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Stone Cellars

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STONE CELLARS

Mill Creek Township in Wabaunsee County is in the heart of an area with a high concentration of arched cellars. Three wonderful examples of the caves are found within just a few miles of each other. Their location names are derived from early deeds and plat maps.

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John Olson Dugout
Tom Parish

JOHN OLSON DUGOUT, MILL CREEK TOWNSHIP, WABAUNSEE COUNTY

This mysterious structure and associated compound of buildings doesn't appear on any of the early plat maps. The earliest record of property ownership indicates that it dates from the late 1880s. No residence on the property is indicated, just a landowner's name. It seems probable this site would have been settled well before 1880.

(Note: This is a 360-degree image, showing both the front and back of the arched cellar, as is the next image.)



John Siegrist Root Cellar
Tom Parish

**JOHN SIEGRIST ROOT CELLAR,
MILL CREEK TOWNSHIP, WABAUNSEE COUNTY**

This arched cellar is less than a mile from the John Olson cave; however, they were likely built by two different masons a decade or more apart. The cave itself is built into a hillside behind the remnants of a two-story stone house located about a quarter mile north of a Swedish cemetery. The structure walks out to the south via a short-arched antechamber into the back of the house. The house is quite striking and so is the intricate coursing in the stone of the cellar walls. The house burned down during the 1950s. This site is above a beautiful draw.

Jasper Seery Root Cellar
Tom Parish

**JASPER SEERY ROOT CELLAR,
MILL CREEK TOWNSHIP, WABAUNSEE COUNTY**

This arched cellar is located near the southeast corner of Mill Creek Township. There are stone remnants of other building foundations, but otherwise little is left of the homestead. The ground around the cave has been allowed to erode for years, to the point that the entryway and back wall have started to collapse, providing a cutaway look at the construction of the cave. The cave opens directly south and features a rare arched entryway. The cellar would have opened into the back of a house.