



Life Sketches of a Jayhawker of 49 (Classic Reprint)

L. Dow Stephens

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From all information obtainable my great great grandfather came to this country from Wales, but the date is unknown. He settled in Morris County, New Jersey. His name was Jacob Stephens, and to him was born a son, Richard Stephens, born on the same day as General George Washington, February 22, 1732, Richard Stephens had a son, Samuel Stephens, my grandfather, and he took part in the War of the Revolution, as did my grandfather Addis on my mothers side. At the close of the war they both Returned home and took up agricultural pursuits. In the year 1820, my grandfather Addis moved from New Jersey to Illinois and was a pioneer of that state. I have heard my grandmother tell of Chicago at that time. It consisted of one log house and a small ferry where they crossed the Chicago River going South. They passed but two or three settlers between Chicago and Lewiston, a distance of a hundred and eighty miles. Grandfather purchased thirty-six sections of land, equal to twenty-three thousand acres, in what was called the Military tract. After his death the heirs neglected to pay the taxes, so it was sold over and over for the amount of the taxes. Just before the Black Hawk War my father, Richard Stephens, son of Samuel Stephens, with his family moved from New Jersey to I llinois. At Canton, then the front of civilization, he built the first frame house in that town, all others being constructed of logs, laid pioneer style. A bout 1832 the country became much disturbed from the Black Hawk War, and a move was made to Ohio. After remaining about six years the family returned to Illinois and settled near Galesburgh. By his marriage to Eleanor A ddis, who was born in New Jersey, there was born five children, all of whom attained mature age, and of whom but two are now living. The youngest of the family born near Hacketstown, New Jersey, September 29, 1827, was the only one t
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