

Karen Lee Miller, North High Class of 1959

My great grandfather (Miller or Moeller) arrived in the United States from Denmark with my great grandmother (from Norway) in 1868, and finally settled in Denver. Like many Scandinavians of the time, Denver provided opportunity, and surroundings that reminded them of their native land. My grandfather was a fireman and eventually Chief of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. My grandmother's family (Elliott) settled in Denver in 1891. My dad went to Ashland, Skinner and North, graduating in 1932. He was Assistant Chief of the Denver Fire Dept., retiring as the liaison to the Manager of Safety.

My mother's family (Brownyard) on her father's side immigrated to the USA from Bonfol, Switzerland in 1860, settling first in Monroe, New York, and then her grandfather settled in Denver in the early 1880's. Her mom's family (Newcomb) came to Denver via England and Canada at about the same time. My great grandparents were married in 1885 in Denver and their home was located on 26th Avenue between Clay and Decatur, land that later became North's baseball field. My grandfather continued the family business, Brownyard Produce, located at 15th and Market, which supplied veggies, mainly potatoes, to institutions around the city. They kept many families from starving during the depression when bags of potatoes mysteriously appeared on their doorstep. He founded Bethel #2, Job's Daughters and was (as were most of the men in my family) an active Mason and Shriner. My mom grew up at 4247 Hooker; went to Columbian, Skinner and North, graduating in 1934. My sister, Maggi, and I had many of the same teachers as our folks in both Skinner and North. As of the late 1960's, most of the family has disappeared from Denver, and a good portion from Colorado.