

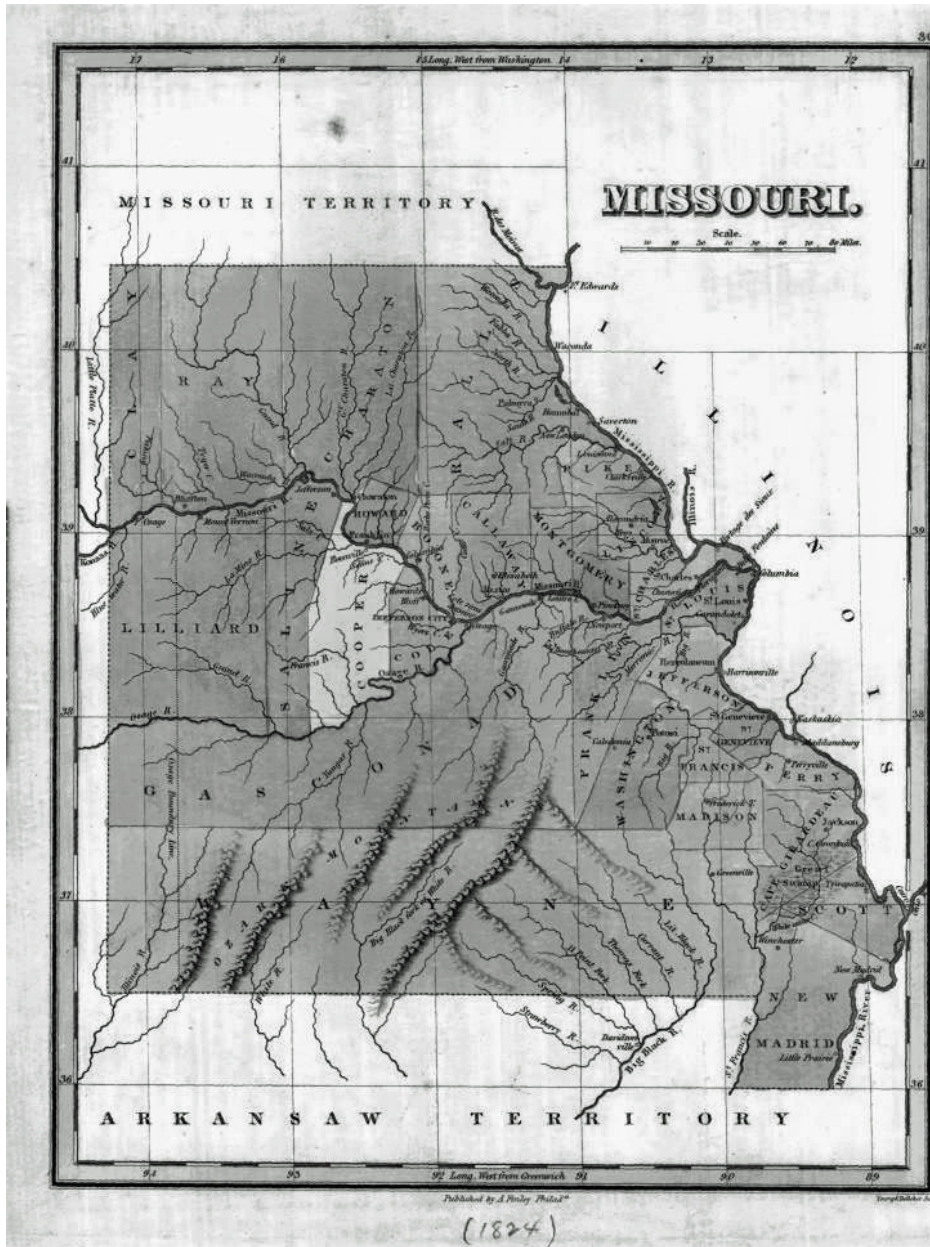
Missouri 1682-1912

As part of the Louisiana Purchase territory, Missouri belonged to three nations: France, Spain, and the United States. First claimed for France by LaSalle in 1682, Missouri was ceded to Spain in 1762,

returned to France by secret treaty in 1802, and then sold to the United States in 1803.

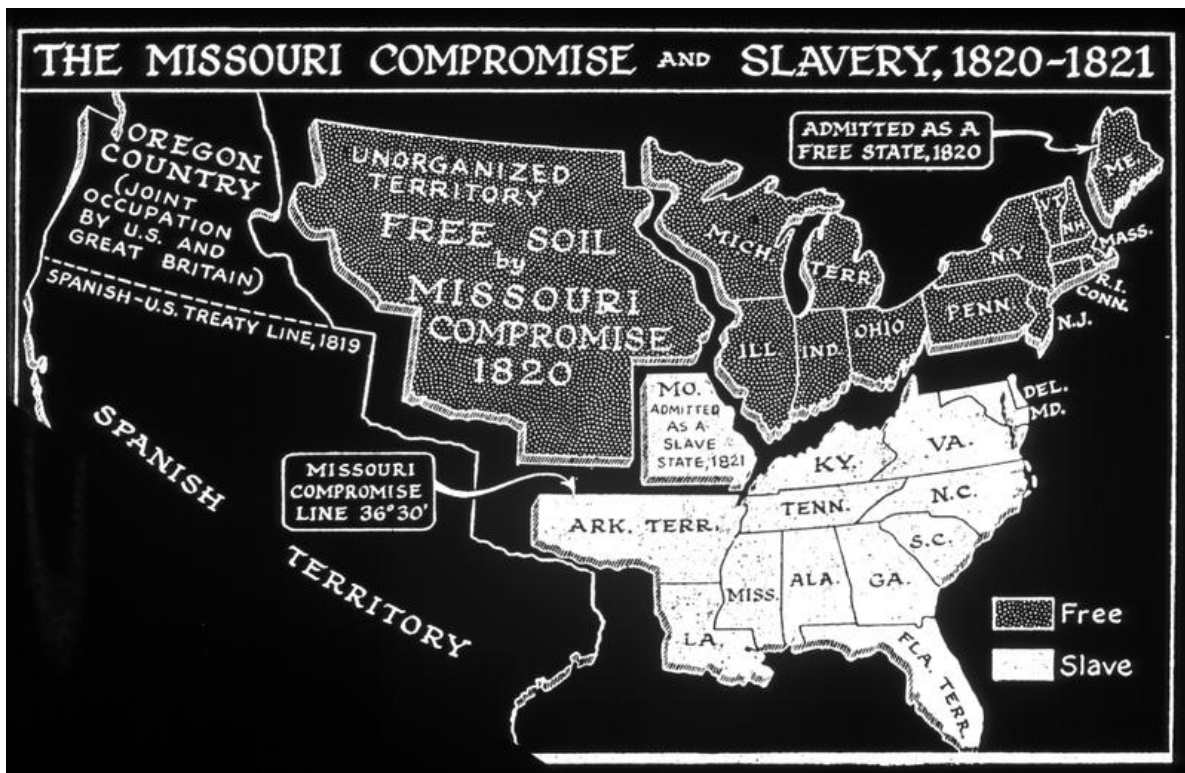
It was the French who were responsible for the first permanent settlement of Ste. Genevieve in the mid-1730s. This settlement was the only one in the huge Upper Louisiana Territory until the establishment of St. Louis as a fur trading post in 1764. Because of its excellent location where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi, St. Louis then became the largest settlement in the state and today is one of the nation's larger cities.

By secret treaty in 1802, Spain



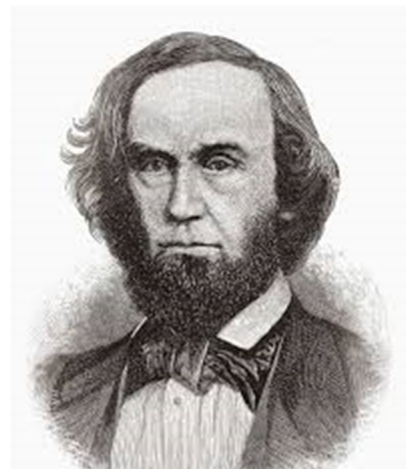
ceded the Louisiana Territory back to France. Napoleon Bonaparte, anxious to rid himself of the vast and troublesome frontier, sold it to the United States in 1803 for a total of \$15,000,000. About this time President Thomas Jefferson organized the Lewis and Clark Expedition which was the first extensive exploration of the northwestern part of the new territory and began exploration in 1804. Missouri was organized as a territory in 1812 and was admitted to the Union as the 24th state on August 10, 1821. It was the second state (after Louisiana) of the Louisiana Purchase to be admitted to the Union.

In 1820, the Missouri Compromise was passed whereby Missouri was to be admitted as a slave state and Maine as a free state. More importantly, Congress's consideration of Missouri's admission and the



discussion of sectional balance began the competition between the southern and northern states for power in Congress and for control over future territories. Leading up to the passage of the Missouri Compromise, the issue of slavery extension was thoroughly debated for a year in Congress and throughout the nation. Speeches and writings revealed the sectional differences that eventually tore the Union apart. An unsuccessful attempt was made in 1848 to broaden the Missouri Compromise to include the territories gained in the Mexican war and the Missouri Compromise was repealed by the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act and declared unconstitutional in the 1857 Dred Scott decision. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress did not have the authority to abolish slavery in the territories, and that therefore the Missouri Compromise had been unconstitutional. Ironically, Missouri did not become a strong slave state, and did not secede from the Union during the Civil War.

At the beginning of the Civil War, most Missourians wanted only to preserve the peace, but the state governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, was strongly pro-southern and attempted to align Missouri with the Confederacy. He and most of the legislature were forced to flee to southern Missouri where they actually passed an ordinance of secession. This government was not recognized by most Missourians.

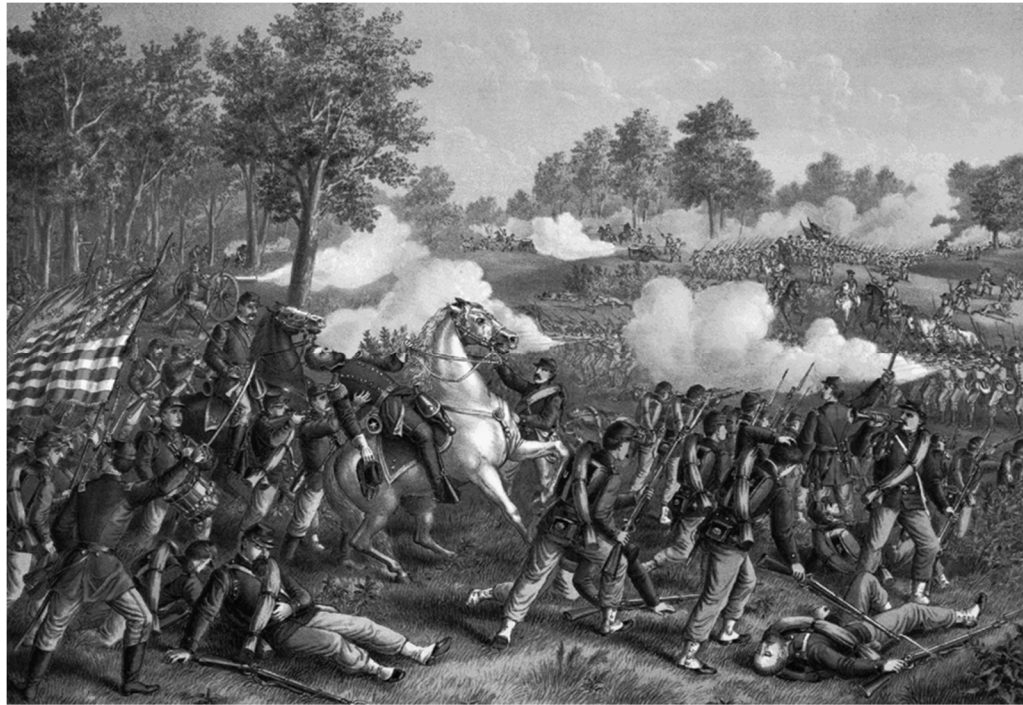


Claiborne Fox Jackson

The most important and bloodiest Civil War battle fought in Missouri was the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield. Other important battles in Missouri were fought at Carthage, Lexington, Westport and Boonville, the first engagement within the state. Missouri contributed 109,000 men to the northern cause while sending at least 30,000 men into the Confederate ranks.¹ The state of Missouri witnessed the most widespread, prolonged, and destructive guerrilla fighting in American history. With its horrific combination of robbery, arson, torture, murder, and swift and bloody raids on farms and settlements,

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the conflict approached total war, engulfing the whole populace and challenging any notion of civility. Ordinary civilian men and women struggled to survive amid the random terror perpetuated by both sides.²



Battle of Wilson's Creek 1861

At the war's end, people slowly began to rebuild their communities and farms as they crawled out from under the ravages of the conflict. Rural areas began to see more settlers arriving from the east in covered wagons. Because of the war and the post-war economic conditions, land was cheap. Some homesteaders had abandoned their property and others couldn't pay the taxes to keep it. Land could be bought from speculators and at sheriff's sales. Old communities were refurbished and new ones sprang up.

During the period following the Civil War, 1865-1912, the population of Southeast Missouri increased from 20,000 to 130,000 and there was a similar increase in resources and general social and industrial development. One of the most powerful influences on growth was the arrival of the railroads. Along with the railroads and mining, the most valuable timber in all of the United States was found in Southeast Missouri and the railroads and rivers provided means for transporting the timber.

This backdrop of history helps to understand the genealogy of the William Johnston family in Missouri. The earliest family settlers set down roots in the Missouri soil; these roots were maintained for generations. Not much is known about the family origins but from the shadows of early Missouri history and with definitive records of later years, a vivid picture of determination and family pride develops. There are still missing pieces and many of the family stories only contain very brief outlines of lives lived. Hopefully, others will add to the stories presented here.

Current River Basin

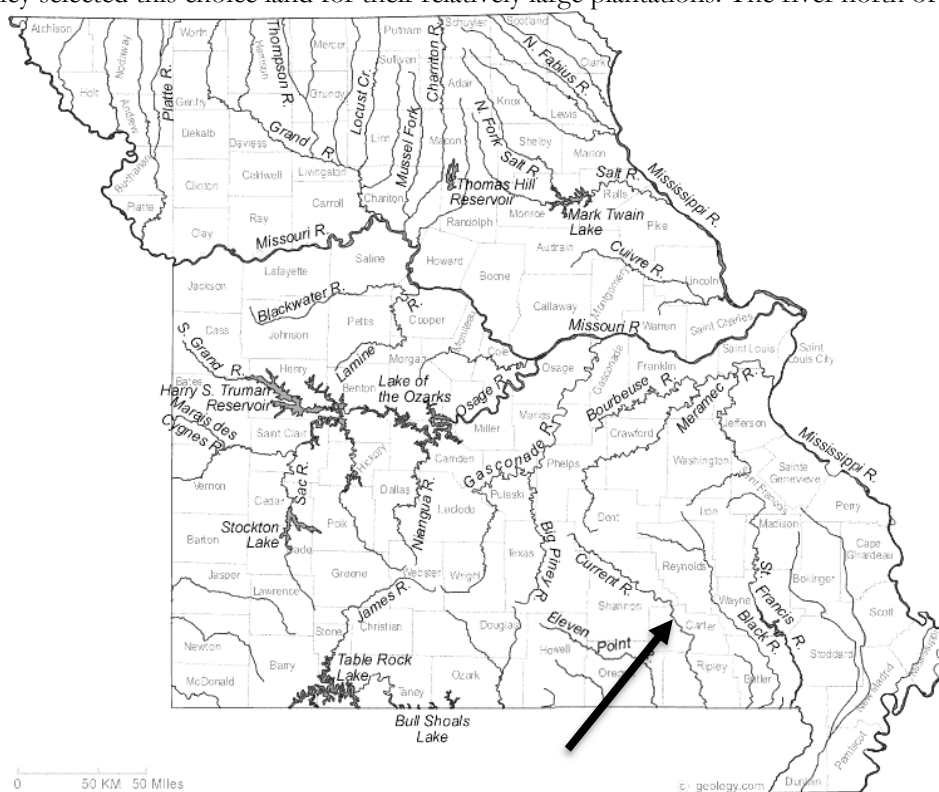
The early settlers in the Current River basin in Southeastern Missouri for the most part were native-born Americans of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Up to 1850, ninety-eight percent of the people who moved into this area followed three basic migration paths: a central route from Kentucky and Tennessee, a northern one from Illinois and Indiana, and a southern one from Alabama and Arkansas. Three-fourths of the adult settlers migrating to these hills during the 1840s were born in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina.³ The early settlers were part of the westward movement and adapted their "stockman-farmer-hunter" economy to the wooded hills in the river basin. Before the invasion of land speculators, the Civil War, the railroads and large-scale timber industry, the settlers had

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little contact from the outside society. Life was simple for these pioneers but carried with it long hours of work and many hardships.⁴

The settlement patterns along the Current River reflected a basic difference in the economic pursuits between the upper and lower Current inhabitants. Along the Upper Current, above Van Buren, a frontier self-sufficiency prevailed where the settlers typically made a living by herding, hunting, farming and trading. Farms were most often forty to eighty acre farms with several acres fenced off for crops. In the lower Current River valley, below Van Buren, the presence of larger commercial farms and some farms considered plantations, marked a contrast from the Upper Current self-sufficiency. Here in the south, the Current River widened and created wider more fertile valleys. Early settlers such as Zimri Carter and Isaac Kelley selected this choice land for their relatively large plantations. The river north of Van Buren became shallow during the summer, while the lower Current was navigable for small boats and barges throughout the year. It provided access to outside markets for the crops of the larger commercial farms. The river was very important to the area.

Records of the pre-1820 size of the population on the Current River are sparse. During his 1818-1819 excursion through the Ozarks, Henry



R. Schoolcraft generally commented that “many plantations and farms” occupied the banks of the Little Black, Current, Eleven Point, and other rivers of the area. The first pioneers that are well documented include Isaac Kelley, Zimri Carter, and Thomas Boggs Chilton., whose families became long established and prominent along the river ways. Carter and Chilton are prominent names in the Johnston history.

In 1840, inhabitants of Ripley and Shannon counties in Missouri petitioned the 26th US Congress for funds to improve the Current River so that the river was navigable for steamboats. Among the signers of this petition that was presented 20 Mar 1840 were Zemira (Zimri) Carter, Charles T. Chilton, T. C. Chilton, Shadrack Chilton,⁵ John W. Faddin, John Chilton, Charles Mann, Arnold Mann, Finis Mann, and William Johnston.⁶ It is believed that these last two were the William Johnston and Finis Mann presented in this family history.

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William Johnston and His Descendants

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Although few facts have been found for our ancestor, **William Johnston**, his story can be put together from bits and pieces of facts and from the background of Missouri history. It is believed that William Johnston was either born about 1805 in the Ripley County area of southeastern Missouri⁷ or was an early settler. Goodspeed's *Southeast Missouri History* (1888) records that William was a native of Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri and had three children: Elizabeth, Lucinda and Frederick M Johnston. Robert E. Parkin, one of the earliest genealogical researchers in St. Louis, Missouri and founder of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, also reports William was a native of Ripley County. According to county records published by Mountain Press, William was a Justice of the Peace in Ripley County in 1832. In the 1850 census there was a Ripley County township called Johnston Township but after 1850, Johnston Township is not listed. Currently there is a Johnson Township located in the northeastern corner of Ripley County that was reorganized and relocated in June 1871. "It took the name from a pioneer family, William Johnson, who came in the early 1820s."⁸ It is possible that these two men were one and the same since the "t" is often left off the name Johnston.

It is definitely known from census records that William Johnston was a farmer⁹ and he may have had relatives in the area. The 1840 Census of Ripley County includes William Johnston and James Johnston, both on page 351, and Adam R. Johnston on page 349. The same census listed William Johnston as a slave holder with 2 male slaves. Jerry Ponder, in his *History of Ripley County*, lists Johnston has owning 16 slaves, the highest number in the county.¹⁰



Recent DNA testing by William Johnston's great-great-granddaughter, sheds more light into William's family. The test shows a "high confidence" relationship (4-6th cousin) between Virginia Ann Johnston Dolce (William Johnston) and Frances Brown, a descendant of Adam R. Johnston. According to Frances, Adam was born about 1815 in Missouri, lived in Ripley County in 1840, and then in 1850 moved to Texas and settled along the road from Llano to Austin. He was married to Lucinda Martha Bridgeman. His son-in-law, Benjamin Franklin Davis, was appointed sheriff in Llano County in 1864. This part of the family history is not chronicled here, but Frances Brown has compiled a great deal of the story of Adam R. Johnston and his descendants. This history will concentrate on William's descendants.

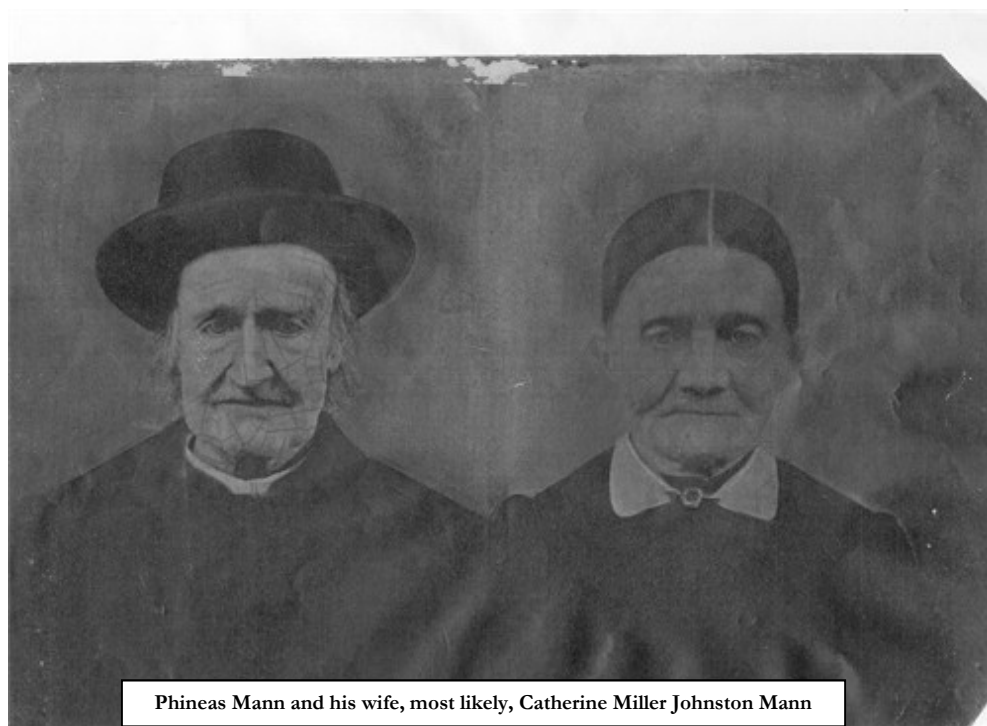
The actual land that William Johnston owned has not been identified. Several land grant documents in the name of William Johnston have been discovered, but again, it is not definitive that any of the grants belonged to the William Johnston in this family history. William Johnston's grandsons, William and Eugene, owned farm land in Ripley County (The south half of the southeast quarter of Section 15; and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 22, that lies north and east of Logan Creek; also the west half of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, and that part of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 22 that lies East of Logan Creek, all in Township 23, North, Range 3 East and containing 156 acres) but again, it is not known if this land originally belonged to their grandfather.

A curious side note is that Dean Johnston, of St. Louis County, Missouri obtained a land grant in Reynolds County, Township 32N, Range 2 W, Section 15. A descendant of William Johnston was named "Dean Johnston" and family names, both maternal surnames and given names, were regularly passed to later generations in the Johnston family. Unfortunately, no further information on Dean Johnston of the land grant has been found but the coincidence makes for interesting speculation.

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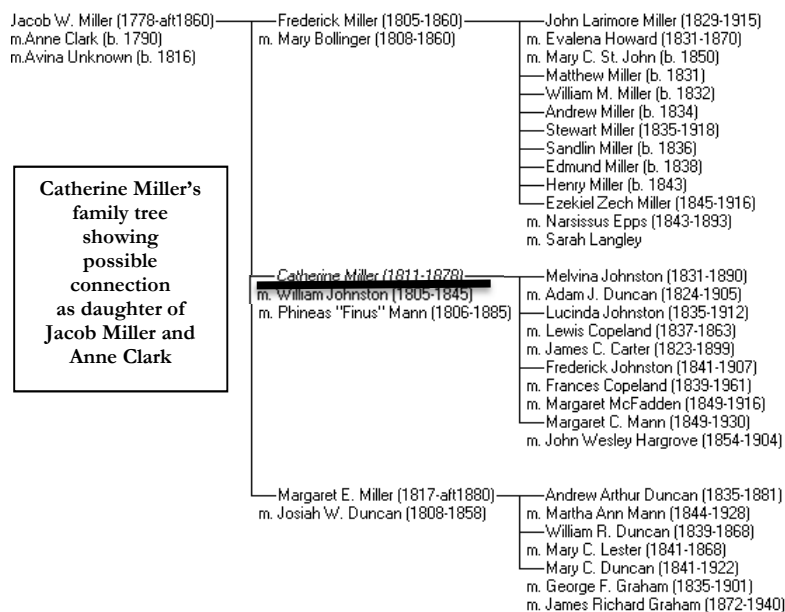
William married **Catherine Miller**¹¹ who was born about 1811.^{12,13,14} More information is known about Catherine than William, but still, these facts often conflict. Her birth location is listed as Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina on various census lists. She may have been the daughter of Jacob W. Miller and Anne Clark(e) and sister of Frederick Miller and Margaret Ellen Miller. Jacob Miller was born in 1772 in Virginia and died after 1860 in Wayne County. DNA connections exist between descendants of Frederick Miller and Catherine Miller, but documentary evidence has not been found for the relationship.

William and Catherine were married about 1830 and had three children. The William Johnston household in 1840 had 5 residents including William and Catherine, a



Phineas Mann and his wife, most likely, Catherine Miller Johnston Mann

male between 20 and 30, one female under 5, and another female between 5 and 10. The two young girls were obviously the children of William and Catherine. It is not known who the 20-30 year old male was.



Catherine was left as a young widow when William died between 1841 and 1849. Some descendants place his death between 1844 and 1845 in Ripley County, Missouri^{15,16} and the Robert E. Parkin-Johnston Genealogy puts his death in 1844.¹⁷ His burial location is unknown.

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Following William's death, Catherine married Phineas "Finis" Mann who was born in Kentucky in about 1806. Finis was a farmer and a slave owner,¹⁸ as was William Johnston, and is believed to be the

[illegible]

son of Jacob Mann and Mary Arnold who were married in Christian County, Kentucky on 27 Feb 1788. The Mann family seems to be one of the first, if not the first, settlers to come to the southern part of present day Reynolds County.¹⁹ The prodigious Mann clan seems to be one whose majority had traveled en masse westward to Missouri from Kentucky. By 1860 an extensive linear area along each side of the Black River in Reynolds County, from what is now the Riverside State Forest (including the Clearwater Lake Basin) north to just about the intersection of Highway K and initially consisting of almost 1700 acres of government land, was owned by one or another member of the Mann family. Locally, this became known as the “Mann Settlement.” The Manns were all farmers who primarily raised livestock.²⁰ Finis first married Deanna Duncan on 5 Mar 1835. Deanna, whose name is also found as Dianna or Vianna, was born on 25 Dec 1813 in Kentucky and died about 1840 in Ripley County, Missouri. Following Deanna’s death and following William Johnston’s death, Finis married Catherine Miller Johnston. The Johnstons and the Manns were most likely neighbors. Certainly, the two families knew each other, as both William and Finis signed the 1840 Current River petition.

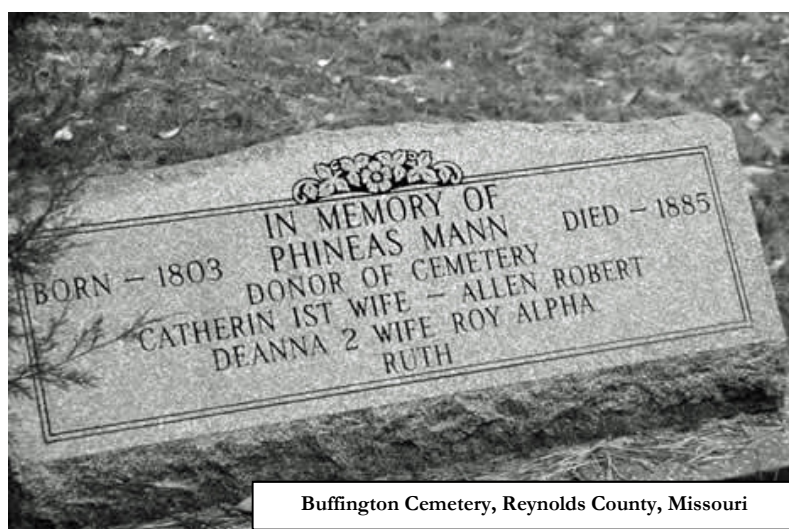
Following their marriage, Catherine and Finis lived in Logan, Reynolds County, Missouri in 1850. This part of Reynolds County was originally part of Ripley County until 1845. The 1870 census also has

115	115	Phineas Mann	44	M	do	500	Kentucky	✓	1	
		Catharine do	40	F			Missouri	✓		1
		Encinaa do	14	F			do	✓	1	
		Sarah do	14	F			do	✓	1	
		Perry do	11	M			do	✓	1	
		Allan do	9	M			do	✓	1	
		Frederick do	8	M			do	✓	1	
		Mary do	6	F			do	✓	1	
		Margaret do	3	F			do	✓	1	
		Malvina do	12	F						
			14	F						

Catherine, Finis, Sara, Allen, and Margaret Mann living in Logan Township. Catherine and Finis Mann appear together for the last time in the 1876 Missouri State Census of Township Thirty Range Two East in Reynolds County. Finis owned three horses, 1 mule, one jack, 10 head of cattle, 11 sheep and thirty-six hogs; he produced 36 bushels of wheat and 30 pounds of wool.²¹ Neither Finis nor Catherine was able to read or write.²² According to their tombstone, Catherine died in 1878 in Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri and Finis died in 1885. Both are buried in Buffington Cemetery, Reynolds County, Missouri.²³

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The Buffington Cemetery is on land that once belonged to Finis Mann. Mann deeded twenty acres of his farm land to the local community to be used as a cemetery and the story was told by old timers in the community that Finis had his funeral preached while he was still living. His reason was that he wanted to hear what was said about him while he was living. The cemetery is located in Webb Township, Reynolds County, Missouri. The tombstone marker, added in



Buffington Cemetery, Reynolds County, Missouri

recent years, lists Catherine as his first wife and Deanna as his second wife. According to existing records this appears to be backward: Catherine was his second wife. A record was found in the

1870 Census, Logan Township, Reynolds County, Missouri											
1											
2											
3	64	64	William	Finis	65	M	W	Farmer	1500	1200	Head of Family
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9	65	65	Adams	Angela	39	M	W	Miller	1500	1000	Head of Family

Maddison County Marriage Records, Book A Page 6 listing a marriage between "Finas Man and Deanna Duncan on 5 March 1835. The estate of Allen Duncan, Deanna's father, gives further information on the couple. On 31 Aug 1840 in Madison County, Mrs. Sarah Ann Duncan, wife of the deceased Allen Duncan, petitioned for letters of administration on the estate. "Sarah Ann Duncan (widow), Uriah Duncan, Vianna [Deanna] who married Finis Mann residing in Ripley Co. MO, Joseph Duncan, Rice A. Duncan, Vincent Duncan, Julia Ann Duncan, Mary Ann Duncan, Eliza Ann Duncan, and Martha Ann Duncan, are the only heirs at law, all of whom reside in this county; that the deceased died without a will; that they will make an inventory and pay the debts."

On 30 Jun 1854, Rice A. Duncan made application in Madison County for letters of administration on the estate of his mother, Sara Ann Duncan, deceased. At that time, the children of the deceased were Uriah Duncan, Rice A. Duncan, Julianna Stearns, Mary Ann Graham, and Eliza Ann Duncan. The deceased grandchildren were listed as Sarah Ann Man, Perry Man, Allen D. Man and Mary Ann Man, "children of Finis Man." Since Deanna was not listed in the 1854 application, it is presumed that she died between 1840 and 1854.

Further details can be found in census documents covering both the Johnston and the Mann families. Catherine's first husband, William Johnston, died between 1841 and 1849 according to census information and other known documents. William's name appears in the 1840 census of Ripley County and the household includes one male between 30 and 40, one male between 40 and 50, one female under 5, one female between 5 and 10; and one female between 30 and 40. In the 1850 Census of district 76 of Reynolds County, Missouri lists Catherine as the wife of Phineas Mann. The Mann family in 1850 includes two 14 year old girls, Sarah and Lucinda Mann, two boys Perry and Allen Mann age 11

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and 9; a son Frederick Mann aged 8, a daughter Mary aged 6, Margaret Mann age 8/12 months, and Malvina Mann aged 19. The probate information clarifies which child belongs to whom: In 1860 census the family is composed of Finis Mann (56), Catherine (49), Sarah (24), Perry (22), Mary (16), Margaret (10), and Sarah Mann (67 born in KY).

Based on these documents the following conclusions can be made: Sarah, Perry, Allen, and Mary were children of Finis and Deanna Mann. Frederick, and Lucinda were the children of William Johnston and Catherine Miller. It is also believed that Malvina Mann, aged 19, was the daughter of William Johnston and Catherine Miller. Margaret was definitely the child of Finis Mann and Catherine Miller Johnston.

The identity of William and Catherine's eldest child is not confirmed through documents. She is identified in Goodspeed's work and in Parkin's genealogy as Elizabeth, born in Doniphan, Missouri and died before 1885. Elizabeth's name has not been found in any official record other than the two works mentioned above. A second possibility is Melvina Mann who is found in the 1850 Reynolds County census in the Finis and Catherine Miller Mann household. Melvina (also seen as Malvina) was born about 1831 in Missouri. All the children of Finis and Catherine Mann (even those with the surname Johnston) were listed as Mann. Melvina, based on Rice Duncan's will, was not a child of Finis Mann and his first wife, Deanna Duncan. The most conclusive proof that Melvina was the child of William and Catherine is based on DNA tests submitted to Ancestry.com by a descendant of William and Catherine, Virginia Ann Johnston Dolce, and by a descendant of Melvina Johnston Mann and her husband Adam J. Duncan, Allison Cotton. The tests show a strong match. Melvina and her descendants will be included in the Johnston genealogy.

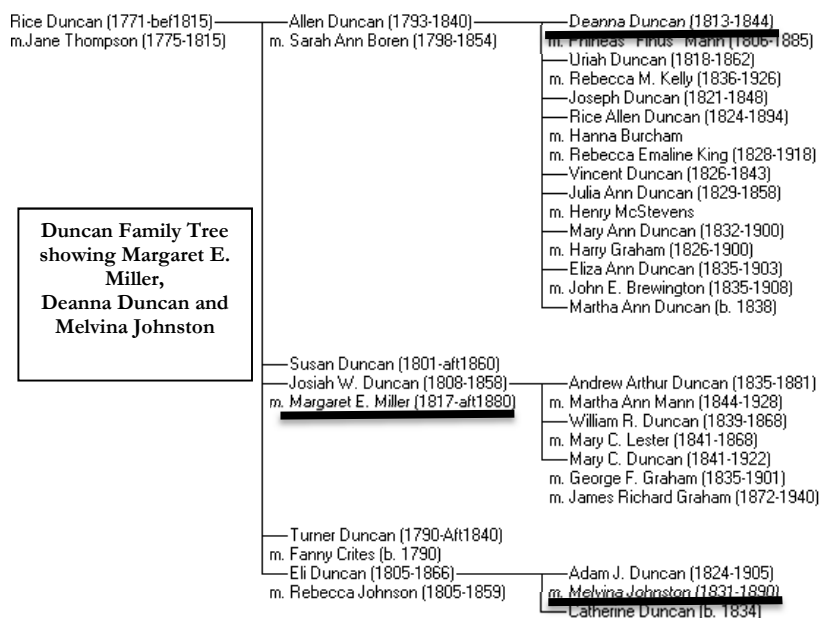
The DNA tests connecting Catherine Miller to the descendants of Jacob Miller, have intriguing consequences in the Duncan family.

Assuming Catherine is the daughter of Jacob, that makes her the sibling of Margaret Ellen Miller who married Josiah W. Duncan. Josiah was the uncle of Deanna Duncan, Finis Mann's first wife.

(Finis's second wife was Catherine Miller.). To confuse matters even more, Catherine Miller's daughter, Melvina, married another nephew of Margaret Ellen Miller, Adam J. Duncan. All

of these connections give further indication that Catherine may indeed be the daughter of Jacob Miller and sister of Margaret Ellen Miller and Frederick Miller. The two families were certainly connected but more research definitely needs to be done.

This history, assuming that Elizabeth is really Melvina, concludes that the children of William Johnston and Catherine Miller were: **Melvina (Johnston) Mann** born about 1831, **Lucinda Johnston** born 26 Jul 1835, and **Frederick Miller Johnston** born Jun 1841.²⁴



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¹ www.theus50.com/missouri/history.php

² Fellman, Michael; "Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in Missouri During the American Civil War"; Oxford University Press; 1989

³ Stevens, Donald L. Jr.; "A Homeland and a Hinterland: The Current and Jacks For Riverways: Historic Resource Study; Ozark National Scenic Riverways"; National Park Service; Omaha, Nebraska; 1991.

⁴ NOTE: Jerry Ponder in his book "History of Ripley County," recounts life in early Ripley County:

The homes were usually one room log building in which the entire family lived, ate, and slept. Sometimes a double cabin was erected with a covered opening or dogtrot between with one cabin used for cooking, eating, and living, and the second cabin used for sleeping. Once in a while the more affluent would add a second floor to the double cabins. In such an arrangement, the downstairs cabins become one for cooking, eating and general family gathering with the other downstairs cabin would be a parlor plus sleeping quarter for the head of household. The upstairs rooms were used as sleeping rooms for the remainder of the family.

Heat was from fireplaces. The fireplaces doubled as the cooking area. Kettles could be hung from a "crane" which would swing out over the fire. Food was fried by pulling hot coals onto the hearth in front of the fireplace and the food was placed in a frying pan with legs, called a spider, which was set over the coals. Bread was baked in a Dutch oven. Again, coals were raked onto the hearth and the cast iron Dutch oven placed on top of the coals. The lid had sides and coals were heaped on the lid giving a heat source from top and bottom.

Lighting was accomplished by the flame from the fireplace or from grease lamps or candles. Clothing was usually kept in a large family trunk and on pegs on the wall. China and silverware were stacked on the dining table or a shelf. Cooking utensils were hung on pegs on the wall. A rifle was never far from the door.

Food had to be raised for the family. Corn was grown and used for bread. It was dried, grated into coarse pieces and then pounded into meal. A wide variety of grains were grown, mostly as stock food, until the roller mills were built. Tobacco was an important crop. A lot of fruit and vegetables were dried and stored for winter and some were stored in the fruit cellar or in a hole below the frost line. Corn was often made into lye hominy for storage. Meat was salted and dried or cured, smoked, and stored for short periods. Pigeons were killed in great numbers, fired, placed in jars or crocks and covered with hot grease. So fixed, they would keep for several weeks. Wild meat was an important part of the diet. Fish also were used as food.

Salt, one of the greatest needs of the early settlers, was not readily available and had to be hauled long distances or made locally. At a salty tasting spring or well the settlers set up huge kettles and boiled the water for hours. As the water gradually disappeared into steam, the salt was left in the bottom of the kettle.

A kitchen herb garden was raised as was red pepper for spice and seasoning. Wild honey was used as a sweetener. Soap was made from wood ashes, lye, and meat scraps. A cow had to be milked for milk, butter, and cheese. Chickens were raised for eggs and geese were raised for down for pillows and feather beds. Hogs were grown for hams and bacon, and sheep for wool. All of the feed for the livestock had to be grown on the homestead. Blue stem grass, the grass native to Ripley County furnished ample hay. It did have to be cut and stored, however.

Clothing had to be made at home. Sheep were sheared, and the wool was spun on the spinning wheel into yarn. Socks and sweaters were knitted. Material to be sewn into other clothing was woven on a loom. Skins and hides were tanned and made into shoes and coats. Lumber had to be hacked out by axe. Repairs to metal tools were done by a blacksmith if one was available, or if not, had to be done at home on a forge. Wooden tool handles were made at home. Split rail fences were used. Very little money was available and what had to be obtained was usually bartered. Furs, grain, and livestock were the more popular barter items. Even the tax collector accepted furs as payment for taxes.

Even though there was so much work at home, there was still some social life. House or barn raisings, an occasional dance, corn husking and quilting parties or a horse race and picnic were the principle means of entertainment. A religious meeting was sometimes held at some one's house. Usually when an event was held everyone in the community attended.

⁵ NOTE: The Chilton family came to Missouri from Ray County, Tennessee.

⁶ Public Documents printed by order of the Senate of the United States during the First Session of the Twenty-Sixth Congress; Volume VI; Petition 302; Washington; Blair and Rives; 1840

⁷ Parkin, Robert E.; Genealogical Research & Productions; 6619 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, Missouri

⁸ Pottenger, Cora Ann; "Place names of Five Southern Border Counties of Missouri." M.A. Thesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1945

⁹ Goodspeed's History of Southeastern Missouri.

¹⁰ Ponder, Jerry; History of Ripley County, Missouri; 1987

¹¹ Parkin, Robert E.; Genealogical Research & Productions; 6619 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, Missouri

¹² US Federal 1870 Census, Logan Township, Reynolds, Missouri (www.ancestry.com)

¹³ US Federal 1860 Census Logan Reynolds Missouri (www.ancestry.com)

¹⁴ Goodspeed's History of Southeastern Missouri.

¹⁵ 1840 US Census Ripley County Missouri.

¹⁶ Goodspeed's History of Southeastern Missouri.

¹⁷ Parkin, Robert E.; Genealogical Research & Productions; 6619 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, Missouri

¹⁸ Ponder, Jerry; History of Ripley County, Missouri; 1987

¹⁹ Bell, James E.; History of Early Reynolds County, Missouri;

²⁰ Simpson, Linda; "Ferby Piles Lewis Mann of Reynolds County, Missouri"; Reynolds County GHS; Issue #232, Page 5

²¹ 1876 Missouri State Census; Township 30, Range Two E, Reynolds County

²² 1870 US Census Logan Township, Reynolds County, Missouri

²³ Buffington Cemetery, Ellington, Reynolds County, MO Lat 37.2303, Lon -90.7894

²⁴ Goodspeed's History of Southeastern Missouri.