

250 JCD-14

ELEAZER HUTCHINSON MILLER

Artist Etcher

MILLER, Eleazer Hutchinson, artist, was born in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, Va., Feb. 28, 1831, son of Solomon Miller, born in Shepherdstown about 1794, and who served his country in the war of 1812, participating in the battles of North Point and Bladensburg, holding the rank of sergeant. His grandfather, John Miller, was born in Germany, and came to America early in life, and settled in Pennsylvania, serving as a soldier in the revolutionary war. After its close he settled in Shepherdstown, Va., where he died at the age of ninety-seven years. Solomon, his third child, was married in 1817 to Margaret Cookus, who became the mother of ten children, Eleazer being the sixth child. He, at the age of five years, manifested a talent for drawing, which was encouraged.

At the age of fifteen he executed some meritorious portraits. When seventeen years old he left Shepherdstown for Washington city, for the purpose of studying for an artistic career. Being without money to support himself, he obtained a position in the office of the "National Intelligencer." He entered as a pupil the Academy of drawing and painting kept by a Mr. Gibson, at that time the only school of drawing in Washington, and he here acquired some of the technicalities of art, and adopted portrait-painting as a specialty.

He found in this many notable patrons among the public men of the nation. He also became a skillful illustrator of books, his first undertaking in that line being an edition of "Tam O'Shanter," which was issued by a New York publisher. He then illustrated Mrs. Springer's "Songs of the Sea," and followed it with a variety of subjects and numerous acceptable designs.

Upon the revival of the art of etching, he took up that fascinating but difficult branch of the fine arts, and achieved a marked success. His works have been displayed at the annual exhibitions at the National academy of design, in the displays of the New York etching club, and at various private and loan exhibitions.

He was vice-president of the old Washington art club, and he helped to organize the Society of Washington artists, and was chosen its first president. In 1859 he married Mary, daughter of Robert and Jane Blanchard Farnham. They have six children, Carolina, Elizabeth, Robert F., Arthur Peale, Jane, and Mary F. In 1875 Mr. Miller made an extended tour of Europe, studying its masterpieces.

8-7-00 MILLER SIGNED