

Stephen Minor Posey

Stephen Minor Posey of 145-62 of Foster County, was born in Jo Davis Co Ill., in 1851. His parents, K. H. and Eliza (McBarkin) Posey, lived on a farm there until Stephen was 5 or 6, when they moved to Wisc. At 23 he began working away from home at lumber camps for 15 seasons, and also farmed in Crawford Co. At 21 he ^{had} saved \$130⁰⁰ and with this he had intended to go to school and had started when he had an attack of lung fever which kept him in bed for 6 weeks, and exhausted a good share of his earnings.

Mr. Posey was married in Wisc., to Miss Gerusha Gardener, ^{a native of Wisc.} daughter of Stephen Gardener, a farmer of Wisc.

Their children: Hattie, Charles, Minnie, Elizabeth, Josie, John, Harry, and Alice.

Mr. Posey owned a farm of 40 acres in Wisc., a portion of which was timber land, but in 1882, he made a trip to Montana, Idaho, and Utah. The next year he shipped his goods to Aberdeen, Dakota Territory and from that point drove over what is now South Dakota and parts of Nebraska in search of a suitable location and finally, in July, 1883, he located in 145-62. He put up a 12x12 shanty and a sod barn and broke 30 acres of land. After a trip to Wisc in the winter, he returned to Foster Co in the spring

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and raised a crop from 130 acres — 100 acres of which are rented. Altho the crop was good, the prices were so low he hardly made expenses. In the fall of 1885, he lost by fire his buildings and household goods, clothing etc, his children being left without shoes or stockings.

At one time he owned 2240 acres of land. 320 acres of this he gave to his eldest son, and sold 160 acres. He is today the largest individual land owner of Foster Co. (1900) He has a barn 60 X 100 feet, 9 granaries, machine shed and other buildings. He employs 3 to 6 men the year around, and uses 20 to 24 horses. He threshes each season and since 1888 has practically worn out 2 threshing rigs.

Bill: Condensed from Compend of Hist. + Bioq. p 1900, p 642.