

# History of Sumner

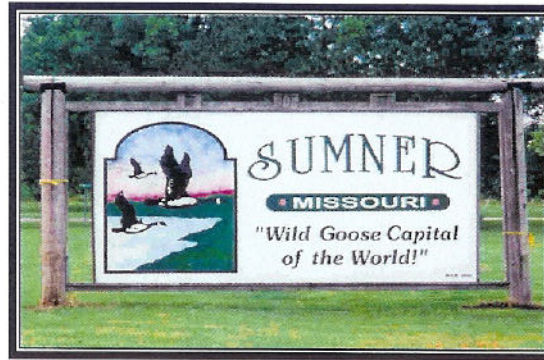
Excellent hunting around present day Sumner attracted some of its earliest inhabitants, the Missouri and Chippawa Indians. These tribes were friendly with early pioneer settler Tom Stanley, an acquaintance of frontiersman Daniel Boone. When Stanley settled in the Sumner area in 1820, he spent his first winters in the hollow of a sycamore log. Eventually he built a log cabin trading post in the vicinity of present day Stanley Lake. Later three of his brothers joined him. Years later a free black named Jack also located near Sumner at the present location of Jack's Ridge.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Sumner boasted general stores, hotels, lumberyards, a newspaper office, an opera house and factories that produced ax handles, pickles, cheese, and sorghum. Flour milling and coal mines also boosted the economy.

1937 was an important year for Sumner. It was then the Civilian Conservation Corps, during President Franklin Roosevelt's term of office, started building the 11,000 acre Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. At that time the peak population of Canada geese in 1940 was 25, but by 1975 the goose population was 200,000 – a remarkable success story! The first Wild Goose Festival was held in 1955 to coincide with the opening of wild goose season. The three-day festival has been held annually since.

Sumner's Community Betterment Organization is active and has won state recognition. Among its projects have been the Senator Wm. J. Fulbright Museum, the Sumner Community Park, the restoration of Purvis Cemetery, and the beautiful plantings along Swan Lake Drive.

First settled because of the excellent hunting, Sumner, MO, is still renowned for its abundant wildlife. Modern day hunters and visitors enjoy what Sumner has to offer. Sumner is ten minutes from Missouri's Pershing State Park.



## New Sign

The recently completed "Welcome to Sumner" sign is located at the entrance to Sumner's Community Park. Picnic tables and playground equipment are available for visitors using the park. Electrical hookups for campers and shelter house reservations may be obtained by contacting 660-856-3364.



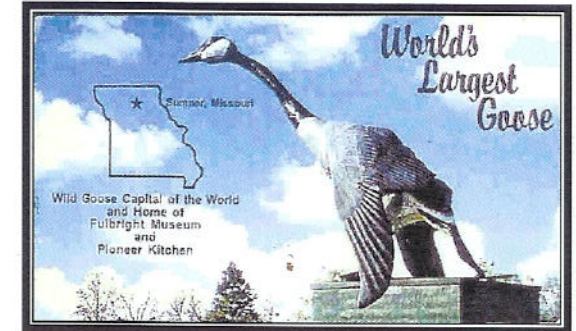
## Lovely Swan Lake Drive

As part of the community betterment project a few years ago, these spring flowering redbuds and pines were planted along Swan Lake Drive. This road is the entrance avenue to the Federal Wildlife Refuge. Hours for the refuge's visitor center are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The refuge is open 7 days a week for drive throughs during daylight hours. March 1<sup>st</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>.

[www.fws.gov/midwest/swanlake/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/swanlake/)

# Sumner, MO

Wild Goose Capital of the World



In 1976 the community of Sumner, MO erected the world's largest statue of a wild goose. It was the second community to have a statue of a wild goose, the other being Sumner's sister city, Wawa, Canada. Sumner's goose is appropriately nicknamed "Maxie" for *Branta Canadensis Maxima*. Maxie's statistics are: height 40 feet above ground, weight 3 tons, and wing span of 61 feet tip to tip. Maxie turns according to wind direction. The rotating statue of Maxie is the work of artist David Jackson. Maxie's colors and contours are life-like and quite naturalistic.

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### Pioneer Kitchen

In the fall, with approaching goose season, each Sunday in October sees the award winning Pioneer Kitchen open for business. Completely manned by volunteer labor from the surrounding Sumner community, approximately 200 delicious meals are served per Sunday. People from miles around come to Sumner for the great food and fellowship.



### Swan Lake Sportsman's Club

In 1947 the Swan Lake Sportsman's Club was organized in affiliation with the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The club is still active and the building is used regularly.



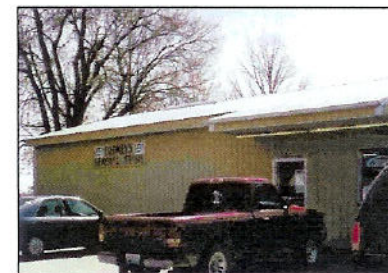
### Quilt Shop

Mrs. Veda Johnson provides expert quilting skills at her shop in Sumner that she has managed for the last 29 years.



### Foster's Sportsman Inn

The scene of lively gatherings particularly during wild goose season as well as the rest of the year. Open year round, phone 660-856-3332.



### Cooney's General Store

Sumner's local convenience store provides not only the usual staples of the grocery business but custom made Cooney sandwiches for people on the go.



### Fulbright Museum

The Fulbright museum features a comprehensive display of antiques and artifacts collected in and around Sumner. The museum was named in honor of former U.S. Senator William J. Fulbright who was born in Sumner and while a senator sponsored educational scholarships for foreign students studying in the U.S. Japanese students especially avail themselves of these scholarships. The museum contains some artifacts pertinent to the career of Senator Fulbright as well as antique medical and dental equipment, old barber shop equipment, etc.

Contact: 660-856-3579 or 660-856-3513



### Purvis Cemetery

Genealogists and historians alike will enjoy exploring the Purvis Cemetery tombstones which date from the early 1800's. Due to nearby wetlands, the entrance to the cemetery is occasionally made inaccessible except for 4-wheel drive vehicles.



### Sumner's United Methodist Church

Church Services 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Main Street.