

JAMES KNOX HAGERDON

James Knox Hagerdon was born on February 3, 1842 in Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin. We see this date on his death certificate and his Find A Grave Record even though the Wisconsin Birth Index shows a James K Hagerdon born in 1839. The census records show some variation of his birth dates and I am taking the death certificate as the correct record. James was the 6th and final child born to Luther Hagerdon and Fanny Perry. Some online trees show another son born as a first child, but I have seen no solid evidence of this 7th child yet. Fanny died in 1846 and in 1847 Luther married Zilpha Reynolds who then had three children who would be James's half siblings.

Presently, I have not been able to locate a record of James or his family in the 1850 or 1860 Federal Census. I believe that in the 1850 census the family should be in Brown County, Wisconsin. Thanks to a diary written by James's eldest sister Emily, we have some good insight into the family history. Anyone interested can look for "A Lovely and Comfortable Heritage Lost" by Ellen Osborn. In Emily's historical notes she has a variety of dates for when the family left Wisconsin for Placerville, El Dorado County, California. In some she lists 1850, and in others 1853. We believe the 1853 date is correct as she also states that she married her husband three months after arriving in California and we know her wedding was in January 1854. We also have in the census record for Zilpha's first son Francis that he was born in 1852 in Wisconsin which would indicate an 1853 departure.

The Hagerdon Family traveled the Oregon Trail and is recognized in the California Pioneer and Immigrant files. This is quite an accomplishment for any family, but as Ellen Osborn points out, this was a young family traveling. Luther was about 40 years old, Zilpha in her 20's and Emily as the oldest child was about 19 years old. James would have been around 11 years old and Zilpha's first born was only about a year old. I'm sure traveling the long trail from Wisconsin to Oregon with a baby would have been a challenge.

The 1860 Federal Census shows Luther's wife Zilpha in York, Medina, Ohio with her three children and living by her brother Rufus Reynolds. Luther may still be in California, or elsewhere as his record has not been located and he is not listed with his wife.

The California Voter Registrations for El Dorado County 1867-1898 shows James Knox Hagerdon at age 24 listed as a teamster. Based on dates and age calculation, this would likely have been 1867 registration.

By the 1870 Federal Census part of the family is back together. We see Luther, Zilpha, James and Zilpha's three children in Webster, Hamilton, Iowa. Luther lists his occupation as farmer as does James.

The Iowa marriage records show that on October 6, 1870 Luther married Louisiana Wood Vawter in Hamilton County, Iowa.

The 1880 Federal census shows James in 088, Union, Harrison, Iowa. James lists his occupation as a farmer.

The 1895 Iowa State Census lists James K Hagerdon in Grant, Woodbury County.

I have not yet located the family in the 1900 Federal Census.

The 1905 Iowa State Census lists J K Hagerdon in Polk County, Iowa

The 1910 Federal Census shows James, Louisiana and their grandson Roy in District 0170, Little Sioux, Woodbury, Iowa. James list his occupation as laborer. With this he reports earning a wage and that he owns his home. Louisiana lists that she has had 8 children and that 6 are living.

The 1920 Federal Census shows James and Louisiana in District 0187, Little Sioux, Woodbury, Iowa. James lists himself as a retired farmer. They also report owning their home.

The 1925 Iowa State Census shows Kames K and Louisiana in Smithland, Woodbury, Iowa. In this census respondents were asked to list their parents. James lists Luther Hagerdon and Fanny Petty (I believe Perry is correct). Louisiana lists Edmund Vawter and Sarah Follett (I believe Follis is correct).

The last census we see James and Louisiana is the 1930 Federal Census. In this they are listed in 0017, Smithland, Woodbury, Iowa. Their daughter Nellie and her husband Arza Brown are listed in the same household. James reports owning his home and that its value is \$2000.

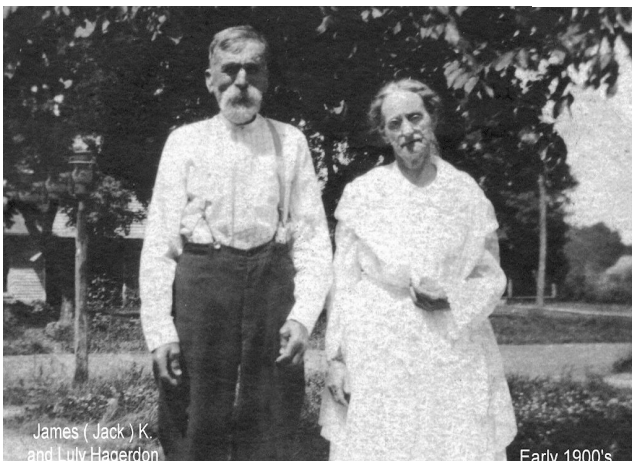
We then see from James's death certificate that he died on October 22, 1932 in Smithland, Woodbury County, Iowa. He is buried in the Little Sioux Township Cemetery according to his Find A Grave record.

James and Louisiana had 8 children as they listed in the 1910 census and at that point in time 6 were still living.

- **Luther Hagerdon (1871-1951)**
- **William Henry Hagerdon (1872-1949)**
- **David C Hagerdon (1875-1962)**
- **Earnest Hagerdon (1876-1962)**
- **Nellie Hagerdon (1879-1956)**
- **Jesse Hagerdon (1881-1911)**
- **Charlie Hagerdon (1884-1902)**
- **Johnny Hagerdon (1891-1905)**



The Hagerdon Family 1890's Back Row: Lillian, Earnest, David, William, Luther Front Row: Charlie, James K., Lula V., and Johnnie
Hagerdon Family - 1890's Back Lilian, Earnest, David, William Front: Charie, James, Luly, Johnnie



James (Jack) K.
and Luly Hagerdon
James and Luly - Early 1900's

LOUISIANA WOOD VAWTER

Louisiana Wood Vawter was born on June 29, 1850 in Whiteland, Indiana as recorded on her death certificate and we see her 1850 baptismal record from the Bethany Presbyterian Church records in Whiteland, Indiana. Louisiana is the 5th of 6 children born to Edmund Vawter and Sarah Follis.

Sarah died on April 14, 1857 and Edmund married Lydia Adams in 1858.

In the 1860 Federal Census we see Louisiana and her family in Frankin, Johnson, Indiana. Edmund lists his occupation as farmer with \$1600 of real estate and \$400 of personal estate.

Edmund enlists for service in the Civil War and died on February 2, 1863 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Louisiana would have been 13 years old now and her guardian would have been her stepmother Lydia.

In the 1870 census in Webster City, Hamilton, Iowa there is a Lulie Walden living with Albert Hoffman and his family. I know from family notes and articles that Louisiana went by Luly and other variations. The Hoffman family lists Germany as their birthplace while Lulie lists Indiana. She is considered a domestic servant and is the right age to be Louisiana. The census was taken in June of 1870 and we know that Louisiana marries James Hagerdon on October 6, 1870, so it makes sense that she would be living in the area prior to their marriage, and even with what appears to be an incorrect last name, I believe this is her.

Nearly everything else I know about Louisiana is listed with James.

Louisiana died on February 10, 1932 in Smithland, Woodbury County, Iowa according to her death certificate. Her Find A Grave record shows that she is buried in the Little Sioux Township Cemetery.