

Along the Troy Road



Pioneer Living In Iowa

By Hazel Phillips Stimson

With

Additions and annotations by Harry Stimson

Along The Troy Road

One Hundred Years of Triumph and Trials
Of Iowa Pioneers

As told by

Hazel Phillips Stimson

Almira
Good Old Days
More Good Old Days

&

Additions and Annotations

By

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100 Years "Along the Troy Road"

(A chronicle of Iowa pioneers and their descendants covering 1853 to 1953.)

In the time period of the 1850's there occurred a massive migration to the newly opened State of Iowa. Settlers poured into the newly surveyed state. This is the story of a small area along the Troy Road, a stretch of road between Troy Mills and Coggon, Iowa. Each of these families involved came from the settled areas of northeastern United States.. Included are the Phillip's, the Todd's, the Richardson's, the Stimson's and the Bruce's. Married into these families were women of the families of the Blanchard's, the Cross's, the Chandler's, the Gardner's, and the Scott's. Of special mention is the William Bruce family which emigrated from Scotland, through NY, and to Delaware County, Iowa.

The pioneers shared one characteristic. They shared an impulse that somewhere, somewhere else, there were opportunities to be exploited. There could have been dissatisfaction with their opportunities in their original home. The men were many times younger members of the "home" family. As the East became more populated, the opportunities for the younger members of the family became more limited. The attraction of new land and new opportunities impelled them to leave home and strike out. And the impetus to pioneer in a new land could have come from some great disappointment, some estrangement with their family..

Each of these families had been in the country for over three hundred years, with the exception of the Bruce's. No doubt, there had been interaction between several of these families before. I noted that the first John Stimson to arrive in the Colonies with the Winthrop Fleet was married to a Suzanne Phillips. But once again, along the Troy Road, these families met, intermarried, and raised farms and families. In the following 100 years, families were created, farmsteads were established, schools and churches built, and farmland drained and farmed.

This work is divided into four books. Book one is Almira, Mother's fictionalized work relating the migration of Almira Blanchard to Iowa from Vermont. Book two is The Good Old Days, Hazel's first work, with annotations by myself. Book three is More Good old Days, Hazel's second work, also annotated. Finally, book four is my childhood memories of the period 1939-1953. The annex includes photos, genealogies, and passages from historical works.

In 1953, Roy and Hazel Stimson moved from the Troy Mills area. With this move, our story of the Phillip's, the Todd's, the Richardson's, the Bruce's, and the Stimson's ends along the Troy Road. But the families have grown and continued on to the North, South, East and West. I once had the idea of locating all the descendents of these families and create a map with the locations plotted. It didn't take long to realize just how big a project that would be. Just let it be said that there is hardly a state in the union that doesn't have someone related to the pioneer families that settled in Iowa "Along the Troy road".

Harry Stimson