

## An Analysis of Miller, Millen and Milling in Deed and Probate Records

by Brenda Baumert, a descendant of Josias Miller

I recently undertook a study and comparison of deeds and probate records in Chester in an effort to discern the various records that were indexed under Miller, Millen, Milling and various other spellings of these names. I discovered some clerical errors in the records and I discovered family grouping patterns that I thought enabled me to determine which records seemed to belong to specific family groups. Primarily this family grouping was based on property location and the assumption that land was generally passed down thru the same family lines. Of course this intra-family deed pattern is only true the majority of the time and certainly sheriff sales and moving out of the area can account for deeds involving some that were non-kin. I found that even these deeds often stayed with the family or were eventually returned to the same family group. I think an exam of these records confirms that most property was passed down thru family lines. This practice can give researchers some good leads regarding maiden names as well. With that said, below is a summary of what I concluded after an analysis of deed and probate records for the above names up to the 1830's and my reasoning for arriving at such conclusions. From about 1830 to 1870, I examined the Deed Index and Probate records. I am not kin to the Millen or Milling families as far as I know, however I have studied their records in depth in an effort to locate all records involving the Millers, since the name spellings are so close. My study confirmed that there are clerical errors where Miller was recorded as Millen and vice versa. Likewise, Millen and Milling were often used interchangeably. Therefore for the Millens especially, their name could be indexed under a myriad of similar spellings and as genealogy experts will tell you, surname spelling was inconsistent up to the 1900's mostly being spelled phonetically up until then.

From these comparisons, I believe Millen and Milling are the same family line, not 2 separate families. This is because I repeatedly found the records containing the names Milling and Millen in the same records. It seems the clerks and the families were uncertain what the correct family name or spelling was. In addition, William Millen Sr. of Rocky Creek [1751-1834] consistently signed his name as "William Millen" even though it was often written as Milling in the text of several deeds. Some subsequent generations of his family line [i.e. persons who later owned the properties of Wm Sr.] signed their names as Milling, even though it was spelled Millen and Milling in the text of the document. I came to the conclusion that the name was actually Milling, but for some family lines, the name became Millen over time.

The same interchangeable spellings of the names Milling and Millen is also found for the families living on the South Fork of Fishing Creek. Just like the Rocky Creek Millens, the descendants of Robert and Mary Millen, whose 250 ac grant on 1-23-1773, passed this land down thru the families and they also used both Milling and Millen in their deeds. In addition, the June 1806 Probate [Apt 33 Pkg 677 and Book D Folio 85] for Robert Millen is indexed under Robert Miller. This causes a great deal of confusion to researchers since there was also a 150 acre land grant on 2-6-1773 to Robert and Mary Miller of Rocky Creek, which couple lived not far from the Robert Millen couple of the South Fork on Fishing Creek. The grave marker for Robert Millen at Fishing Creek Cemetery who died in April 1806 together with the contents of the probate records confirm that the 1806 Probate for "Robert Miller" is in fact Robert Millen. Deeds shortly after this date also support the 1806 death because the January 1773 grant to this man on the South Fork of Fishing Creek is sold and subdivided among his descendants over the generations. In addition to receiving land grants the same year, both Robert Miller and Robert Millen had sons named William, compounding the confusion in the records. More on this Robert Miller is given below. Returning to the Millens, there were 2 William Millens in Chester both about the same age and more than likely first cousins. I did not attempt to prove the Millens

of Rocky Creek and the Millens of Fishing Creek were related, but it seems probable and likely would involve researching records out of Chester County. I distinguish the 2 Millen groups by their location in Chester where I list deeds that I believe are Fishing Creek Millens and deeds that I believe to be Rocky Creek Millens. The same applies to the Miller groups in Chester.

\* see note at end of article:

- some records are indexed wrong
- records with wrong surnames in deed
- maps of properties confirm these errors

Here is what I concluded to be the major family groups of the above surnames:

- **Robert and Mary Millen – South Fork of Fishing Creek;** probably kin to the Elliotts and the George Gill family. This is just based on their frequent involvement in these deed transactions together with their continuous proximity to this family. I did not pursue proof of these relationships.
  1. These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location.\*
  2. These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records\*:
    - "Apt 43 Pkg 677; Book D Folio 85 Robert Miller" [should be Millen]
- **William and Hannah Millen – Rocky Creek/Grassy Run area.** Hannah Millen was a proven daughter of Jacob Carter; William Millen was probably kin to Robert Millen on South Fork of Fishing Creek and both men may be kin to Hugh Milling of adjacent Fairfield County; Hugh Milling was a Revolutionary War officer who served with Michael Dickson. William Millen also seems kin to Michael Dickson, but I have not confirmed this nor did I pursue it. Dickson's genealogy is fairly well proven. A comparison of Probate, Guardianship, Deed and map records can only conclude that these 4 Millens were siblings:\*
  1. William Milling/Millen Sr. had to be the first born since his name is always listed first. William and Hannah moved to Lincoln, North Carolina where they are buried, but their sons remained in Chester on his properties.
  2. Alexander Milling/Millen married a Mary whose maiden name is unknown; they had 2 daughters Jennet and Hannah, born about 1802 and 1805. Jennet married a son of Alexander or John Walker of Rocky Creek. Chester Deed Volume T p469 is between Alexander's widow Mary and his sister Ann, who is the widow of Charles D. Miller.
  3. Ann Milling/Millen married Charles D. Miller, Sr. Charles Miller and his brother-in-law William Millen are found together in numerous records, only adding to the confusion between the 2 surnames. More on this couple is given under Charles D. Miller.
  4. Martha Milling/Millen married John Murphy. They had a son John Murphy, Jr. who had a son Charles Miller Murphy, obviously named after his great uncle.
    - These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
    - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*

- Josias and Elizabeth Miller – Little Rocky Creek / Bull Run / Bull Skin Run Headwaters area** is my direct ancestral line. This area is basically south central to southeast Chester county. Josias' son Charles Christopher Miller who lived on Bull Run is my direct ancestor and whose genealogy I have researched at length. Josias and Elizabeth had 8-10 kids; his property was split 8 ways after his widow Elizabeth died. Josias' daughter Mary received a 100 acre grant on the same day as her father's 400 acre grant February 6, 1773 and which grant was adjacent to Josias'. This daughter Mary married James Miller, who was a grandson of Robert Miller and Mary Alexander of Bullock Creek in York County, which is on the north side of Chester. Some of these Bullock Creek Millers moved into Spartanburg where James and Mary lived in 1794 and many of their children may have been born there. James was either a son of Nathaniel or John Miller of Spartanburg, but Nathaniel seems more likely. The first wife Mary (Miller) Miller died in the early 1800's and by 1804 James Miller had married Margaret McAliley, daughter of John of Chester. They were living adjacent to Josias' family in Chester where most of James' children stayed, but his son William moved to Greene County, Alabama. This Miller-Miller marriage has also caused enormous confusion in the records. The wife of Josias was Elizabeth Hindman, whose mother, also named Elizabeth Hindman, got a land grant as a widow on the same day as Josias and Mary and which property was also next to theirs. In 1792, this 100 acre property was re-granted to Samuel M. Miller, son of Josias and Elizabeth. This 600 acres of properties together with additional land grants for Rev War service given to Josias' son Robert and the son-in-law James, was deeded back and forth among this family for generations. The family of Josias' oldest son Robert seemed to have been the ultimate beneficiaries of the majority of these properties. A map of these numerous transactions was published in the 2012 issue of the Bulletin. Most of the descendants of Josias' family moved westward into the southern states with descendants of son Robert and daughter Jennet Miller Knox being the exception. Leonardo Andrea published an extensive report on this family in 1947, commissioned by several Miller descendants. A few errors have been found in this 100-plus page report, but the bulk of it has been confirmed as accurate.

  - These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
  - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- Robert and Mary Miller of Rocky Creek** – received a 150 acre grant on Rocky Creek also dated 2-6-1773 and they had to be an older married couple whose children were all over 16, rather than a newlywed couple. Note that this grant date is exactly two weeks after Robert and Mary Millen's grant on the South Fork of Fishing Creek, a fact that also lends to confusion between the 2 couples. This Miller grant was located just north of the present day Highway 9 and northeast of Josias Miller's land and they were probably brothers, but no proof ever found, only circumstantial evidence. These Millers and Millen couples actually lived pretty close to each other, basically northwest of Highway 9 and I-77 today [my best guess; I have not had this property mapped]. Professional Genealogist of the 1940's and 50's, Leonardo Andrea also suggested a kinship between Robert and Josias Miller, Robert seemingly older than Josias. I could not determine Mary Miller's maiden name, but I lean toward McClure due to the frequent family

associations and residential proximity with James McClure of Revolutionary War. They had sons William and Henry and maybe a daughter named Mary. Charles D. Miller of Grassy Run Branch of Rocky Creek may also have been a son since he lived just west of these families. This couple also seemed kin to Andrew Miller of Bull Skin Run, who witnessed a deed. Their son William Miller married Margaret Campbell and they had a son Silas. All lived circa Rocky Creek, but William and Margaret seemed to have moved away about 1803 when Silas was given Power of Attorney over his parents' properties. This is the Miller line connected with the Gourley family and somehow they were also connected to the Morrisons and Rosboroughs, but I was unable to determine how; more than likely there is a marriage among these names.

- These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
  - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **John and Mary Miller of Sandy River** – properties on Sandy River, Fishing Creek and in Lancaster County, which borders Chester on the east. Mary was nee McKeown, a proven sister of Alexander. John Miller was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and was the same one who got the 100 acre grant in 1767 on Fishing Creek. A few months after John got his 100 acres, brother William Miller also got 100 acres adjacent to him. These men lived next to William Weir, who married their sister Susannah Miller according to a 1981 article in this same Bulletin. William Weir and William Miller both moved to Kentucky, but John remained in Chester. A study of records in Chester together with Revolutionary War pension file S38950 supports data that John Miller was born about 1749 or 1750 and lived in Chester County until his death between 1821 and 1830. John was probably a nephew of Josias, based on his frequent association with Josias' family along with the frequency of the McKeowns also with Josias' family. By process of elimination, no other John Miller fits this time period. He had 2 known sons in 1820, one being Cyrus Miller, Esquire, a resident of Monroe County, Mississippi as late as 1860. The other son seems to be John Miller Jr. born 1790-1793, but his name is not given in the Rev War file, only that there are 2 sons.
    - These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
    - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Charles D. Miller and Ann Miller of Grassy Run Branch on Rocky Creek** - As mentioned earlier, Ann was a sister of William Millen. Miller got a land grant in 1774 for 150 acres, so he and Ann seemed to have married in Chester shortly after his arrival in 1773 on the Lord Dunluce, among the 5 ships of the parishioners under Rev. William Martin. Charles D. Miller was a Revolutionary War soldier who also served under Hugh Milling and Michael Dickson. He received a pension under the state of South Carolina [RW2788, dated 1811] in which he recounts that during Sumter's Defeat a Tory struck him on the head with a hatchet and left him for dead in the ditch, the injury having left his brain membrane exposed. This was the second injury he suffered during the War, the first injury having sent him home and disabled for some time but from which he

recovered enough to rejoin the rebellion. Charles and Ann had no children and probably he required a great deal of assistance as a result of his brain injury, which help was no doubt provided to him by his brother-in-law William Millen. Charles D. Miller wrote his Will in 1811, leaving all of his estate to his great nephew Charles Miller Murphy, who lived with him and Ann from at least 1810 onward. The Will was never proven, but this was probably because Ann and Charles Murphy came to an agreement that basically followed the wishes of the Will; this can be seen in Chester Deed Vol. T pp 174-5, dated February 9, 1820 from Ann Miller to Charles M. Murphy in which Ann states "Charles Miller my deceased husband". This deed also revealed that Murphy was already living in one end of their home.

- These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
  - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Andrew Miller was father of Gardiner** and pretty sure he was also a bro of Josias and Robert and maybe John because Andrew is a witness for deeds involving Robert and Mary and all 3 Miller men and their families seem to interact with the same family names. Gardiner Miller married Ann Bonner of Fairfield and they moved to TN. Andrew may have moved to Abbeville or else he died in Chester. His family lived on Bull Skin Run east of Josias.
    - These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
    - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Charles and Priscilla Miller of York-Lancaster border**; her maiden name was Sarah Priscilla Lucas and they were the ancestors of Gov. Stephen Miller who is probably also kin of the Stephen Miller of Chester records; descendants of this family provided me with their genealogy. It is unknown if/what his kinship is to the other Chester Millers, but Charles Sr., born in Massachusetts, was perhaps a cousin to the Chester Millers or else was no known kin. He worked with the Catawba Indians to cultivate treaties and free up land; his son Charles, Jr. lived on Twelve Mile Creek where it bordered against the Catawba Indian lands at the York-Lancaster line. That Charles Miller, Jr. married Margaret Moore White and he was the father of Governor Stephen Miller. Descendants of this family married descendants of Josias' family in GA in 1840's.
    - These Deeds pertain to descendants of this family, based on property location:\*
    - These Probates pertain to descendants of this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Alexander Miller of Fairfield**, was married to Hannah whose maiden was likely Milling and if so, a sister of Hugh since Hugh was Executor for Alexander Miller's probate; he was probably kin to the Chester Millers, but again, no proof, only circumstantial records. Certainly the Chester Millers and the Fairfield Millers seemed to be connected with and lived near the same surnames, suggesting common kinships. He had sons named Alexander and Henry and a daughter Susannah, named in his 1789 Will. Since he

names a daughter Susannah, possibly he was the father of John and William of Fishing Creek, but because John and William are not named in the Will, this seems unlikely.

- These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
  - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Charles and Jennet Miller, the 1806 Immigrant** lived just southeast of Josias' family, interacted with them and just about had to be close kin, but I don't know how. He and his wife had a son James Reid Miller and a daughter Mary Paul Miller who were probably twins born in early spring of 1810. Charles died in late Summer of 1825 and his widow and children moved to Lincoln County, TN. Charles arrived from Ireland [much like 75% of the residents of Chester] probably in 1801 since the immigration rules required a 5 year residency prior to becoming a citizen, which citizenship he received in Nov. 1806. He more than likely married after he came to Chester, so his wife was probably born in Chester. This Charles Miller was born about 1764 in Ireland, based on 1810 and 1820 census data.
    - These Deeds pertain to this family, based on property location:\*
    - These Probates pertain to this group, based on property and same names as found in deed records:\*
- 
- **Clarification: 3 men named Charles Miller lived in Chester at the same time** - A review of all this data confirms that there were 3 men named Charles Miller, all living in Chester from 1806 [probably 1801] to 1820 and this does not include the Charles Millers of Lancaster-York counties. With the common name of Charles and the residential proximity of all of them to each other means the chances are great that all these Millers share a common Scotch-Irish ancestor; all these Charles Miller men in Chester were born in Ireland. [The name Robert Miller in these families only compounds this likelihood.] Below are my conclusions about these 3 Charles Miller men:
    - Charles D. Miller born about 1750-1754 in Ireland and died about January 1820 in Chester was married to Ann Millen, had no children and lived on the Grassy Run Branch of Rocky Creek, very near the Saluda Road. His middle initial of "D" is found in his Rev War pension file. He often used Sr. after his name. William Millen of Rocky Creek was his brother-in-law.
    - Charles Christopher Miller born 1760 in Ireland and died about April 1837 in Henry County, GA. His middle name of Christopher being found in deed records of Henry County. He also signed Sr. after his name since he had a son Charles Jr. born about 1792 in Chester. He moved to Henry County, GA about 1822 and his children had all moved away by 1825, also. The majority of this family moved to Henry-Newton County, GA.
    - Charles Miller born about 1764 in Ireland and died August or September 1825 in Chester was also married to a Jennet and at the same time that Charles C. Miller was married to Jennet McBride Miller, probably his 2nd wife. This also causes confusion in the records that can only be discerned by tracking their properties. As mentioned above, Charles the 1806 immigrant conducted business with Samuel M. Miller, a brother of Charles C. Miller. These facts strongly imply a kinship, but this youngest Charles Miller was no closer than a first cousin to

Josias' kids, possibly an even more distant kin whose families in Ireland and America no doubt had remained in contact.

Professional Genealogist Leonardo Andrea relayed in his 1947 report for the Chester Miller families that a then-resident of Chester claimed that all of the Millers were sons of the same man who settled in Chester with his family and that Josias' sons had an uncle named Robert. If this story is correct, then Robert Miller of Rocky Creek was definitely the brother of Josias and the John Miller of the 1755 Sandy River grant was the father of these Miller men. Again, this is all based on one person's story, which stories often have an element of truth while becoming corrupted over the generations.