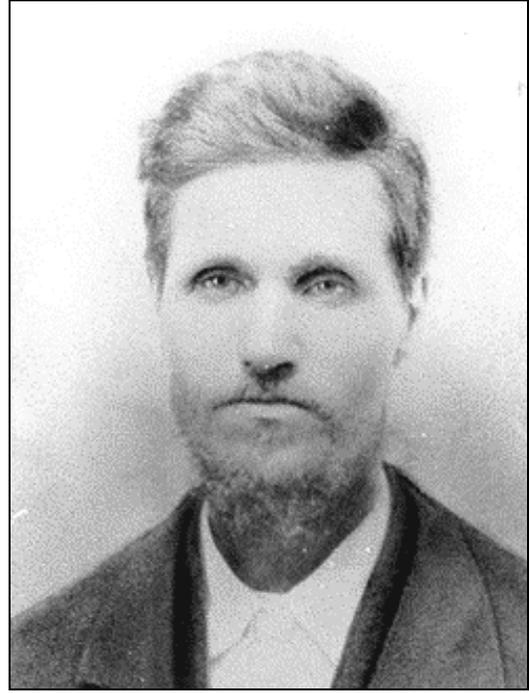


# Stevens Park Before the Stevens Family

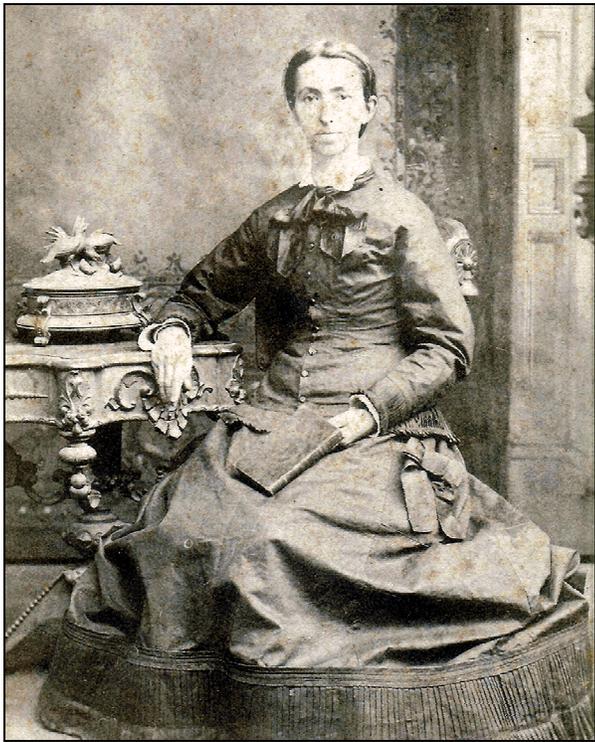
by Jim Barnes (July 2005)



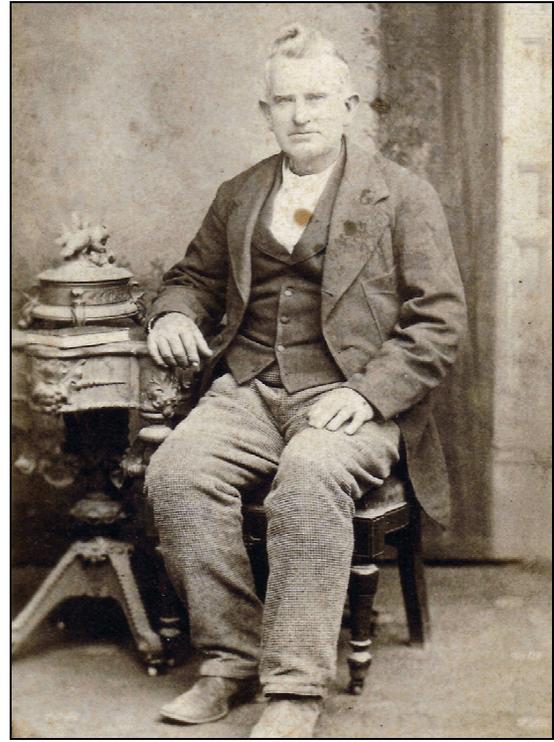
**William Myers** (1801-1872) first came here from Kentucky in 1843 or 1846 (two different recorded dates). With his wife Mary Ann he occupied a cabin on the east side of the Creek. In 1858 William and Mary Myers were given the original land title for one square mile. They raised crops but may have never fenced or planted this side of the Creek.



**Meredith Myers** (1829-1905) was Myers' oldest son. He and his father defaulted on a loan in 1858, owing \$281.25. On April 10<sup>th</sup> 1860, the Dallas County Sheriff auctioned the northwest quarter of William Myers Section for \$360 to settle that debt. Meredith later became the Justice of the Peace and lived where Franklin meets Wright, at the modern DART line.



**Mary Jane Penn Anderson** (1842-1911) was the daughter of **John Penn** (1804-1871), the man who won that 1860 auction. He lived near Cedar Hill, never here. He owned thousands of acres of land and because of the shortage of labor caused by the Civil War it is doubtful whether he ever fenced and raised crops on our site. Also John Penn had an illness causing insanity. In 1866 he moved back to Illinois and left this land to 3 of his children and their spouses, including Mary Jane.



**Napoleon Bonaparte Anderson** (1826-1892) married Mary Jane Penn and became the guardian of his father-in-law's estate when John Penn was declared "lunatic". The Andersons built a large farmhouse near Cedar Hill, and never lived here. In April 1871 the Andersons gained sole control of the Stevens Park Estates land and the following October they sold its 120-acre site to Dr. John H. Stevens and his wife Mary Armstrong Stevens for \$1,200.