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Seymour and Adkins Research Report #2

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Subject: Family of Sarah Elizabeth Adkins and James J. Adkins

Focus:

The focus of this research is to find sources for Sarah Elizabeth and her family as well as the family of her parents, James J. Adkins. The file that was received had names, dates and places but didn't have sources for the information. These two families lived in several areas in the Midwest including Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. Research will focus in these states to find sources for these individuals. The last portion of the research was spent mostly on analysis and compiling the lineage.

James J Adkins

Research was performed in land records to learn more about where the Adkins family lived and why. In looking at land records in Knox County, Illinois we learn that in 1848 James J Adkins lived next to his father. He probably purchased the land from his father. At this time James was recently married to Susan McDaniel and starting their own family.¹ For some unknown reason the Philip Adkins family moved from Gallia County, Ohio to Knox County, Illinois. A record of a land deed sold by Philip Adkins to Thomas Alban was found. His land was sold in 1837 and Philip purchased the land in 1841.²

Land records were also found for the James J Adkins family in Decatur, Iowa. This record shows that the Adkins family moved next to the Seymours and Hedrick families which are the two families that Sarah Elizabeth Adkins married into.³

Information about his death was discovered. Because James served during the Civil War, research was needed to discover why he died so far away from home. Information was found that he did serve in the Civil war and his regiment was in Arkansas at the time of his death.⁴

James J Adkins and several other family members were located in Decatur County History. In this history the family members are listed as serving in the Civil War and the regiments that they each served in.⁵

¹ Gregory A Boyd, *Family Maps of Knox, County, Illinois* (Salt Lake City: Arphax Publishing Co, 2007)

² Boyd, *Family Maps of Knox, County, Illinois*.

³ Gregory A Boyd, *Family Maps of Decatur County, Iowa* (Salt Lake City: Arphax Publishing Co, 2007)

⁴ Union Iowa Volunteers, <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/regiments.cfm>; James J Adkins.

⁵ Prof. J. M. Howell and Heman C. Smith, *History of Decatur County Iowa and its people* (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915).

Adkins family:

Philip Adkins, the father of James J Adkins, was found with his tax information in Gallia County, Ohio. These records tell a little more about the family and their living situation in the early 1800s.⁶

Sarah Elizabeth Adkins:

Information was found on her first husband, John D Hedricks. After learning that the Hedrick, Adkins and Seymours all lived right next to each other in Decatur County, I wanted to find out why he died and why she was remarried to William Alexander Seymour. On the website about Civil War Soldier and Sailors I found that he served in the war and then died while serving.⁷ The Seymour family all made it back from the war. With Sarah living near the Seymours and having two young children it is understandable why she got married to William.

I was unable to find out why the William Seymour family moved around so much. Further research is still there.

Progress:

The research for the Adkins family has expanded. Records were discovered about James J Adkins' family and more about his childhood. There was also more information discovered about Sarah Elizabeth Adkins and her first husband, John D Hedrick. The story becomes much more tragic when we understand what happened in her life and why she did the things she did.

Further Research:

1. Find 1830 US Census with Phillip Adkins family probably in the Ohio area.
2. Look at local church records in Raccoon, Gallia, Ohio to see if any Adkins can be found.
 - a. Look at First Presbyterian Church of Huntington & Rackoon [sic] (Porter, Ohio) Microfilm number FHL US/CAN Film 912130 Item 2.
3. Find other county histories for counties including: Knox County, Illinois and Gallia, Ohio.
4. Look at land records for the counties next to the ones that the Adkins lived in. The family always seemed to live on the border. I would look in those two book referenced before to look at the other counties and their records.
5. Collect military service records for James J. Adkins from the National Archives.
6. Collect military service records for John D Hedrick from the National Archives.
7. Collect Military service records for William Alexander Seymour from the National Archives.

⁶ Dennis R. Jones, Compiler, *Gallia County, Ohio residents 1800-1825 taken from : Chattel Tax lists, land tax lists wolf scalp lists 1800-1820 census* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1997)

⁷ Union Iowa Volunteers, <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/regiments.cfm>, John D Hedricks.