



Miller County's Pioneer Families From Pennsylvania

By Peggy Smith Hake

There are many families living in Miller County today, primarily in Richwoods township, who are descended from some of the most remarkable pioneer folk you will ever hear about! These were the Pennsylvania Dutch/German ancestors who left their eastern homes to travel westward in search of a new land to homestead and settle.

In the time era of the late 1850's, prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Colonel James Moore and Matthew Brown joined forces and brought their families to Missouri. Both families traveled by train from Pittsburgh, PA, to St. Louis, crossed the mighty Mississippi on a ferry boat, and traveled the remainder of the way by wagon.

They brought a great deal of furniture and other items with them on this long trip including a Lincoln bedstead, bureau, flax spinning wheel, stove with an oven on top, old-fashioned child's cradle, silverware, chinaware, and several old books. The old books were printed on home-made paper and bound in leather, with publication dates ranging from 1813-1856. I understand a granddaughter of Colonel James Moore, Mrs. Charles Newhart, had possession of these articles in the 1930's.

Colonel James Moore had been a curator of the Lewisburg, PA (now Bushnell) University. His son, Edward, graduated from this fine old school in 1852.

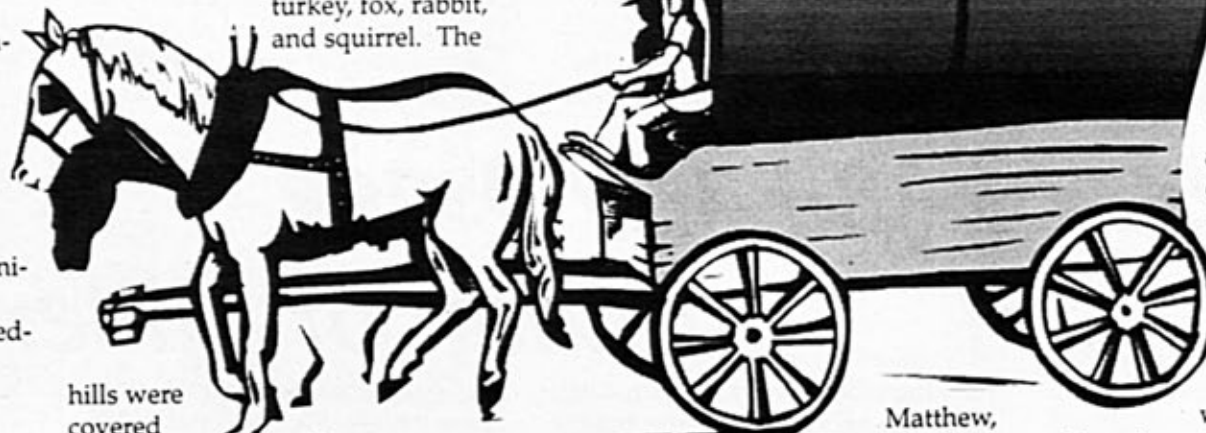
Matthew Brown was born in Lycoming Co., PA, near Williamsport in 1795. When he attained manhood, he moved to Clearfield, PA, and purchased a newspaper called, "The Clearfield Banner", which he published until 1837. That year he went back to his home county and settled near Uniontown (now Allenwood) and engaged in general merchandising where he conducted a profitable business until his decision to move to Missouri. While living near Uniontown, he owned his family farm, located 2 miles west of the small village. There he erected the largest barn in White Deer Valley in east central Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1859, the Brown and Moore families left White Deer Valley, Lycoming Co., PA, and headed toward Missouri. I am in awe of these pioneers when I realize they

were prosperous businessmen and landowners in their eastern homeland, but decided to start out on a new adventure in a strange land. It was told by some of the oldtimers that they hoped to find a good country to raise cattle and also provide work for their boys who may have otherwise grown up in idleness.

When the Pennsylvanians arrived in Miller County, they found the country wild and sparsely populated. Barn grass, higher than one's head, covered much of the fields and hills. Wild animals and game were plentiful, including deer, wolf, quail,

turkey, fox, rabbit, and squirrel. The



hills were covered

with dense woods in

part of the Big Richwoods with the oak and walnut most prevalent.

The Brown family purchased a tract of land containing 415 acres near the Tavern Creek, south of Iberia. Matthew called his new farm, "Brownsylvania." In later years, the farm was owned by David Petrikin, a grandson of Matthew Brown. Colonel Moore bought a place adjoining the Brown property, toward the west, containing 400 acres. Both families built log homes on their newly-acquired Missouri land. These homes were a 'new breed' of architecture introduced to our part of the country. The log houses were first built as two separate one-room units, but connected with a common roof. They were known as 'dog-trot' houses. Inside the covered space, between the two log cabins, hung the winter's supply of dried vegetables, wild animal skins, sides of bacon, and seed corn for next year's planting. Each unit had its own fireplace and as each family increased in size, rooms were added to the top of each cabin with an outside stairway for access. The only heat these rooms had was what drifted up from the room below.

Colonel Moore put up a building and opened a general store in their community south of Iberia. He had forwarded a stock of goods from Pennsylvania so he could establish his

mercantile trade in Miller County. But his store was short-lived because after only a few months, Colonel Moore died and his family had to close their new business.

Within a short time after their arrival in Miller County, the Civil War began. The Pennsylvanians were northern sympathizers. They entered this war, serving with the Union forces. John D. Brown, son of

Tallman), Jeremiah Tallman (son of Charles Tallman), William Brown Tallman, and John D. Brown. After the war, Jeremiah W. Tallman became active in Miller County politics, serving as Sheriff, Judge of the Probate County, and three times elected County Treasurer. Charles Tallman served as a justice of the peace for a number of years, served a term as an Associate Judge of the County Court,

and was appointed by the Governor to an important office in January 1869, but he died one month later from lung congestion.

The families of Charles and William Tallman, John Bennage, and Benjamin Groff, all of Lycoming County, PA, and William Irwin of Mifflinburg, Union Co., PA, came to Missouri just shortly before the Civil War. Colonel Moore had written these folks

telling them that the land was cheap, the countryside desirable, and a man's living was easy in Missouri. Due to his urging, they all moved to Miller County about the same time in the mid 19th century.

William Tallman was educated in the public schools at Williamsport and his first job was working for his father in the boot and shoe business. He later worked in Philadelphia at the same business trade. He learned surveying and assisted in laying out the new town of Lock Haven, PA, before finally getting the "westward fever."

Charles Tallman spent most of his life on his father's farm, across the west branch of the Susquehanna River near Williamsport. This is beautiful country today. In 1976, I took a trip through the eastern seaboard states and followed the Susquehanna River across Pennsylvania through Williamsport, Harrisburg, and southward into Maryland.

Charles Tallman married Isabelle Brown and they settled in White Deer Valley near the old Brown homestead. He and Isabelle reared their children on this farm and in the latter years of their lives, they sold the farm and came to Miller County, arriving in April 1860. Charles died in 1869, one month after being appointed to an important job by his personal friend, Joseph Washington Mc Clurg, the

at the famous "Battle of Wilson's Creek" near Springfield. He also participated in battles at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The Pennsylvanians had rough times during those dark years of the Civil War. They were northerners and had supported Abraham Lincoln in the election of 1860. Many men of the county were Confederate sympathizers and they formed a military company in the early spring of 1861, pledging allegiance to the southern cause and favoring succession. In May 1861, Articles of Confederation were drawn up by officers and riders of this newly-formed company, and they issued messages to all the Dutchmen in Richwoods township, including the Pennsylvanian Dutch and the German immigrants, that they must sign this Oath of Allegiance, but nobody responded! Talk about grit! In the following months, there were attempted lynchings, beatings, destruction of homes, livestock, and harvested crops, as well as abandonment of farms for long periods of time. This harassment continued for many months.

When military groups were formed in the Union Army, the younger Pennsylvanians enlisted and fought in many battles. Some of the soldiers were John Brown Tallman, Jeremiah W. Tallman (son of Wm.

Matthew, was wounded



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!"

Charlie's Cars, Inc.

"Excellent Financing Available"
499 Old Rt. 66 W.
St. Robert, MO 65584



Charlie Hance - Owner

(573) 336-3241 Fax: (573) 336-8869

Hair Styling

Sculptured Nails

FULL FAMILY SERVICE

Jo's Country Salon

9:00 - 5:30: Tuesday thru Saturday

573-759-2205



Hwy. 28 - 7 Miles
South of Dixon

7 Miles North of
Exit 163

SPE SUPPLY

SHELDEN PLUMBING AND ELECTRIC
1135 Historic 66 West - Waynesville, MO 65583

- HOURS -

Monday - Friday • 7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday • 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

573-774-5914