



*The Present*  
**Miller County Museum**  
**Historical Miller County**

A small group of 341 interested residents met in Tuscumbia, Missouri on March 26, 1979 and organized the Miller County Historical Society. The next meeting, April 8, 1979, drew 97 members who completed the by-laws, constitution and the not-for-profit status for the museum.

For almost 10 years, the "Old Jail on Courthouse Square" served as the museum, funded and managed by the historical society. It soon became evident that a more permanent home was needed as a "safe haven" for the many artifacts that had been accumulated. During 1988, an option for purchase was entered into with members of the Wright family, owners of the Old Anchor Milling structure located on Highway 52, in Tuscumbia. With assistance of many interested persons and businesses throughout the county, the Old Anchor Milling structure was acquired only eight months after the purchase option was signed.

The Museum serves as a monument to the proud heritage of Miller County. Take an interesting trip back in time as you visit a one room school house, a unique early American kitchen, an old toy room, a private tool collection, a weaving and spinning wheel display, a native-American exhibit, a county music display featuring musical instruments and music of the late Lee Mace of Ozark Opry fame. Enjoy a country general store, an exhibit featuring items from the Old Anchor Mill, a marvelous panoramic view of the construction of Bagnell Dam, compliments of Union Electric, plus many more displays you will see as you tour the two floors of exhibits.

# A Bit of History

by Gerard Shulz

Excerpt from *History of Miller County, Missouri 1932*

"The first historical inhabitants of Miller County were the friendly Osage Indians. In 1822, the Indians had a village at the joining of Barren Fork and Tavern Creeks, at the present Wilson Cave, named for John Wilson, who later occupied the cave. The first white man to record his visits in Miller County was Zebulon M. Pike who, with a group of Indians, traveled up the Osage River, passing by the present site of Tuscumbia in 1806.

Miller County became a county by an act of the Missouri General Assembly on February 6, 1837. A seat of justice was established at Tuscumbia on land donated by James P. Harrison. The first county court session was held in the log cabin of an early settler, John Miller, located down river from Tuscumbia.

The former courthouse was erected in 1859, a 2-story brick building. In 1913, an addition was made to the courthouse, which enlarged it to its present size with a cupola added to the roof area. The outside of the structure was completely covered with a native stone quarried from the bluffs of the Osage River, about a mile above Tuscumbia. The new courthouse is located on Highway 52.



*Old Miller County Court House*

# GOOD NEWS!

A DONOR will match all gifts to the Miller County Building Fund. Your contribution will be matched, on a one-to-one basis, up to \$50,000. That's a \$100,000 Boost for the building fund.

*Miller County artifacts and significant historical documentation are being made available to the museum and our display space is severely limited,*

## *Please Help!*

Your financial support is needed to permit the museum to grow and to expand the available display area. We already have a remarkable selection of Miller County related memorabilia, much of which we are unable to display due to the lack of space.

*Research area is also extremely limited. People who live in Miller County, as well as many who have ancestral ties to the county enjoy looking into their family history. Additional space and equipment will improve the process and encourage additional visitors to take advantage of this enjoyable endeavor.*

Come visit the museum, become a part of Miller County's history in the making. See for yourself the need for expansion and get behind this Fund Drive.

Ask yourself a few questions, such as:

**How can I help the Miller County museum to grow?**

**Which of my friends and family would be of assistance?**

**Who do I know that would enjoy getting involved in this worthwhile endeavor?**

Then act promptly to help get this show on the road! Make your pledge/donation...Today!