

# INDIAN SETTLEMENTS IN PULASKI COUNTY

This area was not in the main population areas of the Osage Indians. The main Osage villages were west of the Ozarks. However, hunting parties of the Osage were known to have come into the area from time to time.

Shawnee and Delaware Indians, who migrated into the state from the Eastern United States in the late 1700's, were temporary residents in the early 1800's. They later migrated to Kansas and other points west.

Cherokee Indians camped in the Waynesville area in 1837 on their "Trail of Tears" journey into Oklahoma.

Evidence of Indian occupancy of the area has been documented by archaeological exploration of caves, villages, and campsites. The University of Missouri in 1961 began an archaeological investigation of the Gasconade River Valley. During this investigation, a village site on the banks of the Gasconade River near Bartlett Mill Spring in the Waynesville area was tested. Other locations investigated were at Mossy Spring and Merrell Cave in Pulaski County, Tick Creek Cave in Phelps County, and Ramsey Cave in southern Maries County.

The village site near Waynesville was on the property of the late Dru

Pippin. Bartlett Mill Spring is located just west of the site, as well as Bartlett Cemetery.

Excavation of this site revealed an old refuse heap, which had been leveled by subsequent cultivation. Discovered were a concentration of pottery sherds, mussel shells, and some animal bones exposed on the surface. Most of the animal bones were those of deer. Such trash heaps were still visible on villages as late as the early years of this century in this area.

Merrell Cave was first reported by Bruce Debo and Harry Rench of Devil's Elbow. It is located about a mile south of Devil's Elbow up Woodland Hollow near the Big Piney River. Much evidence of prehistoric Indian occupancy was observed by the 1961 archaeological investigation.

Discovered at one level of this cave were the bones of a semi-flexed young adult in a shallow basin-shaped pit. Believed to have been buried with the young man was a projectile point and a scraper. At other locations in the cave were various arrowheads, pottery, and other artifacts.

Investigation of Tick Creek Cave, in Phelps County north of Newburg, revealed extensive utilization by Indians. A rather comprehensive archaeological study of this

cave was undertaken in 1961 and 1962 by Ralph G. Roberts and Jack Scrivner of Rolla.

In addition to a large amount of pottery and other artifacts, Tick Creek Cave contained about 40,500 bones. A study of these bones revealed early residents of the cave enjoyed a diet which included white-tailed deer, rabbits, striped skunks, raccoons, squirrels, and turkeys. One puzzling aspect of the finds was the almost complete absence of fish remains, which may have indicated a matter of preference of the Indian occupants for white-tailed deer and other animal food sources found in abundance at that time in the area.

While even the most avid wild game lover would not consider striped skunk a delicacy today, the Indian residents of Tick Creek Cave probably supplemented their basic deer meat staple with striped skunk, as well as raccoon and beaver. Cottontail rabbits also were a favorite of the Indians, as witnessed by some 405 remains found in the cave.

Other bones discovered in Tick Creek Cave included those of Black Bear, badger, muskrat, mink, bison, otter, spotted skunk, gray fox, gray wolf, mountain lion, bobcat, woodchuck, elk, passenger

pigeon and Canada Goose.

Likely co-inhabitants of this cave were snakes of several varieties. Of the remains discovered, 87 percent were those of rattlesnakes and copperheads while 13 percent were from non-poisonous species.

Mr. Roberts, in his summary and conclusions of the investigation of Tick Creek Cave, quoted a report by Paul Parmalee of the Illinois State Museum: "Preference on the part of the Indian and

the abundance and availability of a species were probably the most significant factors governing the utilization of any given animal. Paucity of waterfowl remains...was one indication of localized hunting."

On the basis of evidence of animal remains and artifacts discovered, Roberts concluded it could be assumed Tick Creek Cave was occupied intermittently some 8000 years ago by

small nomadic groups that used the cave as a temporary shelter.

When the last Indians used the cave is not known. It may have been used for shelter by small groups of Indians passing through the area and seeking shelter.

(Editor's Note: Our thanks to Ralph G. Roberts for permission to use information from his report on the investigation of Tick Creek Cave.)

## OLD SETTLERS' NAMES

By J. B. King

The early settlers in Pulaski County had a flair for unusual names. If you study the federal census for 1850 and 1860, you will find some names that would be very easy to remember.

Since the early settlers were known to frequently study the Bible, it seems obvious that Shadrach Wrinkle's parents were well versed. The same might also be said for the parents of Baadam Barnes. The same group of folks may have helped name Baalam Baker and Heman Chapman.

The political thoughts of the 1850 era were very intense. So was the pride of the people who helped expand the frontier westward. The pride involved in helping a country grow carried over to

the naming process. It seems obvious that Miss Missouri Merrill and Miss Missouri Hastings hailed from Missouri. Likewise, Mr. Pulaski Bench lived in Pulaski County. We could also take a quick guess where Nichodemus Laquey lived.

During the early 1800's a large number of foreign immigrants came to the U.S.A. from the "old country". Thus, we might guess Fiat Musgrave had some connection with Italy. Kilsa Duncan may well have had thoughts of Sweden.

The influence of poetry on the American way of life may have helped some parents when naming their new family members. Lefa Welsh and Mournig Lossden tend to roll off the tongue.

The names Gemima Gerrill and Flomida Deer have a certain ring to them. Lilphia Frisbee sounds like a member of a new rock group.

Just plain unusual names such as Locky Elam, Ptolema Bryan or Exile Skinner hardly rate a comment. We will end our little list with Narcissa Poteet.

Now for a word of warning. All of the people named lived in Pulaski County during the 1850's and 1860's. If you should decide to make fun or rude comments about any of these folks, it might be wise to know something about the family tree of the person standing next to you. Otherwise, you may be going way too far out on a limb.

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