

## Chapter 11

### The Oakley-Botsford Family Relationship

As mentioned in Chapter 10, Edmund M. Botsford was one of the Rockford newspapermen (along with Charles L. Miller and Hedley H. Eaton) who bought the *Quincy Daily Herald* in 1891. Recall that this purchase led to Ray Miller Oakley moving to Quincy, Illinois, to work for his Uncle Charles L. Miller at the *Quincy Herald*, so this purchase ultimately was the beginning of the Oakley family's roots in Quincy. My cousin Hal Oakley told me that he was convinced that Edmund M. Botsford was a distant cousin, but he didn't know the exact relationship.

I looked up Edmund M. Botsford on the Ancestry.com website, and I found that he was born in New York on 6 March 1853 and died in Quincy, Illinois, on 8 January 1918. And that his father's name was A.P. Botsford. So I Googled:

edmund botsford new york A.P. Botsford

and it turned up the "Fourth Estate: A Weekly Newspaper for Publishers, Advertisers ..., Part 1"

It had an item about Edmund Miller Botsford's death - so his middle initial "M" was for Miller! So I re-did the Ancestry.com search with his full name and got a number of links to Edmund Miller Botsford. Then I did a search on the LDS genealogy website (FamilySearch.org), and I found out that Edmund Miller Botsford's mother was Elizabeth A. Miller. So I kept looking at the Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org websites, and I found that Elizabeth's father was Rev. Orrin (Oren) B. Miller -- one of the brothers of my great-great-grandfather Allen Miller. So indeed we are related to Edmund Miller Botsford!

Edmund Miller Botsford was a fascinating person - he graduated from Princeton University in the class of 1874 - appended below is his bio. In fact, his father, son, and grandson were all interesting people in their own right.

In the 1880 US Census, Edmund Miller Botsford was listed as a "Boarder" in the household of Charles L. Miller (Hannah Maria Miller Oakley's younger brother), and Edmund's occupation was given as News Reporter for the *Rockford Daily*

*Register*. In that same census, Charles was listed as the Editor of the *Rockford Daily Register*.

When Edmund Miller Botsford was living in Quincy for the 1900 US Census, his occupation was listed as “Journalist”.

Here are some additional items related to our Oakley/Miller family genealogy. The Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller had eight children, including Allen Miller (born in 1788) and the Rev. Orrin (Oren) B. Miller (born in 1792).

Allen Miller had a son named Ezra Marvin Miller (born 1812) – my great-great-grandfather.

Rev. Orrin B. Miller was a Presbyterian minister. Rev. Orrin B. Miller and his wife Ann Keeler Miller were married on 19 March 1811 in Milton, Saratoga County, New York. Their ninth (or tenth) child was named Elizabeth A. Miller. She was born on May 5, 1831, in Portage, New York. This means that Ezra Marvin Miller (Allen Miller’s son and my great-great grandfather) and Elizabeth A. Miller were first cousins.

Rev. Orrin (Oren) B. Miller made the move west from upstate New York to the Rockford area (along with his brothers Allen, Ezra, and Horace). The 1850 US Census has him living in Boone County, Illinois – just to the east of Rockford. He is buried in the Russellville Cemetery in Russellville, Boone County, Illinois. In fact, the LDS genealogy site has an item that is relevant to this: “Russellville Cemetery -- Some of the Boone Counties [sic] early settlers are buried here. In 1855 this cemetery was laid out on land given by Rev. Oren Miller for a burial ground.”

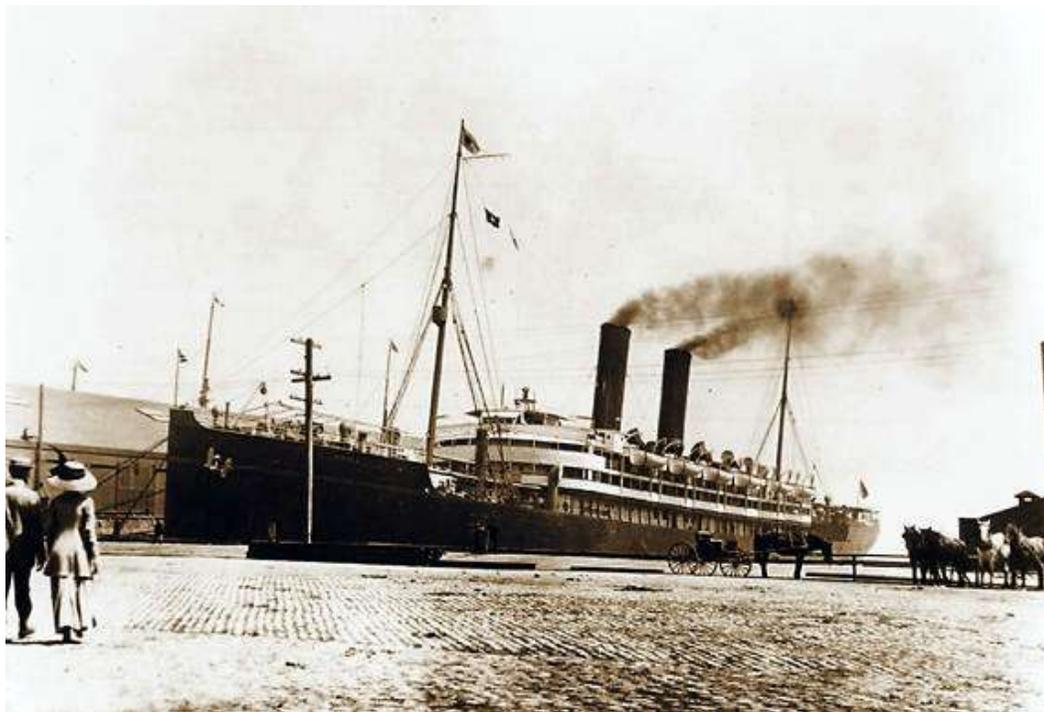
Rev. Orrin (Oren) B. Miller’s daughter Elizabeth A. Miller married Alfred Pomeroy Botsford (A.P. Botsford, a well-known Presbyterian minister) on 8 February 1851 in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Their son, Edmund Miller Botsford, was born on 6 March 1853. And less than two years after Edmund was born, his mother Elizabeth died on 24 February 1855, at the age of 25. Note that Elizabeth's father and husband were both Presbyterian ministers. A.P. Botsford remarried – to Mary Abigail Pardee - on 4 June 1856. At the time of his death on 4 September 1925, well, right before the time of his death, actually, A.P. Botsford was the oldest living graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (in his 99th year). His obituary that was published by the Princeton Theological Seminary lists both of his marriages - to Elizabeth A. Miller and to Mary A. Pardee.

In the past, I never found the first marriage to Elizabeth A. Miller, since in the 1850 US Census, A.P. Botsford was living in a rooming house at Princeton Theological Seminary, and the 1860 US Census, he was re-married to Mary Pardee (and Edmund Miller Botsford was just seven years old).

So if you are following all this, you will immediately realize that Edmund Miller Botsford was a second-cousin of Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley (wife of Aaron Burr Oakley). This means that Ray Miller Oakley was a second-cousin, once-removed of Edmund Miller Botsford.

Edmund Miller Botsford married Caroline "Carrie" Butterworth on 31 August 1881 (1880?) in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Caroline was born on 28 February 1855 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she died on 3 September 1927 in Quincy, Illinois.

As an aside, their names are on the list of passengers arriving aboard the "S.S. Korea" on 5 April 1915 at the Port of San Francisco, California, after departure on 30 March 1915 from Honolulu (then Territory of Hawaii).



S.S. Korea

And to complete this story, Edmund Miller Botsford and his wife Caroline had two children when they lived in Rockford, before moving to Quincy:

- Katherine Mary Botsford – born 19 August 1883, Rockford, Winnebago County, IL.
- Alfred Miller Botsford – born 9 August 1884, Rockford, Winnebago County, IL.

[According to the 1900 US Census, Caroline was the mother of three children, only two of whom were living in 1900.]

Katherine Mary Botsford went to Vassar College. She married Charles Waterman Gay (b. 5 December 1878, d. 10 July 1932) on 8 June 1908 in Quincy. Their two children were born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1912 and 1914. I have no idea why they were living in Ann Arbor shortly after 1910. But they were back in Quincy by 1920, and the 1920 US Census shows them living with Katherine's mother Caroline Butterworth Botsford (who had recently been widowed – recall that Edmund Miller Botsford died in 1918). In the 1930 US Census, Katherine and Charles W. Gay were living at 1656 Maine St., Quincy, Illinois, and Charles listed his occupation as "Office Manager – Newspaper". In fact, the old photo montage from the *Herald-Whig* with the head-shots of Charles F. Eichenauer, Ray M. Oakley, Charles W. Gay, A.O. Lindsay, and F.M. Lindsay, lists Charles W. Gay as Office Manager. So it looks like Charles W. Gay married Edmund Miller Botsford's daughter, and went to work at the *Herald-Whig* sometime after Edmund Miller Botsford passed away - since on Charles' World War I draft registration dated 12 September 1918, he listed his occupation as Sales Manager at Electric Wheel in Quincy (and his father-in-law Edmund Miller Botsford had passed away earlier that year). Katherine Botsford Gay died on 27 July 1965 in Los Angeles, California.

The other child of Edmund Miller Botsford and Caroline Butterworth Botsford was Alfred Miller Botsford. Alfred went to Williams College (breaking the Princeton tradition of his father and grandfather). Pretty cool that the two siblings from Quincy went to Vassar and Williams, and their father and paternal grandfather went to Princeton! Alfred Miller Botsford married Ruth Gardner on 17 October 1914 and he died on 15 May 1967 in Encino, Los Angeles County, California. Alfred Miller Botsford was a journalist (like his father, Edmund) and eventually worked in the advertising department for the Famous Players-Lasky movie company in New York and then Los Angeles. In looking into his Quincy roots, I learned that his wife, Ruth Gardner, was born on 23 June 1894 and was 7 years old in the 1900 US Census – living in Quincy at 228 S. 18th St. Interesting

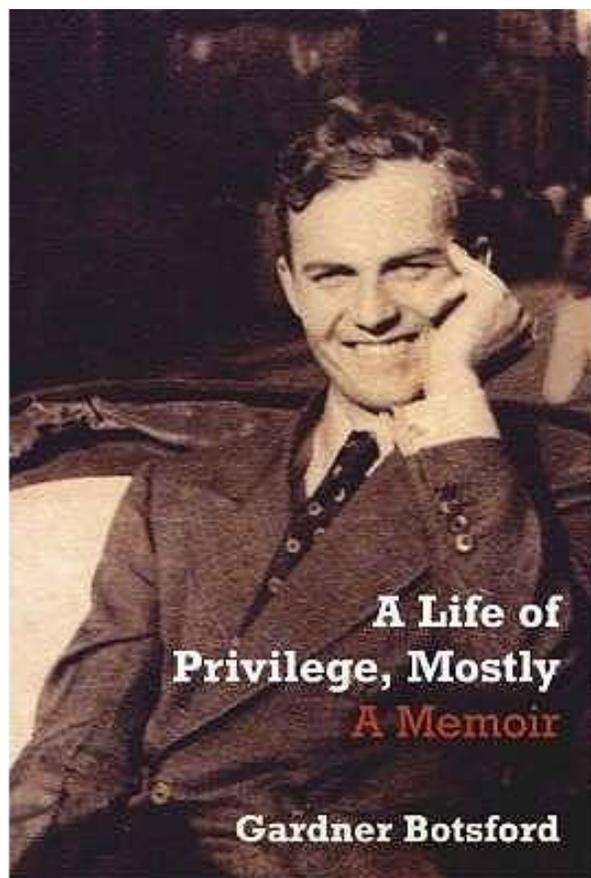
that the census listed the household as consisting of her parents, 2 older siblings and Ruth, plus a coachman, a servant, and a cook. Ruth died on 8 Jun 1950 in New York, NY. Her father was John Willis "Willie" Gardner, who was born 14 September 1863 and died 1 February 1943.

John Willis Gardner was the son of Robert W. Gardner. He became president of Gardner Governor Works after his father's death, and later he was the president of Gardner Denver Co. No wonder they had a coachman, a servant, and a cook!

Ruth Gardner married our distant cousin Alfred Miller Botsford on 17 October 1914, and then their son Gardner Robert Botsford was born on 7 July 1917, in New York City. Gardner Botsford was a long-time editor at *The New Yorker* magazine (a third-generation journalist – following in the footsteps of his grandfather Edmund Miller Botsford and his father Alfred Miller Botsford). See:

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/10/11/gardner-botsford>

I recently ordered a copy of Gardner Botsford's memoir, "A Life of Privilege, Mostly". Hal has a copy and told me that it is fascinating reading.



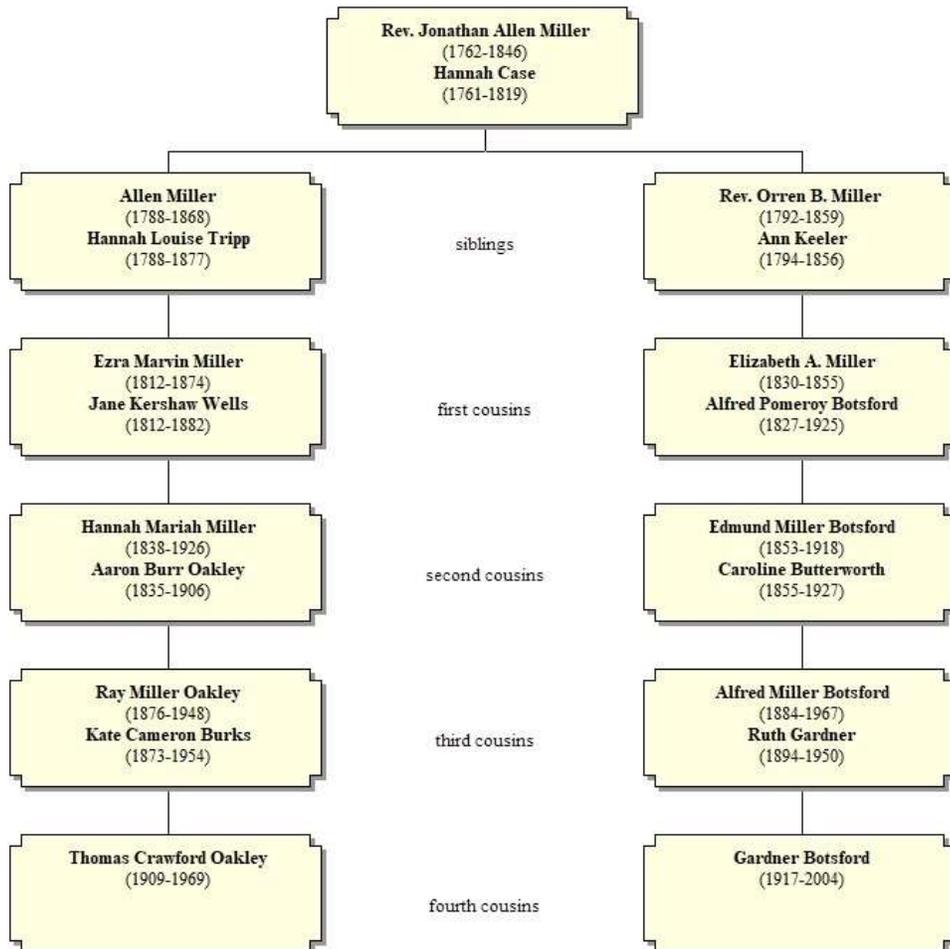
Alfred Miller Botsford's World War I draft card (from 12 September 1918) listed his address as:

122 East 76th St., fifth floor  
New York, NY.

I guess that qualifies as the upper east side, eh? I'm sure that being married to the Gardner heiress, they could afford it! And his occupation was listed as "Publicity" for Famous Players-Lasky Corporation -- one of the biggest players of the silent film era.

I am really glad to find the Oakley/Miller connection to Edmund Miller Botsford -- to see that indeed we all are related to another one of the Rockford newspapermen who purchased the *Quincy Daily Herald* in 1891.

Finally, in case you are interested, Gardner Botsford was a fourth cousin of my father, Burks Oakley, and his siblings Bill, Elisabeth, Allen, and Tom (T.C.).



Here is a photo of Edmund Miller Botsford:

*MEN OF ILLINOIS.*  
PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS.

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**EDMUND MILLER BOTSFORD, Quincy.**  
Graduated from Princeton Univ. 1874. Established the "Rockford (Ill.) Daily Register" in 1879; in 1891 bought the "Quincy Daily Herald;" for 25 yrs. has been identified in newspaper work in Illinois.

***Appendix:***

Excerpt from: Representative Men and Homes, Quincy, Illinois. London: Forgotten Books. (Original work published 1899)

<http://www.forgottenbooks.org/readbook text/Representative Men and Homes Quincy Illinois 1000908391/33>

EDMUND M. BOTSFORD.

Though still a young man, Mr. Edmund M. Botsford has held a prominent place among the newspaper publishers of Illinois for many years. Born at Fishkill, on the Hudson, N. Y., he is a son of the Rev. A. P. Botsford, for more than sixty years one of the most eminent and scholarly ministers of the Presbyterian church. He

graduated at Princeton College in 1874, receiving the degree of A. B. and was awarded the senior prize medal in his class of one hundred for the best essay.

While his education had been directed towards the legal profession he early manifested a natural talent for journalism and as a college student did much of the editorial writing for the Port Jervis Gazette. After leaving college he taught school for a time and studied law at Rochester, N. Y. In 1879 Mr. Botsford located at Rockford, IL, and after continuing his law studies accepted an editorial position on the Rockford Register, starting the first daily newspaper in that thriving city. He soon took an interest in the paper, which was a pronounced success under his management. September 23, 1891, he became one of the proprietors of the Quincy Daily Herald, of which he has since been managing editor. Mr. Botsford has the faculty of making the kind of newspaper the people want and under his direction the Herald has become one of the leading, papers of the state and a financial success as well. A ready and forcible writer, with an unlimited capacity for work, he combines to an unusual degree the qualities that make up the live, progressive journalist of to-day. As president of the local board of the Associated Press, the telegraphic news business of this section of the state is under his direction. He was married August 31, 1881, to Miss Caroline Butterworth, daughter of "Honest Tom" Butterworth, of Rockford, a member of the state legislature and candidate for state treasurer. They have one son and one daughter.

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[http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/093004/met\\_16778712.shtml#.VYVNSRbLKWM](http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/093004/met_16778712.shtml#.VYVNSRbLKWM)

Editor got his start in Duval

By Times-Union and news services

A seasoned editor at The New Yorker magazine who got his start writing for the Jacksonville Journal died Monday in Manhattan.

Gardner Botsford, best known for shaping the style and reputation of The New Yorker, died at the age of 87 of bone marrow disease.

He first worked as a reporter at the trendy high-class magazine after graduating from Yale in the late 1930s. He was quickly dismissed by editor Harold Ross, who told him to go get newspaper experience.

Mr. Botsford moved to Jacksonville and worked for several years as a reporter for the daily afternoon paper, the Jacksonville Journal. Having gained enough experience, he rejoined The New Yorker in 1942.

Being drafted in World War II cut short Mr. Botsford's second stint at The New Yorker. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded and decorated for his service.

In his 2003 memoir, *A Life of Privilege, Mostly*, Mr. Botsford described his military experiences and told of his high-society childhood.

Mr. Botsford was the son of heiress Ruth Gardner and journalist and advertising executive Alfred Miller Botsford. After his parents' divorce, his mother married Raoul Fleishman, whose family financed The New Yorker.

Survivors include his wife, Janet Malcolm; two daughters, Margot of Jamaica Plain, Mass., and Susan Workum of Cambridge, Mass.; three grandchildren; and one stepgrandchild.