

Transcribed Excerpt of "A Short Interview" with John Deere, ca. 1886

Mr. Deere told the whole story of his life. How he came to Illinois from Vermont with only a few dollars in cash in his pocket, and how, prior to leaving his old home, he had signed a note with a friend amounting to several hundred dollars, which amount he earned with his hammer after his arrival in the west, the friend failing to meet the obligation. In fact, while he had about \$37 when he came west he was several hundred dollars in debt through the dishonesty or inability of his friend to pay the note. Mr. Deere said that during all his long life it had been a great source of consolation to him to know that he had never willfully wronged any man and never put on the market a poorly made article.