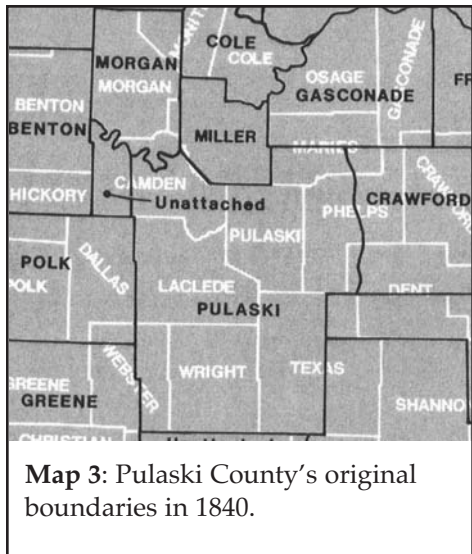




As you can see by Map 3, the original Pulaski County encompassed a large area, too. It contained parts or all of present day Camden, Laclede, Wright, Texas, Phelps, and Maries. This is the area we refer to as "Old Pulaski". Settlers sometimes referred to "Ol' Pulaski" but whether they were referring to this larger area or were using a term of endearment is not clear.

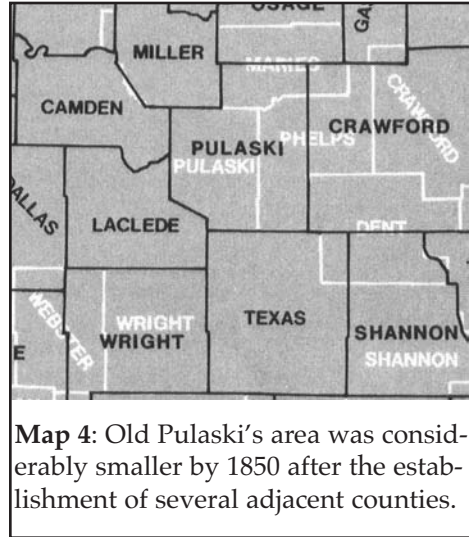
In the two decades prior to the Civil War, population gradually increased as settlers from primarily Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Kentucky pushed westward. Pressure for a more local govern-



**Map 3:** Pulaski County's original boundaries in 1840.

ment spurred the contraction of the larger Pulaski County.

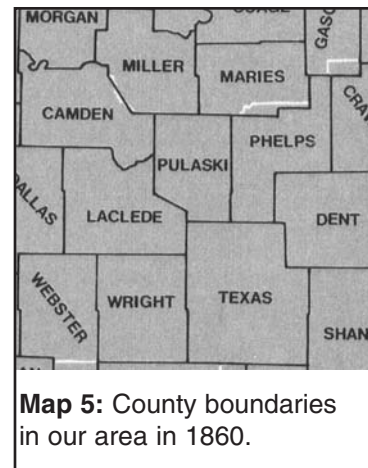
Miller County was created in 1837. Four counties were created out of the Old Pulaski territory: Wright (1841), Camden (1841), Texas (1845), and Laclede (1849). This resulted in the configuration of 1850 (Map 4).



**Map 4:** Old Pulaski's area was considerably smaller by 1850 after the establishment of several adjacent counties.

With the formation of the counties mentioned above, Pulaski's area was reduced by more than 50 percent. The stage was set for the final evolution to the present boundaries. Maries County was created in 1855, taking the northern tier of Pulaski. Phelps County was char-

tered two years later, in 1857. This removed a sizable area on the eastern boundary.



**Map 5:** County boundaries in our area in 1860.

Final county boundaries were completed statewide in 1881 with a slight movement of the line separating Moniteau and Morgan counties, which are located northwest of Miller County.

### What's in a Name?

**Pulaski County**-Organized January 19, 1833, from Crawford County and named for Casimir Pulaski, Polish general of the American Revolution.

**Camden County**-Organized January 29, 1841, from Benton, Morgan and Pulaski counties and named for Charles Pratt, Earl of Camden. Originally named Kinderhook County

in honor of President Martin Van Buren's New York home. The name was changed to Camden on February 23, 1843.

**Wright County**-Organized January 29, 1841 from Pulaski county and named for Silas Wright, a New York senator.

**Texas County**-Originally defined by the legislature as Ashley County on February 17, 1843, the name was changed upon organization in 1845 to Texas for the Republic of Texas.

**Laclede County**-Organized February 24, 1849, from Camden, Pulaski and Wright counties and named for Pierre Laclede Ligest, founder of St. Louis.

**Maries County**-Organized March 2, 1855, from Osage and Pulaski counties and named for the Maries River.

Maries is probably a corruption of the French "marias" meaning "marsh" or "swamp." The Maries River, like the upper reaches of the Osage River, was once said to be called Le Marias de Cygnes or "Marsh of Swans."

**Phelps County**-Organized November 13, 1857 and named for John F. Phelps, congressman and later governor of Missouri.

Source: Missouri State Archives.

Maps 2-5 from **Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920** by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide. Used with permission.