

The Lewis Stephens cemetery

This cemetery contains a single burial, Lewis Stephens, located on a beautiful bluff overlooking the confluence of North Brummetts and East Baby creeks. According to family history a small, hand-carved, sandstone headstone was installed several years after the Lewis' burial. Recently a new limestone headstone has also been installed, although it is no longer standing upright.

Lewis was born in Stephensburg, Va. in 1766. According to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Lewis helped found our nation when, as a young teenager, he provided supplies to the Virginia Continental Line Army. DAR has copies of documents Lewis submitted requesting recompense for providing the supplies.

Lewis moved with his family to Monroe County in the spring of 1818. Monroe County was formed about that time, though the layout was not the way it is today. The Indian Treaty Line ran diagonally across Monroe County, from Southeast to Northwest, and covered most of what would eventually become North and South Benton Township, most of Washington Township, and a large part of Bean Blossom Township. The Miami Nation still controlled the land north of the line; it was not part of the State of Indiana, let alone Monroe County, until the fall of 1818.

But that's where Lewis moved his family, in what is now section 15 of South Benton Township. When he started farming the land he did not buy it, because he wouldn't have been allowed to. It wasn't until 1836 that his son Adam bought the land their farm was on (the BLM accession # IN2650.412 says 1838).

Lewis is buried on the bluff overlooking the beautiful valley farm he homesteaded, that his descendants still farm today.

Information is from:

Peter Stephens and Some of His Descendants, 1690-1935, Dan V. Stephens, editor, Hammond & Stephens Co., Fremont, Nebraska, 1936.

And with Lee Ehman's research help.

