

Photo of the Month

The Sagers



Christian Sager, circa 1845.
Courtesy Shirley Harris Park.

In 1839 brothers Simon and Christian Sager and their cousin, Frederick Green, arrived in Benton County. Part of a massive migration of Germans to America which began in the 1830s, this highly skilled family produced bedsteads, bureaus, chairs, and other furniture pieces for nearly three decades. Across the United States German immigrants such as the Sagers were prominent in skilled trades such as cabinetmaking because they had been trained to design as well as make furniture.

Simon settled near Hico along Sager Creek; while he made some furniture, he primarily made his living as a farmer and cattle drover. Christian Sager and Frederick Green operated a sawmill, gristmill, general store, and cabinetmaking shop on Prairie Creek. They sold lumber, doors, and windows from 1840 to 1861, ran the general store from 1848 to 1855, and sold furniture and coffins from the 1840s to 1868. They were a part of a strong pre-Civil War cabinetmaking tradition in Northwest Arkansas. Their shop was one of the largest in the state with an 1850 production of \$1,700 worth of items, about 200 or 300 pieces of furniture.