

Mary Ellen Adkins

Mary Ellen Adkins was born March 1854 at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, the daughter of Henry and Betsy Adkins and the 7th of 8 children.

Mary Ellen Adkins of Allens Grove, Walworth County, Wisconsin married P H Smith on June 11, 1874 at Elkhorn, Wisconsin. They moved to Hays, Kansas where PH parents lived, and lived there until 1879. They had three children born in Hays City, Kansas. Mabel was born July 4, 1875, Georgianna, born December 24, 1876 and Florence born August 9, 1877. After her mother in law passed away Mary returned to Elkhorn, Wisconsin where Genevieve was born May 24, 1880. (They lived in Wisconsin with her parents and were recorded there in the 1880 census.)

PH Smith had stayed in Kansas but returned to Wisconsin for his family and they returned to Hays, Kansas. Florence (two years old) was left to live with her aunt Miss Charlotte Adkins (30 years old) who lived in Walworth County, Wisconsin. In 1881 PH went to Colorado and in 1882 they moved to Breckenridge. But PH was off to Hot Sulphur Springs chasing lumber contracts and sawmills. In the spring of 1883 after the school year was over PH returned and loaded their belongings in the lumber wagon to spend the summer at Hot Sulphur Springs. With the summer over and school starting they reloaded the wagon for the return trip. It snowed two feet. Mary was not going to make the seventy five mile trek to Breckenridge alone with the girls so they stayed in Hot Sulphur Springs. Twin sons were born, Preston A and Henry A Smith, in Hot Sulphur Springs in 1884. PH went to work at Henry Lehman's sawmill in Grand Lake in June of 1885 and they spent the summer there. Another son Edward B. was born in 1886. The Smith family moved to a 160 acre homestead on Cottonwood Pass in 1889.

Mary died at the age of thirty five December 28, 1889 from childbirth complications when their eighth child Mary Gertrude was born. She is buried in the Hot Sulphur Springs cemetery along with her husband and five of her children.

Mary Gertrude was adopted by Mary Ellen's brother John C. and Gertrude Smith Adkins, sister to P. H. Smith. She died January 18, 1893 at age 3 from scarlet fever in Hays City, Kansas. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Preston William Smith also resided in Hays City, Kansas. After their mother's death, the youngest son was sent to live with Miss Charlotte Adkins in Hays City, Kansas. *From a newspaper article in the Hays City Sentinel January 18, 1893 and The Allen Family Record (Adkins family history)*