

Family plays a part in county's history

Among those who are familiar with Monroe County history, the name Roderic Rawlins may not be as familiar as those of John Ket-cham, David Maxwell or James Parks. But Rawlins and his family did play a part in the establishment of the county.

Apparently the Rawlinses were easterners by birth, having pulled up stakes in their Maryland home and moved westward. There is a hint of one of their stopping places in the Kentucky birthplace of Roderic's nephew, James.

By 1813, Rawlins, James, and another nephew, Joseph, were cultivating a clearing in the woods in the southeast corner of what is now Lawrence County. Their womenfolk were living temporarily at Fort Maxwell along the Lost River in Orange County, because there was a justifiable uneasiness about the attitude of the local Indians.

Sam Jackson, a veteran of the War of 1812, encountered the Rawlins males when he (Jackson) was



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

5-30-1987

ranging through the southern portion of the Indiana Territory, looking for a likely place to build a grist mill. An account of Jackson's chance meeting with the Rawlinses can be found in *Spring Mill (Hidden Valley Village)* by Norman C. Evans.

The Rawlins men had reason to be wary in their present location when Jackson found them. They told their visitor that while they were away for a few days on a trip to Charlestown, Indians had raided their little camp, stealing their pewterware and five horses. Their companion, a French and Indian halfbreed by the name of Pierre,

see History, Back page.