

## Miller and Needham Family Bible Records, 1849–1943

*Evan N. Miller and Natalie Burriss*

Homer Herman Miller and Martha Ann Needham were married on August 22, 1920.<sup>1</sup> Both Homer and Martha grew up near New Ross, a small, rural town located in Walnut Township, Montgomery County, Indiana.<sup>2</sup> The Miller and Needham families had lived in Montgomery County since the mid-nineteenth century, dating back two generations from Homer and Martha.<sup>3</sup>

Both families kept track of relevant dates regarding family members in bibles. Documenting genealogy information in bibles was a common practice in the United States during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.<sup>4</sup> Genealogical information written in family bibles is not guaranteed to be comprehensive or complete but provides a good starting place for genealogical research. The two bibles belonging to the Miller and Needham families include blank pages for owners to record births, marriages, and deaths of family members, which both families did. In 2019 both family bibles are in the possession of Joan Mitchell Miller, wife of Richard Miller (son of Homer Miller). They are transcribed below with her permission.

The first set of transcriptions below is from the Miller family bible.<sup>5</sup> It includes eight pages to record genealogical information, including headings for births, marriages, deaths, and miscellaneous. Five pages contain handwritten information, and three are blank. The primary information documented is about Isaac and Nancy Corn Miller, Homer's grandparents, and their children, including some birth and death dates and only Isaac and Nancy's date of marriage. The dates of death for Nancy's parents are also included. The information was recorded circa 1849 to 1873 based upon the dates recorded.

The second set of transcriptions is from the Needham family bible.<sup>6</sup> This bible includes four pages to record genealogical information, including headings for births, marriages, deaths, and one page emulating a marriage certificate. Three pages contain handwritten information, and one is blank. Only Archibald and Rachel Tribbett Needham, Martha's parents, and their children are written about in the bible, including some birth and death dates and only Archibald and Rachel's date of marriage. The information was recorded between circa 1885 to 1943 based upon the dates recorded.

The transcriptions for both family bibles range over several pages, and page numbers are denoted in brackets prior to each page's information. Bolded text is pre-printed in the bible. Non-bolded text is handwritten information in the bible. Pages that are blank but include pre-printed headings are included in the transcriptions.

## Notes

1. Homer H. Miller, Marriage Record, Montgomery County, Indiana; Index to Marriage Record 1860–1920 Inclusive Volume, W.P.A. original record located in County Clerk's Office, Book 23, page 126.
2. While family histories record that both Homer and Martha grew up in Montgomery County, U.S. census records also corroborate this account. 1900 U.S. Census for Martha A. Needham, Franklin Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, page 6, district 0104, FHL microfilm roll 1240394, available at Ancestry.com; 1910 U.S. Census for Martha Nudham [Needham], Franklin Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, NARA microfilm roll T624\_371, page 7B, district 0159, FHL microfilm 1374384, available at Ancestry.com; 1900 U.S. Census Homer H. Miller, Walnut Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, page 9, district 0117, FHL microfilm roll 1240394, available at Ancestry.com; 1910 U.S. Census for Benjamin F. [Homer H.] Miller, NARA microfilm roll T624\_371, page 1A, district 0154, FHL microfilm 1374384, available at Ancestry.com.
3. This conclusion is based upon U.S. census and published county history research. Isaac Miller, Homer's grandfather, moved west to Montgomery County, Indiana, from Greene County, Ohio, in 1848. See H. W. Beckwith, *History of Montgomery County, together with Historic Notes on the Wabash Valley* (Chicago: H. H. Hill and N. Iddings Publishers, 1881), 391–92; Lee Preston Needham, Martha's grandfather, is recorded as living in Franklin Township, Montgomery County in the 1850 U.S. Census. See 1850 census for Lee P. Neidham [sp.], Franklin Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, NARA microfilm roll M432\_161, page 481A, image 528, available at Ancestry.com.
4. "The Bible: Sacred Text and Cultural Icon," *The Journal of Presbyterian History* (1997–) 81, no. 4 (2003): 268.

5. The Miller Family Bible: *Hitchcock's New and Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible: or, the Whole of the Old and New Testaments Arranged according to Subjects in Twenty-Seven Books. On the Basis of Matthew Talbot, as Improved with Indexes, Tables, and Other Valuable Matter by Nathaniel West, D.D.* (New York: A. J. Johnson, 1872).
6. The Needham Family Bible: *The Holy Bible, Containing the Authorized Edition of the New Testament, A.D. 1611, and the Revised Version of A.D. 1881, Arranged in Parallel Columns; with Complete Concordance, Embracing Every Passage of Scripture in the Largest Editions, Apocrypha and Psalms* (Indianapolis, IN: Bowen Merrill, 1885).

### Miller Family Bible

[Page 1]

#### Family Record.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Sarah Rebecca Foxworthy was born January 26<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1866.

Adopted November 9<sup>th</sup> 1873.

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#### Family Record.

Husband and Wife

#### BIRTHS.

Father

Isaac Newton Miller was born September 13<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1826

Mother

Nancy Allen Corn was born October 26<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1829.

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**Family Record.**

**BIRTHS.**

Children.

John Williams Miller was born December 9<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1849.

George Anderson Miller was born February 12<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1854.

Henry Alonz[o] Miller was born June 20<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1856.

Albert Allen Miller was born April 26<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1860

Benjamin Franklin Miller was born September 3<sup>rd</sup> A.D. 1861.

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**Family Record.**

**MARRIAGES.**

Isaac Newton Miller and Nancy Allen Corn, was married ~~March~~ March 8<sup>th</sup> 1849.

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**Family Record.**

**MARRIAGES.**

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**Family Record.**

**DEATHS.**

Williams Corn departed this life November 11<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1859.

Sarah Corn departed this life May [4/11?] <sup>th</sup> A.D. 1874.

Albert Allen Miller departed this life August 27<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1866.

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**Family Record.**

**DEATHS.**

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**Family Record.**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**Needham Family Bible**

[Page 1]

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY**

**That** A. F. Needham

**And** Rachel Tribbett

**WERE UNITED BY ME IN**

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

**At** The brides parents **on the 15 day of**

**October In the year of our Lord 1885**

**in Presence of**

**Signed** C. L. Jackson, Crawfordsville, Ind.

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**BIRTHS**

Walter Lee Needham was borned December the 1. 1886

Carl Needham was borned May the 11. 1890

Infant son borned August the 28. 1892

Harold Needham was borned December the 10. 1894

Martha Anna Needham was borned August the 8. 1899.

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**MARRIAGES**

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**DEATHS**

Infant son died August the 28. 1892

Rachel Tribbet Needham died Sept. 27, 1925.

Archebald F. Needham died

Harold Needham (Son) died June 13—1943