Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms The Geography of American Communities – Map 16 A Farm in Menard County, Illinois, 1874

Map Packet Question Sheet

Note: The Map Packet should consist of the Sectional Map of Menard County (supplied), historic maps showing the growth of Illinois by counties (three are supplied on the Resources page), and a current map of Illinois showing the counties

- 1. Describe the historical growth of Illinois by county between 1800-1900.
- 2. Locate Menard County on the maps. In what decade was Menard Co. incorporated? What is the relationship of Menard County to Fulton Co., where Miller first settled?
- 3. How might Miller have traveled to Menard Co.?
- 4. Analyze the Menard Co. map, read the title and caption, then answer the following questions.

How is the timberland indicated? Why would a map of Illinois indicate timberland?

What rivers bound or flow into Menard Co.? (Using an Illinois map, can you determine the direction in which the rivers flow? To what river does the Sangamon River flow? Into what river does the Salt Creek flow?)

What transportation links between cities are on the map?

The caption indicates that "... Towns and Villages, Post Offices, Churches, and School Houses ..." are also on the map. Highlight these, using different colors, on the map.

Hills and river valleys did not show on this map, but if you think carefully about the streams and rivers and locations of the timberlands (usually along river banks or on higher/rougher land), can you determine the part of Menard Co. which would be flattest?

What parts of Menard Co. would be better suited to farming? Why?