

EDMUND R VAWTER

Edmund Vawter was born in 1810 most likely in Lincoln County, Kentucky. His year of birth is known from census records in 1850 and 1860 as well as on his gravestone. His draft registration form for the Civil War actually lists his birth year as 1829 and it's hard to tell if that is an error, or if Edmund possibly lied about his age for one reason or another. The Vawter Family Association has done a fair bit of research and in their records we find Edmund's father Aaron in Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1810, and from this we assume that Edmund was born in Lincoln County. The best knowledge today says that Edmund was the 4th of 5 children born to Aaron Vawter and Winifred (last name unknown). Thankfully Edmunds Civil War Widow's pension file included testimony from his brother William and William has been solidly tied to Aaron and Winifred so the relationship was able to be established.

The first record found of Edmund is his marriage on October 15, 1832 in Mercer County, KY to Sarah (Sally) B Follis.

The next record we find of Edmund is the US Federal Census in 1840. At this point we see Edmund listed as head of household in Johnson, Indiana. There are 5 people in the household. 1 Male and 1 Female between the ages of 20 and 49. They also list 1 female between 10-14 and two males under 5. The census lists that there is one person in the household employed in Agriculture, and I assume that is Edmund.

The 1850 Federal Census is the next place Edmund and his family are seen. They are in Pleasant, Johnson, Indiana. Edmund lists himself as farmer with a real estate value of \$600, and there are 4 children listed with them. Worth noting is that in 1840 there was a female listed who was between 10-14. That female is no longer listed with the family. I am uncertain if this was a child who died young, or possibly another family member or helper of some sort. The female would have been born two years before Edmund and Sarah were married, so it seems unlikely that this female was one of their children.

Sadly, Sarah dies in 1857 shortly after the birth of their daughter Susan.

The Indiana Marriage Index and Edmund's Civil War Widow's pension reports that Edmund Vawter married Lydia Adams on August 1, 1858 in Johnson County, Indiana.

This new family is reflected in the 1860 Federal Census where Edmund is listed in Franklin, Johnson, Indiana with Lydia and all 6 children. Edmund lists himself as a farmer, and reports \$1400 in real estate and \$400 in personal estate. This is the nearly the highest value for property listed on that page of the census.

Edmund enrolled in the draft on January 1, 1862 according to his widow's pension file and on March 18, 1862 Edmund is mustered into service in the Civil War for Company G of the 35th Infantry Indiana Volunteers.

On Feb 2, 1863 Edmund died in Bowling Green, Kentucky as a result of Typhoid Fever. His gravesite in Greenlawn Cemetery, Johnson County, Indiana just simply lists his birth year and death year along with his service company. However, his Civil War documents do list a month and day of his passing.

I have documented Edmund's lineage to me through the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Edmund's older children were all over the age of 18 at the time of his death, but Susan, the youngest child, was still a minor. Interestingly, his widow did not get custody of Susan who went to stay with her Aunt Nancy (Edmund's sister) and Uncle Henry Overturf.

I've often wondered what life must have been like for these children. They lose their mother when the oldest is 21, and the girls are still young. Then their father dies 6 years later and not a single one of them stays with their stepmother.

Edmund and Sarah had 5 children

- **John Bacon Vawter (1836 – 1904)**
- **Aaron Vawter (1839 -)**
- **Benjamin Vawter (1842 – 1905)**
- **Sarah Lavina Vawter (1846 – 1921)**
- **Louisiana Wood Vawter (1850 – 1932)**
- **Susan Edna Vawter (1857 – 1944)**

Edmund and his second wife Lydia had no children

SARAH B FOLLIS

Sarah B Follis (Fallis) was born in 1811 in Kentucky. Her birth year is inferred from two sources, the 1850 Federal Census and her Find A Grave record. Sarah's parents are also a bit of a mystery, but thanks to some professional searching it seems that we have at least a name for her mother and her grandparents. Sally Follis (Fallis) was indentured in June of 1817 to Isaac Fallis and listed as the daughter of Prudence Follis, deceased. Later in Isaac's will he lists Sarah (Sally) as his granddaughter and bequeaths her some money. There is a gravesite for Prudence Fallis (1794 – 1813) in Mercer County, Kentucky and no marriage records located for Prudence. DNA testing with the Fallis Family shows that we are related to Sarah's grandfather Isaac, and I believe that while a few of the typical pieces are missing, this relationship is solid.

Sadly Sarah did not leave much of a paper record other than her marriage, the record of four of the children's births in the Presbyterian Church records at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Whiteland, Indiana, and then her grave.

LYDIA ADAMS

Lydia Adams was Edmund's second wife. She was born on January 11, 1812 in Mercer County, Kentucky according to her Find A Grave record, census records and the Indiana WPA death index. I haven't done much research on Lydia, but I do know that she did not marry again. After Edmund's passing she lived with her sister and brother-in-law until her passing on January 11, 1892 in Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana. I'm including below the obituaries from the local newspaper that are found in her Find A Grave record.

The Franklin Democrat, Friday, January 15, 1892, Volume XXXII, Number 30, page 1, column 6

McCASLIN – VAWTERS.

The double funeral of Mrs. McCaslin and her sister, Mrs. Lydia Vawters, occurred Tuesday from their late home, two miles south of town. The former, whose death occurred on Sunday, was the widow of Alexander McCaslin. Mrs. Vawter died the following day at ten o'clock. Both were advanced in years, members of the Presbyterian church and had been in comparatively good health until attacked by la grippe. This was the immediate cause of death. Rev. L. P. Marshall conducted the funeral service.

The Franklin Republican, Friday, January 15, 1892, Volume 48, Number 3, page 5, col 6

MRS. LYDIA VAWTER AND MRS. ELIZABETH M'CASLIN.

On last Sabbath in the early evening, Mrs. Elizabeth McCaslin died after a brief illness at her home, two miles southwest of the city. At 10:00 on the following morning, her sister, Mrs. Lydia Vawter, who had for years been her companion, died under the same roof.

The two sisters were daughters of Alexander Adams and wife, and were born in Mercer County, Kentucky, the latter Jan 11, 1812, and the former Jan 4, 1814. They removed with their parents to Scott county, this State in childhood, and a little later came together to this county. On the 30th day of March 1834, they united with the Presbyterian church, of this city, of which church they were at death the earliest living members.

Lydia married Edmund Vawter, who lost his life during the late war and is now buried at Bowling Green Ky [sic – Greenlawn]. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Vawter found a home with her sister, who in 1864 was united in marriage with Alexander McCaslin and began her married life upon the farm which she managed and where she resided until her death. Her husband died in 1888, since which time the sisters were almost constantly together. It was an oft expressed hope of both, finally realized, that they might not be separated in death. After a fitting funeral service conducted at the old home, at 10:00 Tuesday morning by Rev. L. P. Marshall of the Presbyterian church, the bodies were placed together in the family vault at Greenlawn cemetery. For so many years residents of the county, staunch and active adherents __constant in good works, their loss is keenly felt and widely mourned.