

STEPHENS, VARNEY ANDREW

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STEPHENS, VARNEY ANDREW, born near Thompkinsville, Monroe County, Kentucky, May 16, 1820; son of John E. and Polly (Gerals) Stephens; married Nancy A. Ball in Missouri, March 1, 1846; children, John C., Caroline E. (Mrs. Benjamin H. Weaver), Martina (Mrs. William N. Kelly) and Josephine (Mrs. Warren C. Potts).

Went to Missouri in 1840 where he first located on a farm about 12 miles from St. Joseph in Buchanan County, but later moved to near Athens in Clarke County; went to Denton County, Texas in 1856 where he engaged in farming and stockraising and did some freighting; left there early in February, 1864, with an ox-train and some cattle and after an eight months journey arrived with his family in Prescott, A.T. on October 5; the Apaches stole a large part of his live stock and to make a living he engaged in getting out saw-timber; listed, Sheriff's census of Yuma County, 1866, at Williams Fork with wife, son and three daughters; returned to Prescott where the names of the family appear in the U.S. Census, in July, 1870; was in the Salt River Valley late in September where he was one of the organizers of the Prescott Ditch Company; joined with some of the same men in organizing, on December 2, 1870, the Virginia Farming Ditch Company with a heading about 2½ miles upstream; both of these proposed canals were intended to irrigate lands on the south side of Salt River opposite Phoenix.

From 1866 to 1872 his principal occupation was freighting after which he entered into partnership with his son-in-law, under the name of Kelly and Stephens, and for nearly 30 years they conducted a successful general merchandise business at the corner of Montezuma and Gurley Streets, in Prescott. Their advertisement in the Arizona Miner of

Stephens , Varney A.

-2-

April 26, 1878 reads as follows:

K E L L Y & S T E P H E N S,

**NEWS AGENTS
and dealers in**

BOOKS, STATIONERY, FANCY GOODS.

Yankee Notions, Confectionery,

**Tobacco and Cigars,
Meerschaum & Briarwood Pipes,
Toys, dolls, fine paperterie**

**Boots, Shoes & Hosiery,
Gent's underwear, riveted over-
alls and pants, school books,
buck and woolen gloves, musical
instruments, fiddle and guitar
strings, etc., etc.**

POWDER, SHOT AND WADS,

**Fresh garden seeds for 1878.
Connected with this establishment
is a**

Circulating Library.

**Died at Prescott, Yavapai County, A.T., September 21, 1904, aged
84; buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Prescott.**

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

**Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, p. 213, Vol. 6, pp. 88, 89, 96.
Chapman Pub. Co. - Portrait and Biographical Record of Arizona,
Chicago, 1901, pp. 264, 269.
Great Register of Yavapai County, A.T., 1876-1902.
The Prescott Morning Courier - September 22, p. 3, Col. 3, and September
26, 1904, p. 3, Col. 2.**