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Re: James Riley Davidson

Posted by: [Timothy Davidson](#) (ID *****2827)

In Reply to: [James Riley Davidson](#) by Paula Stevens

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James Riley Davidson married Minnie Mae Krigbaum of Ralls County, Missouri (probably his 2nd marriage and her 1st). James and Minnie had three children, Merle Bernard (my grandfather), William Pearl and Lester Glen.

James' and Minnie's marriage ended (circumstances unknown to me). Minnie remarried twice afterwards (See and Smith) and had several children by them.

Next, James Riley Davidson married Ada Bell Nichols (aka "Adah" and "Adahella"), who was also living in Ralls County, Missouri at the time. Ada was the daughter of Peter and Ida Nichols (see 1900 census). James and Adah moved to Terre Haute and had several children, including Dean Luther, Jenny Lee, Helen Farris, Eugene Lloyd, Harvey Ellsworth, and George. The 1930 census has them all living together in Terre Haute.

Adah died in 1962 and is buried in Bethesda Cemetery in Terre Haute.

My grandfather, Merle, lived in my father's home with us until 1970 when he died. I was age 10. I remember that Grandpa (Merle) occasionally spoke of his brothers (especially Dean, Pearl and Glen). He rarely spoke of his father James, except that he told us that he (Merle) found him (James) dead at his home in Terre Haute. The circumstances surrounding James' death are not clear. Some have suggested suicide (drinking lye), but that has not been substantiated and it may or may not be true.

Like you, I'm still looking for more information on James, particularly who his parents were. Some researchers have suggested that "our" James is the son of Henry and Julia Davidson of Dunklin County, Missouri (per 1880 census). I have two problems with that speculation: 1) James R. Davidson is listed as being 4 years old in 1880 when in reality he would have been an infant of one year; 2) the 1930 census clearly states that James' parents were born in Ireland; additionally the 1920 census and 1910 census were inconclusive as to where his parents were born - "United States" instead of specifying which state, e.g., Missouri.

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