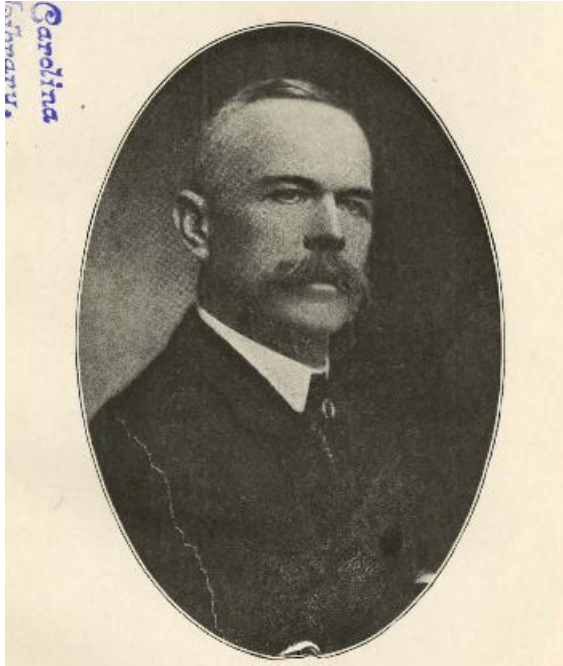


Miller, Robert Morrison, Jr. ^[1]

Miller, Robert Morrison, Jr.

by Clara Hamlett Robertson Flannagan, 1991; Revised by Jared Dease, Government and Heritage Library, December 2022

20 Apr. 1856–11 Oct. 1925



brief biographies of leading people for ready reference purposes".

^[2]Robert Morrison Miller, Jr., textile ^[3] manufacturer and capitalist, was born in Pleasant Valley, Lancaster County, S.C., the son of Robert Morrison and Ann Elizabeth Cureton Miller. His father was a planter ^[4], prolific enslaver, and merchant in South Carolina who served as a major in the Confederate ^[5] army. After moving his family to Charlotte ^[6] in 1866, he entered the wholesale and retail merchandising business, bringing flour and meat by railway ^[7] car from the West.

Young Miller was graduated from Finley High School in Lenoir and in 1876 received a bachelor's degree from Davidson College ^[8], where he won a medal for declamation. He and his brother, Roland A., were associates in their father's business, R. M. Miller and Sons, for six years. At that point Robert left the company to establish, with D. A. Tompkins ^[9], a mill machinery firm that was to become a key factor in Charlotte's development as a cotton manufacturing center. Ten years later, in 1892, he and Tompkins became pioneers in the spinning of fine cotton yarns in the South at the Atherton Cotton Mills. By 1898 Miller had progressed to even finer yarns at his newly built and model Elizabeth Mills, two miles outside of Charlotte. He had served as vice-president and treasurer of the first two businesses and was president and treasurer of his new mill. During his career, he held similar positions in many other companies including the Chester and the Catawba mills, Millerton Homes, the Buford Hotel, and Buford Homes.

In addition, Miller was a longtime chairman of the tariff and legislative committee, board member, and president (1905–6) of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association; an organizer and president for the first five years of the state's Cotton Manufacturers Association (later the North Carolina Textile Association); and an officer in other regional and national trade organizations, including the Cotton Manufacturers Publishing Company. He was a director of two Charlotte banks and of the Federal Reserve Bank; a member of the Charlotte Cotton Exchange and of the Charlotte Board of Trade, and a member and president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; a member and officer of manufacturers' clubs in Charlotte and in Philadelphia; a supporter of the scholarship program in the textile department of North Carolina College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University ^[10]); a member and president of the Mecklenburg ^[11] War Records Association; and president of the Davidson College General Alumni Association for several terms.

Before his death Miller had retired from all of his positions of responsibility except that of vice-president and director of Union National Bank in Charlotte and head of the Port Terminal Special Study Commission. He had been appointed to the latter post by Governor Cameron Morrison ^[12], on authority of the General Assembly ^[13], to determine the feasibility of establishing and maintaining ocean ports and terminals on North Carolina's coast. Miller, who suffered from a chronic heart condition, died while he and his wife were vacationing in Atlantic City, N.J.

On 6 Feb. 1890 Miller married Estelle Ross, the daughter of John Patterson and Sara Oliver Ross of Charlotte. Their only child, Sara Elizabeth, became the wife of David Wills Hunter, who was connected with the Saco-Lowell Shops in Boston and afterwards resided in Rock Hill, S.C. The only other surviving relative was his sister, Mrs. Lilius B. Miller Wheeler of Danville, Va. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte.

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