

- September 7, 1957 -

Few people realize, when they step into Ben Dyer's neat big hardware store in Provincetown, that this flourishing business had its beginning in Truro. Kinfolk of John Dyer started the enterprise, and here's the original document that tells of the birth of B.H. Dyer and Co.

From the Records of the Town of Truro, January 27, 1851. Know all men by these presents, that I, Freeman A. Wiley of Truro . . . in consideration of the sum of two hundred dollars to me paid by Benjamin Dyer 2nd, of Truro . . . have granted, bargained and sold the articles herein below mentioned, To Wit:

Sixty gallons of oil, valued at forty-five dollars; five hundred pounds of white lead valued at thirty-five dollars; one half barrel of lamp black valued at two dollars; fifty pounds of Paris Green valued at sixteen dollars; one hundred pounds of common green valued at fourteen dollars; two hundred pounds of fire proof paint valued at eight dollars; one hundred pounds of verdigris valued at thirty dollars; five gallons of Coach Varnish valued at twelve dollars; also a lot of brushes, yellows, reds, Whiting, and other materials suitable to the carrying on of a painter's business, also Gold Leaf, and graining colors valued at sixty three dollars, the whole value of said articles being two hundred and twenty-five dollars."

Mr. Wiley apparently was unable to fulfill the terms of the Chattel mortgage, and in due time the materials became the property of Benjamin Dyer 2nd. Mr. Dyer then opened a small paint store, in the Dyer homestead on North Pamet, now owned by John R. Dyer, Sr., and subsequently, as the business grew, moved to Provincetown.

Mr. Dyer says that there are still certain traces of the one time business in the old homestead . . . on damp days, a faint, acrid odor of linseed oil and turps emanates from the back kitchen. And on moonlight nights, when John steps out in the room for a drink of water, he sees a shadow which might well be old Grampa Ben, stooped over the lamp black barrel in the corner, and sometimes John can even hear the clink of money dropping into the cash drawer. Nothing unusual about this, of course. In our old venerable Cape Codder we sometimes catch the sound of Capt. John Rich up-attic, overhauling his halibut lines. Do you have a guest in your house, too?

Bf Dyer

Picture

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, March 16, 1978

George Miller Jr.



George Fillmore Miller Jr.

George Fillmore Miller Jr., 78, of 82 Commercial St., Provincetown died March 10 at his home after long illness.

Miller was born and raised in Provincetown. He graduated from Provincetown High School and attended Andover Academy and Boston University. For 35 years he owned and operated the 124-year-old B.H. Dyer and Company Hardware Store on Commercial Street.

He was active in Republican politics and attended many Republican state conventions. He served as chairman of the board of the Seamen's Savings Bank. A sailing enthusiast, he was a founder and past director of the West End Racing Club.

He was a member of the King Hiram Lodge, A.F. and A.M. of Provincetown, the Odd Fellows Lodge in Orleans and the Aleppo Lodge of Boston. He was a member of the Anchor and Ark Club and the Cape Cod Shrine Club.

He was president of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association in Provincetown for 19 years. He married three times.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen (Kelley) Miller; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Henrique of Weymouth; a son, George F. Miller III of New York City; a stepson, Frank Hogan of Orleans; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Erlin Sills of Toronto; and three grandchildren.

His first wife was the late Janette (McMurray) Miller and his second wife was the late Viola Hogan.

Funeral services were held March 13. Burial was in Provincetown Cemetery.

His home is on the corner
of Nickerson and Commercial -
(See ahead)