

In Canton in 1889

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Stephen, Anson P. Senator Stephen,  
Anson P. - Represented Benigold, Taylor, Union Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place ca 1834 Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Helena Maria Ward

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a member of the Board of Trade, a member of leading  
business men to advance Creator's interest formed 16 Mar 1866, acting as a director

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Merchant

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 1882 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies 1884, 1886 - Senate

A. Local

B. State

C. National

7. Death 25 Dec 1925 buried Santa Ana Cemetery, Santa Ana, California

8. Children Harry; Anson P.; George E.; Grace E.; Anson H.

9. Names of parents N.H.

Stephens, Anson P.

10. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

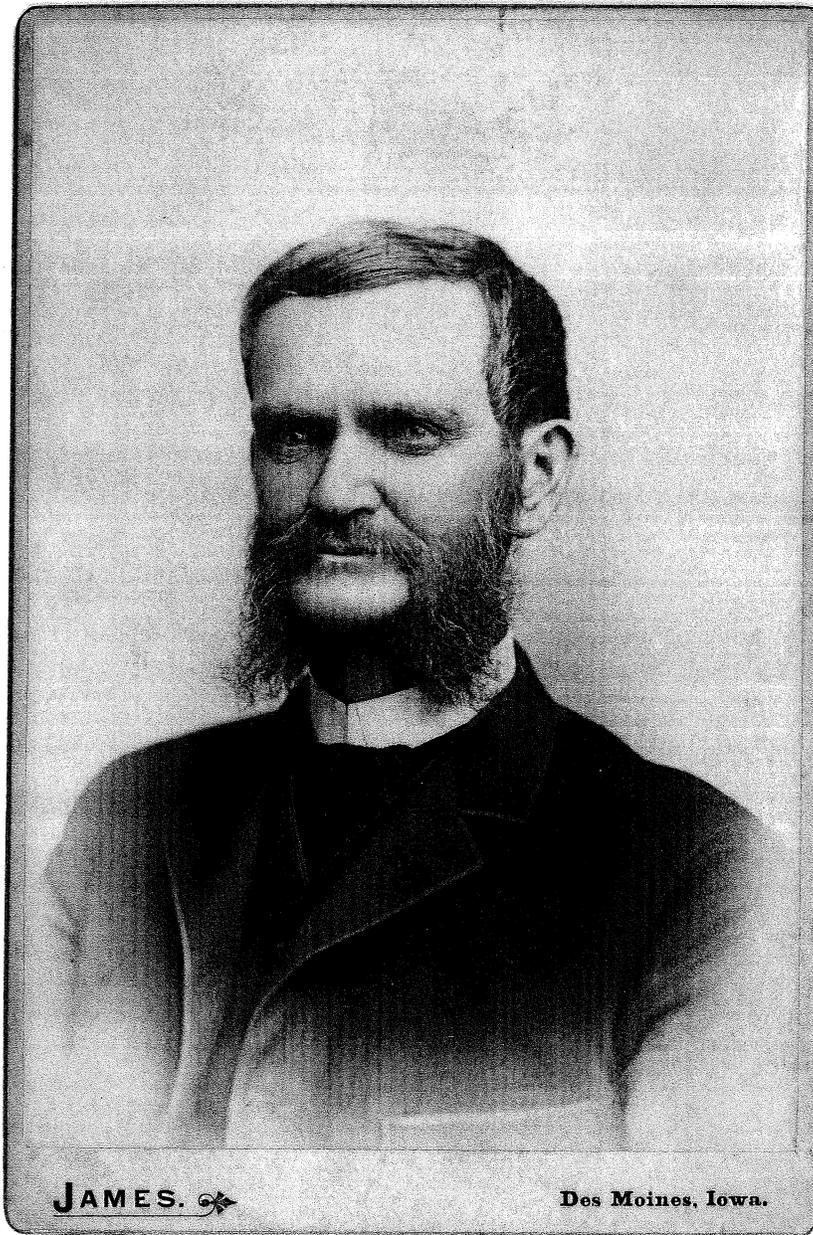
11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information

*Republican*

*- Military services - Civil War - Company I, 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry*





Mormons had located here and designed building a temple on Section 15, but before carrying out their plans Joseph Smith, the leader, had a new revelation (caused by the hostility of the settlers) commanding them to leave here and go to Nauvoo, Hancock County, which they promptly obeyed at great personal sacrifice to many of them. As they had entered and possessed themselves of nearly all the timberland and designed building up a community of their own faith, the other settlers were not sorry to see them depart. The only trace they left is a row of giant cottonwood trees, which they planted and which still stand in the center of the road east of the village of Altona.

The first boy born in the township was John Thompson, Jr. The first girl, Helen Maria Ward, was born February 3, 1839. She was the daughter of Amos and Maria Ward and married A.P. Stephens, died in Russell, Kansas, January 3, 1912, and was brought here for burial. After Mr. John Thompson came other early settlers, Levi Stephens, Abram Piatt, Simeon L. Collinson, Amos Ward. Mr. Ward is said to have made the first wagon tracks between Altona and Victoria in 1838. In 1839, he was elected the first Justice of the Peace. The first couple married were Austin Frederick and Elizabeth Finney. The first death was that of Mrs. Hinsdale, a sister of Amos Ward, who died in August 1838, at the residence of Abram Piatt, on Section 15, where she was also buried. In 1844, John W. Clarke was appointed the first postmaster, succeeded in 1845 by S. Ellis and he by Amos Ward in 1846 who then held the office for a long term of years when it was much more troublesome than remunerative. A little drawer in a bookcase served as a deposit for all the mail for ten years.

The first schoolhouse was built on the southwest quarter of Section 16, in 1840 and Miss Robey Tabor, a Quakeress from Massachusetts was the first teacher. She married afterward, moved to Henry County and died in 1896. Another early teacher was Eugene L. Gross who afterward distinguished himself in the legislative halls of the state at Springfield. His school was taught in a small log building, 16 X 16, built about the year 1841. In 1899, there were eleven schools in the township, costing ten thousand dollars. Elder Samuel Shaw organized the first church (after the Mormons). It was known as the Baptist Church and had eight members with a place of worship on Walnut Creek. The first township officers elected April 5, 1853, were Amos Ward, Supervisor; A.F. Ward, Clerk; H.L Sage, Assessor; James Livingstone, Collector; H.L. Collinson, Daniel Allen, and C. Capps, Highway Commissioners; Reuben Cochran, Overseer of the Poor; Amos Ward and David

*Amos P. Stephens - Russell Co. Kansas*  
*1800, 1805, 1910, 1915*  
*Censuses*

Knox County, IL

Walnut Grove Township is located in what is known as the "Military Tract," a section of the state selected as bounty land for soldiers, because of its fine soil and undulating surface. It is well watered by Walnut Creek and its sixty-seven tributaries and is a Spoon River auxiliary. Its soil is unsurpassed in fertility and fine farms with substantial buildings are to be found everywhere within its borders. The township derived its name from the extensive groves of walnut timber, which formerly grew near its center and on the northwest quarter of Section 26. These two groves include all its timber with the exception of a small tract in its southern end. An attempt was made toward the settlement of the township as early as the spring of 1832 by Messrs. Jones and DeHart who made claims and built a cabin on Section 21 but became alarmed at the hostility of the Indians and left at the time of the Black Hawk War and never returned. They had pushed away out on the frontier and become accustomed to roughing it. DeHart, nevertheless was greatly frightened one day when no danger was near. They had broken ten acres of prairie land in Walnut Grove Township on what was afterward the farm of Amos Ward. While DeHart was plowing with a yoke of oxen, an old Indian squaw came out of the woods and waved a red blanket. This, he surmised, was a signal for him to move quickly for his life. Accordingly, he started immediately leaving his oxen in the furrow. On hearing it was only a scare, he returned the following day for his team and effects; but left the country and never returned. Several times during the Black Hawk War, the settlers fled to the forts. The ruins of their cabin was still standing in 1838.

In 1836, John Thompson, the first permanent settler moved here from Pennsylvania with his wife Catherine, and settled on Section 16. Mr. Thompson planted the first crop, a field of sod corn, in 1837, fencing it in with the first rails split in the township. The only near neighbors, the Thompson's had were a band of some thirty Indians who camped for a short time near Mr. Thompson's residence which was located where the Kufus Grade School now stands. The nearest white neighbors were at Fraker's Grove, eleven miles distant. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Capps, two of the first settlers had been soldiers of the War of 1812 and the father of Mr. Allen one of the pioneers of the township, served in the Revolutionary War.

Elder M. Smith of the Mormon Church built the first frame house in 1840 on Section 15 of what was originally called the Snow and afterward the Wisegarver farm. In 1848 several hundred of the