



## **Archibald Rice** (1782 – 1849)

**Archibald Rice** was born in Caswell County, NC in 1782. He was an early supplier to the travelers and traders on the Santa Fe Trail. Rice originally settled in Howard County, MO in 1826 where the Santa Fe Trail began. He later located to Jackson County, MO in 1832 where he settled on land at the present-day site of Salem Park located at 24 Hwy and Blue Mills Road in eastern Independence, MO.

Being aware of the advantage of continuing to supply the travelers and traders on the Santa Fe Trail he relocated to Raytown, MO in 1836. The property in Independence was given to his eldest son, William Rice. Many diaries talk of the Rice Plantation and the travelers who camped on his property and purchased corn from him.

In 1838, Matt Field, told of stopping at Farmer Rice's plantation: "...to enjoy sweet bacon, fresh eggs, and other nutritious and unsophisticated luxuries...". A later diary from traveler Hugh Morgan Price, a member of an Ohio Company, wrote in his diary: "April 27, 1849--Moved out to Mr. Rice's farm, eight miles from Independence. In laying in our provisions we determined to lay in nothing but the real substantials of life...600 lbs. flour, 440 lbs. bacon, 227 lbs. crackers, 25 lbs. rice, 20 lbs. sugar, 18 lbs. coffee, 1 lb. sassafras tea, 85 lbs. salt for selves and mules."

Rice died in Jackson County, MO on October 14, 1849 at the age of 67. After the death of Archibald Rice, his son Elihu Coffee Rice became owner of the farm and continued to sell provision and supply goods to the growing crowds rushing to California for gold. When Coffee and Catherine "Kitty" Stoner White were married on Nov. 14, 1850, the slave Sophia White accompanied Kitty to her new home. Sophia attended the births of the couple's five children and became known affectionately as "Aunt" Sophie. She lived in a small cabin near the back door of the Rice home, where she cooked the family's meals in the large hearth. The old cabin has gone through many incarnations over the years and presumably, a cabin has stood in that location since the 1830s.