

JACOB FRANKLIN MILLER



SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JACOB FRANKLIN MILLER

Jacob Franklin Miller was born December 10, 1856 in Farmington, Utah, to Jacob Miller and Helen Mar Cheney. His father wrote of the event "Tuesday, December 9, 1856, my 21st birthday was spent in getting my last load of wood for my winter fuel, green cottonwood, which we first cooked or dried in the stove oven and then burned. I arrived late and found my wife in labor and December 10, one-half hour after midnight, our first son, Jacob Franklin was born."

Jacob Franklin attended the district schools at Farmington when a boy, and later studied at the University of Utah. He began his career as a teacher while still in his teens and taught the district school at Clarkston in Cache County. Afterwards he was associated with Josiah Greenwood in the Davis Stake academy. He also taught for some time in the district schools at Farmington. He was elected and served a term as superintendent of the Davis County schools.

Professor Miller continued his studies during all the years of his active life, principally at the Wesleyan University of Illinois, and has been awarded the degrees of D.B. and A.B. In September 1892 he accepted a position on the faculty of the Brigham Young college and thereafter made his home in Logan. For some time prior to his death he occupied the chair of history and political science at the Brigham Young College. At the time of his death he was serving as first counselor to President Linford of the College.

In 1883 and 1884 he filled a mission in the Southern States and on his return he was made clerk of the Davis county stake and

clerk of the High Council. He served for several years on the stake boards of the Young Men's Mutual and of the Sunday schools. He acted as one of the presidency of the Fortieth quorum of Seventy.

His integrity, purity of life and general nature endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He was naturally retiring in his disposition and the honors that have come to him come as a reward of effort and were wholly unsought. He was also made a Fellow of the Historical Society of America.

He was married to Hulda Larson, daughter of Ola Larson and Johanna Nilson, on September 18, 1901. He was 44 years old and she was 29 and had been a student of his at the college. They had two children, Joseph Larson, born September 1, 1902 and Helen Mar, born November 13, 1903.

Jacob Franklin was a family oriented man and made time for his family. He would come home from school each day to eat with the family. He would enter the home from an outside door leading into the bedroom, change his clothes, and then go in to eat. He would take his two young children, one on each knee, and would play and talk with them while eating. When it was time to return to school he would go back into the bedroom, change his clothes again, and return to school. He loved his family dearly and would spend as much time as possible with them.

His math ability was quite well known. From is diary dated Wednesday June 25, 1879 gives an example:

"Yesterday my father read an account of a gentleman who had trained his memory to such perfection that he could multiply two

numbers of fifteen figures each performing the operation mentally. 'I don't know that I could do that' I said half aloud. 'Could you with five figures' my father inquired. (The) answer on return from work in the evening. I brought on answer to the first problem mentioned, that of multiplying fifteen figure by fifteen. I had worked along with the boys in the field doing my share of the work and at intervals talking with the boys. The answer contained thirty figures. Upon proving the work I found three figures to be incorrect. The next fore noon I took the following example $987,654,321,987,654,321 \times 123,456,789,123,456,789$ obtaining $121,932,631,356,500,531,347,203,169,112,635,269$ as the answer. I set the answer down at noon and working the example upon paper proved it to be correct. In the second example as in the first I was interrupted by conversation besides having to pay attention to my work. Those with whom I was working did not know that my mind was occupied aside from my work."

He died at his residence on March 25, 1906 of pernicious anaemia from which he had been suffering for several months, leaving his wife and two very young children, aged 4 and 3.