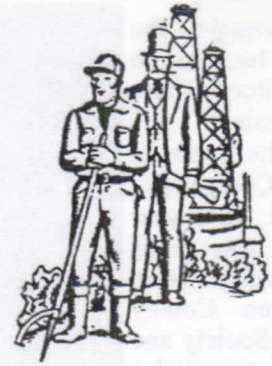




STEPPING STONES



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Connections with The Miller House

By Mary D. Putnam

Great-great-granddaughter of Richard B. and Cynthia Catlin Miller

If houses could speak, there would be volumes of stories about the former Richard B. and Cynthia Catlin Miller home. The guest book would contain thousands of signatures of visitors.

Due to his untimely death in Maysville, Kentucky, in 1832, Richard could not return to his home and family. As a widow, Cynthia had the responsibilities for their six children and the farm. The abolitionist movement became part of her life and times.

Their only son, Franklin R. and his wife, Christie Younie Miller were the second generation to make the house their home. As a tree farmer and renowned silviculturist, he made excellent use of the large property on both sides of Big Tree Road. Their children were Hugh Younie Miller and Mary Stuart Miller. Hugh, a surveyor, married Fida Baker and had four sons, so were the third and fourth generations to live there. Mary married Homer V. Dalrymple of Yankee Bush and had three daughters and two sons. They built their home in North Warren where Homer was a butcher and owned the meat market. The families visited each other regularly.



*Ellen Putnam Paquette and Mary Dalrymple Putnam
At the dedication of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum
Commission Cynthia Catlin Miller Marker on November 2, 2019,
Big Tree Road, Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania*

After Hugh's death in 1942 an auction was held and the house was sold in 1944. His widow moved to North Warren across Main Street from the Dalrymples. This marked the end of the Miller era in the house, though many of the descendants stayed in the vicinity of Sugar Grove. The eldest son, Frank B. Miller, who served as Warren County Treasurer, preserved family records and diaries that led to the Miller Collection at the Warren County Historical Society.

In 1949, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swanson bought the former Miller property, which included the original 145 acres, 35 of which were in New York State. (At the marker on Big Tree Road, a person could stand with one foot in New York and one in Pennsylvania.) Their roots were in the Jamestown-Lakewood area, but Arthur's positions kept the family at a distance for years. The Swanson family with three sons and a daughter gathered at their Sugar Grove property and camped in the summer. There was no plumbing or electricity, just a hand pump in the kitchen. Franklin stoves provided heat. Work bees must have occurred.

1963 brought the Swansons back to the home territory where Arthur joined his father in the Swanson Chemical Company in Lakewood. That year the house was in its original condition when the Warren County Historical Society and volunteers arranged a Sugar Grove tour that included the historic Miller house. The Swansons kindly received many visitors who came with interest and curiosity. Mrs. Frances Ramsey of the Warren County Historical Society provided facts and stories about Sugar Grove after lunch at the new elementary school. Newspaper articles and photographs brought the town to life. The event attracted 200 people.

The monumental task of restoring and preserving the 1822 and 1828 houses connected by a 12-foot section was underway with Arthur and Mary Elizabeth (Betz) Swanson and children. Major work was necessary from the foundation to the attic, inside and outside. They had children in college when the family moved into the former Miller house in 1968. Thirty-five people celebrated Christmas there.

In 1994, I called the Swansons about bringing my 90-year-old Aunt Gertrude Dalrymple Lundahl to visit her ancestral Miller home. They welcomed the opportunity. Included was my cousin, Helen Mead, who wrote the article, *The Miller House*, for the Warren County Historical Society's January 1974 publication, Volume 3 of *Historic Buildings in Warren County, PA*. Audrey Miller and her daughter, Geraldine Miller Summerson, joined us. Art and Betz gave us a pleasant and detailed tour that elicited nostalgia and a fond variety of recollections. Oral history prevailed amongst our family group.

I had a pleasant telephone visit with Betz in August 1999, having not been able to contact her. Arthur's death brought changes. As a widow, she was living in Chautauqua in her parents' former and smaller home. Her father, William Carothers, had been the president of Chautauqua Institution in the early 1960s. Her trips to Sugar Grove happened as necessary. Plans were underway to sell their restored house and several acres 50 years



The Old Miller House, an oil painting by Mary S. Dalrymple in 1953, age 85. She painted one for each of her five children.

after the Swansons' purchase in 1949. The family intended to keep the large acreage. The 1878 *Atlas of Warren County Pennsylvania* and subsequent issues of the *Warren County Plat Book* reveal their vast property that stayed mostly intact.

Sugar Grove native and Miller descendant, Gregory Wilson, organized and directed the Sugar Grove Underground Railroad Convention that occurred on June 19, 2004, (Juneteenth) in recognition and celebration of the 1854 Sugar Grove Convention attended by Frederick Douglass. Tea was served at the

Miller Mansion, a reminder of the occasion with Cynthia and Franklin Miller and Mr. Douglass. Two more Juneteenth events followed in 2005 and 2006.

While attending the tea, I learned that the Mary Elizabeth Swanson Family had sold their Sugar Grove home and some acreage that included the historic pond area to Robert and Lynn Doyle, who owned the adjacent Cindy Creek Farm. Later the Doyles sold the house and two acres to Reed and Tina Johnson.

Ownership changed over the years with the periodic "For Sale" signs. In 2019, 70 years after the Swansons' 1949 purchase, Trevor Maynard and Dale Griffis discovered and purchased the historic 1822 and 1828 house. Their enthusiasm and skills established a new era for the treasured Richard B. and Cynthia Catlin Miller home. The new owners have the key to its future.

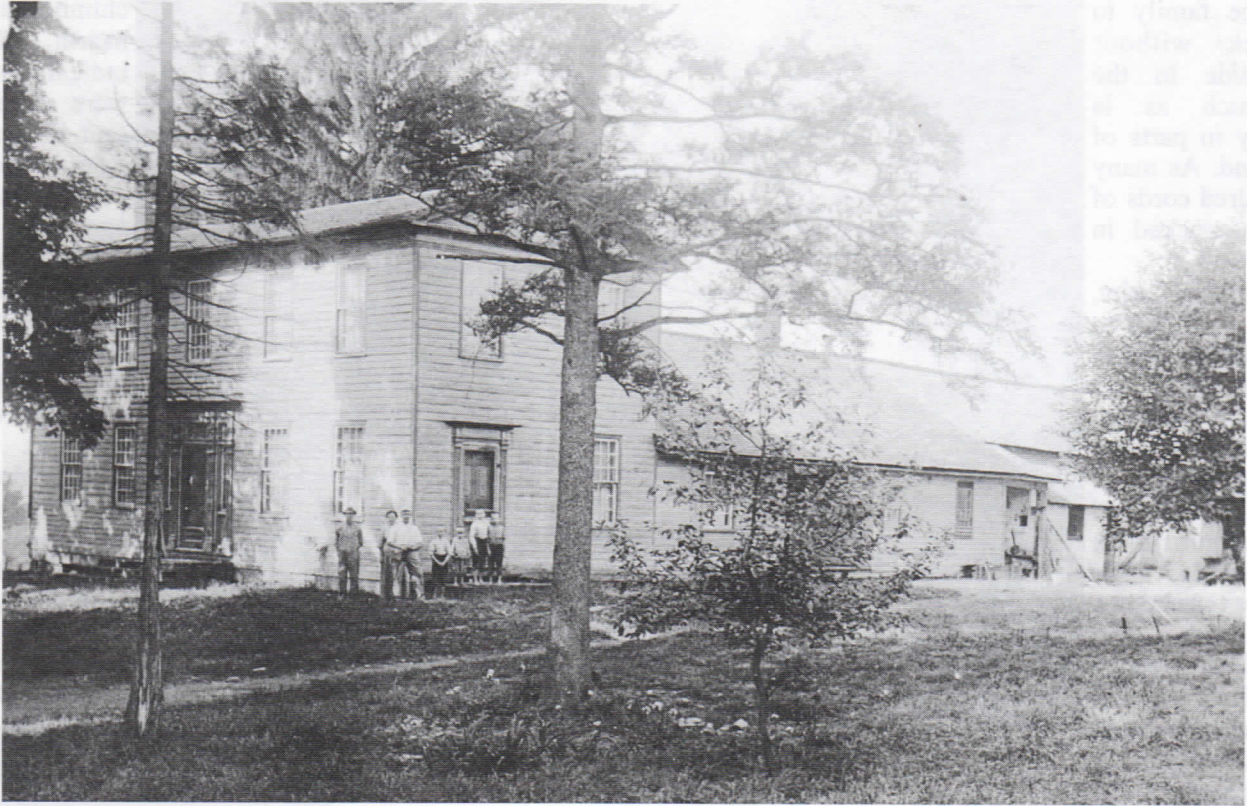
Mr. Maynard played an important and essential part in the Warren County Historical Society's plans with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission for the Dedication of the Abolitionist Cynthia Catlin Miller State Historical Marker on November 2, 2019, at 1 P.M. at 881 Big Tree Road, Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania 16350. The front yard is a fine setting for the marker with the historic house and Gingko tree in the background. Numerous descendants and individuals with interest and connections to the history were there.



Margaret Stuart Younie with grand-daughter Mary Stuart Miller, artist of "The Old Miller House" painting

The Miller House

By Helen Mead, Great-great-granddaughter of Richard B. and Cynthia Catlin Miller
Reprinted from *Historic Buildings in Warren County, Pa.*, Vol. 3
Published by the Warren County Historical Society, January 1974



Arriving in Sugar Grove, then called Brownsville, with his young bride in February 1814, Richard Bishop Miller began clearing his 400 acres for farming. A log cabin behind the present house perhaps replaced an earlier one said to have been built on the western section of his plot.

By 1821 or 1822, Richard and Cynthia constructed a farmhouse in the New England saltbox tradition. An Article of Agreement made the first day of January 1828, between Mr. Miller and Orrin A. and Morgan Hancock reveals that the sum of one hundred ninety dollars was paid as follows: "fifty dollars in cash, fifty dollars in leather (soul leather at 31 ¼ cents per lb.

and upper at a price in proportion) sixty dollars in stock at the common price of this place – to be appraised by two or three good men of this town and thirty dollars in grain – wheat at one dollar, corn at fifty cents and oats at twenty five cents per bushel for which the said parties of the second part have and do agree to score her and frame the timber for a house for the said Miller." First, a twelve foot extension was to be added to the old house "and to be enclosed otherwise in good order – nextly they agree to put up a front 48 feet long and 20 feet wide and 20 feet high from the top of the sills to the top of the plate... said Miller lays the foundation for the house draws all the timber to the spot – boards the hands finds whiskey for raising and invites the hands – finds boards nails glass and all the necessary materials for the building."

Operator of the tannery of David Brown and agent for the Holland Land Company, Miller also was active in the development of the area. His correspondence shows great concern for roads, agriculture, government matters and the problems of other settlers. While returning from a lumber-selling trip for Guy C. Irvine, he became unwell and started home. In Maysville, Kentucky, on the tenth of June 1832, he died of the "bilious fever," aged 41 years.

With five children to care for, his widow leased most lands and the house until her son, Franklin Richard, reached his majority. Surviving her husband for almost fifty-one years and never remarrying, she resided on the farm with her son. He is best remembered as a pioneer silviculturist. Over one hundred years later, foresters were studying and writing of the plantation, using Franklin's carefully kept records. Today the largest Norway Spruce and Scotch Pine in Pennsylvania are to be found on the farm, although much timber has been removed.



The Miller House front doorway

The older rear wing of the house once had an extremely long woodshed reaching back to one of the barns enabling the family to feed stock without going outside in the winter, much as is found today in parts of New England. As many as one hundred cords of wood were stacked in that room.

Having removed paint, plaster and split lath to expose hand-hewn beams, the present owner has restored the saltbox portion of the house to a pioneer-type home. A hand-sawn beam and walls of random width vertical planking, some as wide as twenty-two inches, now are exposed. Great wooden corner cabinets are still used in place of closets. Part of an old kitchen floor has alternate maple



*Early view of The Miller House
Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania*

and cherry boards. A section of wooden eave trough now forms the mantle with brick from an old chimney used for the hearth. Black stains indicate that children were careless when sent to draw vinegar from the barrel above, many years ago.

The house is distinguished by the fluted pilasters and cornice which flank the overhead and sidelights of the front entrance. A wide paneled door carries a small brass knob on the outside and a large black lock and iron key inside. The wide center hall separates two nearly square, twenty-foot



One of the original fireplaces with interior chimneys and a crane for the kettle. Miller House 1962.

rooms, each with a fireplace, one having the original crane. When Franklin brought his bride home to live with the self-styled "happy family," perhaps this north room was used by them. Windows are still "24 lited glass 8 by 10," as stipulated in 1828.

Occupied by four generations of Millers, the farm was sold in 1944. It was owned by Novis and Peck families until 1949, according to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Swanson. After using it as a summer place they occupied it in 1963. Now the old house is once again loved and cherished by another "happy family."



ANCIENT GINKGOTREE--Terry Weatherby, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Weatherby of Russell, stands near exotic tree planted by Franklin R. Miller. Called "fossil tree" by Charles Darwin, Ginkgo was brought from China to Japan, then to England and later to America.

Warren Co. Observer
September 30, 1963

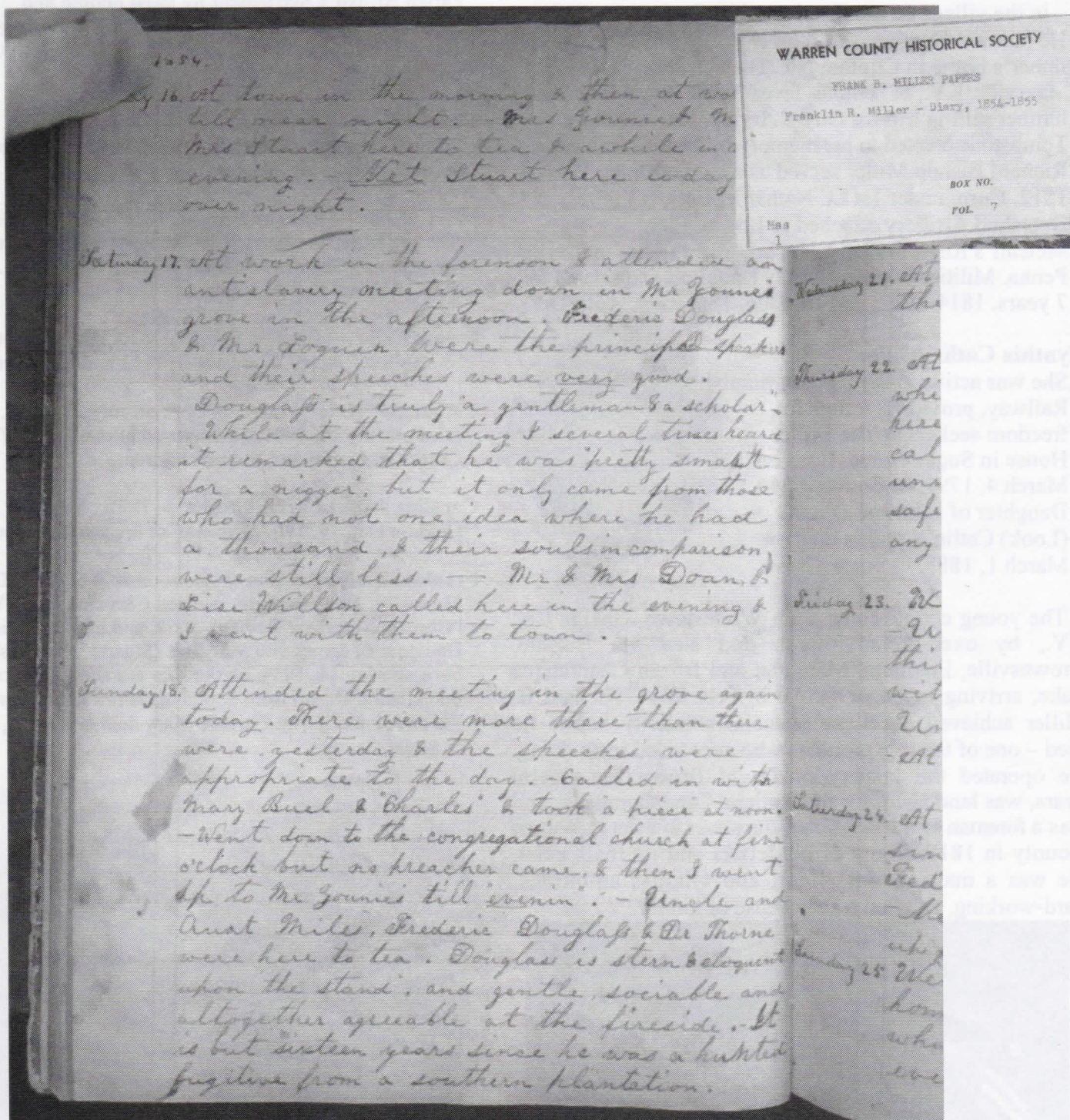
Tall built-in clock case. Hugh Miller sold the original wooden clock works to a friend and antique collector. Miller House 1962.



Franklin R. Miller Diary

June 17 & 18, 1854

Warren County Historical Society Archives, Frank B. Miller Papers



Saturday 17. At work in the forenoon & attended an antislavery meeting down in Mr. Younie's grove in the afternoon. Frederic Douglass & Mr. Loguen were the principal speakers and their speeches were very good. Douglass is truly a "gentleman & a scholar." While at the meeting I several times heard it remarked that he was "pretty smart for a —", but it only came from those who had not one idea where he had a thousand, & their souls in comparison, were still less. — Mr. & Mrs. Doan, & Lisa Willson called here in the evening & I went with them to town.

Saturday 18. Attended the meeting in the grove again today. There were more there than there were yesterday & the "speeches" were appropriate to the day. Called in with Mary Buel & "Charles" & took a piece at noon. — Went down to the congregational church at five o'clock but no preacher came, & then I went up to Mr. Younie's till "evening". — Uncle and Aunt Miles, Frederic Douglass & Dr. Thorne were here to tea. Douglass is stern & eloquent upon the stand, and gentle, sociable and altogether agreeable at the fireside. It is but sixteen years since he was a hunted fugitive from a southern plantation.

Miller Family

Richard Bishop Miller of Sugar Grove, Warren Co., PA. Son of Amok and Rachel (Bishop) Miller. Born on March 10, 1791, in Whitestown, Oneida County, NY. — in the village now called New Hartford. He married Cynthia Catlin on Nov. 30, 1813, at her father's home in Clinton, NY. Died on June 10, 1832, in Maysville, KY., of "bilious fever" while down river on a lumber selling trip for Guy C. Irvine. Interred there. Tombstone erected to his memory by Guy C. Irvine. Richard Bishop Miller served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Corp. under 1st Lt. Nathaniel Eels, NY. Detached Artillery attached to Lt. Co. E.H. Metcalf's Regt. in Penna., he became a Lieut. in the Penna. Militia. Warren County Battalion and served for 7 years, 1814-1821, 2nd Brigade, 78th Regt., 16th Div.

Cynthia Catlin Miller

She was active in the Underground Railway, providing refuge for freedom seekers at The Miller House in Sugar Grove. Born on March 4, 1791, in Conway, MA. Daughter of John and Dinah (Look) Catlin. Cynthia died on March 1, 1883, in Sugar Grove.



The young couple came from Whitestown, Oneida Co., NY., by oxen-driven wagon and sled via Buffalo, Brownsville, Fredonia, Mayville, and frozen Chautauqua Lake, arriving in Sugar Grove in Feb. 1814. Richard B. Miller achieved excellent financial solidarity before he died — one of the few pioneers who succeeded in so doing. He operated the tannery of David Brown for several years, was land agent for the Holland Land Company, and was a foreman of the first Grand Jury ever to meet in Warren County in 1819. Many of his letters and journals exist. He was a man of vim, vigor, and vitality, ambitious, hard-working, and had a keen sense of humor.



Cherry Hill Cemetery in Sugar Grove, PA.
Richard B. Miller — cenotaph—buried in Maysville, KY.
Cynthia Catlin Miller — misspelled on headstone "Synthia"

Children of Richard B. and Cynthia Catlin Miller

Mary Ann Miller — Born on May 19, 1815, in Sugar Grove, called Brown's Settlement by most people and Stillwater by David Brown himself. She died aged 4 days. Her tombstone is in the lower lot at Cherry Hill Cemetery and is no longer legible.

Eliza Miller — Born on April 9, 1816. Died on Feb. 12, 1832, aged 15. She was accidently injured in a fall and died from the delayed reaction. She was buried beside her sister Mary Ann.

Mary Miller — Born on Feb. 27, 1818. Died on Jan. 1, 1858. She was buried in Cherry Hill Cemetery, moved from Mt. Pleasant. She married Rev. William Wylie McLain in May 1842 and had no children.

Susan Miller — Born on Feb. 29, 1820. Died on Dec 19, 1869. She married James Woodside in 1842 and had three children.

Catharine "Kate" Miller — Born on July 27, 1822. Died on July 10, 1901. She married Hiram Horn of Spring Creek (2nd wife) and had no children.

Caroline "Aunt Carrie" Miller — Born on April 5, 1825. Died on Oct. 14, 1907. She was an unmarried school teacher.

Franklin Richard Miller — Born on July 6, 1827. Died on March 29, 1899. Franklin married Christina Mary Younie "Christie Mary" on Dec. 20, 1860, and had two children. Daughter of James and Margaret (Stuart) Younie, she was born on May 14, 1834, on the ship *Isabella* while crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Scotland. James kept a diary for the three-month trip. Christie Mary died on Dec. 6, 1908, in Sugar Grove.



Franklin Richard Miller



Christie Mary Younie Miller
Mrs. Franklin Miller

Jane "Aunt Jane" Miller — Born on July 13, 1831. Died on August 24, 1887. She married Mortimer G. Payne on May 9, 1854, who died of tuberculosis 18 months later. They had no children.

Catlin Family



Henry Catlin, Sr. came to Sugar Grove, PA, in 1816. He was an early leader of the Underground Railway. **Cynthia Catlin Miller** was his younger sister.

Henry Catlin, Sr. was the son of John and Dinah (Look) Catlin.

Born on January 15, 1785, in Conway, MA.

Died on July 30, 1845, in Sugar Grove.

Married on January 3, 1810, in Ontario County, NY, to **Sally Pratt**.

Born in 1791. Died on January 16, 1861, in Sugar Grove.

Children of Henry and Sally Pratt Catlin, Sr.

Emmons C. Catlin — Born on November 24, 1811. Died on November 4, 1876. He married Mrs. Lydia (King) Wright, widow of Amos Wright. Lydia King Wright Catlin — Born on Feb. 22, 1812. Died on Feb. 2, 1877.

Julia Anna Catlin — Born in 1814. Died in 1903. She married Linus H. Pratt on Jan. 4, 1837, son of John B. and Hannah (Steadman) Pratt. They had four children. Linus H. Pratt was born on April 6, 1810, in Windham, Greene County, NY. Died on March 9, 1898, in Sugar Grove.



Dr. James Catlin

James was active in the Underground Railway. He was **Cynthia Catlin Miller's** nephew. Born on June 30, 1824. Died on Jan. 14, 1890. James married Dr. Martha Van Rensselaer. Born on Nov. 9, 1823. Died on Nov. 12, 1892. They had one son, Albert M. Catlin. Albert wed Ellen E. Curtis.

Clarissa Catlin

Born on March 31, 1826, in Sugar Grove. Died on Aug. 13, 1902. Unmarried.

Lucy Pratt Catlin

Born c. 1834. Married Donald McIntosh on Dec. 6, 1832, from Inverness, Scotland. They had a son William McIntosh. Born in 1834. Died on April 14, 1903.

Harriett Amanda Catlin

Married Chauncey Sellew. They had five children.

Henry Catlin, Jr.

Henry was active in the Underground Railway. Editor of the *True American*, an antislavery newspaper in Erie. Born on August 21, 1833. Died on June 19, 1903. Henry married Ellen Towner on Sept. 30, 1857. Ellen died in 1882. Henry married (2) Lovisa Card. Lovisa died in 1926. They had a son Frederick Miles Catlin of St. Paul, MN.

As early as 1845, Dr. James Catlin began aiding runaway slaves at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. From 1853 to 1861, Henry Catlin, Jr. published the pro-abolition newspaper known as the *True American* in Erie. Henry, Jr., and brother James both used the print shop to hide runaway slaves. They often hid fugitive slaves in bins of paper while they awaited Hamilton Waters, who helped them continue their escape to freedom.

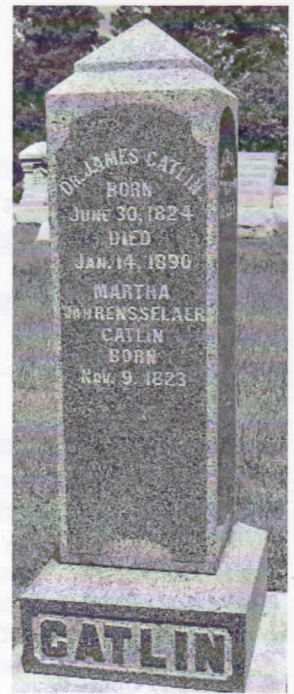
Dr. Martha Van Rensselaer Catlin, wife to James, treated fugitive slaves at their home in Sugar Grove.

Dr. James Catlin was threatened with his life when he brought Frederick Douglass to speak at Park Hall in 1858.

CORRECTIONS:

Stepping Stones Vol. 63 No. 3, September 2019, page 2858. She (Cynthia Catlin Miller) was the aunt of Abolitionist Dr. James Catlin, founder of the *True American*. Not the daughter.

Images of America: Warren County, page 14, Richard B. Miller and his wife, Cynthia Catlin Miller. Not Dr. James Miller.



Dr. James Catlin
Born
June 30, 1824
Died
Jan. 14, 1890
Martha
Van Rensselaer
Catlin
Born
Nov. 9, 1823

FREDERICK DOUGLASS' PAPERS
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Item #35106
Frederick Douglass' Papers
Library of Congress

October 29, 1852
Rochester, New York

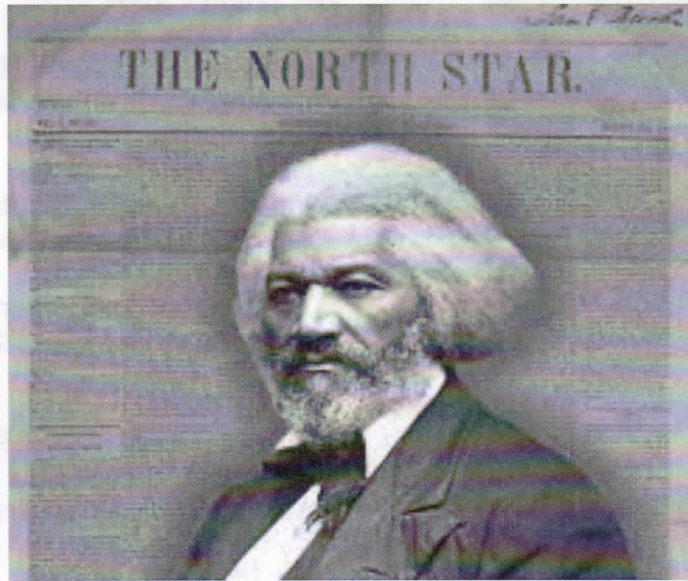
Letter from James Catlin

The work goes bravely on here. We look upon the present as the brightest day that has yet dawned upon freedom. The people gather in crowds to hear the facts in relation to our government; and hundreds and thousands will now vote for freedom for the first time in their lives. I have scarcely rested an evening in four weeks; and yet the cry of the people is for more light. I can get no opposition, everything respectful – the attention undivided. The fact is, our masters have asked too much of us. They have pushed us to the very verge of the precipice. Intoxicated with power, drunk with human blood, they have set slavery up on high, and demanded that it shall be the pet institution of our government.

The very means they take to nationalize and perpetuate it will be the means of its overthrow. In bringing it forward as the great national question – the only issue for the people to accept – they have brought it forward to be looked into, examined, talked about and investigated. And this is bringing it forward for destruction. For when the people shall come to see slavery, and know what it is, and their relation to it, they will demand its immediate and utter annihilation. They will see that it is too hateful and infamous to exist.

In the town of Concord, Erie Co., Pa., where I talked last week, the vote for freedom was fifteen majority over each of the slavery parties. The large audience united in singing "Grey Plymouth Rock hath yet a tongue, AND CONCORD IS NOT DUMB," with a feeling of manhood and satisfaction that men can never realize in the service of the old parties. Work on then with a brave heart, and rely on our giving a good account of ourselves at the ballot-box.

Yours for the right,
JAMES CATLIN
FORRESTVILLE, Oct. 25th, 1852



Frederick Douglass

Name at birth: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. He was born February 1818, in Tuckahoe, Maryland, and died February 20, 1895, in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Douglass was one of the most eminent human rights leaders of the 19th century. His oratorical and literary brilliance thrust him into the forefront of the abolitionist movement, and he became the first black citizen to hold high rank in the United States Government.

The North Star

was a nineteenth-century, anti-slavery newspaper. It was published from December 1847 to June 1851.

Item #49723
"ALL RIGHTS FOR ALL!"

Rochester, June 23, 1854
Letter from the Editor
Sherman, Chautauqua County,
New York
June 19th, 1854.

W.J. Watkins, Esq.: My Dear Sir: - I have time to send you but a line or two for our next number. What with lecturing, traveling, and conversing, you will easily believe, I have little time for disposition for writing. I am in Chautauqua for the first time, and am much pleased with it every way. It is a County remarkable for excellent water, good pasturage, fine cattle and honest people. I should think there is very little liquor used or abused in the county. I have not seen a drunken man since I entered it. - There are sprinkled over the county a few genuine abolitionists, a good many Free Soldiers, and the majority of the people are ready to strike anywhere and anyhow against slavery, which may be suggested by Wm. H. Seward. They are

Seward Whigs, and are impatient to have the brave leader point the way. I hope he will do it, the brave leader point the way. I hope he will do it, and leave the old faithless and worthless Whig national organization to go to pieces, where it ought to have gone instantly upon the adoption of its infamous and ruinous platform in 1852. - The people are here in advance of their leaders and are restrained only by the desire to move, when they do move in a body, and with a power which will be felt.

You know I came into this County with a view to attend a series of meetings in company with J.W. Loguen, of Syracuse - a man, the qualities of whose head and heart make him every way an excellent companion and a most desirable co laborer. The meetings here were planned by him, and were his meetings, I being called into the County to assist him in holding them. Our first appointment was at Fredonia, a very pretty village about three miles from Dunkirk. It was easy to see on our arrival, that the town was unusually active and thronged. The people had come in from the country to attend the meeting in considerable numbers, from ten to fifteen miles around. At two and a half o'clock in the afternoon, a hall capable of holding seven hundred people, was about two thirds full. This looked well for a week, as this the busiest season of the year among farmers of this latitude; and it showed that the slave catching in New York and Boston had been heard of, deplored, and detested in the extreme of Western New York. In Fredonia, as in all other parts of Chautauqua County, there is the best evidence that the people

are profoundly moved on the Anti-Slavery question. The meeting in the evening was most densely packed, and we had many proofs that a good impression was made.

Our next appointment was at Delanti, in the town of Stockton, nine miles from Fredonia. Two meetings were held here, in the afternoon and evening, both largely attended, some of the audience having come over twenty miles to attend. The evening meeting here was especially effective. Brother Loguen dwelt with much eloquence and power upon the right of the hunted Fugitive, to stand for his life, and liberty, and his duty, to only five up the latter with the former.

We left Delanti in a very hopeful condition. The people were taking and talking in the earnest, and pretty generally on the right side. Could there be placed in the lecturing field during the next four months, one hundred good and able men, this State might be made an Anti-Slavery State. Brother Loguen and myself were taken from Delanti to Jamestown, our next appointment by Mr. Burdich, to whom we felt grateful for that, and other favors, during our stay in Delanti.

At Jamestown, we were again greeted by large and overflowing masses. A reference here to a remark made by Rev. Mr. Gillett, the Presbyterian Clergyman, who on giving notice of our meeting, gave a local interest to the occasion. He had said that it was not proper to give Anti-Slavery notices from the pulpit. To this remark, I alluded, at some length, regarding it as an index of the sentiments of the clergy on the subject. The minister was in the house, though I was not aware of it at the time. When I sat down, Brother Loguen, kindly, and characteristically, said, that as Mr. Gillett had been quite directly alluded to, opportunity would be given for him to reply. Mr. Gillett rose, and said briefly that he had been misrepresented, and that he had given the notice, and had done so with pleasure. In view of his apparently frank avowal, I at once made a full retraction of my animadversions, so far as they had a personal being on Mr. Gillett, and if the matter had ended here, I should have left Jamestown regarding Mr. Gillett as having been aligned, but he rose again and gave a full statement of what he really did say, showing that in his first statement he had only told a part of the truth; and it turned out that the sentiment upon which I had animadverted, was really uttered by him – was now reiterated by him – I therefore retracted my retraction, leaving the Rev. Mr. Gillett to dispose of the matter among the people to whom his Pro-Slavery character is known.

One would have been pleased to have seen the emphatic manner in which the people confirmed the justice of my remarks as applied to the case in hand. It was a reminder to which the Rev. Mr. Gillett will do well to take heed. In the evening, the Methodist church, a large building, was densely packed – crowds were seen leaving the house unable to gain admission. Brother Loguen and I addressed the meeting at much length and I hope not without good effect. The speech of my co-worker was on this occasion full of genuine pathos, moral force, and manly indignation. Slavery never looked more foul, and cold blooded and fiendish, than while Loguen portrayed the sale and carrying

away of his sister's children – a scene witnessed by himself, and had left in him an ineffaceable impression. His manly form shook, and his voice choked for utterance as he recalled and strove to bring before his hearers the thrilling scene. There were many tears and heart throbbings occasioned on his narration, showing that all feeling had not fled from Anti-Slavery meetings. The crowning Convention was held Saturday and Sunday, in a beautiful grove in Sugar Grove, Warren County, Pennsylvania, about three miles from Busti. The responsibility of getting up this meeting rested upon the Storom family at Busti – an enterprising family of farmers, well to do on the world and when I tell you that these industrious and well to do farmers

are of the color of you and me, you will derive from it the right lesson, and draw from it the right hopes for our whole people. I observed that this family (it is a large one) had so deported itself, that white, people among whom they moved, appeared to regard and treat them precisely as respectable people ought to be treated. Mr. and Mrs. Storom went from Utica into Chautauqua County, nearly forty years ago, and carried all they then owned on the back of a single ox. There were no roads then as now; they traveled in the woods, by cuts in the trees and reached their present home at the need of three weeks. They have raised a large family and are now surrounded with every needed comfort, and withal, are not too old

or worn out to enjoy it. The example thus glanced at, is worthy to be followed. I call upon colored men in cities all over the country to turn their faces to the wilderness and follow the brave example set them by Mr. and Mrs. Storom.

But a word of the Convention; it was, as I have said, the crowning one of all. It reminded me of some of the meetings held in Ohio several years ago, by Mr. Garrison and myself, when it was impossible to meet with a house spacious enough to hold the people. The grove presented a beautiful and cheering appearance, especially on Sunday. Seats had been arranged on the gradually sloping hill side, sufficed to accommodate about five hundred persons, fronting the platform. These seats were filled by Ladies', and formed a little more than a half circle. Around these stood a large boy of men – real men – hardy and sunburnt. On the outside were drawn upon in various position, horses and carriages in great numbers. These carriages furnished convenient seats for their owners. I never attended an outdoor meeting which was so orderly and impressive as that at Sugar Grove yesterday. The meeting was strictly a religious Anti-Slavery meeting, and left a most favorable impression for the cause. In addition to the speeches made by brother Loguen and myself, Lewis Clark, well known as an efficient and Anti-Slavery speaker, addressed the people to marked acceptance. After speaking at this meeting at great length, a carriage being in waiting for me, I parted from brother Loguen and came to Sherman, twenty miles distant, and spoke to a large meeting last night in the Congregational meeting house. I have not my face towards Toronto, Canada.

Truly and fraternally yours,
FREDERICK DOUGLASS.



PHMC State Historical Marker Dedication Program —

*Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission
and
Warren County Historical Society
Present*



*Abolitionist Cynthia Catlin Miller
P.H.M.C. State Historical Marker
Dedication*

*Saturday,
November 2, 2019, at 1 P.M.
881 Big Tree Road
Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania 16350*

Dedication Program

Welcome

Michelle Gray,
Warren County Historical Society Managing Director

Invocation

Rev. Conrad J. Wilson, Sugar Grove Citizen

Opening Remarks

Benjamin Kafferlin,
Warren County Commissioner Chair

Marker Dedication

Andrea MacDonald,
PA Historical & Museum Commission

Underground Railroad History

Gregory Wilson, Sugar Grove Historian

Reflection & Appreciation

Honorable Laura S. Bauer, Sugar Grove Citizen

Closing Prayer

Rev. Conrad J. Wilson, Sugar Grove Citizen

Following the dedication,
please join the town of
Sugar Grove in commemorating
Abolitionist Cynthia Catlin Miller.

Sugar Grove Presbyterian Church
202 Main Street, Sugar Grove, Pa. 16350
Light Refreshments and Entertainment

Sugar Grove Free Library
22 Harmon Street, Sugar Grove, Pa. 16350
Miller Diaries Exhibit & *Safe Harbor*

*A special thank you to
Trevor Maynard, Dale Griffis, Dan Gray,
Chris Payne, Casey Ferry,
Sugar Grove Planning Committee,
Sugar Grove Fire Department,
and
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
Karen Galle.*

THANK YOU TO THE
PENNSYLVANIA
HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
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AND PEDRO A. RIVERA, EX OFFICIO.

CYNTHIA CATLIN MILLER
(1791-1883)



Prominent anti-slavery leader from an abolitionist family, she founded the Female Assisting Society and the Ladies' Fugitive Aid Society. Her home here, the Miller Mansion, was a refuge for freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad, and her organizations provided them with food and clothing. She and her son Franklin hosted Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists when they came to speak at the Sugar Grove Convention of 1854.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Wolf, Governor



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
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