

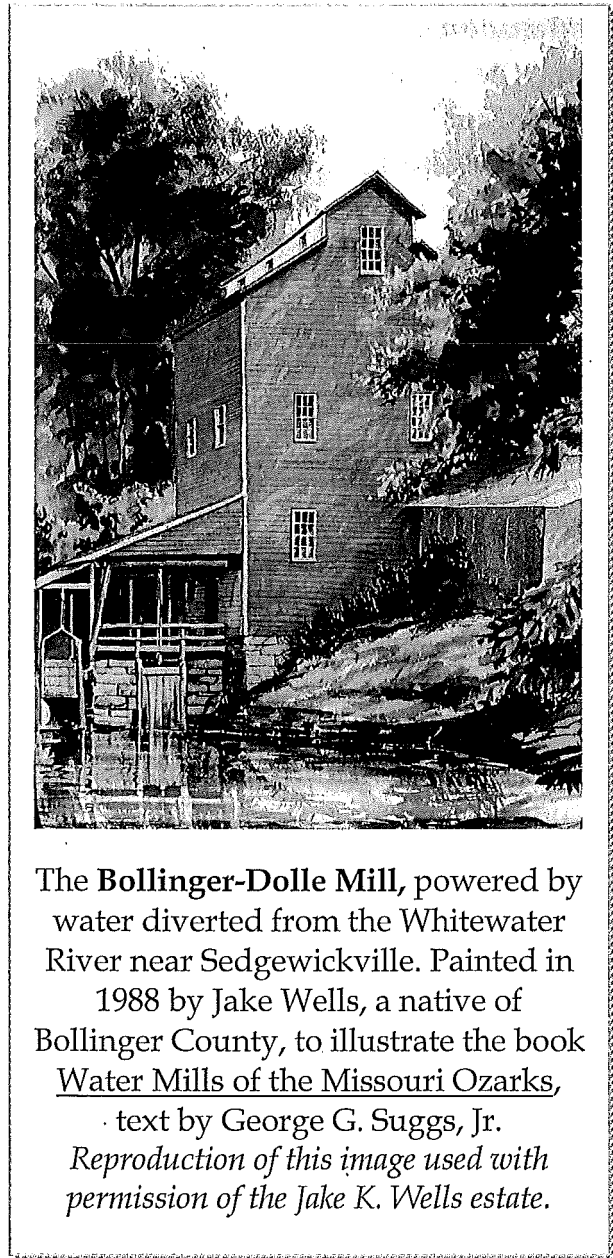
#4
North

Gospelfest at the farm for local residents to enjoy. At other times throughout the year, they play at local churches and at benefit events to help residents of the community.

History of the Matthias Bollinger Family & Bollinger Mill
Submitted by Carol Bollinger

Heinrich Bollinger, born in 1710, booked passage at Rotterdam, Netherlands on the sailing ship "Winter Galley" to America. He first stepped off the boat at Germantown, Pennsylvania, on September 5, 1738, after an ocean trip of several months.

Matthias Bollinger, seventh child of Heinrich Bollinger, was one of the first families to come to Bollinger County. He was born in 1768 in Tyron County, North Carolina and died January 20, 1838, in Bollinger County, Missouri. He married Priscilla Peterson, November 13, 1789, in Lincoln County, North Carolina, and she died September 1, 1836 in Bollinger County, Missouri. Both are buried side by side in Hopewell Cemetery, near Bollinger's Mill in Sedgewickville, Missouri. Matthias married a second time, October 15, 1836, to Francis Hilderbrand, and she is buried in Whitewater Cemetery. Matthias had ten children, five boys and five girls.



The **Bollinger-Dolle Mill**, powered by water diverted from the Whitewater River near Sedgewickville. Painted in 1988 by Jake Wells, a native of Bollinger County, to illustrate the book Water Mills of the Missouri Ozarks, text by George G. Suggs, Jr. *Reproduction of this image used with permission of the Jake K. Wells estate.*

Matthias came to Bollinger County in January 1800. Matthias and four brothers crossed the Mississippi River on thick ice January 1, 1800. They had tested the thickness of the ice by sending a horse and wagon across, by itself, before crossing.

His younger brother, George Frederick, had come to Missouri three years before

and made a deal with Louis Lorimier of

Register of Historic Places. The mill was

Cape Girardeau to acquire land, and bring his kin folks in to settle in what is now

Bollinger County.

George Frederick had

some land surveyed off in sections. Mathias

got five hundred acres along the Whitewater

River.

Mathias built the three

story flour mill that

still stands near Sedgewickville in

Bollinger County today. They built a

dam and used slave labor to build a race

where the water could run down to the

mill to turn the mill wheel. They first

ordered the mill stones from France.

Mathias started construction on the mill

and the next morning, some of the

workers found his footprints in the frost

on the roofing slats at the top of the mill.

Apparently, he had been sleep walking

on the mill.

The mill was finished about 1828.

Mathias only lived about ten years after

this, and his son, Moses, bought the

property. After Moses died, the

property was sold to other families.

In 1936, Elmer Bollinger returned the

mill to the Bollinger family. He bought

and restored it and his descendants still

own it today. Elmer hoped it could,

some day, be entered in the National

run by my uncle, Terry Bollinger, in the 1950's.

I am the oldest of nine children and I used to play in the Bollinger Mill that my ancestor, Mathias, built. The mill sits silent now and we hope it can be restored some day. My

father, Joe H. Bollinger was the

youngest son of Elmer Bollinger. They

are buried in the Bollinger Cemetery,

along with some of my other ancestors.

James Maurice Boyer Family History

Submitted by James "Jay" Boyer

The Boyer family traces its ancestry to

France. Nicolas Boyer, born in 1642,

brought his family to Canada where he

died in 1714. His descendants made the

migration down the Mississippi River to

Southern Missouri. Jim's great-

grandfather settled in the Washington

County area where several of his

descendants still reside.

James Maurice Boyer (Jim) and his twin

sister Marcella were born on April 23,

1927, near Tiff, Missouri in Washington

County. Jim is the son of Abner Lee