

First Generation

1. **John E Stephens**¹ was born in 1817 in Ohio.¹⁻² He owned on 10 Nov 1841 in Patented land in Knox County, Missouri.³ He lived in Benton, Knox County, Missouri on 30 Oct 1850.¹ John lived in Benton, Knox County, Missouri on 19 Jun 1860.² He lived in Knox County, Missouri on 9 Jul 1862.⁴ He was buried in 1866 in Hushaw, Dazey, Stephenson or Rupert Cemetery, Fountain County, Indiana. John died on 24 Jan 1866 at the age of 49 in prob Fountain County, Indiana.⁵ He was also known as John Stevens. Link to parents: See the notes. There is some evidence that he was Evin C Stephens' son, but it is not from primary sources..

NOTES

John Stephens says in the 1850 and in the 1860 censuses that he was born about 1817 in Ohio.

There are land patent records in the Government Land Office which document John Stephens' purchase of 160 acres in Knox County, Missouri. The purchase was dated 10 November 1841. Location was Sections 11 and 24, Township 62-N, Range 10-W. The certificate says that John Stephens was from Fountain County, Indiana. William Stephens and Richard Donovan (both of Fountain County, Indiana) also purchased land in Knox County, Missouri, in 1841 (same day). Richard was the son-in-law of Evin Stephens, and Evin Stephens had a son named William. So, John might be the son of Evin Stephens. If he is Evin's son, he might have been born in Clark County, Ohio.

John's son John Will was born in Missouri about 1840. The 1850 and 1860 and 1870 censuses all say that. So, John was probably in Missouri at least a year before he bought the land. There is a John Stephens in Lewis County with a very young boy and a wife in the 1840 census. I cannot determine whether that is John Stephens from Fountain County.

There is an entry about John Stephens of Knox County in the "Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers: 1861 - 1866" index on the Missouri State Archives web page. The subject is "Statement that he was visiting Doctor P. Canduttes when James Bourn and Simon Shiers arrived." The date is 9 July 1862. Reel number F1268. (1860 census for Lewis County shows Doctor Palonzo Conduitte living near LaBelle. He was born in Louisiana and had "personal property" with value \$1803, but is not shown as a slave holder. Probably was a southern sympathizer, and was being investigated by the adjutant general.) The Conduittes were neighbors of John Stephens for many years. They bought land from the Government Land Office in 1848.

The death information shown here for John Stephens is not certain. There is a book of cemetery inscriptions for Fountain County, Indiana. John Stephens aged 49 years and 3 months is buried in the "Hushaw Dazey Stephenson or Rupert" cemetery. The death date is 24 January 1866. In support of this candidate, I found no John Stephens of the same age in Indiana in the 1860 census. So, it is possible that the John who was in Missouri in 1860 moved back to Indiana and later died there. (John's sons Benjamin and Lafayette reside in Fountain County after the Civil War. Mary Stephens (wife of John?) is in Fountain County in the 1870 census with her son James, and John is not present.)

I analyzed the cemetery information and found that nearly all the Stephens burials in the Hushaw ... Cemetery (aka Old Baptist Cemetery of Newton, Indiana) are the descendants of William Stephens, father-in-law of Evin Stephens. So, I think that John Stephens belonged to this family. I am not sure that he is Evin's son.

1. 1850 United States Census.
2. 1860 United States Census.
3. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Government Land Office, Documents 20885, 20886, and 20887.
4. Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers: 1861 - 1866, on the State Archives' website.
5. Quibache Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fountain County, Indiana Cemetery Inscriptions on Ancestry.