

The ninth child born to Horatio Thompson Miller and Elizabeth Jane Zollman was **Charles Zollman Miller**. After graduating from the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri, he set up his Osteopathic practice in August 1900. He was engaged to Beatrice Harrison by September 1901, but died in October 1901 at age 25 in Huntsville, Alabama. Obituary¹ states he died of the "Dread Destroyer." (This may be consumption or tuberculosis). Charles wrote a [letter](#) home on July 15, 1901 mentioning "the Yellow Jaundice". Beatrice wrote a [letter](#) on September 18, 1901, to parents of Charles Miller and states he is "still improving". Beatrice also mentions her parents were both taken away from her in early childhood.

Charles died at the residence of Beatrice's sister Susie and her husband Ben P. Hunt at 301 Holmes Avenue, Huntsville. According to family stories, Beatrice was a descendant of William Henry Harrison, our 9th President. I am trying to confirm this connection with a review of records on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

¹ *Huntsville Weekly Democrat*, 16 Oct 1901, page 3

From "*Alabama, U.S., Surname Files Expanded, 1702-1981*" I do find some details about Benjamin Powel Hunt².

"He was elected to the State legislature, 1896-1897; is state commissioner and a member of the board of trustees of the Agricultural and Mechanical college for Negroes at Normal: inaugurated the movement to secure the building of the Nashville Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad into Huntsville: was influential in the movement for better roads and in the abolition of seventeen saloons from Huntsville: is a Democrat; and a Presbyterian.

Married October 5, 1897, at Huntsville, to Susie Harrison, daughter of Perry L. and Elizabeth (Daniel) Harrison, who lived at that place, and a descendant of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and of William Henry Harrison, president of the United States." Since Beatrice and Susie have same parents - Perry L. and Elizabeth (Daniel) Harrison, they share same ancestry. But this is the only instance of records that reference Benjamin and William Henry Harrison besides "*The History of the House of Ochiltrees*" book, which states Beatrice is a cousin of the late President Harrison³.

² *Alabama, U.S., Surname Files Expanded, 1702-1981*, Image 121 in Humphrey-Hurley section

³ *History of the House of Ochiltree of Ayrshire, Scotland with the Genealogy of the Families of Those Who Came to America, and of some of the Allied Families (1124-1916)*, page 177

Perry L. Harrison was born in 1829 and died in 1885, when Beatrice was 8 years old, and Elizabeth Daniel Harrison was born in 1841 and died in 1890. I cannot link this Perry Harrison line to President Harrison.

President William Harrison was born in 1773 in Charles City County, Virginia, British Colonial America. His children were born between 1796-1825. I cannot find any male family members who lived in Alabama. The [lineage](#) traces to Northampton and Essex in England. I checked the female connections who have residences in Kentucky, New Hampshire, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois.

The father of Perry is Johnson Harrison married in 1825 in Madison County, Alabama. His family came from North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland. The [lineage](#) traces to Yorkshire, England.

So I believe this story about Beatrice is a family myth.

I found [newspapers.com](#)⁴ reference mentioning Miss Beatrice Harrison **without** reference to President

⁴ *The Courtland Enterprise*, 11 Feb 1898, page 3

Harrison. “Miss Harrison is quite a charming young lady and has made many admirers during her visit here.”

The earliest newspapers.com I could find was 1893⁵, again **without** reference.

Another newspapers.com⁶ article reports “Miss Beatrice Harrison is ill at her home on East Holmes street.” The [1900 United States Federal Census](https://www.census.gov/hist/1900/data/tables.html) says she was in household of Ben P. Hunt, who lived there.

Beatrice returned to Charles' home in Iowa with his remains. She was accompanied by her sister Carrie and the Hon. B. P. Hunt.

On June 9, 1903, Beatrice married⁷ an attorney, William Lester. They had one daughter, Mrs. Susan Smith, born 7 January 1915.

⁵ *Huntsville Weekly Democrat*, 9 Aug 1893, page 3

⁶ *The Atlanta Constitution*, 5 Mar 1900, page 6

⁷ Alabama, U.S., Select Marriage Indexes, 1816-1942, FHL Film Number: 1305710 V. 28-29