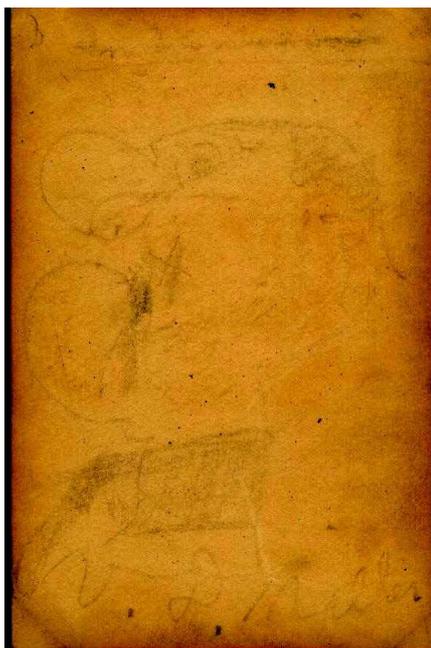


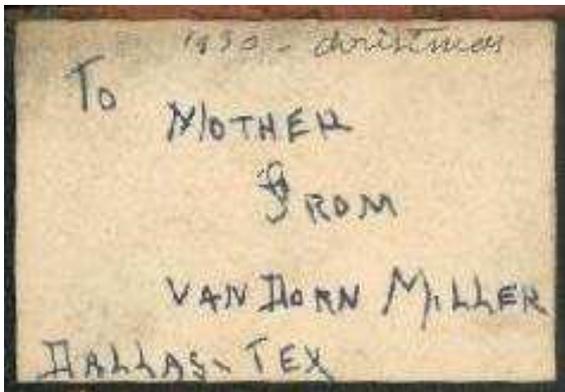


Above, an undated photograph of Van Dorn Miller. On the back is written his name, a caricature of a bearded man, and something illegible above the drawing (enhanced below).



**Earl Van Dorn Miller**, known as Van Dorn, son of Thomas Marshall Miller and Anna Letitia Dabney. Born at Vicksburg, Miss., 23 Jan 1882, m. Ida Crockett, d. 18 Aug 1945 in Dallas, Texas.

Van Dorn Miller was named after his grandmother's idolized brother, Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, and his uncle, Earl Van Dorn Miller. He was born while his father was an attorney in Vicksburg, and lived in Jackson while his father was Attorney General of Mississippi, and then spent his teenage years in New Orleans after the family moved there in 1894. His sister Emily recalls that Van Dorn was a troublemaker in his youth, and the family wasn't unhappy to see him move to Texas. Emily recalls being awakened one night by a commotion at the New Orleans home and hearing her father talking with the police chief. The next morning, she heard her father tell her mother that "Van Dorn came home from Texas, but he's gone now and won't be back." In Texas, he was living in poverty at Mineral Wells, just west of Fort Worth, when he and his wife Ida Crockett (about whom we know nothing) had their only child, Thomas Marshall Miller (19 Oct 1910 - 25 Dec 1996); Thomas left home at age 14 to make his own way in the world, working his way through high school and Houston Law School. Van Dorn sent his mother the picture below at "Christmas, 1930," labeled "Van Dorn - with little friend." On the back it is labeled Dallas, Tex. Van Dorn died on 18 Aug 1945; his sister Emily Miller Danton telephoned Earl's son Thomas at that time to inform him of his father's death in Dallas. Thomas Miller then asked his wife, Edith, "Is that a good area of Dallas?" She replied, "Yes." But she does not know if he did anything about his father's death. She said that his childhood was very difficult, and that she honored his request not to ask him about it.



Below is an enhanced portion of the picture.

After Van Dorn's son Thomas (senior Vice President and a Director of Delta Air Lines) died in 1996, two old family photographs were found with his papers. One is of Van Dorn's father, Attorney General Thomas Marshall Miller. The second is unidentified, but we wonder if it is of Van Dorn as a young man. It is from a Natchez, Miss., studio. On the back is written, "To Miss Hanna Eliot from an old friend."



**Sources:** *The Van Doorn Family* by A. V. D. Honeyman (Honeyman's Publishing House, Plainfield, NJ, 1909, reprinted in 1991), which includes much family information provided by Emily (Van Dorn) Miller. Photographs from Philip A. L. Miller and TMM.