

## The Sager Cabin

I am writing about the Simon Sager cabin, which is the oldest permanent structure in Siloam Springs, Arkansas and which is located on the National Register of Historic Places and sits on the campus on John Brown University. It was built in 1844 and 1845 by my great, great, great, great grandfather, Simon Sager.

In 1836, Simon Sager, his wife, and five children left Prussia, a large state in Northern Germany, and immigrated to America. They went to Baltimore, Philadelphia, St. Louis and eventually to Siloam Springs, where Simon made a living as a builder and cattle man. He and his brothers had been trained by his father in woodworking. Besides family cabins, Simon helped build the Cherokee Indians male and female academy in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

In addition to being a builder, Simon Sager made furniture. Some of his handcrafted furniture still exists and can be seen in the Siloam Springs Museum, the Rogers Historical Museum, the Springdale Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, and the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources.

Simon Sager was well-liked in the community by Native Americans and area settlers. The first Methodist church in the area began in his home. He was known as a good manager of his affairs. He drove his cattle herds to market in Kansas City using part of the historical Trail of Tears as his route.

Simon Sager's life was cut short in a very tragic way. On May 17, 1864, a group of "Pin" Indians (pro-union guerillas) raided the area surrounding his cabin and killed him. He was sixty-two years old. Sager Creek near his cabin and Sager Creek Arts Center in Siloam Springs are named for him.

My family tree from Simon Sager goes like this: Simon Sager married Charlotte Myer. They had a daughter named Sarah Amna Sager who married Jehu Thomas Chastain. They had a son named Pleasant D. Chastain. He married Allie Susan Lott, and they had a son named Howard Chastain (my great grandfather). He married Elsie Butler and they had a son named J.D. Chastain. He married Carrie Luther and they had a daughter named Lila. Lila married Terry Tidwell. They had two daughters, my sister Crystal, and me, Alyssa Tidwell.

By researching this report, I have found that the lives of our ancestors are often very interesting. I cannot imagine moving from Germany to the Eastern Coast of America and then to the frontier land of Arkansas during the 1800's. First, the Sager family had to travel by boat across the Atlantic Ocean. Then, they had to travel half-way across America and then build their own houses and furniture out of wood that they found around them.

Life was hard for these pioneers but they persevered. People today have no idea the hardships that they faced. I am very blessed because of all of the conveniences that I have in my life. I did not have to build my house and furniture myself. I have a nice, warm home to live in and I am very grateful. Thank you, Simon Sager, for leading the way.

REFERENCES:

All information in this paper (except for the family tree) came from The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture. [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net)