



Glen Elder, KS -- Heritage & History

~ Memoir Lane ~

Journal Entry

-- by Robert Harrison Miller

The following is taken from a journal written by, Harold German's great, great grandfather, on his mothers' (Cecil Brody) side in August of 1913 in Beloit, Kansas at the age of 76 (born in 1837). The writer is (was) the grandson of Robert Harrison Miller (same name), who emigrated from Dumfriesshire, Scotland to North Carolina before the Revolutionary War. He is writing about the first generation American in the Miller family, **his father**, Robert Harrison Miller (same name), who was born in Rutherford county in southwestern North Carolina on **October 28, 1777**. There followed another two generations of Robert Harrison Millers, the last of which was Harold's grandfather. --- Though this scene does not take place around Glen Elder, it does provide a taste of the lives and the journey of those footsteps that brought the family to the GE vicinity ---

Thanks to our fourth cousin, of [David G. Reynolds Placitas, New Mexico, for discovering this collection of family writing and sharing it with me and now us...](#) This excerpt comes from pages 34-38 of the handwritten journal consisting of approximately 10,655 handwritten words and 47 pages.

. Robert (or Big as he was called) went out among the neighbors to earn his own living (as the farm was not large enough for both of us to work on) and money, Joshua preferring rather to stay at home than to work for other people and to have what surplus he could make above a living. Robert always had a home at home when not at work or it was necessary to help at home but Robert never was much for horses but chose the rest of the Stock as his favorites could not ride a horse on the trot without falling off till about 14 yrs old. He knew the face of all as well as he did the neighbors or family. He knew the bawling or voice of nearly all the Stock on the farm could imitate the voice of most of the neighbors & knew the bark of all the dogs in the country & was always barefooted in the Spring before any of the boys on the creek and was always first to have the tooth ache in the Spring & the ague in the fall.

Big was a fine Sheep-shearer for a boy in those days. If it rained too hard to work in the field Big was either hunting or fishing He seemed to be a boy that loved his own company more than that of other boys He had one particular friend in the person of George Whitem (although the boys were all his friends) but he confided in George most of all. In Sugar making Big was the main hand to carry the sap from the nearest trees & when not at that he was hunting turkey or looking for birds or throwing rocks & seemed to be taken up with the things of nature in a general way of his own not caring to be with any one.

So after he was about 22 years old & got over being bashful he took a notion to see some more of the country. So he took his clothes & bid the folks good-bye & started to his Uncle in the western part of the State walking all the way through to see the country which was a wonder in a great many ways but had a very good time seeing things as we went along & after the fourth got to the end of the way in Green County, Indiana. My but things looked different to what I left at home. So he hired to his uncles for a year at thirteen dollars per month for a year and Stayed 3 years & worked for him & making several visits home during the time, he had some very good times & some not so good, he got over being afraid of the girls he had quite an experience with one girl come very near marrying her only did not for good luck then had some experience in the Porkhouse in 60 & 61 & went to School in the winter with some young ladies had quite a time with Some new Studies & the girls, worked for the same man till August then enlisted for the war in Company A, 82nd Indiana Regiment, W.Y. Monroe Captain. Saw lots of Service & heard the Scream of Shot & Shell in a good many Battles, he made a very good Soldier till the close of the war then returned home & took up citizenship for a while doing different kinds of work during the rest of the Summer then chopped during the winter & having a good time enjoying different kinds of company but note of the tough class only going to one dance during the winter but mingled with the better classes of Society till April 12, 1866 he then chose a partner in the person of Miss Huldah Nay of a very respectable family they of the Baptist faith & practice.

Her Father & Mother died during the war leaving the children alone or under the care of the oldest girls & boys. We settled in the old neighborhood for a few years and enjoyed the society of our old friends living happily together & after a few more years we took a rambling notion & in September 1870 moved to Southern Iowa Appanoose County & after the usual course of Sickness & farming among Chintz-bugs wet weather the loss of two children and most every other thing that the human flesh is heir to we gave up the Struggle & bid the Country and people good-bye & Started for Kansas to live in the Sun-shine .

So we found everything heart could wish SO in God we trusted & in Kansas we busted. We found everything plentiful Corn 15 cts per bushel, flour \$1.50 per 100 lbs, potatoes 15 cts per bushel all kinds of field & garden products plenty & cheap. We were well pleased with the change so things went very well for a few years till crops began to fail, dry weather, Chintz-bugs hot winds potato bugs Sickness &etc &etc began to come to us in double measure & we had nothing to go to not even wife's folks SO we had to Stay with the rest andwe got along...