

ANDREW MILLER

by  
Audrey Miller Laurie

There is no more historic or romantic trail than that of the old Indian trail between the Niagara River and Lake Erie, now called the Ridge Road. It started at Miller's Creek and continued past St. John's Anglican Church, the Fenian Raid Battleground, and through the main street of the village of Ridgeway to Lake Erie at Abino Bay (Crystal Beach) and Point Abino, through Humberstone, Sherkston to Port Colborne (Sugar Loaf Hill) which established the town line between Humberstone and Wainfleet townships.

The trail was used to avoid the swift water in the river along what is now Fort Erie and the Peace Bridge. At some place along this limestone ridge the trail was 50 feet below the plain and often near the edge of a straight wall of rock. It was passable at nearly all seasons of the year.

ANDREW MILLER OF MILLER'S CREEK

"Andrew Miller was born in Ulster County in the State of New York, U.S.A. in October 1766. When he was a boy all his people were killed by the Indians and he alone was taken alive by them. In 1779, the Indians brought him into Niagara, a prisoner boy; here he was redeemed from them by John Burch Esq; with whom he lived until he was grown up. He married the daughter of a United Empire Loyalist and with a feeling of deep gratitude toward his benefactor, John Burch, he named his eldest son after him, John Burch Miller.

In 1793 he took up land on the frontier in the county of Lincoln (Welland) Canada; this was on the Niagara River about five miles below Fort Erie at the end of an Indian Trail leading back through the woods to Port Colborne. He did not receive a deed from the Crown for this land until the year 1801. Later he took up other lands from the Crown in different parts of the Province.

In June 1809 he was appointed an Ensign in the Third Regiment of Militia in the District of Niagara, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Warren. His Excellency Sir Francis Gore was then Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada.

Andrew Miller lived on the land he first received from the Crown until he died in January 1843, and his family and descend-

ants will be found on the family tree"

To the best of my knowledge this statement is correct.

(Signed) Albert Weatherstone Miller,  
(Historian and Fort Erie, Ontario.  
Naturalist) February 25, 1909.

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From "Settlement of Township of Bertie by E. A. Cruikshank:

MILLER, ANDREW, lot fourteen in the fifth and lot fourteen in the sixth concession. His petition undated, stated that he "has a Family, has been in the Province since the year 1778 or 1779 and never received any land".

A certificate from John Burch, J.P. was attached:

"Fall Mills, Sep. 14,  
1795

"this is to Certify that the Bearer And. Miller came into this Province some time in the year 1778 or 1779 & Lived in & under my Care to the Year 1790 being then Marry'd in my House removed to take up a Farm for himself, his father & family were Good Loyalists but were unfortunately kild as was his Uncle by a Small Scout of Indians that were unknown to them, the Boy has ever shewn the Strongest Attachment to the British Government wile with me & sence & refused to stay with his family connections in Ulster County when Mrs Burch Took him out to see them in the year 1785".

His name was entered in the provision List at Niagara in 1786.

The committee of the Council recommended him for a grant of 200 acres, 14th July 1795.

"For many years he kept a tavern on the Niagara River Road near the mouth of the stream known as Miller's Creek, at the junction of the Ridge Road, where town meetings were some times held. The advanced guard of Sir Gordon Drummond's army was posted at his house on 23rd September 1814, being an important road junction. \*(My father, Edgar Miller and A.W. Miller questioned this statement about the house being a tavern. It has also been stated that Sir Issac Brock and his aide de camp John Macdonell were frequent visitors.)

After the War of 1812-14 the following was appended to his petition:\*

"I Certify that Andrew Miller of Bertie the Person here- with named Retained his Loyalty to His Majesty's Government during the Late War."

"Henry Trout, Capt 3d Regt  
Lincoln Militia"

\*After the War of 1812-14 and before the Loyalists sons and daughters could claim their land, an affidavit had to be made by an official that their father had been loyal during the late war.

ANDREW MILLER:::

Andrew Miller was born in Ulster County, N.Y. state in 1766. His people were killed by Indians when he was a boy, and he was taken alive. In 1799 they came to Niagara bringing Andrew along with them, and shortly after arriving he was redeemed by John Burch. In honour of his benefactor, he named his eldest son. John Burch Miller.

In 1793 he took up land on the Frontier in the County of Lincoln, Canada. His farm was on the Niagara River at a spot now known as Miller's Creek: at the end of the Indian Trail, leading from the River to Fort Colborne. He did not receive his deed to the land till 1801.

In 1809 Andrew Miller Sr. was appointed Ensign of the 3rd. Regiment of Militia for the District of Niagara. He continued to live on this land till his death in 1843. The original Grant for the land which he received in 1801, was for 188 acres.

The Miller home, some five miles from Fort Erie was 151 years old by the yr. 1945, and at that time Harding Miller a descendant of the fourth son Of Andrew Miller Sr., still cultivated part of the land.

information from an article in the  
Times Review. 1945.

San Raymond  
"isolate"

Being blessed or cursed with a retentive memory, this is my history of the Millers, starting with the original Andrew:

The first mention of him is made in an old list of Loyalists who were entitled to land. In this list are Andrew and Peter Miller who are listed as Young Loyalists, which leads one to suppose these were two brothers redeemed from the Indians. John Birch, a mill owner of Falls Mills (probably where is now Queenston) redeemed Andrew in 1773; but what happened to Peter? That seems to be a mystery.

After the Rebellion, Andrew with Mrs. Birch visited Ulster County, N. Y., in 1785, to locate any of his relatives still living. They found some distant relations, but Andrew would not stay and returned with Mrs. Birch to Canada. He was married in 1790 to Elizabeth Everett (Loyalist) in John Birch's house, setting out on his own. However, he did not apply for a land grant until 1796.

This grant (there is some difference of opinion here, one branch of the family claiming that he originally settled along the Niagara River) was some two miles back from the river on the banks of Miller's Creek and consisted of 200 acres. This, I am inclined to believe, was the original homestead, as a pamphlet we have of the War of 1812, written by Gen. E. A. Cruickshank, contained a map showing Miller's Farm back from the Niagara river, and it makes no note of any farms at that time on the banks of the river at the point in dispute.

Incidentally, in the War of 1812, Andrew Miller was a Captain in the Lincoln Militia. During the Rebellion of 1837, your great grand father, Peter Edward Miller, was Captain in the Lincoln Militia and was on duty during the rebellion when he was assigned the task of preventing the escape of the "Little Rebel", Lyon William Mackenzie King's

grandfather. This he was unable to do as he was circumvented by his son-in-law, John Stockdale, who aided Mackenzie to escape to Grand Island, disguised in one of your great aun Elizabeth's dresses.

Allowing the Little Rebel to escape and this become the grandfather of Lyon William is the only discreditable thing I can find in my wife's and your branch of the Miller family.

Wallace Stockdale had a letter in his possession from W.L. Mackenzie addressed to Wally's father, thanking him for his help. After Wall's death, this letter was most unfortunately lost or destroyed.

The first Peter Edward, your great grandfather, married Deborah Spedding, whose family at one time owned a farm a few farms to the south of the Miller homestead. The name of Spedding is, however, unknown here now.

Perhaps you will be interested to know that the petition for permission to build the first Welland Canal was signed by Captain John DeCue, whose grandson, Frederick DeCue, married Adela, the daughter of Edward Miller, the youngest son of the first Andrew.

You will wonder, no doubt, why I, an interloper, should interest myself in such things. It is mostly because of my children and U.E. Loyalist who are proud of their four generations of Canadian/ancestry on both their mother's and father's side of the family, and also the fact that I like reading and hearing about the original founders of our disunited country.

We have a little family joke, Marguerite and I, whenever one of the children when small would disobey. I would say their "Indian" ancestry was to blame and Marguerite would blame it on the Butler's ancestors, from one of whom I am descended—a hellish heritage. Still, I am proud of them both, our children, I mean!

There are several Everetts still living here, but whether or not they are related to Elizabetha Everett, I do not know.

*wrote by Stan Raymond*

*Original  
possession of Miller*

Lot 12, Con. 5 N.R. Andrew Miller.

Pat. Crown to John Garner 100 acres.

B.&.S. Apr. 6, 1825. John Warren, E Mahlon Burwell, executors of Mathias Haun to Andrew Miller: 100 acres. lot 12, con. 5. \$650.00

Will. Jan. 9, 1841. Andrew Miller to Benjamin Miller: 100 acres.

B.&.S. June 2, 1858. Benjamin Miller etux to Benjamin P. Miller 52 acres S $\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres N $\frac{1}{2}$ .

B.&.S. Feb. 14, 1866. Benjamin Miller etux to Edward Miller: 52 acres. 52 acres except 2 acres devised to Erie and Niagara Railroad.

Will: Jan. 16, 1868. Edward Miller & wife Salome devided between sons John Miller & Edward Kerr Miller.

B.&.S. 1874. Benjamin Miller to William L. Miller: 124 acres. etc. etc.

B.&.S. Oct. 30, 1894. William L. Miller to Alexander Fraser: 127/ 100 acre pt. of lot 12: \$ 203.20.

Will: 1896. William L. Miller to William F. Miller & Benjamin A. Miller.

etc. etc.:::

agree. Feb. 14, 1907. The Canadian Ship Building Comp. to the St. Lawrence & Chicago Steam Navigation Comp.