

"John Hudgens, Pioneer"

To a small boy in the early eighteen hundreds, tales of the West and of the expeditions of George Rogers Clark, must have been extremely interesting. He'd heard his elders say that his home state of Virginia had taken action to create the 'county of Illinois', six years before he was born, and that Governor Patrick Henry had appointed John Todd Lieutenant Commander of the 'county of Illinois'. 'The county of Illinois'...how it rang through his head. It was on every tongue! It was in every conversation. Virginia folks knew that their claim to the territory was right because it rested on the 'sea to sea grant'. But Connecticut and Massachusetts had claimed it too, and finally Virginia had ceded her right to it in 1783 and a deed of transfer had been signed by Thomas efferson and James Monroe and others. He'd heard that there was quite a fuss about slaves being taken into Illinois country. There were several sources of annoyance there. Indians were troublesome, Spain's conduct in relation to the lower Mississippi, and now all this unrest over slavery and indentured servants! It was true, he'd heard, that Phillip Renault had gone to Illinois with five hundred slaves in 1721. By now, slavery was an established institution, so why all the controversy? Especially, since his family had begun to talk about going West!

The sound of the word 'Illinois' has quite a ring to it, but then so does the word 'Tennessee'. Young John and his brothers William, Daniel, and Aaron must have been willing to compromise when it was finally decided that their family and the Durham family planned to immigrate to Tennessee. He'd heard them say that their destination was 'Cheatham County', up around Sycamore Mills. He liked the idea of going 'West', and he wondered if Ashland City, the county seat of Cheatham county was larger than Kaskaskia. Somehow Illinois and Kaskaskia brought excitement to them.

2 any I note that you go back further so I my (yes to fine have some Corrections FOUR GENERATIONS OF HUDGENS to make on this : James Hudgens I born about 1750 James Hudgens II born 1773 John Hudgers Delilah Farmer John Hudgens I 1804--1878 wife-Nancy Hurham 1809-1842 Henry James William Sarah Nancy India Alexander 1851-1918 JohnII Zachariah 1848-1901 1839-1928 1836-1906 1834-1891 1833-1902 and marriage Ist more age

James Hudgens I born about 1750 Lived in Virginia James Hudgens II born 1773-Virginia (Cumberland County) (These four brothers were born in Virginia) James Hudgens III John Hudgens William Hudgens Daniel Hudgens 1804-1878 1797-1865 Born 1807 Lived Ashland Wife: Bachelor Wife: Nancy Durham (1809-1842) Annie Durham 6 1802 City, Tennessee Children: 4 Children: 1. John (1832-1917)-(Civil War 1. Zachariah (1833-1902) 2. James (1830-1914) - (Southern Army 1. Winfield 2. John II 2. Ramey 3. Aaron (1834 -3. Hamilton (bachelor) 3. Alexander (1834-1894) 4. Mose (1844-1906) Dexter, Missouri Buried Harmony Cemetery 4. Rev. Jesse (1862-1952) 5. Thomas (1934-14. IndiaNorris (1836-1906) North of Johnston City, Ill. 5. Nancy Hampton (Married Ben Everetts 6. Emily 6. Sarah Smith (1839-1928) Married Thomas Hunt 7. Mary 7. James (1848-1904) Married Jack Harris 8. Rebecca 8. William (9. Susan Married Wm. H. Blankenship 9. Henry (1851-1918)

