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Fry Station 1893 -- What and Where Was It

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Fry or Frye Station is believed to have been a railroad station on the C B and Q Railroad line which once upon a time went through Adair County, Missouri. The full name of that railroad was Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy RR. It went east and west through Adair County, going through the towns of Kirksville and Novinger, Missouri. When first created, the name of this railroad was Quincy, Missouri & Pacific RR, and it was later bought out by the C B & Q and the line was shortened. Between these two towns of Kirksville and Novinger, there is a river called Rye Creek. Near this creek was a small village named Frye which was also on the railroad line. It had a post office and a school. The first school built there was about 1868, as far as we can determine. The name of Frye and Rye seems to have been used interchangeably for this village and also for the creek. We are not sure if it was originally named for a family with the surname of Fry or Frye, but we suspect it was. But, some say it might have been named Rye after the crop called rye which may have grown there. The name may have started out as Frye and been corrupted into Rye as the two names sound so similar. This was considered river bottom land which was excellent for growing crops, unless the rivers and creeks flooded out over the crops. The Chariton River is very near this location also, and Rye Creek is a tributary of the Chariton River.

The location of Frye Station could be described as North of State Highway 6 and a short distance east of Novinger, Missouri, and east of the Chariton River. There is now a road that runs along the area of Rye Creek called Rye Creek Road, and both can be found on a map. The community of Frye Station was in Nineveh Township. Originally, a Bible communist utopian colony and town named Nineveh was created by a minister named Dr. William Keil, born in Prussia, who first created the same type of commune at Bethel, Shelby County, Missouri. When Dr. Keil moved on to Oregon and died in 1877, the Nineveh colony in Adair County was broken up and the town of Nineveh was combined with the nearby town of Connelsville just outside of Novinger, Missouri. However, the township continued to this day to be named Nineveh Township.

Cemeteries nearby this area would be Ninevah Cemetery, Mulberry Cemetery, and Novinger Cemetery. There may have been other smaller cemeteries in the area of which I am not aware. Since a collection was taken up for David See's burial, it is doubtful that he ever had a headstone. If one could find an old railroad map, one might be able to better locate Frye Station, but I have been unable to find one.

Thank you for an interesting journey through history.

Blytha Ellis, President
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