



governor of Missouri, elected in November 1868.

After the Civil War, the families of David Farnham, John Hedges, William Newhardt, John Clark, John Hess, George Johnston, and George Heltzell, came to Miller County from Lycoming Co., Pennsylvania. All these families remained, with the exception of John Hess', and their descendants are numerous today in Miller County. Most came by train, arriving in Arlington (Phelps County), approximately 30 miles southeast of Miller County. From Arlington, they traveled the rest of the way by wagon. A few came by steamboat up the Ohio River to the Mississippi and then up the wide Missouri to Jefferson City. They finished their trek over land by wagon to the Big Richwoods of southern Miller County. After arriving in

Miller County, they began to plant fields of corn, wheat, and alfalfa. They also raised vegetables and planted a great deal of tobacco on their new acreage.

Most of the Pennsylvanians attended the only church in the area, which was the Big Richwoods United Baptist Church of Christ, but was known over the years as "Sulky Church." The old church was constructed of logs and built on the present site of Iberia Cemetery. Some old graves can still be found that surrounded the church, but I think it is possible there are some old pioneers buried in the area in unmarked graves.

The Pennsylvania children attended the one-room log school, called Allen School, located about a half mile east of present-day Iberia. The school was on land donated by Elias

Allen, who came to the Iberia area from Barren County, Kentucky. It was the only school in the Iberia area for many years. The school term only lasted about three months in the fall of the year after the crops had been harvested. The only subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling.

Through the years, these Pennsylvania pioneers continued to be important assets to the Iberia community. In 1890, when the Iberia Academy was begun, the children of these eastern pioneers were among the school's first students. By 1930, the Academy had graduated 299 students and 40 of that number were descendants of Pennsylvania settlers. These graduates continued on in higher schools of learning and became very successful men and

women. They became doctors, nurses, educators, attorneys, and businessmen and women.

The Pennsylvania Dutch/German pioneers left their eastern homes over 140 years ago, settling in Mid-Missouri, searching for their "promised land." Here they found bounty in the fields as they tilled the rich earth of the Big Richwoods. It was said they were in "a promised land where you had no need to work because the land is so rich you may plant a crowbar at night and it will sprout ten penny nails by morning." That was a far-fetched, enthusiastic report of our Missouri country, but it brought settlers to our territory and they left us a wonderful heritage.

Jim Henry - An Early Osage Indian of Miller County

By Peggy Smith Hake

Many years ago, before the white man arrived, Miller County was inhabited by the Osage Indian tribes. They lived mainly along the basin of the Big Tavern Creek, which was rich in vast forests and was plentiful with game and wildlife. It has been recorded that in 1822 an Indian village was located near the Barren Fork of the Big Tavern Creek. Evidently there were members of the Osage tribe who also settled north of the Osage River and lived close to the creeks and tributaries of the mighty Osage.

The Osage were the tallest tribe of Indians in North America, often

reaching a height of seven feet. Their proper name was Waszhazhe, but the French traders derived the name Osage from their original pronunciation and it has remained Osage for over two centuries.

Perhaps the most famous of the Osage Indians in the Miller County area was a man named Jim Henry. I am assuming he had a tribal name in the Osage language, but was dubbed Jim Henry by his white friends who homesteaded in the new frontier of Missouri territory. He was probably the last of the Osage tribe to live in Miller County and he was so popular that his name remains today in our county's history. A township, creek, church, cemetery, and school were named for him.

Jim Henry, his wife, and children

lived in a remarkable, natural stone house built by Mother Nature. Today it still stands on a hillside, in Jim Henry township, overlooking a beautiful green meadow. Highway 17 can be seen about one half mile to the west.

I visited this old stone cave a few years ago and was astounded at my first glimpse of this rock home, which is nothing more than an enormous, freak rock formation sitting atop the hillside. The residents of Jim Henry township refer to it simply as "The Rock House." It is approximately 60 feet in length, is circular in shape, and is approximately 25 feet high. With animal skins stretched over poles and used as walls to hold out the winter's cold, I could easily see

how this Indian family lived comfortably in their "rock house."

What happened to Jim Henry and his family is unknown. They disappeared from Miller County sometime in the time era of the late 1830's or early 1840's, and were never heard from again. In 1854, a man named Samuel Greenup patented the land on which the "Rock House" was located; and since that year, various families have owned the land, including the families of Martin, Fowler, Winters, Tellman, Johnston, Albertson, and for the past few years, it has been the home of the Schulte family.

As I left the hillside, where stands that unique, beautiful "House of Stone," my one thought was simply this: "Oh! If only those ancient walls could talk!"

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