

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/archives/091116.html>

Settlers Come To The Vicinity of Eldon

The first settlers came to this county while it was still considered an Indian settlement and hunting ground. The first settler was William West, who came from Kentucky, and located in the northeastern part of the county in 1807. About 1815, William and Boyd Miller from Virginia, settled near the Spring Garden Prairie (photo 10).

These settlers were called “squatters.” They did not own the land on which they lived. Later when they had “claimed” the land, built homes, and had begun farming, they could buy this land at a low price from the government. The first land entry was made by William Miller, dated July 20, 1826. The first land to be bought in the immediate vicinity of Eldon was entered by Edmund Wilkes in 1829, and Jonathan D. Bills in 1829; followed by Alfred M. Houston, 1830; Louisa V. Nolan, 1831; Ebenezer Vernon, 1831; David P. Taylor, 1832; William Brockman, 1832; William Hanna, 1832; Willis Brock, 1833; Elijah Spencer, 1835. These and many others who followed within the next few years were to bear the names of many of the descendents who are now the present citizens of this town.

Most of the earlier settlers came from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. Many later came from Ohio, Illinois, and the extreme eastern states. They came in covered wagons pulled by oxen. They traveled over rough

roads or Indian trails, and endured many hardships and dangers on their long slow journey. But these people were courageous and looking forward. They were hopeful of building homes in a new country where the land was plentiful and full of promise.

http://www.millercountymuseum.org/bios/bio_s.html

When Emanuel and Judith Setser came to mid-Missouri in 1859, they settled in northwest Pulaski County (Tavern Township). Martha Catherine had married James C. Boren in Macon Co., NC in 1857 so they accompanied her parents to Missouri. Before his death, several years ago, I talked with Hite Boren, a son of Martha and James Boren. He was already past 100 years of age and had a wonderful and vivid memory. He told me the Setsers and Borens came from North Carolina in a wagon train made up of about 45 wagons. Other families who came with them were the Steens, Carrolls, McDowells, Legions, and Russells.....

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/archives/071022.html>

In 1938, Lon Stanton purchased land where the Pizza Hut is now located on Business 54, and constructed a factory ([photo 16](#)) to provide for increasing manufacturing capability. Business was good. And he met Pauline Vaughan ([photo 17](#)) who was working as a waitress at the White House and attending school in the Lake area. She, too, had a local family history that reached back to 1901 when her father, Wesley Vaughan, was brought as a baby

in a covered wagon from Arkansas. The Vaughans settled in the Mt. Carmel area of Miller County where they made railroad ties and helped in the construction of Bagnell Dam.

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/archives/100315.html>

Grandpa Thomas and Grandma Nancy married on Dec. 14, 1873. Six children were born to this couple, five girls and one boy. The first child was Elizabeth (Lizzie). She was born in 1875 and married Thomas Gray in 1894. They spent most of their life in Oklahoma, homesteading in 1900. They had two children by this time, Mary Ann, born in 1895 and Thomas, born in 1898. They traveled about 600 miles to western Oklahoma in a covered wagon with the two small children. They started in a sod house with Indians as their closest neighbors. Four more children, all boys, completed this family. Walter was born in 1903, John in 1906, Charlie in 1908, and Willie in 1911. Of the six children, Mary Ann was the only one who settled in Miller County. She married Dave Bailey and had two children, Jewell (married William Hixenbaugh), and Zella (married Gilford Barr).

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/080915.html>

The Archibald Small family came to Miller County, Missouri from near Princeton, Indiana about 1880. They came by covered wagon drawn by oxen. Evidently, some members of the family came first while others followed at a later date. Those coming were parents Archibald and Mary

Ann Small, sons Archibald, Arthur, Daniel, Willis, Levi and Hendricks and one daughter, Mary. A son named Perry, for reasons we do not know, did not accompany them. Also driving one wagon was an uncle named Johns. Hendricks, the youngest in the family, was four years old at the time. He told of riding on the seat by Uncle Johns because that was the fun place to ride. He said Uncle Johns never said “whoa” to the oxen, but always said, “Be still Buck and Lill” and the oxen stopped immediately. There were other funny things Uncle Johns said, such as “that gives me the heebee jeebies” and “for the nonce” (meaning for the time being).

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/090727.html>

Thomas Arrington, the eldest child surviving, born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, was married to Carrenhappock Sellars on July 31, 1834. She was born on December 9, 1816, in Dublin County, North Carolina. They came from Tennessee by covered wagon to Miller County, Missouri, in 1860 and upon arriving, he swapped a fine team of horses and a good wagon having new bed bows and sailing cloth, for several hundred acres of land in the Ginger Ridge community. Carrenhappock Sellars died on May 4, 1890; Thomas Arrington in 1898.

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/080114.html>

Dr. Allee's grandparents, William and Nancy (Hill) Allee, were married in Kentucky and in 1821, came by covered wagon to Missouri, taking up a land claim in the wilds about five miles north west of present day California, Moniteau County, Missouri. After arriving they built a small log cabin on their land and set up residence. They had eleven children after they came to Moniteau County: Miles Allee, Buford Allee, Preston Allee, Elizabeth Allee, James V. Allee (father of Dr. William), John Allee, Louisa Allee. William Allee, Thomas Allee, Nicholas Allee, and Alvin Allee.

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/081110.html>

On many occasions, Grandpa Bear would reminisce about many things. I wish I had been more attentive. Being only four years old when his family left Ohio, he couldn't remember much of the life there. He told me that after the sale, they took a steamboat down the Ohio River, then up the Mississippi River to St. Louis where they bought a covered wagon and a team of oxen and headed west, I think for Kansas. Being 13 in number, 9 boys, 2 girls, and the parents, they couldn't all ride. Grandpa and Uncle Ben, being 4 and six years old, rode with their mother while everyone else walked. It was probably December when they arrived in Miller County. Since winter was upon them,

they obtained some kind of shelter and stayed and never went on to Kansas. This first winter was spent near the present location of the Miller County Nursing Home. Uncle Andrew later went on to Kansas and was there for awhile with Billy being born there. I think his stay in Kansas was about two years.

<http://www.millercountymuseum.org/091130.html>

The Law family came into the Richwoods Township of Miller County in 1896 when Joseph Frederick Law and his wife Henrietta, parents of James Author Law, traveled by covered wagon from Pettis County (photo 04).

http://www.millercountymuseum.org/people/bio_j.html

When Nettie Jones marked her 100th birthday on March 17, 1977, she was featured on the front page of the Lake Sun newspaper and Marcellus Bosworth, Poet Laureate of Osage Beach, honored her in verse. Born in Upper Clinch, Tenn., Nettie came to the area as a child, in a covered wagon. Her six children were born in a farm home near Osage Beach. Nettie Jones died June 28, 1978.

