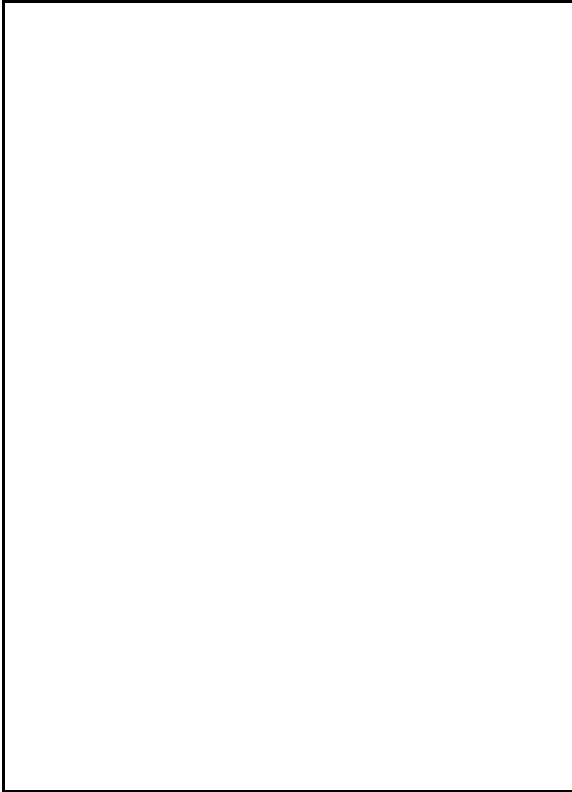


JOHN BLACK



When a neighbor man got into trouble, John went his bonds in the sum of \$500. When the trial came the man could not be found and it took the farm to pay the bond.

At that time Illinois, a new State, was widely advertised as a place where good homes were obtained cheaply. John and three of his neighbors moved into Lawrence County, Southern Illinois and purchased homes near where Bridgeport now stands. It was a wide, level, beautiful country, with groves of timber, with stretches of prairie, with cold springs, and streams of clear water abounding with fish. The drawback was an occasional swamp giving rise to malarial fevers.

It was here, after two years of hard labor in building a new home, John died.

John Black was born March 24, 1797 near King's Mountain, Rutherford, North Carolina to William Black and Sarah Stevens. Married Mary Cline April 19, 1821. They had eight children: four sons and four daughters. Died October 15, 1839 in Bridgeport, Lawrence, Illinois.

John was only 2 or 3 years old when his family left North Carolina and went to Pennsylvania. They stayed there about 10 years and then moved on to Ohio.

John was a small independent farmer owning 40 acres of rich land in the heart of a forest. He was methodical in all his labors, inclined to be mechanical and gave close attention to his farm, which yielded ample support for himself, his wife and eight children.

He owned a lathe and turned legs for tables and bedsteads, also wooden bowls, and he was noted for the excellence of his home made axe handles.