

The Miller Brothers Hardware Company

A *Brief* History of A Successful Company, By Dan Tate
180 Fort Wayne Avenue, Richmond Indiana
1880- 1973

*Note: The following quotes are from the book titled "Memoirs of Wayne County, And the City of Richmond". Henry Clay Fox, Editor In Chief. Published in 1912.

"George W. Miller was born in Norwalk Conn., January 4, 1860. He was the son of Frederick and Barbara Miller, natives of Germany. When George W. was about five years old, the family moved to Wayne County, Indiana, where Frederick (later) died. (Cambridge City, Indiana). Barbara moved her family (and nine children) to Richmond".

Five of the Miller children had passed away by the time of this publication (1912).

"George W. Miller attended the Richmond public schools and for about three years, worked on a farm near Salisbury, in Wayne County, and experienced many of the trials and privations that fall to the lot of a boy who is compelled to make his own way in the world. At the age of twelve he began his career as a clerk for the firm of Irvin Reed & Son, in their hardware store, located on Main Street, in the city of Richmond. He remained in the employ of that concern about nine years, and in 1880 engaged in the retail hardware business in partnership with Charles H. Pogue. The new business thus established was conducted under the firm name of Pogue & Miller, and was located at the corner of Ninth and Main streets. This partnership continued for about five years, when Mr. Pogue's father, Americus Pogue, (passed away before 1912) took his son's place in the business and remained connected therewith, though never active in its management, until 1893. On January 1, 1890, Jonas Gaar, a son-in-law of Americus Pogue, became interested in the firm, after it had moved to its present quarters on Fort Wayne avenue, and the firm then became known as Pogue, Miller & Company. In 1893, Mr. Pogue retired and Jonas Gaar acquired a half interest in the business, this arrangement continuing until October 15, 1908, when Mr. Miller purchased the entire stock, and on January 1, 1909, Fred and Jacob Miller, brothers of George W., purchased an interest in the firm, the name continuing unchanged. The brothers, Fred and Jacob, had been connected with the concern for a long time as employees. The firm conducts a large wholesale establishment on Fort Wayne avenue, and by judicious management, which since its establishment in 1880 has been under the direction of George W. Miller, the trade, which is now exclusively wholesale hardware, has grown to large proportions. Aside from his interest in this concern, Mr. Miller is a director of the Second National Bank and a stockholder in the First National Bank, both Richmond institutions. His success has been of high order and is a record of triumph over difficulties. While working as a boy for Irvin Reed & Son he attended the night sessions of a commercial college in Richmond, and with his industry, energy and general intelligence has grown until to-day he is one of Richmond's leading business men. On Sept. 23, 1878, Mr. Miller was united in holy matrimony to Miss Anna L. Newcomb, of Richmond, whose parents are both deceased. The marital union was blessed by the birth of a daughter, Edna. Mr. Miller, now in his fifty-second year, (1912) is hale and hearty, and doubtless he still has many years of usefulness before him; and as he approaches the sunset of life he can derive solace in the reflection that his has been a useful, enterprising and unselfish career."

*Other Notable Events-
In The History of the Miller Brothers Hardware Company*

Source: The Palladium Item; October 15, 1908 (legals)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between George W. Miller and Jonas Gaar,
trading and doing business under the firm name of Pogue, Miller, & Company in the city of Richmond, Indiana,
is this day dissolved by mutual consent, said Jonas Gaar retiring from said partnership.
Dated this 15th day of October 1908.
George W. Miller.
Jonas Gaar.

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Source: The Palladium Item; October 16, 1908 (page-1, column- 4)

HAS RETIRED FROM FIRM

JONAS GAAR SEVERS CONNECTION WITH POGUE-MILLER HARDWARE CO.
The announcement was made today from the Pogue-Miller Hardware company that Jonas Gaar had disposed of his interest
in the company and had retired from the firm. Mr. Gaar's interest was taken over by George Miller, Fred Miller and Jacob Miller, who will assume the active management of the affairs of the company. Mr. Gaar has been with the firm for the past twenty years and during that time was actively engaged in its management. He has no plans for the future and will probably retire from an active business life.

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Source: The Palladium Item; December 4, 1911 (page-1, column -2)

MILLER BROTHERS ACQUIRE CONTROL

Pogue, Miller & Co. Re-organize With Family Members in Charge

MAKE CHANGE IN NAME

Fifth Largest Hardware Firm In United States---Capitalized for \$600,000.

Announcement was made today of the succession of the Miller Brothers Hardware company in the business of Pogue, Miller & Co., for many years wholesalers of hardware here. No changes in the business policy or the management of the concern, and contemplated extensions in its business and trade are coincident with the announcement of the re-organization. The new concern will take over the stock and good will of its predecessor and is capitalized at \$600,000, equally divided between preferred and common stock, guaranteed to pay 6 percent on all shares. Articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary and the auditor of the state Saturday and entered today in the office of the Wayne county recorder. The directorate is vested in George W. Frederick and Jacob Miller, Frank O. Chambers and Elger G. Hibberd, and the officers of the company will be George Miller, president; Frederick Miller, first vice president; Jacob Miller, second vice president and Frank O. Chambers, secretary and treasurer.

Fifth Largest in United States

The aggregate business of the concern approximates \$1,000,000 annually and the house is rated the fifth largest wholesale hardware house in the United States. It employs eighty men. It is understood that the new concern will presently manufacture articles used in its trade. One-half of the preferred stock and 2,995 shares of the common stock are held by the Miller brothers, the balance of the preferred stock is held by outside parties. Part of the stock will be thrown on the market for popular subscription. The original firm of Pogue and Miller was organized in 1881 by George Miller and Charles Pogue, the latter a son of A.L. Pogue, and conducted a retail hardware store on the corner of Ninth and Main streets. In 1887 the retail business was discontinued for the wholesale jobbing business, Charles Pogue retiring in 1889, his interest being purchased by his father, A.L. Pogue. In 1890 the business moved to its present site on Ft. Wayne avenue. In the same year, Jonas Gaar was taken into the firm as a partner, the firm name changing to that of Pogue, Miller & Co. A few years later A.L. Pogue retired and the business was continued by George Miller and Jonas Gaar under the old firm name. On October 15, 1908 George Miller purchased the interest of Jonas Gaar and Frederick and Jacob Miller were taken into the firm, the business being conducted under the old name until the articles of incorporation of the new concern were taken out Saturday. Its capitalization hitherto was \$400,000.

Source: The Palladium Item; November 23, 1915 (page-1, column -7)

MILLER BROS. TO CONSTRUCT NEW BUILDING

Contract Let to A.M. Fry for Erection of \$20,000

Three-Story Addition To Big Store

MUST BE FINISHED

WITHIN 90 DAYS

Announcement Made That Plan to Acquire part of Gaar-Scott Property Was Abandoned.

To meet the demands of its rapidly growing business, Frank O. Chambers, secretary of Miller Bros. Hardware company, 176-198 Fort Wayne avenue, one of the largest wholesale hardware firms in the United States, announced today the letting of a contract to A. M. Fry for a new three-story brick warehouse, with basement, which is to be completed within the next ninety days. The building, which will contain 90,000 square feet of floor space, and which will be built on the site of the one-story warehouse in the triangular space back of the present building in which are the salesrooms, will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Its construction will mark the largest realty improvement of the year outside of the new buildings of the First National Bank and the Dickinson Trust company

GIVE UP PLAN TO GET GAAR-SCOTT BUILDING

Mr. Chambers said that the company will (*) discontinue its original plan to obtain one of the warehouses of the Gaar-Scott plant of M. Rumley company, which will be offered for sale on December 9. "We tried several months ago to buy one of those warehouses," said Mr. Chambers, "but failing at that time we decided we would prefer to have a new warehouse, built adjacent to our present buildings. It means that we will not seek to buy a part of the Gaar-Scott plant." A few years ago the company increased its capacity almost double by the construction of new warehouse and salesrooms on Fort Wayne avenue. Since then the business has increased until the demand for additional warehouse room became imperative.

The company has been adding gradually to the lines of hardware stock it carries, but Mr. Chambers said that the new warehouse is not being built to facilitate the handling of any new lines particularly. The new building will be nine times the size of the present warehouse, part of which already has been razed and work of excavating the basement begun.

(*Add'l note- George W. Miller apparently decided to purchase the Rumley building regardless- as evidenced by the following article.

Source: Palladium Item; 5-24-1916 (page-1, col-1)

R.G. LEEDS BUYS RUMLEY CO. WAREHOUSE FROM G.W. MILLER

Source: Palladium Item; July 26, 1973 (page- 38, col- 5)

Miller Brothers Building Sold To Mosey Mfg. Co.

Miller Brothers Hardware Co., Inc., 176-192 Fort Wayne Ave., has been sold To Mosey Manufacturing Co., Inc., 262 Fort Wayne Ave. Buyer Charles Mosey said Thursday that he plans no expansion of his own operation in the three-story warehouse.

Mosey hopes to sell or lease the facility to another supply company or a light manufacturer. He also pointed out storage possibilities. Mosey added that his own firm had used Miller Bros.

Products and that Richmond needed another hardware supplier. The 138,000 square-foot warehouse has three stories above ground and one below. It was built in sections along the railroad tracks. The property includes loading docks and a fenced in parking area. Mosey said it is ready for immediate occupancy. The building was purchased from its owners Franklin Industries of New York City, a division of United Industrial Syndicate, Inc., who purchased it in January 1971. Mosey said they were not satisfied with the company's profit performance and decided to liquidate. Franklin Industries still has some stock to sell, although they have moved much of it to other supply houses, reports Mosey. He will take possession in two months. Miller Brothers, which opened as a business here in (*) 1811, closed July 6, this year.

(date should be 1880)*



The Mosey Mural was painted in 1999 by Pam Bliss Ferguson, and depicts the likeness of a young Richmond industrialist, Charles G. Mosey. This exceptional artwork is located on the north side of the old Miller Hardware Company Building. The Charles G. Mosey family is (and will be remembered as) one of this community's greatest supporters.



Charles G. & Delores M. Mosey
1919-2001 1918-1994

Other Notes:

Fort Wayne Avenue To Get Brick Paving
Source: Palladium Item; 8-11-1904 (page-1, col-3)

Miller Brothers Incorporated
Source: Palladium Item; 12-4-1911 (page-1, col-6)

To Build Large Addition **Miller Brothers** Hardware
Source: Palladium Item; 11-30-1912 (page-1, col-4)

Rudolph Gaar Leeds sells interest in Second National Bank to **George Miller**.
Source: Palladium Item; 5-20-1920 (page-1, col-7)

George W. Miller, was born January 4, 1860.
He died as the result of injuries from an auto accident, December 26, 1929, aged 69 years old. He was a president of the Miller Brothers Hardware Company.
Source: Palladium Item; 12-27-1929 (page-1, col-7)

Miller Brothers Merge with John J. Harrington Inc.
Source: Palladium Item; 6-26-1930 (page-2, col-2)

Jacob Miller was born in 1869. He was 71 years old when he died April 25, 1940.
Source: Palladium Item; 4-26-1940 (page-1, col-4)

Fred Miller was born in 1864. He was 80 years old when he died August 5, 1946.
Source: Palladium Item; 8-6-1946 (page-1, col-5)

Frank O. Chambers was born in 1864. He was 82 years old when he died October 14, 1946.
Source: Palladium Item; 10-15-1946 (page-1, col-1-2)
He was a president of **Miller Brothers** Hardware Company

Jos Hasecoster Named Head Of **Miller Brothers** Hardware Company.
Source: Palladium Item; 3-31-1968 (page-32, col-1)

Miller Brothers Change In Management
Source: Palladium Item; 11-18-1971 (page-35, col-1)

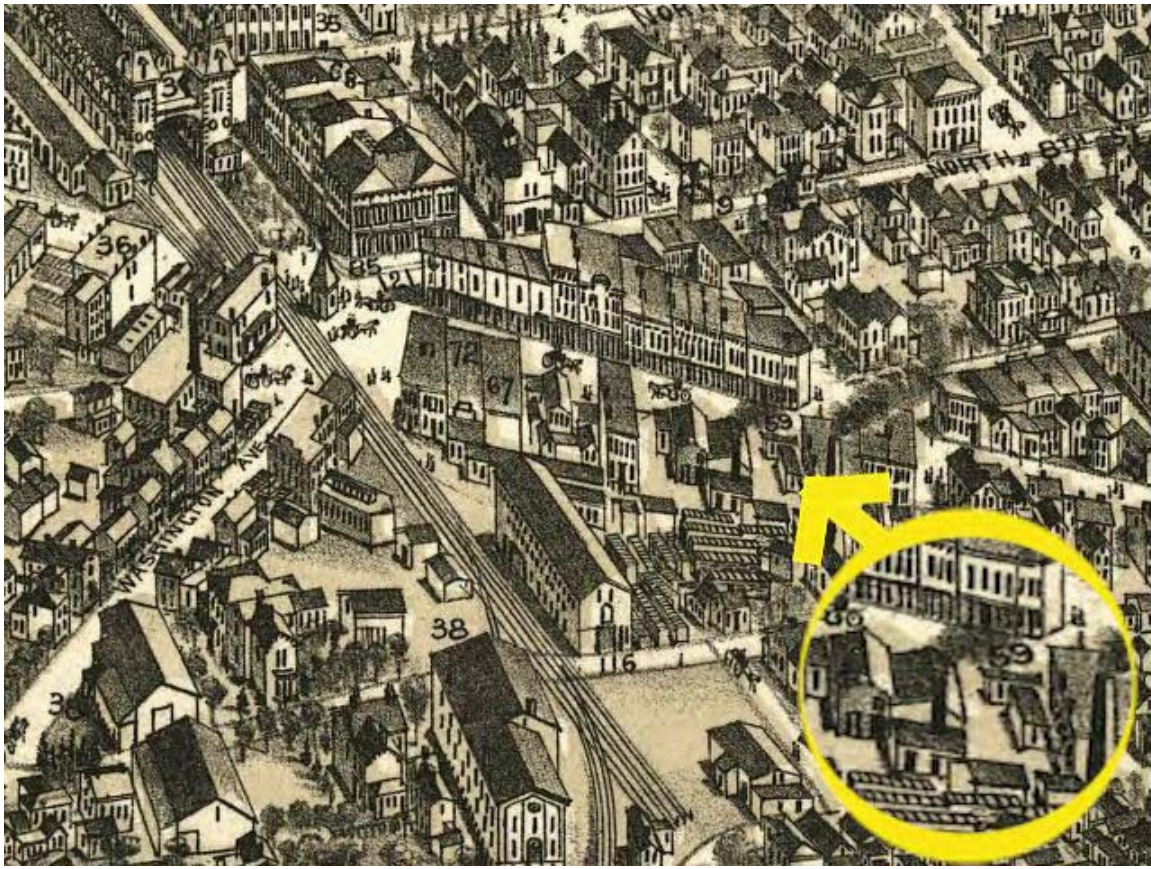
Photographs



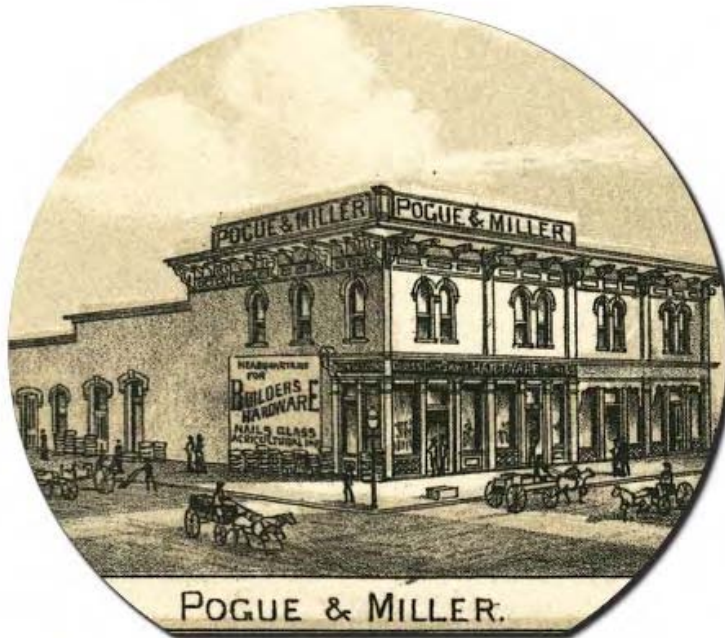
1940s



2004



1884 Map of Fort Wayne Ave. area, showing Pogue & Miller Bldg. Ref: #69.
*All lithographs © (source: map drawings) are [By] Albert Downs. Printed by J.W.C. Gilman,
Boston, O.H. Bailey & Co. [1884]- Library of Congress Geography and Map Division
Washington, D.C.*



George W. Miller's first hardware business. He opened this business with a partner (Charles H. Pogue) at 9th & Main Streets, Richmond, Indiana- about 1880.



George W. Miller at age 12, (1872) got his start in the hardware business with Irvin Reed & Son, on Main Street, Richmond Indiana.