



"A man who never entered politics but had such immense influence in Missouri that his endorsement could help make or break political deals in Jefferson City."

**Mike Dickey, historic site manager,
Arrow Rock State Historic Site.**



Images courtesy
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Frontier Doctor John Sappington

05/15/1776 – 09/07/1856

Many Missourians were afflicted with and died from malaria during the 19th century. Dr. Sappington became one of the first physicians in the United States to successfully treat the disease. In 1844, he wrote one of the first medical books published west of the Mississippi River. In it, he revealed the formula for his anti-malarial pills. Today, modern medical historians credit Sappington as being the single greatest promoter of a new wonder drug and for debunking the ideas of bleeding or purging as cures for diseases.

His wealth and influence helped launch the political careers of several family members including Claiborne Fox Jackson and Meredith Marmaduke. A believer in education, Sappington established the Sappington School Fund in 1853. The fund was available to Saline County residents and assisted thousands of students as they attended school. The Sappington School Fund later attracted Missouri Valley College to Marshall, Saline County, Missouri.