

HENRY SADORUS TRAVELS WEST

In the spring of 1817, Frank Sadorus's great-grandfather Henry Sadorus (1783–1878), a farmer and carpenter, set out by flatboat from Crawford county, Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by his wife Mary Titus and their five-year-old son William. A few week later, they reached Cincinnati via the Allegheny and Ohio rivers, an area where they remained for two years. With intermediate stops in Connersville, Flat Rock, and Raccoon, Indiana, they made their final stop in 1824 on the banks of the Okaw River in Edgar County, Illinois. They made the last leg of the journey west in a wagon pulled by two yokes of oxen. Three more Sadorus children were born en route.

With a rude plow they had brought with them, they broke ground and planted seeds. Before the first winter, they had replaced their wagon tent with a chinked-and-daubed, split-log cabin with an opening in the wall that was covered with greased muslin to serve as a window. Six years later, they glazed their windows.

As there were no schools, William was sent to Georgetown, Illinois, for a few months to receive some education. Some twelve years after the Sadoruses arrived, schools were built as other settlers moved to the area.

The land around them had been surveyed, but it wasn't until 1834 that 22-year-old William entered the land on public record. By 1836, they had built a frame house, the first in Champaign County. The wood for the house was milled in Caluga, Indiana, and brought back for assembly.

