Ellen Miller Ellen, the thirteenth and youngest of the family, married her cousin John Annett and spent her married life less than a mile from her father's home. The Annett land was Lot 33 and John Annett's house was located just a little north of where I live today. A record of Ellen's birth has not been found, but at her death in 1874 she was said to be 53 years of age. There are two tombstones in the oldest St. Matthew's Church cemetery, Peninsula, inscribed in her memory. One is old and weathered and faces west; the other one looks newer and, like the other stones in the cemetery, faces east. John Annett was the son of Ellen's mother's brother John and his wife Catherine Baker who belonged to the Sandy Beach and Peninsula Baker family. The Annett land had good soil which was well watered with springs and so they had an abundance of hay, and raised other crops. They kept cows and horses and other animals. However, the Annetts were also a sea-going people and were renowned for their size and strength and their whaling, fishing, and sailing. When Ellen married John, the house was also occupied by his mother and several unmarried brothers and sisters including Captain William Annett, the largest of the family, who had built his own room on the west end of the house with high doors so that he did not have to stoop going through them.

The Wives

The Miller men married into the Patterson, McRae, Harbour and Grant families. Four of them each married a Patterson sister, daughters of Peter Patterson and Martha Ascah who were in turn son and daughter respectively of Seven Years' War veterans John Patterson and Richard Ascah. William Miller married Margaret McRae of Haldimand, daughter of John McRae and Ellen Hayden. John McRae's father was also named John and Ellen Hayden was one of a large family of girls who married into several of the early families. Edward Miller married Mary Harbour whose family is described under Maria Miller. Robert and Frederick Miller married two Grant sisters, daughters of William Grant who had come to Sunny Bank from Parrsboro, N.S. and Hannah Patterson. Hannah was the oldest daughter of Peter Patterson and Martha Ascah and so the already close relationship between the Millers and that Patterson family was further strengthened by these two couples.

To imagine what the work of these women was like one has only to picture the problems of keeping fires going, bringing in water, and getting food on the table each day and clothing made for everyone to wear to know how their time was occupied.

With their husbands away often for months at a time, much of the hard work and all the responsibility for the young, the sick, and the old people was theirs. Watching for the return of the schooners and fishing boats must have been a vital part of their lives. A letter written to my grandfather, John Phillips, by his sister when he was away from Gaspé in the fall of 1868 tells about the anxious watching and waiting. "Stewart has not got back yet and everybody is very uneasy about him. Tripp is not come either but they are not so anxious about him for he did not expect to get back. Uncle John arrived the last day of November ...". In a later letter she wrote, "they had a letter from the Defiance they are wintering at the Bay of Islands for there were no herring until late and they got froze in ...". The "Defiance" was the Annetts' schooner and the families of the crew must have had a lonely winter. One can imagine the eyes of the people at home continually scanning the horizon for the sight of a sail. At a later time when the Jamboree gale occurred, my grandmother, Sarah Miller, very anxious about her brother James on the "Jamboree", watched so constantly for the vessel that she was rewarded by seeing her bow come around Ship Head.

Although the wives often went across and up and down the Bay visiting and attending church, it is doubtful if those of the second generation made many longer journeys. In spite of their rather confined lives, their hard work, and heavy responsibilities, several of them lived to be old women.

Third Generation

1. Robert Wallace Pye and his sister Mary came to Gaspé from Ireland. She married George Gault. Their mother came, too, and died in Sandy Beach on May 21, 1857 at the age of 64.
2. What Robert's education and training had been before coming to Sandy Beach I do not know nor do I know just when he arrived. He obtained land from his father-in-law, Thomas Miller, and no doubt cleared land and raised crops and cattle, but his work was chiefly on the waters of Gaspé Bay, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River. He was a master mariner and captain of many whaling and fishing expeditions in a series of schooners. He was part owner with his brothers-in-law of the "Flying Fish" which was wrecked at English Bay, Anticosti Island, and for some years he owned the "Kate" which he sold to his brother-in-law Captain Richard Miller. Finally he bought the "C.S. Brydges" which he sold in 1893 to Bryan Murray of Paspebiac.
2. Mary Anne Deniss died in Montreal and her body was brought back to Sandy Beach for burial on May 25, 1900.
3. Annabella Miller may have been the first or second child of the family as the records are incomplete and contradictory. When she died in 1907, she was said to be 77. However, the 1825 census gives two females under 14 in Thomas Miller's family.

4. Richard Ascah Miller was a master mariner, one of several Sandy Beach men of his time who obtained this qualification. In his early years he no doubt sailed on many different whaling and fishing schooners, but in 1888 he bought the "Kate" from his brother-in-law, Captain Robert Pye, and soon afterward he obtained a contract to deliver the mail every two weeks to settlements on Anticosti Island and the North Shore. He was over there when the Jamboree Gale occurred at the end of August, 1893. He was driven out into the Gulf and was gone so long that he was thought to be lost. However, relief must have been great in Sandy Beach and elsewhere around the Bay on September 4. Mr. John Neil Ascah wrote that day in his diary, "The old Kate is coming in this morning". The next day he wrote these details:

"The old Kate had a rough time, she was drove out about 140 miles and tore her foresail all to pieces and lost some of her bulwarks, found it awful rough, used oil all the time of the gale."

The following year Captain Miller sold the "Kate" and he next bought the "Nellie Morrow", an 80-foot schooner of 88.45 tons. He was over on the North Shore in July, 1905, when on the ninth he died suddenly at Natashquan. The news of his death was no doubt telegraphed to his wife, and the return of the "Nellie Morrow" on that occasion must have been very sad. His burial took place in Sandy Beach on July 16. His wife, Isabelle Henry, was given at the time of her marriage as being "from Montreal". After her husband's death she became a teacher in Sandy Beach; possibly she had come to Sandy Beach originally in that capacity. She died in Montreal and her ashes were brought to Sandy Beach for burial on July 6, 1941.

5. George James Thompson's grandfather was George Thompson who settled in Douglastown sometime in the latter part of the 18th century. A copy of his discharge paper was given me by a descendant, Mrs. Dan Cuning, and is quoted below. It is believed that his wife was Thérèse Bouillon and they were married in Quebec in 1775. He also died in Quebec, in 1795, and was said then to have been "of Gaspé Bay". The Thompsons of the Douglastown and Haldimand area are his descendants.

"His Majesty's 78th. Regiment of Foot Whereof Simon Fraser is Coll.

These are to certify that the bearer hereof, George Thompson, Sergeant in Major John Campbell's Company of the aforesaid Regimt., born in the parish of Kilmalie and in the county of Inverness, aged twenty-five years and by trade cooper, hath served honestly and faithfully in the said Regimt. for the space of seven years, but by reason that the Regiment is to be reduced, is hereby discharged, he having first received all just demands of pay, clothing, and from his entry into said regimt. to the date of this discharge, as appears by his receipt on back hereof.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Regiment at Quebec in Canada, this fourteenth day of September, 1763.

(Sgd.) James Abercrombie
Major, 78th. Regt."

6. John Siddon Miller spent some years in Rockland, Maine, working at ship-building. His son George (P. 41) died there. John and his wife and daughter returned to Peninsula in about 1884 and lived in his father's old home. Some time after their daughter's marriage to Louis Annett, they moved to the Annett home where they lived for the rest of their lives.

7. Frederick Charles Miller remained a bachelor and lived in his father's old home until it burned in the early 1900's. Then he was given a home by his brother William whose house was approximately where Freddie Briard's house was in recent years. Frederick sailed on whaling ships, coastal vessels, and Great Lakes boats.

8. Wyndham Henry Miller, my grandfather, went whaling in his youth on Suddard's schooner, the "Violet", in the capacity of shipkeeper; that is, he was one of the men who stayed aboard the schooner when the crews went off in the boats in search of whales. He obtained land from his father (part of Lot 22 and part of Lot 21) and built his home on it on the front side of the road. His first house was a log house and after some years he built a frame house to which he later added a room. His daughter, my mother, had vivid memories of her mother baking in the summer in an outdoor oven near the house. Wyndham farmed and fished salmon nets. He also devoted much time to his work as church warden for about twenty-five years from the time St. Matthew's Church was begun until after the parsonage was completed.

9. Sarah Margaret Miller took up the work of telegraph operator soon after the telegraph was first installed in Peninsula, an event which coincided approximately with her marriage in 1873. She continued as agent for the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company until her death in 1917 at which time her daughter Margaret took up the work for what had become the Canadian National Telegraph Co. She remained agent until 1966.

10. Robert Price and Melinda Miller lived in Peninsula when they were first married. They had a house east of Mr. Charles Patterson's. However, they soon returned to his home area, Little Gaspé, and both died there. His death came tragically when the house in which he was living with his son Franklin burned and he died in the fire.

11. Eliza Ellen Miller was one of only three members of her generation of Miller descendants to leave Gaspé permanently. She married George C. Haskell of South Thomastown, Maine, who had probably come to Gaspé on one of the many mackerel-fishing schooners from New England which fished in the waters around Gaspé each summer. The Haskells lived in South Thomastown and vicinity. In 1900, the census showed them living with their oldest son Edward and his wife in St. George, Maine. They both died in South Thomaston.

12. Charlotte Jane Miller and James Henry Annett made their home in Peninsula on his father's land on a point known as Shallop Point. Only two of her children, Henry and Edward, remained in Peninsula throughout their lives.

12a. Margaret Emily Miller and Martha Emily Miller are probably one person. The former was privately baptized in August, 1839 when the date of her birth was given as July 4. In the following February the latter was received in church and her date of birth was then given as July 14, 1839.

13. Henry Eden Williamson's father, Adam Williamson, had come from White Haven, England. His mother, Jane Kitchen, was one of several Kitchen girls married to Gaspé men. Her father's name was probably Isaac Kitchen and she had a brother by the same name. The Williamson land adjoined Thomas Suddard's property in Lobster Cover. (See note 20).
14. Henry Clarence Miller worked on the railroad in western Canada and probably died there.
15. Frances Martha Miller Clark probably died soon after the birth of her youngest child in 1871. There is no record in the church register of her death and burial. Her husband remarried in 1874, his second wife being Sophia Mary Grant.
16. David and John Clark were two of the children of William Clark who survived the diphtheria epidemic of 1862 which took six of their younger brothers and sisters and their father.
17. John Alexander Thompson was a widower whose first wife had been Mary Jane Cunning. There had been no children from this marriage.
18. Charles Edward Miller was another of the three members of his generation of Miller descendants to leave Gaspé permanently. His wife was from Inverness, Quebec, and although they were married in the Cap Aux Os United Church and their first child was born in Gaspé, they soon moved to Inverness. During his younger life in Peninsula his name appears in the church registers when he carried out the burials of some of the children who died of diphtheria. Charles' second son, James, moved out to Calgary and was followed by all the rest of the family, his brothers and sister scattering to various places in western Canada and the U.S.A. Charles and his wife went out to live with James and died there.
19. May Sophia Miller was postmistress in Peninsula from 1882 to 1920. She lived with her brother Thomas and sister Caroline in the large two-storey house Thomas built and which still stands on the western side of the original Miller property. The post office was a room in this house.
20. Edward Alexander Suddard's father was the Thomas Suddard referred to in note 13. It is believed that he was a brother of the Rev. John Suddard who was the first permanent Church of England minister in Gaspé (1819-1825). Like the Williamsons, the Suddards came from White Haven, England. Thomas Suddard's wife was Bridget Kitchen and their large family married into many Gaspé families. When Edward Alexander Suddard's wife died as a young woman, Agnes Phillips in Peninsula was writing to her brother John who was then in Ontario. In her letter dated December 2, 1868, she tells about Mrs. Suddard's death, "She died an hour before he (Edward) arrived from Quebec. I heard it gave him a great shock". In 1872, Edward Suddard remarried, his second wife being Eliza Charlotte Grant. His home was in Haldimand.
21. Felix Jacob Harbour was the third of the three Miller descendants of his generation who left Gaspé permanently. His name appears on a list of labourers constructing the Griffon Road (from Peninsula to Griffon) in November, 1855. Three years later he was married in St. Nicholas, a small place west of Levis, Quebec. He and his wife, Mary Baker, moved with their family to Manchester, New Hampshire, but when Felix and Mary died their bodies were brought back to St. Nicholas for burial. It is not known whether Mary Baker was related to the Gaspé

Bakers. A great-grandson of Felix, Mr. George Harbour of Rhode Island, came to Gaspé in July, 1981, searching for his Harbour origins and supplied the information about Felix.

22. Known as Mr. Freddy Tom, Frederick Thomas Harbour was one of the early casualties of the automobile age in Sandy Beach. He was driving his horse and rig along the road when he became alarmed at seeing a car approaching. The agitation must have affected his heart as he died on the spot.

23. Edwin James Dawe married Maria Jane Harbour in the Sandy Beach Church and in the record of the marriage he was said to be a mechanic of "St. Nicholas, District of Quebec". The couple went to Wisconsin for some years and it is possible that Mrs. Dawe died there. Either after his return to Sandy Beach or earlier, Mr. Dawe built the house still standing in Lobster Cove in which his wife's nephew Edwin Percival Suddard (P. 91) lived. He spent his last years with this Suddard family.

24. Emily May Harbour, known as Tenny, lived with her nephew Edwin Percival Suddard helping the family after Mrs. Suddard's death.

25. William Robert Miller (known as William, never Will or Bill) built a house near the road on his grandfather's land in Peninsula and it is standing today overlooking the parking lot at the entrance to the Forillon National Park which covers the fields Richard Miller cleared and the spot where he built his house.

William fished the stand of salmon nets which his father had had and he farmed. He was very active in the church. Although probably not a licensed lay reader, he often took services when the minister could not be at church. He is best remembered as the Sunday School superintendent and a Sunday School teacher for many years. One thing which distinguished his home was that tramps and other itinerants were never turned away from his door. Unfortunately, on August 13, 1908, William Miller became very ill with what we would probably call polio today and as a result lost the use of his legs and one arm. He spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair, being cared for by his wife and his son. He was one of the last, if not the very last, of his generation of Miller descendants to die.

26. Helen Grace Hart and Eliza Jane Hart came from Sorel. Helen was married in Gaspé and was recorded as being "from Sandy Beach". Their father, Henry Swinton Hart, died in Gaspé on October 4, 1884. Helen and her husband William Annett lived in Gaspé for a time (William was postmaster in Gaspé Basin from 1874 to 1876), but spent some years in Stanstead and other parts of Quebec.

27. George Thomas Annett was fishery officer in Gaspé Bay for some years. Before his second marriage, he built a new house, the one now owned by Reginald Annett.

28. John James Annett moved from Peninsula to Gaspé where he became agent for the telegraph company of the time, the Great North Western Telegraph Company of Canada. He remained in this position until at least the 1920's. He was also postmaster in Gaspé Basin starting in 1878. He died in New Carlisle, he and his wife having moved there with their daughter, Mrs. Earle Annett.

Fourth Generation

29. Emily Anne Miller is best remembered for her musical talent. She learned to play the melodian when she lived as a girl in Rockland, Maine (see note 6), and brought the instrument with her when she and her parents returned to Peninsula in the early 1880's. She at once became the organist in the church, helped train a fine choir, and gave music lessons. She took a leading part in concerts, playing, dancing, acting, singing, etc. She greatly enjoyed the gramophone when it came and lived to listen eagerly to music coming over the radio. She and her husband had no children but they had a large household for which they were responsible. For several years, Mr. Annett's father, three bed-ridden aunts, a bachelor uncle, a widower brother and his two young children, and Mrs. Annett's parents made up the family. In spite of having so many to care for, they often entertained visitors. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Annett were a well-loved couple and his early death was deeply regretted.

30a. This family moved to Metis. Mr. Coffin died there and his sons moved out West, taking their mother with them.

30b. George Peter Pye spent his early years on the water in the work of a sailor and fisherman. However, he gave this up for the life of a clergyman, going to Bishop's University for his training. He served in various churches in Quebec for about forty years. I believe his wife came from the Eastern Townships.

31. John Felix Davis was a grandson of Charles Davis who came to Gaspé early in the nineteenth century and married Margaret Patterson. John F. Davis moved from the family home in York to operate a general store in Gaspé Basin. For many years, the firm of John F. Davis was a very important business in Gaspé.

32. The Rev. William Thomas Forsythe was the minister in charge of St. John's Church, Sandy Beach, and the Peninsula church from 1883 to 1886. He was from Chelmsford, County of Essex, England. It is believed that he and his wife lived in the United States after leaving Gaspé.

33. Frederick William Macartney, M.D., was a doctor in Gaspé for many years. His first wife died in 1899 and the record of her death in the church register says her body was to be buried in Springhill, N.S.

34. Margaret Jane Patterson and six of her brothers and sisters died in childhood or infancy, some of them from diphtheria.

35. There were two Elias Thompsons and they were always distinguished by their complexions. Elias Alfred was Black Elias and was a Miller descendant. Elias Thomas was called Red Elias and he married a Miller (P. 19).

36. Kate MacDonald came from Glengarry County, Ontario. She and her husband lived in Montreal.

37. Walter Anderson Miller appears to be the only one of Richard Miller's grandsons or great-grandsons that did any tailoring. As he was crippled and forced to remain at home, he made clothes for his many brothers.

38. Richard Henry Miller was handicapped physically but he was well known as a carpenter and helped in such work as the ceiling of the church and the building of various houses.

39. Edwin Miller spent his working life at sea, becoming a captain and sailing on various coastal vessels. In later years, he and his wife moved with their daughter Pearl, Mrs. Norman Jolin, to Blind River, Ontario, where they died and were buried.
40. Arthur Miller's widow Edith remarried. Her second husband was John Bourgaize. Arthur's house which he built just east of his father's was sold to Dr. Dillow who had set up a practice in Peninsula in about 1909.
41. George Wilfred Miller was a master mariner who had a varied career of sailing and shore employment. In their last years, Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived away from Peninsula with their sons, he dying in Montreal and she in Quebec. Both were buried in Peninsula. In her lifetime, Mrs. Miller was organist in St. Matthew's Church for many years.
42. W.A. Miller had a general store in Peninsula for many years and he was active in the community as choir member, church warden, etc. His widow remarried and her second husband, Sydney Rabey, died in 1980.
43. Lucy Ann Whitmore came from Montreal, As Allan Miller worked for the railroad, the couple and his mother lived in Toronto for some years before returning to Peninsula. After her husband's death, Mrs. Miller continued to live in Peninsula with her mother-in-law and in her last years with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Briard.
44. These three children all died of diphtheria in one week, probably in the summer of 1879.
45. According to the church register Agnes Emily Price was born October 4, 1868. This month and year agree with a letter of October 30, 1868 from Agnes Phillips to her brother, in which she says, "Melinda had a daughter". The date on her tombstone in the cemetery of the Cap Aux Os United Church is October 5, 1867; this must be an error.
46. Edward T. Haskell was shown as a paving cutter in St. George, Maine, in the census of 1900. He had one son, George.
47. Mary Alice Miller went to the Corner of the Beach to teach school. While there she caught diphtheria and died.
48. Sarah Edith Miller married in Montreal.
49. Margaret Emily Annett and William Henry Mullin lived in Morristown, New Jersey.
50. Amasa George Annett and his wife lived in Montreal where he worked as a carpenter. When they died, their bodies were returned to Peninsula for burial.
51. Brian John Annett went to Campbellton, N.B., married and lived there, working for Harquail's, a company furnishing building materials such as windows and doors. He spent his last years in Moncton where he died.

52. Sarah Ann Annett and her husband lived at first in Wakeham but after some years moved to New Jersey. They died there. Their son Melvin and his wife, Florence Boyle, died in Morristown, New Jersey, in 1980 and left \$5000 to each of the five Anglican churches around Gaspé Bay.
53. Melvin William Annett went to work in the woods in New Brunswick and was accidently drowned in the Restigouche River when rafting logs.
54. Frederick Wyndham Annett and his wife moved away from Gaspé.
55. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Eden lived in Montreal and provided a "home away from home" for many Gaspeians visiting the city. They moved to Morristown, New Jersey, in their last years and died there.
56. Christina Keir came from Apple Hill, Glengarry Co., Ontario. She and Alvah Brian Williamson met in Banff where they were both working, he as chef at the Banff Springs Hotel. They were married in Montreal.
57. Daniel Henry Miller died during the terrible diphtheria epidemic which raged through the year 1862. His death was probably due to this disease.
58. Sarah Elizabeth McKenzie came to Gaspé from Prince Edward Island with her uncle, George Hammill.
59. William Devereux Baldwin Scott was a clerk for the Hudson Bay Company on the North Shore. His marriage to Eleanor Margaret Harbour was performed by the Methodist minister A. Whiteside in the "house of Capt. Richard Miller, Sandy Beach".
60. Frances Martha Clark was Joseph Coleman Patterson's second wife, his first wife, Beatrice Maud Patterson, having died.
61. David Alexander Clark worked on the railroad and lost his life on a train.
62. Alfred Ernest Miller has to his credit some of the most unique achievements of anyone in the first four generations of Millers. In his youth he became interested in geology and prospecting and found ore samples in 1909 which convinced him that valuable copper deposits were to be found not far from his own home on the York River. With the help of some of his brothers, he pursued this conviction until he discovered what is today the copper mine at Murdochville. He had to wait through several decades before a mining company agreed to develop his finds. In 1951, Noranda Mines Limited began the opening of a copper mine, the building of roads, and the construction of the town of Murdochville, Mr. Miller lived not only to see his dreams of a mine materialize, but many years later, as I write this in 1981, he is several months past his one hundred and first birthday. He resides with one of his daughters in Montreal but each year makes a return trip to his home in Sunny Bank. As far as I know, no other Miller descendant has lived as long as Mr. Alfred Miller.
63. James Henry Miller lived in Duluth, Minnesota.
64. Robert Baker Coffin went to Michigan to work and lost his life there.
65. The marriage of Edward Matthew Miller and Lydia Grace Mullin was well remembered by my mother. It was the first wedding to which she was invited. Her mother arrived at the reception in the Miller home later than most of the guests and

- brought the news which she had just received over the telegraph that Queen Victoria was dead.
66. Mary Jane Thompson and her husband William LeMesurier lived in Montreal where he was a caretaker in one of the schools.
67. After Richard Thompson's death, his wife remarried.
68. James Trimble was described at the time of his marriage as a lumberman and a widower from Petitcodiac, County Westmoreland, N.B. He and Rosabella Thompson moved to the United States.
69. Douglas Johnson Thompson and his wife moved with their family to Sudbury, Ontario. The couple died there.
70. It was recorded in the church register that Felix Charles Ascah died from croup, but, as his brothers died just days later, the death of all of them was undoubtedly due to diphtheria.
71. See note 18.
72. Emma Williamson and her husband died in Ottawa and were buried there.
73. Ellen Julia Williamson and her last husband, Thomas Price, both died in Ottawa. Her second husband, James B. Stewart, was said to be from Titusville, Pennsylvania, at the time of their marriage.
74. After the death of her husband, Letitia and family went to Ottawa where her oldest son was living. She died there and her body was returned to Sandy Beach for burial.
75. A "spinster" daughter of Edward Suddard named "Maria Jane" Suddard died September 18, 1874. This was probably Maria Emiline.
76. George Robert Harbour died "from the effects of an accidental wound". He fell on a knife when peeling bark and died from loss of blood.
77. For this family see note 24.
78. Edwin Percival Suddard kept a clothing store in Gaspé Basin for many years and it was continued by his son Leslie until recently. "Mr. Ed Suddard's" brick building on "the Basin Point" was often visited by shoppers and after being closed for some years, was demolished in 1981 to make way for the new highway and parking lot which now occupy most of the Point.
79. Lydia Edna Harbour was the second wife of John Lacouvé.
80. Robert Harold Suddard drowned accidentally.
81. Maria Helen Grace Suddard and Helier George Gaudin lived in Cape Cove.
82. This Patterson was not from the Gaspé Patterson families.