

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Born into slavery in Colt, Arkansas (St. Francis County), Abraham H. Miller was renowned as the wealthiest living Black man in Arkansas. A businessman, reverend, and Reconstruction-era legislator, Miller was thought of as a shining example for young Black men of his time, including Joseph A. Booker and Booker T. Washington. Miller started his business ventures as a drayman, or deliveryman for a brewery, and later moved into real estate, money lending and rental properties. Miller served one term, from 1874-1875, as a state legislator, representing Phillips County. He was pastor of Centennial Baptist Church in Helena (Phillips County) and his career in ministry allowed him to travel extensively. He and his wife, Eliza Ann Ross Miller, served on the board of trustees at Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in 1884. Miller's career took him from delivery man to a delegate at the Republican National Convention and from former slave to world traveler.

