

History of Rice County Including Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota, Outline History of the State of Minnesota by Rev. Edward D. Neill; Also Sioux Massacre of 1862, and State Education, by Charles S. Bryant. Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Company, 1882.

Governor Miller—A. D. 1834 TO A. D. 1866.

Stephen A. Miller was the grandson of a German immigrant who about the year 1785 settled in Pennsylvania. His parents were **David** and **Rosanna Miller**, and on the 7th of January, 1816, he was born in what is now Perry County in that State.

He was like many of our best citizens, obliged to bear the yoke in his youth. At one time he was a canal boy and when quite a youth was in charge of a canal boat. Fond of reading he acquired much information, and of pleasing address he made friends, so that in 1837 he became a forwarding and commission merchant in Harrisburg. He always felt an interest in public affairs, and was an efficient speaker at political meetings. In 1849 he was elected Prothonotary of Dauphin County, Pa., and from 1853 to 1855 was editor of the Harrisburg Telegraph; then Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania, appointed him Flour Inspector for Philadelphia, which office he held until 1858, when he removed to Minnesota on account of his health, and opened a store at Saint Cloud.

In 1861, Governor Ramsey who had known him in Pennsylvania, appointed him Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, and was present with his regiment on July 21st of that year in the eventful battle of Bull Run. Gorman in his report of the return of the First Minnesota Regiment on that occasion wrote: "Before leaving the field, a portion of the right wing, owing to the configuration of the ground and intervening woods, became detached, under the command of **Lt. Col. Miller** whose gallantry was conspicuous throughout the entire battle, and who contended every inch of the ground with his forces thrown out as skirmishers in the woods, and succeeded in occupying the original ground on the right, after the repulse of a body of cavalry." After this engagement, his friend Simon Cameron, the Secretary of War, tendered him a position in the regular army which he declined. Although in ill health he continued with the regiment, and was present at Fair Oaks and Malvern Hill.

In September, 1862, he was made Colonel of the Seventh Regiment, and proceeded against the Sioux Indians who had massacred so many settlers in the Upper Minnesota Valley, and in December he was the Colonel commanding at Mankato, and under his supervision, thirty-eight Sioux, condemned for participation in the killing of white persons, on the 26th of February, 1863, were executed by hanging from gallows, upon one scaffold, at the same time. This year he was made Brigadier General, and also nominated by the Republicans for Governor, to which office he was elected for two years, and in January, 1864, entered upon its duties.

In 1873, he was elected to the Legislature for a district in the southwestern portion of the State, and in 1876, was a Presidential elector, and bore the electoral vote to Washington.

During the latter years of his life he was employed as a land agent by the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company. In 1881 he died. He was married in 1839 to **Margaret Funk**, and they had three sons, and a daughter who died in early childhood. His son **Wesley**, a Lieutenant in the United States Army, fell in battle at Gettysburg; his second **son** was a Commissary of Subsistence, but is now a private; and his youngest **son** is in the service of a Pennsylvania railroad.