



## JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

### SIX MILE

#### **W.B. Napton**

#### **1857 spring, from 1905 memoir**

“Colonel James Chiles of “Six Mile,” Jackson County, was a state senator, and while at Jefferson City during the session of the legislature, my father telling him of my desire to go out to Santa Fe, the colonel sent me an invitation to come to his house by the middle of April and

go out with a [wagon] train belonging to his son. So in the early spring of 1857 I set out from my home in Saline County, well mounted and equipped for the journey.

The spring was backward, and when I reached Colonel Chiles’s house in the middle of April winter was still “lingering in the lap of spring.” The grass was not good on the plains until the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. It was arranged for me to go out with the train commanded by “Jim Crow,” a son of Colonel Chiles.

“Jim Crow” was then about twenty-five....”

\*\*\*\*\*The Six Mile area was an early European-American community in Jackson County in the vicinity of Ft. Osage. At first only European Americans whose work supported the fort could live within the six miles west of Ft. Osage. When the Osage Indians signed an 1825 treaty in Council Grove, the Osage not only ceded land west to the current Missouri state line (except for the Platte Purchase), but also opened the Six Mile reserve for settlement. Some of the earliest influential families of Jackson County, such as the Chiles and the Walkers, first lived within that Six Mile community consisting of scattered farmsteads. A number of these families became involved in the Santa Fe trade. **Source:** Napton, W.B. *On the Santa Fe Trail in 1857*. Arrow Rock: Friends of Arrow Rock, 1991 [reprint of Kansas City, MO: Franklin Hudson Publishing, 1905], quote on p. 4.