

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

Annie Mae, born November 5, 1918, is the granddaughter of Eugene Miller and Josephine Angeline Sturlese. Her mother, Azena is the 5th child of thirteen born to Eugene and Angeline. Annie Mae's family achieved notoriety in several ways.



Annie Mae Richard Sanner with Dwayne, Kirk, Charlie, Jan Sanner Griffith, Nov 2017

Annie Mae's grandfather was a very successful cattleman in Cameron Parish. Born in 1857, Eugene continued the work of his father Pierre V. Miller, A Civil

War Veteran. In "Eugene Miller Early King of Cattle" by Nola Mae Ross, 1989, it stated "...Eugene Miller...became the pioneer patriarch of the cattle industry on the big ridge. "Eugene Miller is a ranchman with great herds of cattle, and he devotes most of his time to riding a horse," reported one early newspaper. Starting out with a small heard of wild marsh cattle, Miller built a cattle empire which he operates with four of his sons and five sons-in-law."



"Another daughter, Annociade, married Albert Theriot. From this branch of the Miller family



L to R: Minos D Miller, Sr., Dr. V A Miller, Mrs. M D (Ruth) Miller, Mrs Sidney Sweeney, Mrs V A (Ella) Miller, Mrs E D (Emma) Miller, M D Miller, Jr. Judge E D Miller, St. Senator Sidney Sweeney.

came the Broussards, Crains, Richards, Eaglesons, Zampanis and Arceneauxs. One son, Pierre Jr., was the ancestor of several attorneys and judges in the Jennings area, including Judge Minos D. Miller."

"Another son, Edmond Miller, was a prominent judge in Cameron and Calcasieu. He was sheriff of Cameron and district attorney and judge of Imperial Calcasieu Parish. He presided at the famous Batson murder trial, and later moved to Jennings, where he was city

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

attorney. Aspazie Miller married Antoine Broussard and their children married into families named Walters, Monlezum, Koch, Gaithe, Olivier and Denerie.



M. D. Miller, Jr, a graduate from Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL & the 1st Pensacola class of December of 1941. Flew missions from the USS Saratoga, USS Ranger & USS Wasp. A World War II POW, presumed dead and buried at sea only to return to his wife after the war ended.

“Perhaps the best known of the Miller family was Eugene Miller. A granddaughter, Annie Mae (Mrs. Alden Sanner) of Hackberry recalls, ‘Education was very important to grandpa Eugene Miller. He built a schoolhouse in his yard and hired a teacher for his children and some of the closer neighbors. This little schoolhouse stood until Hurricane Audrey blew it down. "As the children got older and finished the Miller school, they were sent to Lake Charles or Abbeville for higher education. Two of Eugene Miller's sons Laurent and Martin Miller, graduated from medical school and became doctors.’ ”

My parents [Annie Mae's parents], Ozena Miller and Charles Richard, lived with my grandparents, so I remember them very well. My

grandfather's life was tied up with his cattle. He had thousands of them." "I remember

the cattle drives when they took

cattle to summer pasture or to market. Most of the cattlemen along Grand Chenier

would meet at our home and leave from there

for Mulberry Ridge and Chenier Oau Tigre." "I helped my mother make the syrup cookies that they always carried in their saddlebags. Sometimes the men were gone for a month."



Judge Minos D. Miller, Jr 1920 - 2006

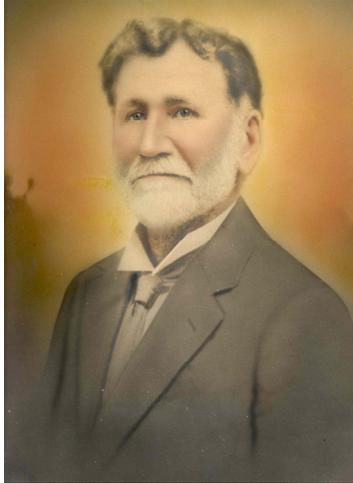
“Another granddaughter, Corrine (Mrs. Steve Canik) of Grand Chenier, whose parents were Louise Portier and Arceneaux Miller, remembers living near her grandparents. "The old



M.D. Miller, Jr. U.S. Navy Service Medals awarded during WW II. He flew missions from three aircraft carriers, the USS Saratoga, USS Wasp and the USS Ranger.

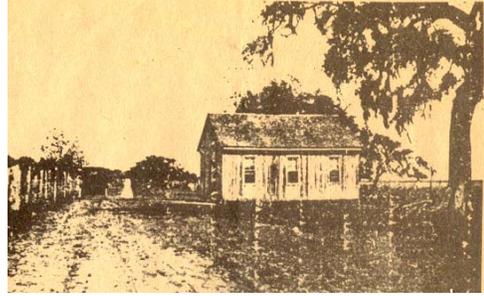
Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017



Judge Edmond D. Miller
1855 - 1939

homestead, which we visited often, was a large house with four big bedrooms upstairs and four more downstairs. There was a huge dining room and kitchen, plus the usual outhouses in back." Her father, Arceneaux, was a cattlemen, as were several other sons of Eugene - Severin, Prevat and Leazima [M.



Miller School in 1912

Miller comment: Leazima is a daughter who married Alcie Theriot] - and also sons-in-law Pete Broussard, Charles Richard, Sosthene Broussard, David Doland and Steven Carter. Two of Eugene's sons were Dr. Martin O. Miller, who practiced in New Orleans, and Dr.

Laurent O. Miller, who practiced medicine in Grand Chenier from 1911 until his death in 1949."



Dr. Martin O. Miller (1894-1975) and wife
Edna Kuntz in 1959

"Dr. Miller also told of the first pair of shoes he got when he was six. "They were quickly discarded as they were stiff and uncomfortable, with uppers and a row of buttons down the side." His daughter, Annie Laura Miller of Baton Rouge, recalls their Sunday dinners, with most of the uncles and aunts and cousins gathering at Eugene Miller's home. "We thought we were rich when grandpa got us a ball and bat so we could play baseball." Another of his daughters, Marilyn Miller, lives in New Orleans. "

"There is one living child of Eugene Miller - Melicia (Mrs. Sosthene Broussard), who is 93 years old and lives on Pecan Island near her son, Harris Broussard, and daughter, Florence (Mrs. Steven Broussard). She recalls attending



Dr. Martin O. Miller family with
Pope Pious in 1947



Dr. M. O. Miller home in New Orleans when purchased
in 1941

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

the little Miller school and then later going to Mt. Carmel Catholic School in Abbeville, before coming home and marrying Sosthene Broussard of Creole.”

“Dr. Barbara Doland Coatney of McNeese, the daughter of Estelle Miller and David Y. Doland and granddaughter of Eugene and Angeline Miller, has



Pictured with his wife and daughter in 1943. Dr. Laurent Miller died in 1949. (Cameron Pilot, June 27, 1963

collected a great deal of history on the family. She estimates the descendants run into the hundreds in this area alone.”

“The Miller family made a great impact upon the cattle raising business in Grand Chenier, beginning at a time when cattle were wild, long-horned and skinny marsh animals, and building it into

profitable industry. Eugene Miller, pioneer cattleman, had a long list of descendants who have branched out into many



Eugene Miller and Angeline Sturlese Miller on 50th wedding anniversary in 1928

a



Eugene Miller and Angeline Sturlese Miller on 50th wedding anniversary in 1928

different professions and who are still contributing much to the improvement of the world around them.”



Eugene Miller (1857-1930) in 1924

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

Annie Mae Richard's Family

In addition to her grandparents family, Annie Mae's immediate family's achievements would make anyone beam with honor.

Martin Richard, Sr., Annie Mae's oldest brother, said of his oldest brother Henry "Harry" Richard: "Regarding my brother, Harry, receiving the Purple Heart. As I recall during the battle



Azena Miller Richard (1888-1978) Annie Mae's mother

at St Lo [it served as a strategic crossroads in July 1944. American bombardments caused heavy damage and the city was 95% destroyed. With the high number of casualties, the

martyr city was called "The Capital of

Ruins"], Harry was in a jeep that ran over a land mine and was injured. He was very lucky because the other passengers in the jeep were critically injured or killed.

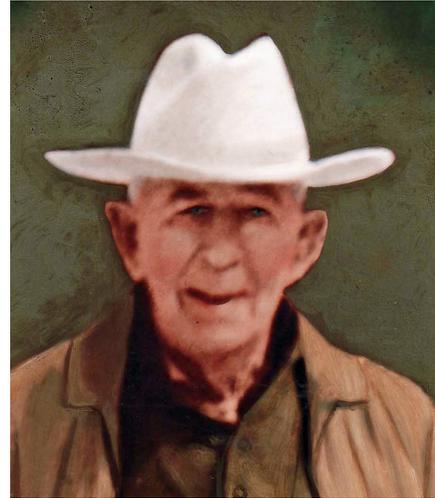
Harry was chosen as the exemplary soldier in his



Annie Mae, left, with her sister Elma in their paper dresses about 1928

division or company and was sent home for two weeks vacation during the Battle of the Bulge. Lucky again. The group I was in along with everything the 8th Air Force could muster flew at 10,000

feet to more accurately blast a path through the German Front Lines at St Lo allowing American troops to break through. Normally we flew at 25 to 30,000 feet. So he was on the ground at St Lo and I was in the air."



Charles Richard (1885-1960), Annie Mae's father



Charles Richard & Azena Miller Children, Harry, Elma, Martin and Annie Mae in 1967

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

Martin Richard was a highly decorated veteran as well. The following was written by Cyndi Sellers in the Cameron Parish Pilot in July 2009”

“Martin Richard, a resident of Metairie, formerly of Grand Chenier, was among 38 American veterans receiving high tribute in France as part of this year's D-Day commemorations. He was one of three Louisiana World War II veterans chosen to receive France's highest decoration, the Legion of Honor.



Alden "Poncho" Sanner (1922-1996), Annie Mae Richard's husband. The grandson of Ernest Sanner. Ernest's parents died young. He was rescued by a "Capital George", later married in 1882 to Aurelia Duhon. They homesteaded 240 acres in Cameron Parish

The veterans enjoyed an all expense paid trip, courtesy of the French government, had their own personal military escort, and were treated royally.

On June 6, the veterans participated in ceremonies commemorating the 65th anniversary of D-Day, also attended by President Obama, French President Nicholas Sarkozy, and Prince Charles of England. The ceremonies took place at the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer.

On June 22, the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate honored the three veterans with concurrent resolutions, and afterward they were guests of Gov. Bobby Jindal in his office.

The resolution recognized Richard for participating in 9 firing missions in France and 26 firing missions



Richard Martin was presented with the French Medal of Honor in 2009

Germany while serving in the Army. In August of 1944 he was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire over France and was captured. He spent nine months as a prisoner of war in Grostyskow, Poland.

Richard has been honored with numerous awards for outstanding bravery and valor during the war, including the Prisoner of War medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.



Annie Mae Richard in 1935



Martin Richard plane shortly after being hit. Photographer assumed all were killed. Years later he learned Martin survived and shared this photo of the plane.

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017

He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and has served as commander of the South Louisiana Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.



Around New Orleans
March 11, 1945. Photo by the Associated Press. The photo shows Martin Richard of Metairie, Louisiana, wearing a flight jacket and pilot wings, standing in front of a building in Paris, France, during the war.

Richard Martin WW II photo.

The resolution closes with the words: 'Therefore, be it resolved that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Martin Richard of Metairie upon his receipt of the French Legion of Honor medal for his military service on D-Day during World War II, does hereby record for posterity the outstanding achievements and remarkable courage of this heroic gentleman, does

hereby extend heartfelt and enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor that he

brings to his family, friends, and community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America, and does hereby recognize that the experiences and achievements of this

extraordinary veteran will never be forgotten and will forever remain a source of great inspiration and pride on the minds and hearts of all who know, admire and love him.' "



MARTIN RICHARD of Metairie, formerly of Grand Chenier, accompanied by a Navy officer as escort, attended D-Day commemorations in France, where he received France's Highest decoration, the Legion of Honor.

Annie Mae Richard Sanner Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Murphy Miller, November 26, 2017