

**Linda A Mizell, Member #C133**

Samuel Judy

b. 19 Aug 1773, Canton, Basel, Switzerland

d. 12 Jan 1838, Madison Co, IL

**Samuel Judy**

Samuel Judy, my great-great-great grandfather, came to Madison County, IL in 1801 and is considered by many to be one of the first permanent settlers, distinguishing himself through various activities and earning a mention in all accounts of early county history. He is of Swiss heritage, from a line that can be traced to Johannes I, a slave, born about 870 A. D. Johannes I was freed and knighted by King Ludwig in 906, and in 1070, the surname of Schuidi was added, which is a Latin word meaning "very good".

At about age 6, Samuel came to America in 1777 with his father and older sister, Mary Ann, called Nancy. Their mother may have died in Switzerland or on the trip across the Atlantic Ocean. The spelling of the surname, Tshudi, was changed to Judy for easier spelling and pronunciation. They arrived at Philadelphia, a busy place during this time of Revolutionary War.

Within the year Jacob was serving our country using his gunsmith talents that he learned in Switzerland. It has been said that our success in the American Revolution was due solely to the fact that the Swiss gun makers, living in Pennsylvania, perfected a gun that was a complete surprise to the British.

After the war, the family traveled by flatboat to Kentucky, where more than 5,000 acres of bounty land was given to Jacob for his service. After a short stay, the family moved again by flatboat, reaching Kaskaskia, Illinois on June 5, 1788.

They later moved to Monroe County, IL, near the present town of Waterloo where Jacob built the first water mill in that county and the area became known as Judy's Mill.

Samuel married Margaret Whiteside, a member of another important pioneer family and came to Madison County, IL to settle claim #338, of 100 acres received for his service in the St. Clair County Militia. He set out an orchard during the first years and the first school of that area was held in the Judy cabin's yard. In 1808, Samuel built the first brick house in the county with sun-dried bricks manufactured right on his farm. It was located on a small mound near the present I-270 and Route 157. Besides the orchard, he raised cattle, hogs and sheep and bred horses for speed. Samuel won many races that provided sport for local pioneers on the small racetracks in the area.

The walls of the house were nearly two feet thick with walnut trim used throughout. Turrets were constructed from the basement to the second floor and small windows were in the basement, all for defense in case of an Indian attack. My grandmother was born in this house in 1883 and she would speak of her fascination with the small windows and the thought of Indian attacks as a young girl, of course the danger of Indian attack was nearly gone by that time. The house was damaged during the December 1811 New Madrid earthquake and a stone with this date was placed in the wall during repairs. In 1932 the house was razed due to its poor

condition, and the brick, being too soft for other uses, was put in low places along Bluff Road, later Highway 157 which runs along the base of the bluffs.

In 1809 Judy was appointed lieutenant of the cavalry in the local militia and was promoted to captain the next year. Samuel Judy had become known for his campaign against Indians which attacked the settlers and Governor John Reynolds referred to Judy as the “bravest of the brave”. During the fall of 1812, as a major, Judy commanded a company of 21 spies or scouts, John Reynolds, the future governor, among them, which went in advance of the army and was to hold the Indians until the main army arrived. There were no baggage wagons and each man carried his own provisions for 20 to 30 days. This particular campaign took them to an Indian village near the present city of Springfield, IL. John Reynolds again states, “Judy was active and efficient, and at the same time, prudent and cautious. He was always, in these military preferments, very modest and unassuming. He never solicited an office in his life, and would always have preferred acting as a private in these operations against the Indians; but his neighbors and friends almost compelled him to take command...”

He was the first man elected to the Legislative Council of the Illinois territory in the fall of 1812. This was the first legislature that convened under the Territorial Government and Judy held this office for four years. He became judge of the Court of Common Pleas at the same time, later was county judge and in 1814 was elected territorial senator. John Reynolds again states, “Nature had been bountiful to Judy, and had bestowed on him a clear sound and solid judgment. He had very little opportunities of education, and could barely make out to read and write, and knew but little of the arithmetic; but his condition in life, and his strong mind, with his retentive memory, made him a very able and efficient member of the Legislative Council of the Territory. These qualifications, together with his merited character for honesty and probity, gave him a standing in the Legislature, which was not surpassed by any member in that body...”

In 1831 Gov. Reynolds granted Judy a Colonel’s commission. Col. Judy also held the office of County Commissioner and Gov. Reynolds appointed him along with three others, Warden of the Penitentiary at Alton. Their job was to adopt a Penitentiary system, erect a building and organize the entire operation.

After Samuel’s wife Margaret’s death in 1816, Samuel married Sarah “Sally” Nix, “Reeves, possible daughter of John and Winnifred Nix of the area and a widow of John Reeves.

Samuel died at the age of 75 in 1838 leaving over 2,000 acres of land to his family and a lengthy inventory of personal goods. His widow, Sally, then married Henry Peters and the house became a stop-over for travelers, one notable guest being Abraham Lincoln. There was a particular hat peg he used when he visited. The area became known as Peter’s Station, located on Illinois Route 157 near Glen Carbon and I-270.

Samuel, Sally, several of Samuel’s children and Henry Peters are buried at the Nix-Judy Pioneer Cemetery located on Route 157 close to I-270.

Again from John Reynolds in his book, Pioneer History of Illinois, “The death of Colonel Judy was sincerely regretted by the public. His large family and connections knew well his worth and mourned his death with heart-felt grief...Judy was a pioneer that gave standing and character to

the country, and it is the seeds sown by him and such characters that have produced such fruits in Illinois, of her future power and greatness.”

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Reynolds, John: Pioneer History of Illinois 1852

Personal knowledge of Linda A. Sperry Mizell and other Judy descendants