

## Acknowledgements

I would first like to personally thank several individuals for all their help in the creation of this composition. They have been invaluable. First, Cousin Volana Gleason, (who is my great-great grandmother Miranda's brother's granddaughter) and her family for showing me the love of reconnected kin. Volana and her family provided many of the photographs of the Ray family and inspired me to finally put all this down. All the family in Missouri, especially Cousins Kevin and Becky Rodgers as well as my Great Aunt Dorothy McCarty and Great Uncle Bob Rodgers, who have kept safe so many of the artifacts of our family history that gave me incredible direction in this book; Cousins Stanley Garrison and Janice Sheperd who shared their stories and photographs of the descendents of Lewis and Nancy Jane Rodgers Garrison, and Cousin Rick Dillinger who shared the descendents of his great grandfather John Ray Rodgers. All the rest of our family for listening and telling me the stories over the years as they remembered them as well as the people they knew who passed on long before I was born. Finally, the following government agencies, societies, web sites, and the people associated with them:

The Scotland County, Missouri Genealogical Society, especially Joanne Aylward who has always been ready and able to help find the pieces of the puzzle I needed over the years; The Scotland County Gen Web site and its Coordinator, John Slavin, as well as all the people who have contributed time and effort to the history of Scotland County Genealogy and that web site. The very fine folks at the Scotland County Courthouse who patiently let me pour through all their documents, make copies and further inquiries, all while trying to do their jobs, and the Scotland County Library, their supporters and employees and; Chris Feeney and the Memphis Democrat for publishing the story of my search.

The Jennings County, Indiana Gen Web site and their current Coordinator Sheila Kell for all her help in tracking down the Joseph Wilkerson situation and connecting me with so many of the people of Scipio, Indiana who helped in my research, as well as all of the contributors to that web site, and the current land owners of all of the Wilkerson and Rodgers places I was able to visit in my search for Joseph's grave; Lynn Hayes and Steve Goodwin for making the letters of Rachel Wilkens to Polly Sprout available (1860) in which James HC Rodgers was mentioned; Denise Schafer who is in charge of the genealogy department at the Jennings County Library for all her time and efforts; and all of the fine folks at the Jennings County Courthouse for allowing me to peruse and copy their records.

The Moultrie County, Illinois Gen Web site and their current Coordinator Greg Hamblin, and all the people who contributed to that web site; Kaye Webb who showed me the county on my visit, made many copies, helped in the courthouse, and especially for taking me to the land that James HC Rodgers last lived before he died.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Archives of the United States of America for keeping every scrap of paper about the pension of James HC Rodgers in pristine condition for well over one hundred years and more. We are all truly blessed to be Americans.

Thanks for reading.