

wood, \$1, as listed on page 107 of one of the account books. Other items listed in 1879 were 1/2 load corn \$4.30 pounds beef at \$.05, \$1.50; 30 pounds beef at \$.065, \$1.95; 15 bushels apples at \$.50, \$7.50; 5500 shingles at \$3 per thousand, \$16.50; 2 pounds yarn \$1.75; 1 coat \$6; 1 blouse \$2.50; 100 feet lumber \$1.50; 13 pounds sugar \$1.82; 1 dozen brooms \$2.25.

“James Rolf hauled from Thomases 29 1/4 cords of wood on Jan. 31, 1880, and worked for 58 days at \$39.20. On April 15, 1879 \$10 was paid to Hammond for a “hoss.” Hammond worked for 11 months in 1877 for \$16 a month; and seven and a half months in 1879 for \$120. John Quick and wife commenced work on March 21, 1881 for one year at \$275, another item reads. There was a toothbrush charged to Mrs. Quick on this account at \$.25, so there was apparently more than liquor sold at the store.

“The Shawhans also had three large tobacco barns where tobacco grown around Lone Jack was dried, graded, and made into plugs, sack tobacco and cigars. At times merchants would trade goods for their supply of tobacco. J.E. Perkin at Sni Mills paid \$11.75 in merchandise in 1885; a case of assorted nuggets were delivered by wagon to A. Roush at Strasburg, 1883; J.W. Minter, Oak Grove, bought a 10 pound sack of smoking tobacco in August 1883; Hull and Co., Oak Grove, bought 25 pounds gold nuggets at \$.35, paid \$1.50 by canned goods and \$4.58 by check.

“The selections of tobacco were wide and the prices low - judging by today’s prices - 25 pounds Gold Nugget \$8.75; 15 pounds sack smoking, \$6; Lone Jack Twist \$4; Sweet Twist \$5.55; 10 pounds Grange Rolls \$4.20; 50 Adigo Cigars \$2.50 Prize Bull \$1.75... The above notations from the tobacco account book show how extensive the tobacco operation was at Lone Jack, but it did not seem to gain fame and hold on to it as the Shawhan Whiskey did. There were several tobacco manufacturers in Lone Jack before Shawhan. In fact, he had bought the business from Hedrick & Co.

“The books show that shipments of whiskey were made to several places in Kansas - Paola, Pleasanton, LaCygne, Trading Post and Council Grove, and perhaps many a keg of Shawhan whiskey was smashed by Carrie Nation.

“Ten gallons of peach brandy were shipped to I.N. Keler,<sup>2</sup> Shawhan Station, Ky., October 19, 1881, and paid with dogs on May 1, 1882. Doctors and druggists in the area kept barrels of Shawhan Whiskey on hand, and one druggist in Oak Grove lost some of his to burglars one night. Although he had other brands, Shawhan was the only barrel drained, ‘which says something for its quality,’ reported a local paper.

“The Shawhans can trace their family back to 350 A.D. and beyond. In their genealogy book is written “The Shaughen family is descended from Milsius, King of Spain, through the line of his son Heremon. The founder of the family was Feachra, son of Enoch May Veagon, King of Ireland, 350 A.D.” And somewhere down the line is Robert the Bruce, Robert I (1274-1329) King of Scotland. Incidentally Robert was one of my favorite historical figures when I went to elementary school. It was he who hid in a cave while his pursuers were hunting him. He watched a spider build a web over the cavern mouth and took his perseverance from it. And the pursuers seeing the web across the cove said ‘He is not in there.’

“James Shawhan of Lone Jack is a great-great-grandson of the originator of Shawhan Whiskey. He and Mrs. Shawhan have given much help in the writing of this article. Other descendants in this area are Junior Shawhan, Lone Jack; Rex Rowan, Kansas City, who also helped in this writing; Elizabeth Grubb and Wayne Shawhan, Oak Grove, and Harold Shawhan, Buckner.

“Mrs. Shawhan, writing for the Jackson County Historical Society, Dec., 1965, gave the following information: “Steam furnished the power for the distillery, and water was drawn from a large pond...Sept. 19, 1880, while apple jack was being made, the still blew up. A coil became stopped up with the apple pumace, and when Daniel Perrow increased the boiler pressure to clear the coil, it exploded. Perrow, his son, Will and Tommie Lester were killed. Six others were seriously injured. Twenty years later in January, 1900, at midnight the distillery caught fire and burned. The fire was caused by a defect in the wall around the boiler. At that time there were 800 barrels of whiskey in the warehouse” which did not burn.

“George Shawhan did not attempt to rebuild. He went to Weston, Mo. and purchased the Holladay distillery, and moved his family there.

“Mr. Shawhan had a high grade herd of Jersey cattle, with which he took several prizes at the Chicago World’s Fair. One of his cows carried off nearly all the prizes offered at state fairs at the turn of the century and was the first cow west of the Mississippi River to take first prize at a world’s fair. The Shawhan herd contained 49 high grade cows which were fed on mash from the distillery... ‘the greatest cattle food in existence’ the Kansas City Journal, June 27, 1901 declared.”