**Ailt “Al J” Miller (1862–1936)**

Ailt “Al J” Miller was born on **July 14, 1862**, in **Ridott, Stephenson County, Illinois**, the son of **Jurend Miller** and **Ecke Bohning**.

In his early years, Ailt moved with his family to **Grundy County, Iowa**, and later to **Lincoln County, South Dakota**, where they homesteaded a farm located six miles southwest of **Lennox, SD**. At the age of 23, he married **Anna Buus** on **April 23, 1886**, in Lincoln, Illinois. Together they had seven children and established their home on a farm near Lennox. After two years on the farm, the family moved into the town of Lennox.

Ailt was an industrious and enterprising man. He began his working life clerking at **N. Smith's Mercantile Establishment** in Lennox. In 1895, the family moved to **Ashton, Iowa**, where Ailt and Anna operated a general store. By 1898, they had returned to Lennox, and Ailt resumed working for N. Smith before partnering with **John Bergh** to purchase the business. He later worked for **seven years with the F.M. Slagle Company**.

From **1916 to 1919**, Ailt served as **Postmaster of Lennox**, a role he fulfilled with dedication. In his later years, he moved back to **Illinois**, settling in **Rock City** around 1928, where he lived with his daughter, **Anna Iva**, and her husband, **Roy Hofmeister**, who was also involved with the local post office. Ailt spent his final years there until his death on **October 6, 1936**.

According to his great-granddaughter **Jean Sorn**, who was around 7 or 8 at the time of his passing, Ailt came home for lunch, went upstairs to rest, and quietly passed away in his sleep. He was **buried in Rock Grove Cemetery**, Rock City, Illinois, alongside his daughter Iva, her husband Roy, and his son Andy.

**Marriage and Children**

Ailt married **Anna Buus (1869–1901)**, and they had the following children:

1. **Ida Miller** (b. 12 Jun 1887 – d. 11 Mar 1914)  
   Married Emerson Hofmeister. Children include Floy Adell, Emerson H., and others.
2. **Henry E. Miller** (b. 24 Jul 1888 – d. 1975)
3. **Jerry Miller** (b. 15 Oct 1890 – d. 13 Apr 1951)  
   Married Kathryn Smith. Their descendants resided in **Vermillion, South Dakota**.
4. **Al Anthony Miller** (b. 19 Oct 1894 – d. 14 Feb 1962)  
   Married Thea Stubsten. Their family remained in **Lennox, South Dakota**.
5. **Joe Q. Miller** (b. 8 Feb 1897 – d. 30 Apr 1966)  
   Married Adeline Reiners. Their descendants later lived in **Canoga Park, California**.
6. **Anna Iva Miller** (b. 6 May 1899 – d. 22 Apr 1969)  
   Married Roy John Hofmeister. Lived in **Rock City, Illinois**.
7. **Andy Miller** (b. 25 Jan 1901)  
   Married Delia Thoren. Their family remained in **Rock City, Illinois**.