

# Miller family makes impact in Taylor County and beyond

The Miller family that landed in Adair County and ultimately made their homes in Taylor County descended from George Miller who immigrated to this county from Germany in the 17th century.

He settled first in Garrard County near Lancaster – and later moved to Crocus, Kentucky, 10 miles south of Columbia on the line between Russell and Adair counties.

George Miller had a son, Adam Miller, who had a son James P. Miller, who had a son, Dr. James Otha Miller. Dr. Miller, who graduated from the University of Louisville’s Medical College, married Mary Adelia “Martha” Buster of Creelsboro. The couple had eight children, the second of whom was James Claud Miller born in 1880.

At age 21, J.C. Miller married Olive S. Morrison who died in 1903. To that union was born a son, Clyde P. Miller. J.C. married a second time to Josephine Morrison, who died in 1906. To this union was born a daughter, Jewell, who married George Monson.

In 1908, J.C. Miller was employed by the War Department in the construction of Lock 21 near Eadsville (Monticello), Kentucky, on the Cumberland River. Miller’s work attracted the attention of the engineer in charge of the project, who suggested that he take schooling in engineering by mail. Miller did just that and graduating four years later.

By 1912, J.C. Miller was designing buildings, making blueprints and writing specifications – in many cases, overseeing the construction of the actual

building from start to finish. While many of his accomplishments will be highlighted here, there will be numerous smaller projects in other counties and states that will have to be left out of this article.

In the July 1, 1914, edition of the Columbia News, it was reported that J.C. Miller, the well-known contractor, and Mrs. Lena Powell, a widow, had married several weeks prior and had kept the marriage a secret until discovered by friends. The new Miller household consisted of J.C. and his new wife, Lena ... Clyde Miller, son from J.C.’s first marriage, Jewell, daughter of his second marriage, and Lena’s three children, Owen, Opal and Edna. The couple would ultimately have three more children of their own, J.C. Miller Jr., Lena Miller and George Otha Miller.

It was also in 1914 that J.C. Miller and his family moved to Campbellsville, despite the fact that he was building the new men’s dormitory at Lindsey-Wilson College. Prior to 1928, Miller likewise would be responsible for the construction of the Columbia Graded and High School and the Lindsey-Wilson gymnasium.

As the Miller family expanded, so did J.C. Miller’s reputation as an architect, contractor and builder. In 1913, the Columbia News reported that the new Baptist Church which had been built in Columbia by J.C. Miller was near completion. The paper stated that Miller painstakingly had overseen every detail of the building. In 1915, J.C. received the contract to build a new Christian Church at Monticello and in 1918 he built the new high school in Lebanon.

In 1924, Miller received the contract to construct the administration building for Morehead Normal

School. In 1927, Lerman Brothers contracted Miller to construct a new building for them on Main Street in Columbia. The same year, Miller was awarded the contract to build the administration building at Richmond for the Eastern State Normal School.

In 1929, Miller was awarded the contract by the War Department to erect a building for U.S. Barracks and Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Miller received another government contract in 1931 to construct seven post office and medical detachment barracks at Fort Benning. The post office buildings would be in Huntingdon, Tennessee; Prestonsburg and Falmouth, Kentucky; and Rossville, Monroe, Toccoa and Waynesboro, Georgia. Before Miller’s career was over, he would build more than 32 post offices for the U.S. government.

In 1933, Miller received a contract to construct 11 field officers’ quarters at Fort Knox. Two years later, he was awarded contract to erect two high school buildings in Russell County, one to be located in Jamestown and the other at Russell Springs.

Between 1936 and 1937, Miller spending most of his time working on local projects. From a construction standpoint, he was building Campbellsville’s new post office, now the offices of Bertram, Cox and Miller Law Firm on Main Street, the new Taylor County graded school, dormitories at Lindsey-Wilson College and completion of the new Christian Church on Lebanon Avenue.

But it was the failure of the Taylor National Bank in late August of 1937 that facilitated the organization

of the new Taylor County Bank on Sept. 1 of the same year, with J.C. Miller as its founder and president.

On top of Miller’s banking and construction businesses, J.C. was a man who served his community. According to the Oct. 25, 1956, News Journal, Miller’s contributions to Campbellsville and Taylor County were many. He was a member of the Campbellsville Christian Church. He was an original member of the Taylor County Area Development Association and spurred the drive for the building of the Taylor County Manufacturing Company. He designed and helped finance the local Armory and was active in every civic improvement and advancement in Campbellsville and Taylor County, and during World War II, he served as Taylor County’s War Bonds chairman.

James Claude Miller died in 1956 at age 76, but following in his footsteps was a long legacy of bankers who also would carry his name.

J.C. Miller Jr. had grown up in the banking business under the grooming of his father. When James Claude died in 1956, J.C. Jr. was ready to take the helm of the bank his father had started. As its new president, J.C. led the organization until his death in 1970. But like his father before him, when J.C. Miller died, there was another James C. Miller who had had likewise been groomed for the bank’s leadership. James C. “Jim” Miller took the reins of the bank at the young age of 28 and shepherded the organization for 37 years. And today, the fourth James Claude Miller now sits in the president’s set at Taylor County Bank.

Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy.

For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to

info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com.

## TAYLOR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Amanda Lynn Berg of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Deborah Lynn Pittman, of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day October 27, 2025. All creditors must file claims by April 27, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Mackenzie D. Smith of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maria Louise Maupin Shipp of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Lorene Burris Maupin of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day October 30, 2025. All creditors must file claims by April 30, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John D. Bertram of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LaDonna Lobb, of Campbellsville, Kentucky and Michael Newton of Columbia, Kentucky has qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of Willard Lewis Newton of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day October 30, 2025. All creditors must file claims by April 30, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John D. Bertram of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Janice Rowlette of Hermitage, Tennessee has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Inez Milby of Campbellsville, Kentucky on October 30, 2025. All creditors must file claims by April 30, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John C. Miller of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Matthew Magness of Louisville, Kentucky and Tonia Magness of Watkins, Colorado has qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of Mitchell F. Magness of Campbellsville, Kentucky on October 17, 2025. All creditors must file claims by April 17, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. John C. Miller of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brooke M. Caster of Pendleton, Indiana has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Gerald Duane Caster of Campbellsville, Kentucky on November 3, 2025. All creditors must file claims by May 3, 2026. Fiduciary

represented by Hon. Mackenzie D. Smith of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Erica Dishman of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Randy Thomas Wilson of Campbellsville, Kentucky on November 7, 2025. All creditors must file claims by May 7, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Angela M. Call of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Brandy Close, Administrator of the Estate of Sandra Cash has filed FINAL Settlement this October 23, 2025. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 3, 2025. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Miranda Kay Zoffman, Executrix, of the Estate of Deborah Lyne Gilpin has filed FINAL Settlement this October 24, 2025. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 3, 2025. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Rita Moyers, Executrix, of the Estate of Barbara Baldwin has filed FINAL Settlement this November 6, 2025. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 3, 2025. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Diana Arvin, Executrix, of the Estate of Dorothy Helen Barnett has filed FINAL Settlement this October 31, 2025. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 10, 2025. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Jonathan Bailey, Administrator of the Estate of Retter Bell Bailey has filed FINAL Settlement this November 17, 2025. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on December 10, 2025. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

## News-Journal CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

FRIDAY – 4:00 PM

Contact Customer Service at  
270-465-8111, Option 1 or  
classifieds@cknj.com  
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

\*Holidays advance deadline by 24 hours.

# PLAY-BY-PLAY OUTAGE UPDATES.

Update your phone number to know the game plan.

Get the play-by-play you need when the lights go out. Update your phone number in the LG&E and KU mobile app or in My Account to get outage alerts during power outages.

Save our number **454-358** as “**4LGEKU**” to get text updates when it matters.

Can’t text? No worries, we’ve got you covered. We will call the landline on your account with power outage updates and let you know when your power is expected to be back on.

Visit **lge-ku.com/outages** to learn more.

