

This is a story of a man who lived for only thirty-six years and the lives of the family who came after him. In his lifetime, he fathered seven children with two wives, was accused and fined for drunkenness, bootlegging, illegal gambling, and was indicted for first degree murder. He moved from Jennings County, Indiana, to Scotland County, Missouri, to Moultrie County, Illinois and back several times. He bravely fought in the Mexican War and he died at the end of the Civil War fighting for the Union. James HC Rodgers has become a focal point for me as I have studied his life and times for the last fifteen years. It hasn't been an easy task, but one I have enjoyed immensely, as I have regained my roots, rediscovered family who live all over the United States, and learned to understand the incredible sacrifices made by those who came *before* me.

It is a history that is now discovered and it is long past time that I write it all down for those who come *after* me. Sooner or later someone else is going to want to know where our family came from. This is as far as I have gotten. I have an idea where to go next, looking for James HC's parent's place of birth, but their identities are only becoming clear as of today.

What you are about to read is completely documented. The information comes from legal and written documents that are currently a part of the public record in several counties in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, as well as the National Archives of the United States of America. Some of the information here comes from the back of old photographs, postcards, and even letters and writings of the people here in. Some of it comes from narratives of family members who have passed stories down through the years. Where evidence is circumstantial, I have stated it as such, but most of it is documented in some way and I believe it to be accurate. I have cited sources when appropriate and scanned those sources into this file. Where bibliography format was used to cite sources those copywrited publications may be pursued by the reader through their

local library by referring to the list at the end of this document. Any errors are entirely my own. I hope you enjoy reading about my great-great-great grandfather. Enjoy, and please pass this story on!

Written by:

Bruce Rodgers
2256 Valkyrie Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901
brrodgers@rochester.k12.mn.us
brrodgers@charter.net