

SCOTLAND COUNTY, MISSOURI

Shortly after Robert was born in 1852, James HC, Mary Ann, Nancy Jane, and Robert would move from Jennings County, Indiana to Scotland County, Missouri, just northwest of the city of Memphis, Missouri. I have driven this path and studied the old maps of the times, trying to imagine traveling this distance in the mid-1800's. They would have traveled almost a straight line west down what is today US Highway 136, crossing the Mississippi in winter when it had frozen. Traveling no more than probably twenty miles a day by horse and buggy it would have taken them approximately 24 days to travel the nearly 500 mile distance!

It appears that a good reason for moving to Scotland County was because James HC's sister Sallie Ann Rodgers Ray¹ who married John Kestler Ray² on January 4th, 1845³, (son of Barton Ray and Polly Kessler Ray)⁴ had settled there just a couple a years previously. John and Sallie Ann had traveled from Jennings County and did settle for a short time in Lee County, Iowa. It should be noted that an aged Elizabeth Rodgers is listed on that census document whom I believe is Sallie Ann and James HC's mother.⁵ James HC claims in his murder trial deposition that his mother lived close to him, too, but I have been unable to confirm this through official documentation. I do have reason to believe, however, that James HC's mother, Elizabeth Rodgers, would remarry a Jefferson Bucklin in 1858.⁶ I am working on this information.

Once James HC arrived in Scotland County he acquired adjacent property from John Ray⁷ as John and Sallie Ann had arrived by May of 1852⁸ and would begin to farm

¹ [Sallie Ann Rodgers Ray Photo #2](#)

² [John Kestler Ray Photo #1](#)

³ [John Ray and Sallie Ann Rodgers Marriage License](#)

⁴ [Jennings County Land Deed](#)

⁵ [Ray Census Lee County, Iowa 1850](#)

⁶ [Roggers-Bucklin \(sic\) Marriage License](#)

⁷ [James HC Rodgers Land Deed](#)

once again. The Rays and the Rodgers were very close in all their dealings, buying and selling land, livestock, materials, etc. together on several occasions, and having some of their children court and even marry. This will be covered later.

On January 6th, 1854⁹ James HC and Mary Ann's third child would be born as William Henry Rodgers,¹⁰ my great-great grandfather, ultimately known as Pa Bill to his kids, grandkids, and succeeding generations, and Uncle Bill to his wife Miranda's family.

The decade or so James HC spent in Scotland County were a mix of bizarre incidents and unbelievable stories that have been handed down over time. I didn't give much of these stories credence as I had heard them, but as I did more and more research in the Scotland County courthouse, the more believable it would all become. The most amazing portion of the story, though, and one that would continue many years after James HC died, was taking shape in Kentucky. This is the story of James HC's second wife Harriet.

⁸ [John K. Ray Land Deed](#)

⁹ [James HC Handwritten Document #1](#)

¹⁰ [William Henry Rodgers Photo #1](#)

