

# The Old Mitschele Place

This historic house, now owned and occupied by Doug and Debbie Adkins, looks out over fertile bottom land and towering cliffs along the Gasconade River on Highway 7, about six miles south of Richland. This is one of Pulaski County's most spectacular views.

The structure was built by Charles William Mitschele, who came from Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, to this part of Missouri with his parents in 1867. The family located near Hawkeye. But Charles moved to what later became known as the Mitschele place sometime in 1881. He married Elvira Mae Taylor March 18, 1883 (or March 15, 1873, according to another source). She gave birth to five children.

After Elvira died May 5, 1896, at the age of 40, Charles married Sarah Elizabeth Durham on June 3, 1897. Their union produced a daughter and a son, but the girl died at birth.

Mitschele worked the farm and even operated a ferry service across the Gasconade River to support his family. Once, when the river was dangerously flooded, a man asked Charles to help him get across to the other side. Mitschele told the man that it was way too dangerous to try to make a crossing of the rampaging



The Mitschele Place as it looks today.

waters. Completely undeterred, the insistent stranger told Charles that he would make it worth the risktaking.

Worn down by the impatient travelers' pestering, Mitschele finally relented and successfully got the man and his horse to the other side. The traveler gave him a gold dollar for the effort and con-

tinued on his seemingly urgent journey.

That dollar was kept by Mitschele's first wife, Elvira. One of her children later wrote the following note and wrapped it around the small gold coin:

*This is the gold dollar that was our mother's, Elvira (Taylor)*

*Mitschele, that Paw gave her. A man gave him (it) for swimming his horse over Gasconade River when the river (was) too high to run ferry boat. When (the) man got over river, (he) gave Paw this gold dollar, told Paw (to) take it (and) give to his wife.*

Charles William Mitschele died March 21, 1932, at the age of 77.

## Sunshine and Roses

If life were all sunshine and roses  
We'd weary, I think, of the glare;  
The petals would cumber our pathway;  
The perfume would burden the air.  
So give us the storm and the trouble,  
Let rain with our plans interfere,  
That we may rejoice at the season  
When roses and sunshine are here.  
For none of us cares for a deadly  
Monotonous sameness of things,  
To rob us of anticipation---  
The hope that eternally springs.

And so, while we worry through winter,  
We know there is coming a day  
When blossoms and birds will be waiting  
To cheer us again on our way  
To the place or the thing we are seeking,  
Though obstacles, fancied or real,  
Are placed for our minds or our muscles  
To conquer, surmount or conceal,  
By bluff or determination,  
And so keep us forging ahead,  
In search of the sunshine and roses  
To brighten the trails that we tread.

**By Charles Iden**