

**“Spring Park”**  
**Home of Saunders Townsend**  
Taken from The Daily Democrat-News  
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This farm homestead, on the west side of highway 41, almost always attracts the attention of motorists because of the many farms and outbuildings, which number more than 30.

"Spring Park," a lovely, spacious country home in Blackwater, Mo., Lamine township, Cooper county, dates from 1821, the first land grant papers having been signed by President James Monroe . Other grants were made in 1824 and 1836 by Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren.

Mr. Saunders Townsend, a former Kentuckian [born VA or SC] was the recipient of this valuable property which was comprised of hundreds of acres on the Old Santa Fe trail.

Many of Mr. Townsend's Negro slaves lie buried near the house and a great number of them remained to serve, even after freedom was given them after the Civil War.

The first Townsend home was built of bricks, which the slaves fashioned at a kiln near Blackwater and the woodwork and flooring were hewed by hand from black walnut trees.

In 1877, Mr. Townsend had the present house constructed of wood from local white pine, white oak, and black walnut trees, using the original brick for the kitchen wing. Nathaniel Spraggins Townsend, son of Mr. and Mrs. Saunders Townsend, the next owner, planted some lovely cedar trees in 1879, many of which still stand.

Of interest, is the inexhaustible supply of water which comes from the old spring dug by the slaves more than 100 years ago.