

## SPANISH LAND GRANTS

To get a land grant the following had to be done: clear part of the land, build a house, plant crops and swear loyalty to the King of Spain within a year and a day from the time the grant was received. To complete the title the claim had to be surveyed and the claim approved by the Governor General of the province, who was in New Orleans, This was a difficult matter in those days and only 13 had been completed from 1808 to 1833 the U. S. Land Commission Boards tried to untangle the mess. A few remained in doubt until 1835.

Giving special attention to the following we find in Deed Book C page 134 18 January 1810 William ROSS and Elizabeth, his wife, to Steven Stilly. For diverse good causes, \_\_\_\_ acres in Tywappity Twp; beginning at William ROSS upper corner on the bank of the Mississippi River, and bounded by the river. Signed William ROSS, Elizabeth ROSS. Witness Joseph Mosby, John Mosby, Edmond Hogan (Justice of the Peace). Recorded 25 January 1810. In Carter's Territorial Papers William is in the lists Cape Girardeau residents who signed petitions

1806 Petition to Congress to inhabitants of the territory 9 September 1811 William's son Enoch also signed. A Noah ROSS signed also. Pages 389 and 471.

Godspeed History of Southwest Missouri embracing a Historical Account of \_\_\_\_ is Cape Girardeau. At this time Tywappity was in Cape Girardeau County. Now is Scott County page 550.

## MORE LAND RECORDS

Several land records list William land location, such as bounded on the South of William ROSS land. These are not listed here. Two that might be of interest to other people are the following: 1 September 1813 Edmond Hogan and Tatsey, wife, of Stuart County, Tennessee selling Cape Girardeau, Missouri land 31 September 1817 Deed Book D Stephen Stilley, late of Cape Girardeau County. The following most important to us is:

Deed Book E page 536, 20 November 1819 Stephen Stilley and Elizabeth, wife of Polk County, Illinois to William ROSS and Jane, wife, for the sum of \$300 for \_\_\_\_ arpens in Tywappity Twp on the Mississippi River, beginning at the NE corner of William ROSS's survey. Signed Stephen Stilley, Elizabeth Stilley. Witness Edward Kew, John Baldwin, A.G. Young, Justice of the Peace in Gallatin County, Illinois, William Kelso Justice of the Peace. Recorded 17 November 1820. Stephen had given William \$400.00 in 1817 for this land. NOTE: Here we have Jane as William ROSS wife and is not the first wife in land transaction bottom of preceding page named Elizabeth. Source of land records in Collage of Cape County volume 23 number 2 pages 20 and 21.

## OLD APPLE CREEK CHURCH

On the second Sabbath in June 1816 the organization of Bethel Association met at Bethel Church and was opened by prayer by Thomas Donohue. A sermon was delivered by Elder James Edwards, after which an organization was effected. William ROSS was one of the delegates represented with Tywappity Church. Apple Creek Church was first known as an arm of Bethel Church and was given a second organization about 1820

Apple Creek church near Pocahontas, Cape Girardeau, County, Missouri was a Presbyterian church. Anniversaries were celebrated in May of each year from 1871 to 1921. May was also the month of the annual meetings. In 1996 the Collage of Cape County printed an address by John A. Hope, Sunday May 22, 1926 titled Old Apple Creek Church and its Early Membership.

It was organized in 1821. Willis Knox Sketch of Apple Creek Church published 1911; the following persons met here on 21 May 1821 and organized this church. Not long after the organization of the church the name ROSS was in the congregation and member of the church. Zenas ROSS farm was on the road to Pocahontas to Neilley's Landing. Zenas ROSS was born 12 March 1802 and died 20 September 1862.

William ROSS has a Spanish Grant near the present Thebes Bridge. The place was then called Ross Point. He had a son, John Ross and Hannah Harris his wife.

William ROSS was living on the river just below Cape Girardeau that Oliver Harris whose sister married a ROSS, and Oliver Harris on coming to Missouri would naturally have selected a place on the river near his sister. Oliver Harris father was Robert Harris and Grandfather James Harris. Every name has an interesting background. Ancestors of each of them figure bravely, honorable and conspicuously in the history of the struggles of the Scotch in Ireland for civil and religious liberty in our colonial and revolutionary annals, giving a history of the beginning would be like giving a history of the Presbyterian faith. It would be the story of the Scotch Irish from the time, early in the homes in Ireland and settled in what were then the frontiers of Pennsylvania. We would have to trace the family to the individual under discussion, through the Valley of Virginia, into the Carolinas, and Tennessee and on to Missouri on the frontier, founding homes, churches, communities, counties and commonwealths; building first, where ever the family settled a Presbyterian church and beside it a school house.

The North Carolina Settlement in Cape Girardeau County which centered around this church was an important event in the founding and development of the state. It may not be amiss to note the condition of this section of the country at the time our forefathers settled here. This entire northeast corner of the country was a wilderness. The Shawnee Indians had a village on Indian Creek, west was a big town of Shawnee and Delaware Indians near the mouth of Apple Creek. The nearest inhabitants, other than the Indians, was the Byrd family on Byrd Creek near Jackson; John Hays, first sheriff of the county and Register of the Land Office, who then lived on the river at the place now known as Lovejoy; John Logan and General Henry Seibert on Apple Creek at the place later known as Wilkerson.

From the Collage of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, General Quarterly June 1966.