

[Stephens, Asa Hovey]

ASA H. STEPHENS was born in the town of Canisteo, March 14, 1820. He was the son of Ezra Stephens and grandson of Col. John Stephens, who was the son of Uriah Stephens, the first settler of the Canisteo Valley,—1789. He spent his minority on the farm at home, in the town of Greenwood, where his father settled when it was a wilderness tract of land, the same farm now being in possession of the family. In 1844, July 31, he married Charlotte, daughter of Randall and Nancy Pease, of Greenwood. Her parents removed from Dryden, Tompkins Co., in June, 1826, and settled in the town of Greenwood, where she was born, in August following; and hence the Pease family were among the earliest settlers of the town. His father, Ezra Stephens, died in Canisteo, about 1851, and his mother died about 1845, in Greenwood.

After his marriage, Mr. Stephens settled on the homestead, a part of which he had purchased from his brother, Andrew R. Stephens, and remained on the same farm during the remainder of his life. He made many improvements on the farm, erected elaborate farm-buildings, and was, in fact, a representative agriculturist of the town. He was a thrifty, active, and enterprising farmer, a man of good executive ability, and of excellent judgment in business matters. Characteristic of Mr. Stephens, as well as of his ancestors, was his fondness for hunting, and very much of his pastime was spent in pursuit of the wild game so numerous among the hills and valleys of this part of the county,—in his day being mostly deer and foxes. He, however, killed one bear.

He was always interested in local matters, and was identified with the Democratic party, as a member of which he held various town offices.

He and his wife were members of the Universalist Church at Greenwood, and supporters of that and kindred interests.

Their children are Randall P., who married Flavilla Porter, of Greenwood, Rozeltha (Mrs. David Panshall, deceased), Viola V. (Mrs. Marcus Todd), Charlotte (Mrs. George Woodward), Olive, and Mary.

For many years prior to his death he was quite an extensive dealer in cattle and sheep, buying in Steuben and adjoining counties and marketing in the East and New York; and in this business, as in everything he undertook, he was successful.

He died, Nov. 4, 1866, at Unionville, Dutchess Co.,—where he had gone to dispose of a large drove of cattle which he had purchased at home,—and his remains were brought back to Greenwood Cemetery, at Greenwood, Steuben Co., for interment.

W. W. Clay, *History of Steuben County, New York*, (Philadelphia: 1879) pp. 308-9