

1. Sarah Elizabeth Adkins

Sarah Elizabeth Adkins was born January 1840 in Abingdon, Knox, Illinois to James J. Adkins and Susan McDaniel.¹ She died 25 December 1921 in San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California.² Sarah's first husband was **Jonathan D. Hedrick**. They were married 15 March 1857 in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa.³ They had three children:

- I. James C Hedrick, born 23 May 1858
- II. William H Hedrick, born 25 January 1860
- III. Mary Ann Hedrick, born 29 Nov 1861.⁴

She was married a second time to **William Alexander Seymour** on 15 July 1866 in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa.⁵ William Alexander Seymour was born 23 Jan 1840 in Union County, Tennessee. William was the son of Coleman Seymour and Lavisa Smith. Sarah Elizabeth Adkins was the mother of eight known children:

- IV. Mattie Jeanette Seymour, born 24 May 1867
- V. Albert Marion Seymour, born 1 May 1869
- VI. Susan Lavisa Seymour, born 18 September 1871
- VII. Coleman Franklyn Seymour, born 12 May 1876
- VIII. Hattie Florence Seymour, born 1 November 1877
- IX. Nellie May Seymour, born 31 July 1879
- X. Lewis Andrew Seymour, born 15 April 1882
- XI. Clyde Ellsworth Seymour, born 25 July 1886.⁶

Sarah was the oldest daughter of James J. Adkins and Susan McDaniel. She grew up in Knox County, Illinois where five of her seven known siblings were born. The Adkins family lived in Knox County, Illinois for several years. Sarah had lived near her grandparents (Adkins) for the first 12-15 years of her life.⁷ When she was 8 years old in 1848, her father purchased a piece of land in Knox County next to her grandfather, Philip Adkins.⁸ The James J Adkins family moved away from their extended Adkins family in Knox County Illinois between the birth of the twins (Josephus and Josephine) in 1852 and the 1856 Iowa State Census.⁹

The Adkins family moved near to the Coleman Seymour family and the John E. Hedrick family. John E Hedrick had been in Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa since 1855 with his family. His plot of land was south of the land that James J Adkins purchased. Coleman Seymour has purchased his

¹ "William Alexander Seymour Household, 1900 US Federal Census," Osceola, St Clair, Missouri, 9, June 1900, digital copy, Ancestry.com.

² Fleming, "James Clyde Fleming PAF File," email to author, 2 June 2005.

³ Fleming, PAF File.

⁴ Fleming, PAF File.

⁵ Fleming, PAF File.

⁶ Fleming, PAF File.

⁷ Gregory A. Boyd, J.D., Family Maps of Knox County, Illinois Deluxe Edition. (Norman, Oklahoma: Arphax Publishing Co.) 2005.

⁸ Boyd, Family Maps of Knox, Illinois.

⁹ "James J. Atkins household, 1856 Iowa State Census," Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, 1856, Digital copy, Ancestry.com.

land in 1856 and was south east of the Adkins.¹⁰ This close distance between these three families would come into play later on.

Sarah Elizabeth Adkins and John E Hedrick's oldest son, Jonathan D Hedrick, who had come to stay with the family, met and were married 15 March 1857 in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa.¹¹ Sarah was a young wife; just 17 years old. Her husband was seven years her senior. John purchased land just north of his father and southwest of his father-in-law.¹² John and Sarah had their first son, James C Hedrick, soon after.¹³ Nineteen months later they would have their second son, William H. In 1860 they lived in Lindley, Mercer, Missouri, which is right across the border of Decatur County, Iowa.¹⁴ The next few years would prove to be very trying to Sarah. While she was pregnant with her daughter and last child with John D., their oldest son, James, died at the age of three years.¹⁵ Almost three months to the day of her son's death, the Hedricks had their baby girl, Mary Ann.¹⁶ While this birth would have brought them comfort the United States was in turmoil. The Civil war began in 1861 and the Adkins, Seymours and Hedricks were right in the middle of it. Many members of these families joined the military to fight for the Union. James J. Adkins joined the 4th Regiment, Iowa Infantry in August 1861.¹⁷ He would serve for at least a year until his death on 2 October 1862. John D. Hedrick must have recognized his need to serve after his father-in-law had died for the cause. He went to Burlington, Des Moines, Iowa to muster in. He joined the 34th Iowa infantry with the muster in on 15 October 1862. He was not able to serve very long. He died in Burlington on 29 October 1862 leaving his wife and her two little children at home.¹⁸ At this time Sarah was only 22 years old with two children under the age of two and mourning the loss of her father and husband all within 30 days.

Although her family had experienced much loss, their neighbors, the Seymours had come home from the war. Sarah was the same age as Coleman Seymour's third child, William Alexander Seymour. On 15 July 1866, Sarah Elizabeth Adkins Hedrick and William Alexander Seymour were married in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa.¹⁹ They were both 26 years old and William not only received a wife but two children as well. William and Mary Hedrick joined the Seymour family when they were six and five years respectively.

Soon after William and Sarah were married they took their children William and Mary across the plains into Missouri. While there, they had their first daughter, Mattie Jeanette Seymour in Blue Springs, Jackson, Missouri on 24 May 1867.²⁰ The Seymour family including Sarah's children from her marriage with John can be found in the 1870 US Census in Sni-a-bar,

¹⁰ Gregory A. Boyd, J.D., Family Maps of Decatur County, Illinois Deluxe Edition. (Norman, Oklahoma: Arphax Publishing Co.) 2007.

¹¹ Fleming, PAF File.

¹² Boyd, Family Maps of Decatur County.

¹³ Fleming, PAF File.

¹⁴ "John D Hedrick Household, 1860 US Census," Lindley, Mercer, Missouri, 7 July 1860, 150, Line 36, 1079, 1079, Digital, Ancestry.com.

¹⁵ Fleming, PAF File.

¹⁶ Fleming, PAF File.

¹⁷ Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War, <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss>, Transcribed, "James Adkins."

¹⁸ Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War, <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss>, Transcribed, "John D Hedrick."

¹⁹ Fleming, PAF File.

²⁰ Fleming, PAF File.

Jackson, Missouri.²¹ Sni-a-bar is just a few miles away from Blue Springs. After Mattie was born the family moved to Osceola, St Clair, Missouri where Albert, Susan Lavisa and Coleman were born.²² In 1880 this Seymour family moved back to Decatur County, Iowa.²³ While there Hattie, Nellie and Lewis were born. Between the years 1882 and 1886 when Clyde was born the family moved to Rosalia, Butler, Kansas.²⁴ Clyde is the last child born to Sarah at her age of 46 years. After Clyde was born the family eventually moved back to Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri.²⁵ Between the years 1900 and 1910 the Seymour family moved to San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California.²⁶

Sarah died in San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California on Sunday 25 December 1921 at the age of 81 years.²⁷ Her husband, William would follow her a few years later on Sunday 21 March 1926 at the age of 85.²⁸

Sarah Elizabeth Adkins and John D Hedrick were the parents of:

- I. **James C Hedrick** was born 23 May 1858 in Decatur County, Iowa. He was living with the family in Lindley, Mercer, Missouri in 1860.²⁹ James died 26 August 1861 at the age of three in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa.
- II. **William H Hedrick** was born 25 January 1860 in Decatur County, Iowa. He was also living with the family in Lindley, Mercer, Missouri in 1860.³⁰ When his mother married William Alexander Seymour he lived with them in Sni-a-bar, Jackson, Missouri in 1870.³¹ He married a woman named Mattie and had at least three children.³²
- III. **Mary Ann Hedrick** was born 29 Nov 1861 in Pleasanton, Decatur, Iowa. She was living with William Alexander Seymour and her mother in Sni-a-bar, Jackson, Missouri in

²¹ "William Seymour Household, 1870 United States Federal Census," Sni-A-Bar, Jackson, Missouri, 29 Aug 1870, Page 42, Dwelling 327, Family 327, Ancestry.com, 22 Oct 2007.

²² Fleming, PAF File.

²³ "William Seymour Household, 1880 United States Federal Census," Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, 28 July 1880, ED 62, SD 3, Sheet 30, Dwelling 55, Family 55, Ancestry.com, 22 Oct 2007.

²⁴ Fleming, PAF File.

²⁵ "William Alexander Seymour Household, 1900 US Federal Census," Osceola, St Clair, Missouri, 9, June 1900, line 1, ED 149, SD 6, Sheet 6A, Dwelling 112, Family 113, digital copy, Ancestry.com.

²⁶ "William Alexander Seymour Household, 1910 US Federal Census," San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California, 29 April 1910, 35, ED 120, SD 8, 18 A, Dwelling 302, Family 342, digital copy, Ancestry.com.

²⁷ Fleming, PAF File.

²⁸ Fleming, PAF File.

²⁹ "John D Hedrick Household, 1860 US Census," Lindley, Mercer, Missouri, 7 July 1860, 150, Line 36, 1079, 1079, Digital, Ancestry.com.

³⁰ "John D Hedrick Household, 1860 US Census," Lindley, Mercer, Missouri, 7 July 1860, 150, Line 36, 1079, 1079, Digital, Ancestry.com.

³¹ "William Seymour Household, 1870 United States Federal Census," Sni-A-Bar, Jackson, Missouri, 29 Aug 1870, Page 42, Dwelling 327, Family 327, Ancestry.com, 22 Oct 2007.

³¹ Fleming, PAF File.

³² Fleming, PAF File.

1870.³³ Mary married a man by the name of M. K. Morris. They had at least three children together.³⁴

Sarah Elizabeth Adkins and William Alexander Seymour were the parents of:

IV. **Mattie Jeanette Seymour** was born 24 May 1867 in Blue Springs, Jackson, Missouri. On 12 Sept 1886, 19 year old Mattie married 39 year old Isaac Sanford Fleming, son of William Fleming and Elinor Ralston in Keighly, Butler, Kansas. They were married by Reverend Swartz.³⁵ They had the following children: Jesse Clyde, Daisy Loel, Elinor Blanche, Edward Lamont, Lester Howard.³⁶ She died 15 November 1951 in San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California.

IV. **Albert Marion Seymour** was born 1 May 1869 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri. He died 10 October 1958 in San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California.

V. **Susan Lavisa Seymour**, born 18 September 1871 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri.

VI. **Coleman Franklyn Seymour**, born 12 May 1876 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri. He died 7 November 1951 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri.

VII. **Hattie Florence Seymour**, born 1 November 1877 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri. She married Thomas G Hedrick. She died 24 May 1926 in San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California.

VIII. **Nellie May Seymour**, born 31 July 1879 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri. She married Fred Chaney and died in 1971.

IX. **Lewis Andrew Seymour**, born 15 April 1882 in Osceola, St. Clair, Missouri.

X. **Clyde Ellsworth Seymour**, born 25 July 1886 in Rosalia, Butler, Kansas. He married Edith Lenora Ferguson. He died 11 May 1940 in Monrovia, Los Angeles, California.³⁷

2. James J. Adkins

James J. Adkins was born 27 February 1818 in Madison, Jackson, Ohio to Philip Adkins and Elizabeth Mason.³⁸ He died on 2 October 1862 in Helena, Philips, Arkansas.³⁹

James was married to **Susan McDaniel** on 5 April 1840 in Knox County, Illinois.⁴⁰ They had eight children:

XI. Sarah Elizabeth Adkins, born Jan 1840

XII. Anna A or L Adkins, born 1844

³³ "William Seymour Household, 1870 United States Federal Census," Sni-A-Bar, Jackson, Missouri, 29 Aug 1870, Page 42, Dwelling 327, Family 327, Ancestry.com, 22 Oct 2007.

³³ Fleming, PAF File.

³⁴ Fleming, PAF File.

³⁵ Fleming, "James Clyde Fleming PAF File," email to author, 2 June 2005.

³⁶ Fleming, "James Clyde Fleming PAF File," email to author, 2 June 2005.

1900 United States Federal Census, Shawnee County, Kansas, population schedule, town of Tecumseh, ED 139, SD 4, sheet 7, dwelling 126, family 132.

27 Sept 2007, "Ancestry.com; Family Data Collection – Individual Records," Ancestry.com.

³⁷ Fleming, PAF File.

³⁸ Fleming, PAF File.; James Adkins household, 1860 US Census, Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, page 103, Ancestry.com.

³⁹ Fleming, PAF File.

⁴⁰ Jordon Dodd, "Illinois Marriages to 1850", Ancestry.com.

- XIII. Lewis Philestus Adkins, born 30 January 1846
- XIV. Thomas S Adkins, born February 1849
- XV. Josephus Adkins, born 11 July 1852
- XVI. Josephine Adkins, born 11 July 1852
- XVII. Mary Francis Adkins, born 31 October 1857
- XVIII. Martha California Adkins, born 20 September 1860.⁴¹

James was the fourth child of Philip Adkins and Elizabeth Mason.⁴² Record states that James was born in Madison, Jackson, Ohio.⁴³ However, there are tax records of James' father, Philip in Raccoon, Gallia, Ohio.⁴⁴ These two townships are several hundred miles apart. The Philip Adkins family had an average size property in James' early childhood. The year that James was born, 1818, Philip had two horses and four cattle. The next year Philip had one horse and five cattle. Philip must have sold his horse. From 1819 until 1825 the Adkins assets seemed to increase. In 1825, Philip Adkins had two horses and six cattle.⁴⁵

On 5 September 1837, Philip Adkins sold his property to a Thomas Alban for \$3,000 and the Adkins family moved from Gallia County, Ohio to Knox County, Illinois. James' sister, Sarah Adkins was married in Knox County, Illinois in 1838.⁴⁶ While in Knox County, James met Susan McDaniel and married her on 5 April 1840.⁴⁷ Their first child, Sarah Elizabeth, was born in January of 1840, which is three months before James and Susan were married.⁴⁸ There is a four-year gap between Sarah Elizabeth and their next child, Anna. Their next four children were born in Knox County, Illinois.

The James J. Adkins family moved from Knox County, Illinois to Hamilton, Decatur County, Iowa in 1855.⁴⁹ He owned 140 acres of unimproved land, 3 acres of spring wheat and 5 acres of corn. With that much corn they were able to harvest 150 bussels. On their unimproved land they must have had either cattle or goats because the family was able to make 25 pounds of butter.⁵⁰ In 1857 James' oldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth married John D. Hedrick in Decatur

⁴¹ Fleming, PAF File.; James Adkins Household, 1850 US Census, Township 9N 2E, Knox, Illinois, family 1880, household 1836, Ancestry.com.; James J Atkins Household, Iowa State Census, Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, 1856, Dwelling 55, Family 60, Digital Copy, Ancestry.com, 22 September 2008.; Susan Adkins Household, 1870 US Census, Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, Dwelling 26, Family 25, page 3, Ancestry.com.; James Adkins Household, 1860 US Census, Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, Dwelling 770, family 714, page 103, Ancestry.com.

⁴² Fleming, PAF File.

⁴³ Fleming, PAF File.

⁴⁴ 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, 1997), page 88, Family History Library, SLC.

⁴⁵ Jones, Gallia County.

⁴⁶ Gallia County Ohio, Deeds, 1803-1901, book 15, page 235, repository: Family History Library, microfilm 317680.; Fleming, PAF File.

⁴⁷ Dodd, Jordan, "Illinois Marriages to 1850," Ancestry.com.

⁴⁸ "William Alexander Seymour Household, 1900 US Federal Census," Osceola, St Clair, Missouri, 9, June 1900, line 1, ED 149, SD 6, Sheet 6A, Dwelling 112, Family 113, digital copy, Ancestry.com.

⁴⁹ "James J Atkins Household, Iowa State Census," Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, 1856, Dwelling 55, Family 60, Digital Copy, Ancestry.com, 22 September 2008.

⁵⁰ "James J Atkins Household, Iowa State Census," Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, 1856, Dwelling 55, Family 60, Digital Copy, Ancestry.com, 22 September 2008.

County, Iowa.⁵¹ In October of the same year the Adkins family would have another baby girl. In 1858 he purchased land in Decatur County next to his son-in-law, John D. Hedrick and his future son-in-law's family, the Seymours. Three years later, at the age of 42, James Adkins would have his last child, Martha California.

James' family was growing up and moving on. Not only was his family changing but the world around him was fast approaching a huge change. The United States was entering into an internal struggle and a Civil War was about to take place.

James J. Adkins joined the 4th Regiment, Iowa Infantry company A as a private. The regiment was organized in Council Bluffs and mustered in on 8 August 1861. From there they went to St. Louis and Rolla, Missouri. They fought against Freeman's forces in February of 1862. They participated in several battles in Missouri from February until July when they moved from Missouri to Helena, Arkansas. While there James J. Adkins passed away on 2 October 1862.⁵² His wife, Susan would live for at least eight more years.⁵³

James J. Adkins and Susan McDaniel were the parents of:

- I. **Sarah Elizabeth Adkins** was born January 1840 in Abingdon, Knox, Illinois. When she was 17 years old she married John D. Hedrick. When he passed away in 1862 she remarried at the age of 26 to William Alexander Seymour on the 15 March 1857. She had the following children: James C., William H and Mary Ann Hedrick and Mattie Jeanette, Albert Marion, Susan Lavis, Coleman Franklin, Hattie Florence, Nellie May, Lewis Andrew and Clyde Ellsworth Seymour. She died on the 25th of December 1921.⁵⁴
- II. **Anna A or L** was born in 1844 in Knox County, Illinois. She was married to Winfort J. Clark at the age of 22 in 1866 in Decatur County, Iowa.⁵⁵
- III. **Lewis Philestus** was born 30 Jan 1846 in Knox County, Illinois. He was married to Amanda Jane Burns on 27 March 1868 in Princeton, Mercer, Missouri. He died 18 September 1913 in Nevada, Vernon, Missouri.⁵⁶
- IV. **Thomas S** was born February 1849 in Knox County, Illinois. He married a woman named Emma in 1882.
- V. **Josephus** was a twin born 11 July 1852 in Knox County, Illinois.
- VI. **Josephine** was a twin born 11 July 1852 in Knox County, Illinois.
- VII. **Mary Francis** was born 31 October 1857 in Decatur County, Iowa. She married Lewis F Devore on 11 March 1879 in Decatur County, Iowa.
- VIII. **Martha California** was born 20 September 1860 in Decatur County, Iowa. She married a man with the last name of Dunlavy.⁵⁷

⁵¹ Fleming, PAF File.

⁵² Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War, <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss>, Transcribed, "James Adkins."

⁵³ "Susan Adkins Household, 1870 US Federal Census," Hamilton, Decatur, Iowa, Aug 1870, Pg 3, Line 16, Dwelling 25, Family 24, Digital copy, Ancestry.com.

⁵⁴ Fleming, PAF File.

⁵⁵ Fleming, PAF File.

⁵⁶ Fleming, PAF File.

⁵⁷ Fleming, PAF File.