

John D. Isenhour Research Report

Name: Diana Elder

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Objective

Discover when and why John D. Isenhour's family moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in the early 1800s. John was born about 1779 in Lincoln County, North Carolina, and died March of 1844 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. John married Sarah Bailey on 3 February 1811 in Lincoln, North Carolina.

Limitations

This project was limited to 30 hours and research from online sources and Missouri contacts.

Results Summary

- Reviewed previous research on the John Isenhour family and determined little was known about his migration from Lincoln County, North Carolina, to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.
- Located the original 1792 North Carolina land grant for John Isenhour, Sen., father of John Isenhour, Jun.
- Found three deeds dividing the land from the original land grant among John Isenhour Jun., Philip Isenhour, and Daniel Isenhour.
- Viewed the 1810 census of Lincoln County, North Carolina where John Jun. (age 26-44) and John Sen. (age 45+) were both listed with other Isenhour men.
- Analyzed the 1811 marriage record for John Isenhour and Sarah Bailey. Determined this was a second marriage for John based on the 1810 census household with four young children and a probable first wife.
- Noted the absence of John Isenhour Jun. in the 1820 census of Lincoln County, North Carolina, indicating a possible move from the area. Found a John Isenhour age 45+ with no designation of Jun. or Sen.
- Searched North Carolina tax lists for Isenhour and found John Isenhour Sen. paying taxes for his son, John Isenhour, Jun. in 1818 and 1819.
- Located an 1819 deed for John Isenhour Jun. of Greene County, Tennessee to Daniel Moser of Lincoln County, North Carolina, indicating a move to Greene County for John.
- Searched Tennessee tax lists for John Isenhour with no success. Learned the tax lists for the possible years of John's residence of 1818-1827 have not survived.

- Searched the land records of Green County, Tennessee, and found a deed of 1835 naming "John Eisenhower" and "Persis Eisenhower" as heirs of Philip Henkel. Further research could discover more about this situation.
- Located tax records and a deed for John Isenhour in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, showing his residence likely by 1824. Located the land description on a map of present-day Bollinger County.
- Analyzed the 1830 household of John Isenhour and noted neighbors as Akers, Hahns, Lutes, and Snells.
- Viewed birth information for the oldest known children of John Isenhour and determined a move about 1818 from North Carolina fits with the family lore.
- Researched Lorance Township, the 1840 census residence of John Isenhour. Learned that this area lies in present-day Bollinger County with Marble Hill as the county seat.
- Studied county histories and learned John Isenhour was part of a group termed the Whitewater Dutch based on the German origins of the settlers. Discovered these settlers also originated in Lincoln and surrounding counties of North Carolina.
- Found information on Moses Bailey, witness to John's will and deed and probable relative of John's wife, Sarah (Bailey) Isenhour. Discovered Moses founded the Marble Hill Baptist Church and determined future research could discover more about the Bailey family and their origins in North Carolina.
- Researched the agricultural history of the area and compared it to the will of John Isenhour. Learned he likely practiced subsistence agriculture, growing crops and raising stock to provide for his family.
- Viewed a topographical map of John Isenhour's migration route and determined he moved west to be part of a German group of settlers from his home county of Lincoln, North Carolina.

Background Information

Previous research on the John D. Isenhour family focused on the Civil War involvement of John's sons, Valentine, Moses W., and Josiah E. Isenhour.¹ Besides the possible date of migration to Missouri about 1821-1822, researchers know little about the early years of the Isenhour family in Cape Girardeau County. Could the date of arrival be narrowed? What conditions caused John to move from his birth location of Lincoln County, North Carolina? What conditions drew John to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri? This research session sought answers to these questions.

The surname Isenhour was spelled a variety of ways in the records: Eisenhower, Eisenhauer, Eisenhour, Isanhour, Isenhower, Isenhour, and Isenhauer. For this report, the spelling Isenhour will be used, except when quoting records.

¹ Nicole Dyer, "Isenhour Brothers Confederate Service Research Report," revised 5 April 2018. Also, Dyer, "Moses W. Isenhour Research Report," April 2018.

Lincoln County, North Carolina, Origins

John D. Isenhour appears in online trees as the oldest son of Johannes "John" Isenhour, born in Swatara, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, and died about 1821 in Conover, Catawba, North Carolina.² By the age of 40, the elder John had moved south from his birthplace of Pennsylvania to North Carolina. In 1792, North Carolina granted "John Isanhour" 350 acres of land in Lincoln County on the branch of Lyle Creek.³ The deed described the land in metes and bounds, the land survey system of the original colonies. Fifteen years later, John Isenhour Sen. divided this land parcel between John Isenhour Jun., Phillip Isenhour, and Daniel Isenhour. Each deed was dated 13 October 1817 and mentioned the land adjoining Lyles Creek.⁴ Of the three deeds, only Phillip's contains the designation "his son," referring to John Isenhour Senior. Does this indicate that John Junior and Daniel were not his sons? Not necessarily. No other evidence conflicts with the supposition that all three were sons of John Sen.

The 1810 census of Lincoln County, North Carolina, listed five "Eisenhour men: George (45+), Valentine (45+), Daniel (18-25), John Jun. (26-44), and John Sen. (45+)"⁵ The household of John Isenhour Jun. contained the following individuals, noted only as tick marks in the appropriate columns. John would have been the male aged 26 thru 44, giving him a possible birth year of 1766–1784.

Free White Persons	Males	Under 10	4
Free White Persons	Males	26 thru 44	1
Free White Persons	Females	Under 10	2
Free White Persons	Females	26 thru 44	1

This census points to a wife and six children under ten for John with a possible marriage of about 1800. John's first wife had died by 1811 when "John Isenhour" married "Sarah Baley," as

² FamilySearch Family Tree, profile for Johannes Isenhauer (1752-1821), LVPW-PHD, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LVPW-PHD> : accessed 22 April 2021).

³ North Carolina Archives, File No. 809, John Isenhour, Lyle Creek, Grant # 745, 1792Lincoln County, *North Carolina Archives* (<https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.82.810&qid=638892&rn=2> : accessed 11 April 2021).

⁴ Lincoln County, North Carolina, Deeds, v. 27-28 1815-1819, John Isenhour Sr. to John Isenhour Jr., 1817, vol. 28:183, digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L983-F895> : accessed 11 April 2021); Film 007513708, images 437- 438 of 712. Also Lincoln Co., North Carolina, John Isenhour Sr. to Phillip Isenhour, 1817, vol. 28:184; and Lincoln Co., North Carolina, Deeds, John Isenhour Sr. to Daniel Isenhour, 1817, vol. 28:185.

⁵ 1810 U.S. Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 449, (penned), line 8, John Eisenhour Jr; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M25, roll 40.

evidenced by the marriage bond of Lincoln County.⁶ Sarah was likely "my beloved wife Sally" named in John Isenhour's 1844 will.⁷ Moses Bailey witnessed the will—a probable relative of Sarah who may have also lived in Lincoln County, North Carolina, then moved west to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, where the will was probated. Further research could explore candidates for the first wife of John Isenhour, Jun., and children from that marriage.

By the 1820 census enumeration, John Isenhour, Jun. had almost certainly moved from Lincoln County, North Carolina. That census named George (45+), Phillip (26-44), Daniel (26-44), John (45+), and Joseph Eisenhour (26-44).⁸ No designation of Jun. or Sen. was given for John, age 45+, indicating that only one John Eisenhour resided in the county in 1820. Was this John Jun. or John Sen.?

The tax lists of Lincoln County, North Carolina, provide evidence of the junior John Isenhour's move from the area by 1818.⁹ Each of the five men named on the 1820 census was also taxed in 1818 with either a head tax (white poles), a land tax, or both. From 1817 to 1835, North Carolina law described the taxable age for a white male as 21 to 45, so only those white males falling within those age ranges were taxed.¹⁰ As shown in Table 1., "John Eisenhower Sen." did not pay the poll tax because he was over the age limit. He did pay the property tax on his 148 acres of land on Lyles Creek and also paid the property tax for the land "intrusted for John Eisenhower Jun.," who was not residing in the county and had no poll tax assessed.

⁶ "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979," John Isenhour and Sarah Baley, 1811, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBRW-WC8?> : accessed 12 March 2021; Lincoln > Marriage bonds, 1779-1868, vol I-L > images 8 & 9 of 864, FHL microfilm 1760464 DGS film 004364817; citing North Carolina State Archives Division of Archives and History.

⁷ "Missouri Probate Records, 1750-1998," Cape Girardeau > Letters testamentary, wills, 1807-1867, vol A-C, image 392 of 786, John D. Isenhour, 1844, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G92Y-24SM?> : accessed 12 March 2021); Will & Letters B: 354, FHL microfilm 925675, DGS Film #07630222; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

⁸ "1820 U.S. Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina, population schedule, East of the South Fork of the Catawba River, p. 398 (penned), Eisenhours; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 83.

⁹ Lincoln County, North Carolina, Tax Lists, 1784-1886, digital images, Eisenhours, 1818, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3G-284Q> : accessed 14 April 2021); FHL microfilm 2438682 DGS 7834316, image 377 of 1697.

¹⁰ Jeffrey L. Haines, *NGS Research in the states Series - North Carolina*, 2nd ed. (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2017), 39.

Table 1. Captain Little's District 1818, Lincoln County, North Carolina

Names	Land	White poles	Black poles	Situation	Valuation
George Eisenhower	250			On Long Shoal	300
Philip Eisenhower	116	1		On Lyles Creek W.	348
Daniel Eisenhower	114	1		On Lyles Creek W.	342
John Eisenhower Sen. Intrusted for John Eisenhower Jun.	148 125			On Lyles Creek On Lyles Creek	344 250
Joseph Eisenhower		1			

The 1819 tax evaluation named the same Isenhour men as in 1818.¹¹ Again, this list added the tax on the junior John Isenhour's land to John Isenhour Sen's line and added the wording "intrusted for his on [son]." This almost certainly named John Jun. as the son of John Sen.

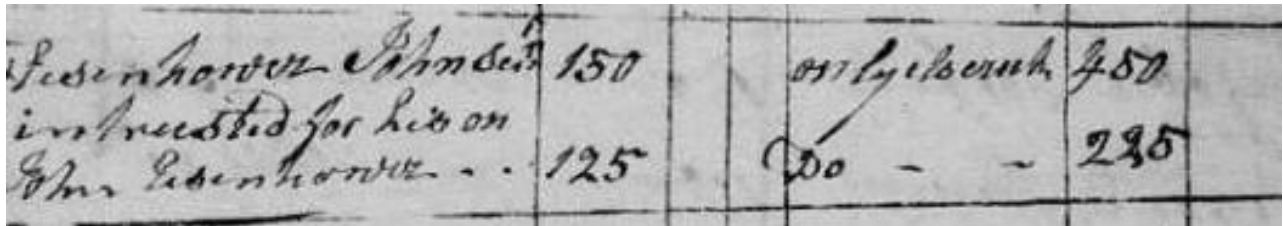


Figure 1 Lincoln County, North Carolina, 1819 Tax List, Captain Little's District

If John Isenhour, Jun., was not residing in Lincoln County, North Carolina, in 1818 and 1819, as shown by the tax lists, where had he gone? A deed dated 24 August 1819 between "John Eisenhower Jun." of Greene County, Tennessee, and Daniel Moser of Lincoln County, North Carolina, provides the answer. John had begun his move westward and in 1819 lived in Greene County, Tennessee, just over the North Carolina – Tennessee border. The deed identifies the land as "being originally granted to John Eisenhower Sen. by a state patent and conveyed by the said John Sen. to John Jun. . . containing 125 acres."¹² The following abstract describes the details.

- Indenture 24 August 1819 between John Eisenhower Jun of Green County, Tennessee and Daniel Moser of Lincoln Co. NC for \$250 for the parcel of land bounded as follows:

¹¹ Lincoln County, North Carolina, Tax Lists, 1784-1886, digital images, Eisenhours, 1819, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3G-283M> : accessed 14 April 2021); FHL microfilm 2438682 DGS 7834316, image 321 of 1697.

¹² Lincoln County, North Carolina, Deeds, v. 29-30, 1819-1824, John Isenhour to Daniel Moser, 1819, vol. 29:214, digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L983-6Q3C> : accessed 11 April 2021); Film 007513709 image 120 of 747.

- Beginning at a Po[---] Oak and runs north 110 poles crossing the Creek same course 18 poles to a pine on the side of a Ridge then west 22 poles crossing the Creek the same course 106 poles to a pine then south 40 poles crossing the branch the same course 88 poles to a Black Oak on the side of a ridge thence East to the beginning
- Being originally granted to John Eisenhour Sent by a state patent and conveyed by the said John Sen to John Jun as will appear of records containing 125 acres.
- Signed John Eisenhour {seal}
- Witnesses
- Vell Bee
- Daniel Hoke

Greene County, Tennessee

The 1820 U.S. Census could name John Isenhour, Jun. as a resident of Greene County, Tennessee, but all census enumerations for the marshal's district of East Tennessee were lost.¹³ Tax books that might have shown John's arrival in Tennessee also have not survived. Tax lists of 1809-1817 and 1828-1862 have been microfilmed, but a search for 1816, 1817, and 1828 showed no record for John Isenhour.¹⁴ He likely arrived in the county about 1818 and had moved to Missouri by 1828.

Land records of Greene County could reveal additional information about John Isenhour and determine his stay in the area. However, a search of the grantee index revealed no record.¹⁵ The grantor index did contain an item of interest, and a deed dated 3 August 1835 connects "John Eisenhower" and "Persis Eisenhower" to Greene County, Tennessee.¹⁶ The deed named the two Isenhour men as the heirs of Philip Henkel along with Lew Gunnice Lynkel, Daniel Buck, Tryphance Breck, John Pebic, Levina Peters, Escribus S. Henkel, Ambrose D. Henkel, and James N. Henkel. Future research could focus on Philip Henkel and the other heirs to discover the connection to John and Persis Isenhour.

¹³ William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790 - 1920*, (Baltimore : Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987), 317.

¹⁴ Greene County, Tennessee, Tax Books, 1809-1817, 1828-1863, negative search for John Eisenhour or Isenhour *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 25 April 2021); DGS film 007896706.

¹⁵ "Greene County, "Tennessee, Deeds, 1785-1887," Deed index, vol. 1, 1785-1871, negative search for Eisenhour or Isenhour as a grantee, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.or> : accessed 15 April 2021); DGS film 007896705.

¹⁶ "Greene County, Tennessee, Deeds vols. 17-18, 1833-1837, p. 10, , John Eisenhower et al heirs of Philip Henkel to Joseph Renner, 1835, 18:135, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4X-63L6-V> : accessed 15 April 2021); FHL film 944423, DGS film 8151304, image 297 of 446.

Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

When did John Isenhour and his family arrive in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri? The surviving 1827 tax list assesses only land and does not mention John. However, in 1828 he was taxed for 80 acres, listed as the original patentee, and listed on the surviving tax lists until he died in 1844.¹⁷ John Isenhour received the deed for 80 acres of land on 26 January 1831.¹⁸ Was this the same 80 acres from the 1828 tax record? It seems likely. Perhaps the transaction took place in 1828, but the deed was not formally issued until 1831. An abstract of the deed by researcher Bill Eddleman reads:

Deed Book G. Page 471. 26 Jan 1831. John EAKER, admr for the estate of Henry EAKER, to John ISENHOUR. For the sum of \$187, 80 acres, being the W 1/2, SE 1/4, Sec 5, Twp 30 N, Rng 10 E. Sold to satisfy Circuit Court order for sale of the property to pay the debts, issued on 12 Apr 1824 in response to a petition from John EAKER, admr of the estate of Henry EAKER, through his attorney Johnson RANNEY. Henry EAKER died in 1822, leaving Betsy EAKER, his wife, and children Nancy EAKER and David EAKER as heirs. The estate amounted to \$159, of which \$150 was set aside for the widow, and \$69.06 1/4 from the list of sales of sd estate. The sd Henry EAKER was indebted to the estate of John Peter EAKER for \$300 or more, to Daniel ISENHOUR about \$34, and funeral expenses. Signed: John EAKER. Wit: John (x) COOTS, Joel CARGILE, Moses BAILEY (JP). Rec 22 Apr 1831.

Figure 2 shows the location of John Isenhour's land described in the deed as the W 1/2, SE 1/4, Section 5, Township 30 N, Range 10 E.¹⁹ The deed mentions that the property was sold to pay the debts of the Henry Eaker estate. The Circuit Court order was issued on 12 April 1824, so John Isenhour had almost certainly moved to the area by that time.

¹⁷ Bill Eddleman to Diana Elder, email, 19 April 2021. "Those early tax lists have been filmed but large portions of the film are illegible." Bill photographed the originals at the Missouri Historical Society and reported the presence of John Isenhour from 1828 on.

¹⁸ Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Deed Book G:471, Eaker to John Isenhour, 1831, email Bill Eddleman to Diana Elder, 18 April 2021.

¹⁹ Missouri State Highway Department, drawn by J. R. H., "Bollinger County, Missouri," 1919, The State Historical Society of Missouri, *SHSMO* (<https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/Maps/id/285/rec/1> : accessed 26 April 2021).

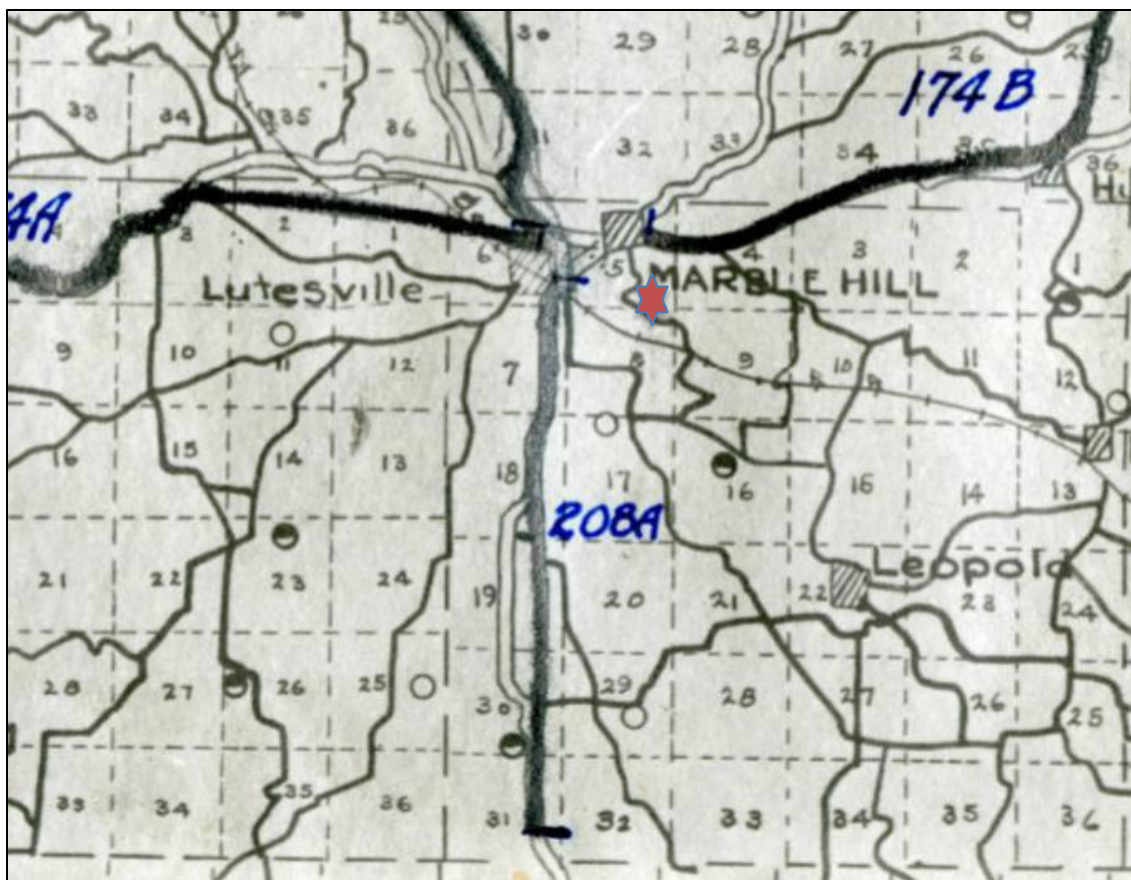


Figure 2 Location of John Isenhour's land in present-day Bollinger County, Missouri

The 1830 census found John Isenhour residing in Cape Girardeau County, with no township noted. His neighbors included Christian Aker, James Aker, Frederick Aker, Michael Aker, David Shell, Jacob Lutes, John Snell, Richard Riburn, Daniel Hahn, and Daniel Shell.²⁰ John Isenhour's household reflected a probable family group with his wife, Sarah "Sally" Bailey, seven children and an older female who may have been his mother-in-law,

Free White Persons - Males	Under 5:	1
Free White Persons - Males	5 thru 9:	1
Free White Persons - Males	10 thru 14:	2
Free White Persons - Males	40 thru 49:	1
Free White Persons - Females	Under 5:	1
Free White Persons - Females	5 thru 9:	1
Free White Persons - Females	10 thru 14:	1

²⁰ 1830 U.S. Census, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, population schedule, p. 439 (penned), line 7, John Isenhour; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 72.

Free White Persons - Females	40 thru 49:	1
Free White Persons - Females	60 thru 69:	1

John, listed as age 40–49, fits with the profile of the John Eisenhower of Lincoln County, North Carolina. The 1810 census designated him as born 1766–1784, so a birth year of 1781–1790, as suggested by the 1830 census, fits. A tighter birth range reflecting both census years would be 1781–1784.

Children of John D. Isenhour

Tracing the birth information of an individual's children can serve to place him in a location at a specific date. John D. Isenhour's oldest daughter, Mahala (Isenhour) Johnson, was born in North Carolina about 1810, and she married Enos M. Johnson on 27 February 1831 in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.²¹ Moses Bailey, a Baptist minister, performed the ceremony and as mentioned previously was likely a relative to Sarah (Bailey) Isenhour, wife of John D. Isenhour.

The census records for the next oldest child, Valentine Isenhour, consistently reported a North Carolina birth, but the birth years ranged widely from 1816–1823.²² Given the evidence from the tax and deed records of Lincoln County, North Carolina, discussed earlier, Valentine was most likely born before the 1817–1818 move from North Carolina to Greene County, Tennessee.

²¹ "1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Sulphur Spring, p. 394B (stamped), dwelling 24, family 24, Enos M. Johnson; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

"Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991," Cape Girardeau > Marriage certificates 1827-1847 > image 516 of 1898, Mahala Isenhour and Enos M. Johnson, 27 February 1831, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9CT-BZVL?> : accessed 12 February 2021); DGS Film 007425175; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

²² 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk, p. 406A (stamped), p. 815 (penned), dwelling 16, family 16, Valentine Isenhour; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

1860 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Caddo, p. 882 (stamped), p. 815 (penned), dwelling 259, family 24, Valentine Isenhour; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 46.

1870 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Beat 4, p. 81A (stamped), p. 43 (penned), dwelling 320, family 320, Valentine Isenhour; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1600.

Next in line for the Isenhour children was Barnett Isenhour, born about 1821 in Missouri.²³ Only the 1850 census contains identifying details for Barnett as he died about 1854.²⁴ Other children for John D. Isenhour are all listed as Missouri-born on the FamilySearch Family Tree.²⁵

Based on the records and the birth information for the children, John D. Isenhour moved from Lincoln County, North Carolina, to Greene County, Tennessee by 1818. He resided in Greene County, for at least two years, then made his way to Missouri by 1821-1824.

Lorance Township, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Where precisely did John D. Isenhour settle in Cape Girardeau County? The 1840 census revealed his household residing in the Lorance Township with the following individuals noted.²⁶ John was aged 50–59 and would have been born 1780–1789, fitting with other census estimations.

Free White Persons - Males 10-14	1
Free White Persons - Males 15-19	1
Free White Persons - Males 20-29	2
Free White Persons - Males 50-59	1
Free White Persons - Females 10-14	1
Free White Persons - Females 15-19	1
Free White Persons - Females 40-49	1

Lorance Township was located in the center of Cape Girardeau's 1840 boundaries. Established in 1827, the township became part of Bollinger County in 1851 with its creation from Cape Girardeau, County. The map below depicts the Lorance Township boundaries with Marble Hill as the county seat. To the east is Cape Girardeau County and the city of Cape Girardeau, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

²³ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk, p. 405 (stamped), household 6, family 6, Barnett Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

²⁴ FamilySearch Family Tree, John Barnett Isenhour, KN1G-XD8, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KN1G-XD8> : accessed 26 April 2021).

²⁵ FamilySearch Family Tree, John D. Isenhour, 24YK-X5N, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/24YK-X5N> : accessed 26 April 2021).

²⁶ 1840 U.S. Census, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, population schedule, Lorance, p. 268 (stamped), line 21, John Isenhour; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 March 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 221.

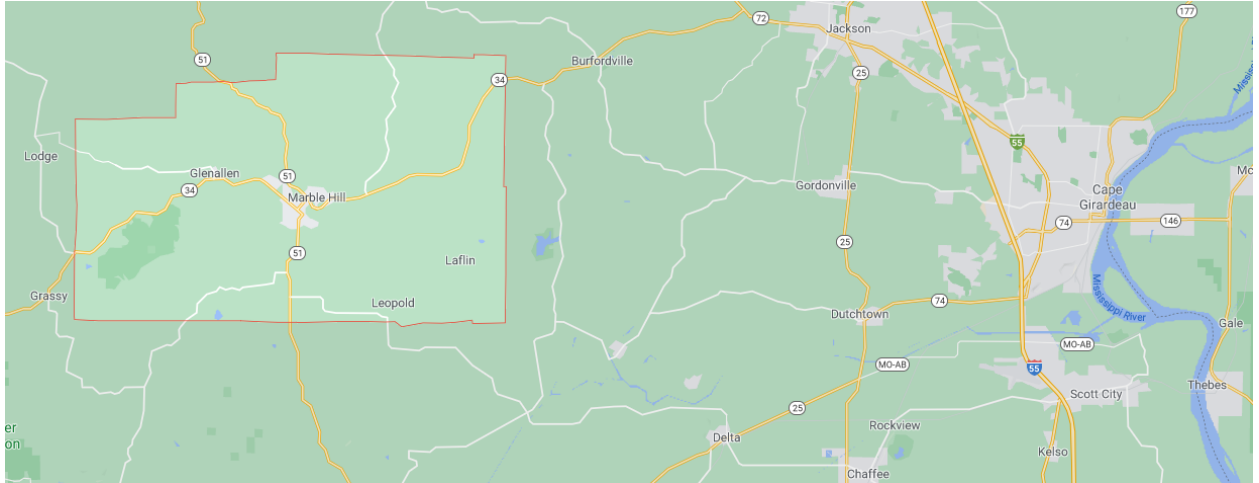


Figure 3 Google Maps: Lorraine Township, Missouri

Historical articles describe the land as John D. Isenhour and his family would have found it when they arrived in the early 1820s.

Its lofty situation renders it not only picturesque, but what is probably of greater importance, very healthful and entirely free from malarious vapors that hang over low and marshy lands.²⁷

Located in the foothills of the Ozarks, the hilly land was heavily wooded with hickory, ash, oak, walnut, pine, and cottonwood. Although the soil was fairly rich, the land itself was not the best for farming. The country was good for growing fruit such as "apples, pears, peaches, apricots, strawberries, and grapes."²⁸

Where did the settlers of Bollinger County originate? Settlers from North Carolina primarily settled the area with some exceptions.²⁹ The first settler in the area was George Frederick Bollinger, son of Henry Bollinger, of Lincoln County, North Carolina, and namesake for the county. Lorraine Township was named for John Lorraine, who traveled with Bollinger to the area in 1805 and settled along the Big and Little Whitewater Rivers.³⁰ News of the settlement likely traveled between Missouri and Lincoln County, North Carolina, influencing John D. Isenhour's decision to move west eventually. Settlers

²⁷ Cletis R. Ellinghouse, *Old Bollinger : a collection of historical articles taken from the pages of the Banner- Press, Bollinger County's weekly newspaper, and published in celebration of the bicentennial of the American Revolution,* (self-published, 1975), digitized book, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/200668> : accessed 26 April 2021), image 9 of 1049.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, image 17.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, image 12.

³⁰ *Ibid.* image 62.

generally sought similar land conditions, and the hilly Ozarks offered much the same agricultural opportunities as that of Lincoln County, North Carolina.

The historical articles don't mention John Isenhour, probably because after his 1844 death, his children moved to Arkansas. However, his neighbors from the 1830 and 1840 census enumerations are described as pioneers of the country. Daniel Hahn settled Hahn's Creek about one-half mile west of Lutesville, and Casper Shell settled on the same creek.³¹ John D. Isenhour's 1831 deed for the Eaker land places him just east of Marble Hill and squarely amid this early community of North Carolina settlers.³²

Another connection to this community for the Isenhour family was Moses Bailey, Baptist minister and founder of the Marble Hill Baptist church. Originally named the New Hope Constitution, the church began at the residence of Moses Bailey on Hog Creek, about five miles northeast of Marble Hill.³³ Moses Bailey may have been the brother or cousin of John Isenhour's wife, Sarah Bailey. He witnessed the 1831 deed and 1844 probate for John Isenhour³⁴ and performed the 1831 marriage of Mahala Isenhour to Enos M. Johnson.³⁵ Further research could determine the relationship between Moses and Sarah Bailey and their origins in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

German Origins

Like other settlers of German origins, John Isenhour "Anglicized" his surname, dropping the "E" from Eisenhour. Did his German background affect his settlement choice of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri? As mentioned earlier, the early settler George Frederick Bollinger was among the first to settle the area watered by the Whitewater River in 1799. He was joined by other settlers from the North Carolina Piedmont, a term given to Lincoln, Burke, Rowan, and Cabarrus Counties. These settlers became known as the "Whitewater Dutch" and retained their language and customs for many years. In the early 19th century, visitors to the region reported the settlers had preserved their language and

³¹ Ibid, image 61.

³² Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Deed Book G:471, Eaker to John Isenhour, 1831, email Bill Eddleman to Diana Elder, 18 April 2021.

³³ Ibid, image 61

³⁴ Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Deed Book G:471, Eaker to John Isenhour, 1831, email Bill Eddleman to Diana Elder, 18 April 2021.

"Missouri Probate Records, 1750-1998," Cape Girardeau > Letters testamentary, wills, 1807-1867, vol A-C, image 392 of 786, John D. Isenhour, 1844, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G92Y-24SM?> : accessed 12 March 2021); Will & Letters B: 354, FHL microfilm 925675, DGS Film #07630222; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

³⁵ "Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991," Cape Girardeau > Marriage certificates 1827-1847 > image 516 of 1898, Mahala Isenhour and Enos M. Johnson, 27 February 1831, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9CT-BZVL?> : accessed 12 February 2021); DGS Film 007425175; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

traditions better than the Germans of Pennsylvania – probably because of their isolation.³⁶ By the time John Isenhour and his family arrived, about twenty years later, the settlers could have started to mix with the settlers of Scotch-Irish or English origins. After John's death in 1844 and his children's dispersal to Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, the Isenhour German roots were likely just a memory.

Prosperity of John Isenhour

How did John Isenhour fare in his new home of Missouri? Settlement patterns generally reflected people moving to land similar to what they had left behind. In John's case, his land in the foothills of the Ozarks resembled the North Carolina Piedmont with its hills, plenty of water, and trees. Although the soil may not have been as rich as that of the Mississippi flood plain, the settlers looked for the creeks and rivers that supported the type of agriculture they knew.³⁷ The North Carolina Piedmont area where John had been born and actively worked to support his family was primarily made up of smallholdings. Farmers raised their crops to feed their animals and their families.³⁸ They bartered for other goods. This type of subsistence agriculture transferred well to the Ozark foothills of Missouri, where John and his family landed in the early 1820s. Figure 4 depicts topographical views of present-day Lincoln County, North Carolina, Greene County, Tennessee, and Marble Hill, Missouri. All three areas reflect the hilly, wooded terrain, next to a larger uplift.

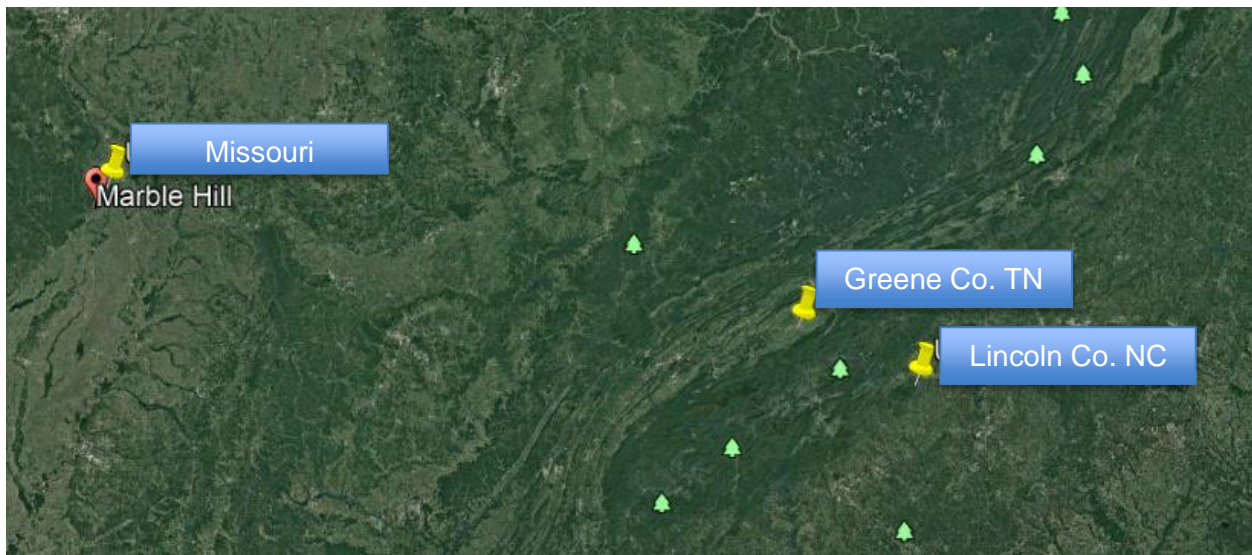


Figure 4 Topographical view of John Isenhour's residences in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri

³⁶ Brooks Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks: Volume 1 The Old Ozarks*, (Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2020), 78-79.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 86-87.

³⁸ James Leloudis, and Kathryn Walbert, "Life on the Land: The Piedmont Before Industrialization," *ANCHOR* (<https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/life-land-piedmont> : accessed 27 April 2021).

The will of John Isenhour reveals not only his heirs but also his lifestyle. From the time of his arrival in the early 1820s until he died in 1844, he had amassed a large number of livestock – especially hogs which were well-suited to the hilly terrain of the Ozarks.³⁹ Corn was an easy crop to grow and fed the hogs as well as the people. Sheep provided wool, and cattle provided dairy products. His property included the basics for running a self-contained plantation, such as axes, handsaw, plow, wagon, and windmill. Settlers used the mattock for cutting through roots and keeping the land cleared. He also valued his rifle, which would have served him hunting wild game and defending his family and home against any intruders. His orchard likely grew a variety of fruit, and he would have raised grain to feed his stock.

Will of John Isenhour

Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

1844

- Mahaly Johnson one dollar
- Valentine Isenhower two head of sheep
- Patsy Blalock one dollar
- Barnet Isenhour bay horse, cow named Smut, two head of sheep and one field of my plantation lying towards James Rows cornering near the creek and my [im---] in the bottom near the same toward Thomas Ramsays
- Moses Isenhour half a lot of hogs, twenty-seven in number, besides the pigs bought from Enos M. Johnson and eleven hogs in the Sump, one man saddle, one riffle gun, and one cow, one gray mare, and oft sheep, four ewes and one
- Josiah E. Isenhour young Rone [sic] horse, one clock, five sows, nine shoats, mattock, all my axes, drawing nife [sic], chissels [sic], hand saw, plow, horse gear, wind mill, wood works of a waggon, and after the death of my wife to have the balance of my plantation including my dwelling house and orchard and one of two ewes, one cow
- Sarah Emmatine two beds and furniture, one chest, one wash pot, fourteen head of hogs and sufficiently of grain of the farm to support her part of the stock until she is of age or married
- Beloved wife, Sally the balance of my stock of hogs and two kettles, one black mare, the balance of my stock and sheep, the balance of my stock of cattle and the poultry on the farm

Witnessed 9 March 1844

³⁹ "Missouri Probate Records, 1750-1998," Cape Girardeau > Letters testamentary, wills, 1807-1867, vol A-C, image 392 of 786, John D. Isenhour, 1844.

Moses Bailey
Thomas Ramsey

Conclusion

This research project successfully answered the question of when and why John Isenhour moved from Lincoln County, North Carolina, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. As part of the chain migration of German settlers, he likely heard of the Whitewater Dutch settlement in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and headed west looking for new land.

Land and tax records of Lincoln County, North Carolina, revealed John's move west to Greene County, Tennessee, by 1818. Searching land and tax records of Tennessee found little trace of John but did locate a deed dated 1835 with John and a Persis Isenhour named as heirs of a Phillip Henkel.

Land and tax records of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, place John in the area by 1824. Researching the location of Lorance Township, John's 1840 census residence, found him among the Whitewater Dutch group of settlers. Researching his neighbors discovered their connection to Lincoln County, North Carolina.

Future Research Suggestions

- Research the first wife of John D. Isenhour, married about 1800 in North Carolina. The 1810 census shows six children under ten and a female who would be the wife. The marriage of John and Sarah Bayly in 1811 indicates the death of his first wife.
- Research the individuals named in the 1835 deed of Greene County, Tennessee: Philip Henkel's heirs, including John and Persis Eisenhour.
- Discover the relationship between Moses Bailey and Sarah (Bailey) Isenhour and their origins in Lincoln County, North Carolina.
- Explore the records of Lincoln County, North Carolina, to learn more about John Isenhour's brothers and parents.