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**Stephen Miller** (1816-1887). Among the distinguished men who have made Nobles County their home at one time or another since its settlement none was more highly honored than **Stephen Miller**, Minnesota's war governor, who made his home at Worthington from 1878 until his death in 1881.

**Governor Miller** was born in Cumberland (now Perry) County, Pennsylvania, in 1816. He acquired a common school education and served an apprenticeship to the milling business, after which he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and for many years conducted a forwarding and commission house in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In 1839 he was united in marriage to **Miss Margaret Funk**, of Dauphin County, Pa., and to them were born three sons and one daughter, the latter dying in infancy. The sons were **Wesley F.**, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg; **Stephen C.** and **Robert D.**

In 1849 **Mr. Miller** was elected prothonotary of Dauphin County in his native state and held the office until 1855, when he resigned to accept the position of flour inspector of the city of Philadelphia, to which he was appointed by Governor James Pollock. During a part of the period of his incumbency of this office and before including the exciting state canvass of 1854 he edited and published the Pennsylvania Telegraph, a leading organ of the Whig Party.

At the expiration of his term as flour inspector, in the spring of 1858, **Mr. Miller** came to Minnesota and located at St. Cloud, where he established a grocery and commission business, which he conducted until the commencement of the civil war, in April, 1861. During these years he took quite a prominent part in Minnesota politics. He was a delegate to the republican national convention at Chicago in 1860 and headed the electoral ticket in the fall of that year, when he and his associates were successful by nearly 10,000 majority. During that campaign he and C. C. Andrews, then a Douglas candidate for elector, later a brigadier general, held some fifty joint discussions in the principal cities and towns of the state.

In March, 1861, **Mr. Miller** was commissioned receiver of the land office at St. Cloud, and in May of the same year was offered the position of captain in the United States army, both of which appointments he declined. At the commencement of the civil war he and his son, **Wesley F. Miller**, enrolled themselves as private soldiers in the First Minnesota regiment. On April 29, 1861, he was mustered into the service as lieutenant colonel of the First Minnesota. He was commissioned colonel of the Seventh regiment of Minnesota volunteers Sept. 26, 1862, and was made brigadier general of volunteers by the president Oct. 26, 1863. He took part in many of the important battles of the civil war and played an important part in the Sioux war, serving under General Sibley. He was in charge of the forces at Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862, which executed the thirty-eight Indians.

**Brigadier General Miller** was elected governor of Minnesota on the republican ticket in November, 1863, and on Jan. 12, of the following year, resigned his command to accept the office. He served until Jan. 8, 1866, being in the executive chair during the closing days of the

civil war. In many ways he showed his patriotic impulses and his zeal for the salvation of the country.

After the expiration of his term as governor, President Grant, like President Lincoln, tendered him positions in the civil service, but he declined them all.

From June, 1871, to September, 1878, **Governor Miller** resided at Windom, being employed as field agent of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad company. He served one term in the Minnesota House of Representatives (1873), having been elected to represent six counties in southwestern Minnesota. He was presidential elector at large in 1876 and was the messenger to bear the electoral vote to Washington.

**Governor Miller**, while still in the employ of the railroad company, came to Worthington to reside in September, 1878, and made his home there until his death, which occurred on Thursday night, Aug. 18, 1881. His remains are buried in the Worthington Cemetery.

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