

Stonebraker, Samuel A.

Mr. Samuel A. Stonebraker was born July 17, 1832 at Warrior's Mark, Pa. When only seven years of age, he was made a cripple by hip disease. At the age of 15, he became a traveling salesman for a Philadelphia firm for four years. On his return home, he clerked in his father's store. In 1854, he worked as a clerk for a Mr. Allison. Later he taught one term of school.

On May 23, 1856, he arrived in Kansas with only \$3.65 in his possession. The next day he went to a land sale and took a claim one mile north of Black Jack which he gave away in 1858. In 1857, he was taken prisoner by pro-slavery men and carried to Leecompton, but was soon released.

In January of 1858, Mr. Stonebraker opened a small store at Black Jack. Doubtless few men have ever begun in business with less capital than he then had, for his cash in hand consisted of only forty cents. However, in spite of this small beginning, he gradually built up a good trade. Twice during the rebellion, his store was robbed.

In early days he was one of the prominent Republicans in his locality and for 40 years, he was not absent from the Douglas County conventions. In 1866-67, he served as clerk of the District Court and for twenty years, he was a Justice of the Peace.

The building of the Santa Fe railroad to the south of Black Jack turned the trade in another direction, but he continued to operate his store until 1897.