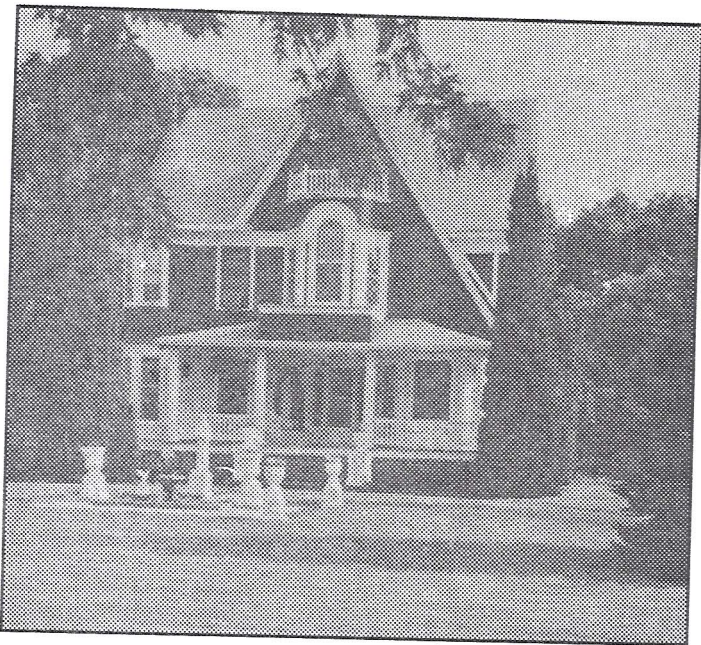


Helen and Wilfred Miller Welcome You To The Miller-Kendall House

109 years old — 1898-2007



Build in 1898

Wallace Warren Kendall arrived in Superior in 1879 accompanied by his widowed father. Wallace purchased two lots on Central Avenue, and in 1880 (the year the railroad came to town) moved into his new drug store, becoming Superior's first druggist. In 1884, he purchased the land this house occupies, comprising the whole short block. In 1885, Wallace married Lillian Genevieve Bradshaw, daughter of Dr. Horatio Nelson Bradshaw, medical doctor and banker. This lot was a wedding gift from Wallace to Lillian, however they continued to live on the northwest corner of Sixth and Commercial Streets until their family started to increase.

This house was selected from a catalog, and shipped to Superior in rail cars. The names of the manufacturer, the designer and even the local men who erected the house have been lost, but the style is clearly Queen Anne Victorian. Elements of the Queen Anne style shown on this house include the tower with its witch's hat roof, the asymmetrical front gable, combination of window styles and

muntins, the mixture of siding materials and the porches and balconies. The house was built complete as it is today with very little in the way of alterations. The foundation stones came from Endicott, Nebraska (Mr. Wallace had a drug store in Fairbury, which is near Endicott) and the brick came from a local brick yard located at Fourth and Converse Streets.

Since electricity had not yet come to Superior when the house was built, the house was equipped with gas lights made by Wellsbach and used gasoline as fuel. Gas generated from gasoline was used for cooking as well as lighting. In the rear was a built-in ice box with an exterior door so the ice man need not come into the house. This has been removed and the space used for other purposes, that and the kitchen being the only contemporary alterations made. All of the birch woodwork and floors on the ground floor are original, as well as the embossed wallpaper, stairway and beams. The second floor also contains original woodwork, although of southern yellow pine, including flooring.

Mr. Valerius Kendall, Wallace's son, in his memoirs wrote about this house, "The house was two story, frame construction, with hall, living room and a sort of music room on each side of the hall. There was a dining room and kitchen, four bedrooms and a bath but no garage." North of the house there was a clay tennis court which was well used by family and friends. Next to it was the vegetable garden, which tended to be weedy. The family horse and carriage was kept in the barn a block to the east. Lillian Kendall's parents lived the second house west on Seventh Street on the north side at the corner of Kansas Street. Dr. H. N. Bradshaw was Superior's first physician, a founder of the Bank of Superior and later a partner with Wallace in the drug business in Fairbury. The house between the Kendalls and the Bradshaws was owned by Mr. Uriah Beal. Harlan Beal, Val Kendall and Ray Bradshaw (Val's uncle near his same age) were all close friends and spent much time on the tennis court and in each other's company.

The Miller-Kendall house is distinguished by having so much of the original building intact. The Kendalls lived in the house ten years and three months, moving to Kansas City for four years, then returning to build yet another house in Superior. Following the Kendalls, was the Frank Bossemeyer family who lived here the longest, thirty-five years. Mr. Bossemeyer was a pioneer Superior grain dealer whose interests included nearly a dozen grain elevators mainly along the Santa Fe Railroad. Mr. Bossemeyer was the source for much information about the house, its construction and sources of materials. For the next twenty-six years, the house was owned by the August Knothe family, who converted the second floor to an apartment. Mr. Knothe was also in the drug business. The house was owned briefly by the Richard J. Rempe family. Then in November of 1975, Wilfred and Helen Miller purchased the house and have spent the years erasing the signs of its apartment house days, restoring and repairing the ravages of time.

Of additional interest, the house has a third floor with a twenty-five by twenty-five foot ballroom, complete with a raised stage along one side. It is reached by a rather steep stair from the second floor. There were also servant's quarters on the third floor which have been converted by the Millers into a bathroom and an access stair to the attic above and some storage space. Lillian Kendall and her sister, Christie Bradshaw, were very musical, members of the Superior Mandolin Club in 1903 and it is sure that the ballroom was the scene of many performances by this group as well as several vocal groups then in Superior.