

Hubbard Luther Stevens

Information compiled by Harry G. Enoch, 2003

In 1906, Hubbard Stevens purchased the Martin-Holder-Bush Mill from Green Parker. Parker had acquired the mill from Joel T. Hart in 1905. Stevens died in 1920. The mill property passed to his wife Margaret, and subsequently to his daughter Etta and son James, and finally to granddaughter Regina. There is no evidence that any of the Stevenses ever operated the mill.

Source: Clark County Deed Book 75:313, 77:122, 116:367, 123:278, 165:485

Biographical Sketch

Hubbard Luther Stevens was an energetic factor in a community that is historic and in which his ancestors played a prominent part for many years. Mr. Stevens was primarily a farmer, though he participated actively in various other lines of industry. Nine miles southwest of Winchester, the Stevens residence stands on a bluff 200 feet above the Kentucky River and from that point is afforded an extensive view of the varied scenery of the valley including many of the farms of Madison County. During his many years of residence in that locality Mr. Stevens took the lead in all matters of local improvement, especially those affecting good roads.

He was born at Boonesboro on the site of the famous old fort April 9, 1846, a son of John and Martha (Martin) Stevens. His grandfather Joseph Stevens was a native of Virginia and came to Boonesboro, Kentucky, at a very early age. John Stevens was born at Boonesboro and in early life served an apprenticeship at the saddlers' trade. About the time he reached his majority he bought the Boonesboro Ferry, an institution he operated fifty years. At the time of his death he was next to the oldest ferry owner on the Kentucky River. He owned extensive farming properties, was also a banker and acquired about 400 acres bordering the Kentucky River in Madison County and including the site of the old fort established and named in honor of Daniel Boone. Hubbard L. Stevens as a boy many days plowed over the site.

John Stevens died January 15, 1893, at the age of seventy-eight. His wife died in 1890 at the age of sixty-five. She was a half sister of Hubbard H. Kavanaugh, and Hubbard L. Stevens was named in honor of his distinguished half-uncle who was born in Clark County, Kentucky, on the other side of the Kentucky River, January 14, 1802, and in that locality started his career as a minister. He was one of the early superintendents of public instruction of Kentucky and in 1854 was elected a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was still the incumbent of that high office when he died in 1884. Hubbard L. Stevens many years ago erected a church on his farm, known as Mount Tabor Church, and this church was dedicated by Bishop Kavanaugh about two years before his death.

John Stevens was not a church member until late in life, when he joined Mount Tabor Church. He was active in Masonry for half a century and was buried under the auspices of that order at Winchester. He was a director of the Citizens National Bank at

Winchester and was president of the Winchester and Boonesboro Pike. He and his wife had five children and three of them reached adult years. Valentine, who died in 1905, was a successful farmer in Clark County, and married Mary Stevens who survived him twelve years. Thomas H. Stevens, a noted race horse breeder and proprietor of the Walnut Hill farm six miles from Lexington on the Richmond Pike, died of pneumonia at Butte, Montana, in August, 1912, and was buried at Winchester.

Hubbard L. Stevens always kept his chief interest on and in the land. He was reared on a farm, acquired a common school education, and half a century ago soon after his marriage he began farming on his wife's father's place. Later he bought 400 acres of land three miles below the old homestead, in association with a brother, but later became sole owner and now has 500 acres. The homestead was built by a Mr. Woodward in 1854. In connection with farming he has been a breeder of high class horses. He also owned and operated for many years a saw mill, was in the mercantile business at Boonesboro, where he also operated the old ferry, and was a director in the Winchester Bank and a man of varied interests and undertakings that brought him success and prominence. He was a democrat in politics and during 1904-06 served in the State Legislature and while there used his influence in behalf of legislation to make the State Fair a permanent institution.

About the age of twenty-one in 1866 Mr. Stevens married Miss Emily Hampton, daughter of H. B. Hampton of Clark County. She was born in Lee County, Virginia, in 1844 and died in February 1889. In November 1890, Mr. Stevens married Margaret Cleland, who was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1859. By his first marriage Mr. Stevens had four children: Hattie, who died unmarried at home; Georgella, who died at the age of twenty-seven; Albert, who is a farmer and lumberman at Boonesboro married Effie Good; and Etta, widow of Frank Trevitt, who was an undertaker at Cleveland and later at Winchester. Mr. Stevens had no children by his second marriage, but reared in his home from the age of three, a nephew, Charles Stevens, who is now twenty-one years of age.

Hubbard L. Stevens was a Mason of half a century's standing, also an Elk and always showed a rare degree of public spirit and co-operation in all matters affecting the general welfare.

Source: Charles Kerr, *History of Kentucky, Volume 4* (Chicago, 1922), pp. 434-435