

## MILL OWNER IS THE LAST LIVING CIVIL WAR SOLDIER OF IRON COUNTY, MO.

### *The Story of Andrew Jackson Mincher*



JACKSON ANDREW MINCHER  
AND CATHERINE (BORDEN) MINCHER

Dillard Mill is known as one of the more picturesque historic sites in the state. Nestled in the Ozark foot hills of Crawford County, the original mill escaped the ravages of the Civil War, but still has an accidental Civil War connection. Today's mill is built near the site of the old mill on property once owned by Andrew Jackson Mincher. Jackson, as he was best known, ran a mill prior to its fiery destruction in the 1890s. But Jackson is remembered for more than that. After working as a miller and the mill having been destroyed, he sold the property, became a minister and organized the 1st Baptist Church in Viburnum. He also was a Civil War Union soldier.

In 1864, Confederate General Sterling Price invaded Missouri and the Union army called for the enlistment of all able bodied men. Jackson, a resident in the local area, escaped Confederate conscription and managed to make it to Rolla to enlist in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Enrolled Missouri Militia on Oct. 4. This was about the same time that General Ewing's forces arrived in the Rolla area from the Battle of Pilot Knob. On Oct. 22, he was transferred into the 48<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, Co. I.

The 48<sup>th</sup> saw duty defending Rolla against Price and then was transferred to be railroad guards in Tennessee and Alabama. In February 1865, the 48<sup>th</sup> served guard duty at Camp Douglas, a prisoner of war camp for Confederate soldiers in Chicago. Some were involved in prisoner escort duty going to City Point, Va. In June 1865, Jackson was transferred to the 50<sup>th</sup> Missouri

Infantry, Co. E, returning to the state of Missouri. He was mustered out of service on Aug. 11, 1865.

After the war, Jackson returned to the Davisville-Viburnum area. In 1890, Jackson and his son, Jesse, purchased the mill at Dillard from Joseph Dillard Cottrell. Besides running a grist mill, the Minchers added a stave mill and lumberyard to the enterprise. Staves are thin, long bands of wood and are necessary to make wooden barrels. Running two types of mills in one location was a common Ozark practice and helped pay the bills. In 1895, the mill burned and Mincher put the property up for sale.



Jackson moved to Viburnum and went on to be the founding preacher of the Viburnum Landmark Baptist Church. He lived out his life in the area and died on Dec. 22, 1941. He quietly passed away in this secluded part of Iron County and was buried in his churchyard at the junction of Hwy 49 and Hwy Y in Viburnum. He probably didn't realize it as he was dying, but only 56 Union soldiers in the state of Missouri are known to have outlived Mincher. None were from Iron County.

