

The Miller Family



Hyman & Bessie Miller

Sometime between 1907 and 1910, Hyman Miller, his wife Bessie, and three children - Rose, Dora and Louis - arrived in Hoosick Falls, NY from Lithuania. In 1910, Hyman opened a saloon on Railroad Avenue where they lived. Soon after they also opened a small grocery on 66 Mechanic Street. Over the next several years, the children grew up to manage the family business. The location of the market would also change over time. In 1924 Hyman and Bessie Miller purchased

the sizeable home at 166 Main Street from Charles and Lucy Getty.

On December 7, 1939, the Millers opened a market which was considered a great advance in food merchandising. It included, according to a local paper, “an array of merchandise that would do justice to a very large food market in a metropolitan district. Tons upon tons of the very finest foodstuffs have been placed on display.” The Millers invested thousands of dollars in this store, demonstrating their confidence in Hoosick Falls.

The Miller family was community minded. Local organizations could depend on them to provide discounts on food for banquets and dinners. Donations were made to all drives and if a group needed something they could depend on Louis to call on friends in the Capital region for assistance.

In March of 1973 the Millers closed the store and retired to Florida. This ended over 60 years serving the public in the grocery business.

The store was sold to Rensselaer County and became the Senior Citizen Center and the center for local county offices. In the fall of 1981, the family donated their home at 166 Main Street to the Hoosick Township Historical Society. The museum was named in honor of Louis Miller, who died in 1980. The Millers always financially supported the local museum named after their brother. They gave a generous donation to the Hoosick Falls Health Center during its expansion drive. They kept in touch with Edith Beaumont and helped with ideas and money needed to turn the home into a museum.