

**Submitted by Kendall Griggs**

**LEVI WHITCOMB HOPKINS**

BORN: 05 JAN 1840 -- Clermont, Ohio

DIED: 03 DEC 1883 -- Haven, Kansas

MARRIED: 29 SEP 1859 -- Wapello Co., Iowa

**SARAH ELIZABETH CARTER**

BORN: 15 JUN 1839 -- Upwell, England

DIED: 19 SEP 1919 -- Haven, Kansas

BURIED: Sarah is buried at the Haven/Priest cemetery located two miles south and two east of Haven, Kansas. Levi is buried 4 1/2 miles south of Haven on the west side of the blacktop in an unmarked grave. The site has been farmed over.

**Levi Whitcomb Hopkins** was born in Clermont Co., Ohio on January 5, 1840. His parents, Levi and Elizabeth (Hicks) Hopkins, were married on February 14, 1822 in Clermont County, Ohio. His father was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky on January 3, 1803; his mother on December 4, 1804 in North Carolina. His father was a shoemaker by trade.

**Sarah Elizabeth Carter** was born June 15, 1839 to Clara Turner Carter and William Carter near Upwell, England. Sarah's father was born and raised in England and died while still a young man. Her mother, Clara, was born in 1819, in England. When Sarah was nine days old, the maid brought Clara cold water to bathe in, and Clara subsequently died on June 24, 1839. The Carter's were well-to-do and did not wish to care for a baby, so Clara's sister, Martha, took her and cared for her.

We do not know anything about their life in England. Since some of the family had already come to the United States, her grandfather, John Turner, and Aunt Martha and Sarah came to the U.S. in June 1854. Sarah was 15. Aunt Martha had a wooden or peg leg, so they were not admitted at Ellis Island. So they took a boat to Canada where they got a team and wagon or buggy and made their way to Ohio, bringing their only trunk. [Taken from Monograph prepared by Blanche Turner - 1942.]

Later they came to Wapello County, Iowa. My grandmother [Irene Shumway Mapp's grandmother] was very stooped. Some said she carried water up a hill as Aunt Martha took in washing. Sarah was a beautiful girl and had wavy hair.

Sarah Elizabeth Carter married Levi Whitcomb Hopkins September 29, 1859 in Wapello Co. Iowa. He was born in Ohio and had moved to Iowa. Levi was a doctor, but we do not know where he received his education. On September 27, 1876, the family settled on a farm five miles south and one mile west of Haven, Kansas. [Lots 1 & 2, Section 6, Township 26S, of Range 4 W containing 154.80 acres.] Levi paid a \$2 fee to file his Declaratory Statement at the Wichita Land Office on September 29, 1876. Levi died on December 3, 1883 and is buried near Haven, Kansas. Levi and

Sarah had the following six children:

<b>Sarah Lavina</b>	<b>August 15, 1861</b>	<b>Davis Co. IA</b>
<b>Clara Elizabeth</b>	<b>January 19, 1863</b>	<b>Wapello Co. IA</b>
<b>George Wesley</b>	<b>August 12, 1866</b>	<b>Wapello Co. IA</b>
<b>William Lincoln</b>	<b>July 3, 1869</b>	<b>Davis Co. IA</b>
<b>Gertrude May</b>	<b>April 1, 1879</b>	<b>Haven, KS</b>
<b>Walter Roy</b>	<b>July 29, 1882</b>	<b>Haven, KS</b>

**From a letter Gertrude Hopkins Shumway wrote Leslie Hopkins -- 1960:**

*"The Turners all lived in England. They kept coming over to America until they all got here. My mother's mother was Clara Turner, married a Carter. She died when mother was nine days old. Mother was given then to a single sister, also she was a cripple, had her leg taken off half way above the knee. We called her Aunt Martha Turner. She raised mother. Father's people were from Ohio. But I think I have heard mother say they all moved to Iowa, before she was married, except Joshua, he stayed in Ohio.*

*Aunt Martha brought her aged father and mother (my mother) to America in June, 1854. They all settled in Iowa. When my father and mother moved to Kansas, they brought father's parents and Aunt Martha with them. My grandparent's and father are buried on the old Rau place. The graves Willie wanted to find.*

*After father's death, Mother took Aunt Martha back to Iowa to make her home with her sisters. Walter and I were taken along. That picture of us all was taken just before we started.*

*I copied your record I am sending you from the one grandpa had. But I think someone got mixed up for I think they were all married after moving to Iowa. If I go back to the Turner reunion this summer, I will look up some of these dates better."*

**Comments made at the 1993 Get-Together in Haven, Kansas:**

Viola: When the Hopkins were on their way to Kansas from Iowa, George was driving the cattle and horses but he cut his foot the first night out while chopping wood so he had to ride in the wagon. The girls, Lavina and Clara, had to drive the cattle. They got very tired and one day a man came along in a horse and buggy and offered them a ride. They were so tired they took him up. He crossed the river and left them on the opposite side of the river from Grandma and Grandpa Hopkins. They really got in trouble for being on the other side of the river and they were not supposed to ride with a strange man.

Irene: Grandpa Hopkins was a doctor and he would go by horseback to visit his patients. He could not always make it home so he would stay overnight wherever he happened to be at sundown. He stopped at this place about sundown and went to the door and asked if he could stay overnight. He put his horse in the barn and came and sat down in the living room. Pretty soon the little girl came and sat down in his lap and after a while the girl told him that papa had a trap door in the kitchen and when you sit down at the table he can release the trap door and you go to the basement and they get your money and jewelry and things. Grandpa sat there and thought about it for a while and he went

back out to the kitchen and told the lady that since it wasn't dark he thought he would go on to the next place. He told them what happened and they said, "Yes, there has been people missing, people have disappeared there."

Hazel: "When I was about 3 or 4 years old, when we still lived at Haven, Grandmother Hopkins came to visit, I thought she was such a wonderful person, she would sit in a little rocking chair and I would brush her hair. Mom would tell me to leave grandmother alone but Grandmother Hopkins would say, "Oh no, leave her alone, I just love to have Hazel brush my hair." I thought that was so wonderful that grandmother loved for me to brush her hair.

Viola: "Grandmother Hopkins hair grew just to shoulder length. She was a great one to go to church. When I was little I don't think I was ever to church with her that she didn't shout. We had seats out there at Sumner, she was just like a butterfly--she would just step over those seats as easy as could be. I never saw anything like it. I will never forget it. This was during worship service when she would get happy. She lived what she preached. She was a good soul.

Junior: Grandmother Hopkins died two years before I was born, but I tell this every chance I get: People tell about the Wright Brothers, they invented the airplane, their dad was a bishop, circuit rider preacher, and he came through and stayed with Grandma Hopkins. He needed his trousers mended because he had a hole in them from riding his horse, so he went to bed while they mended his trousers, since he had only one pair. Grandma Mitchell told me about that.

Irene: Grandmother Hopkins was a wonderful, wonderful person, loving and kind. What I'm impressed about is Grandmother Hopkins and how brave she was. Soon after they came to Kansas, George, he was about 16, left home to see the world with some other boys [in 1882]. George wrote a few letters, but when Grandpa tried to find him, George would always be gone somewhere else. George never returned home. We will never know what happened but we think he might have been driving a four-horse team through the mountains of Colorado and was killed. Grandpa Levi walked back and forth, back and forth worrying about George, until a blood vessel burst in his brain and he died when he was only 43 years old [December 3, 1883]. Grandma said, "I have five other children to think about, I cannot worry myself to death over one." This left Willie to make a living for the family, since Lavina and Clara had married. After grandpa died, Grandma Hopkins had Walter. When Clara Hopkins Mitchell's husband died in 1887, Willie Mitchell thought Grandma Hopkins, Willie, Gertrude and Walter should move in with Clara to help raise her four boys. It was hard on all of them. Clara Mitchell had George after her husband died. So they were both brave women."

Hazel: Grandma Hopkins came to live with my dad's family because there were four boys and Clara needed someone to help take care of them. My dad, George, said Grandma Hopkins took so much care of them that sometimes he thought she was the mother.

Irene: The boys, Willie and George, were swinging my mother, Gertie, and they dropped her on a red-hot stove. So Grandmother Hopkins wrapped her in cotton and covered the cotton with sweet oil and didn't remove it until she was healed. She had only one scar.

Viola: Grandma Hopkins died of pneumonia, we had taken her home in an open Model T Ford, we wrapped her in blankets and quilts, but she was 80 years old and she took pneumonia and died a few

days later.

Irene: In her later years, Grandma Hopkins made her home with Lavina, Gertrude, or her grandson, Jesse Mitchell. She helped with the work all she could. Her job was usually to do the mending. Grandmother was a Methodist, but when they moved to Reno Co. Kansas, near the Sumner United Brethern Church, she became a faithful member until her death. She was friendly and loved by all. She died November 19, 1919. Burial was in the cemetery near Haven, Ks.

**THE HAVEN JOURNAL --- Friday, November 28, 1919:**

**Aged Lady Dies**

*Mrs. Sarah Hopkins, W. J. Mitchell's grand-mother, died at his home last Saturday after an illness of only about a week with pneumonia.*

*Mrs. Hopkins had come to the Mitchell home only recently to live a few weeks with them. She was over eighty years old, so that she was an easy victim to the pneumonia when she contracted it.*

*The deceased was born in England, June the 15, 1839. Her death occurred at 5 a.m., the morning of the 22nd. The funeral was held Monday from the Sumner U. B. Church, with interment in the Priest cemetery.*

**THE HAVEN JOURNAL --- Friday, December 12, 1919:**

**Obituary.**

*Sarah Carter, was born near Otwell, England, June 15, 1839. She departed this life Nov. 22, 1919, at the home of her grandson J. W. Mitchell, near Haven, Kansas.*

*When about sixteen years of age she came to America with an aged grandfather and a crippled aunt, who raised her from babyhood. Both of her parents died when she was only a baby. They settled in Ohio but after three months moved to Fairfield, Iowa.*

*At the age of twenty she was married to Levi W. Hopkins, on Sept. 29, 1859. To this union were born six children, Lavina Benson, of Enid, Okla, Clara Mitchell Wall, of Pueblo, Colo, George W. Benson whose address is not known, William L. Hopkins, of Pawnee, Oklahoma, Gertrude Shumway, of Haviland, Kansas, and Walter R. Hopkins of Pawnee, Oklahoma.*

*The family moved to this community in August, 1875. She leaves to mourn her loss five children, eleven grand children, nine great grand children and a host of friends. Her husband preceded her in death thirty-six years ago.*

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**SARAH ELIZABETH CARTER HOPKINS**

*Sarah Hopkins (nee Carter) was born near Upwell, England, June 15, 1839. She came to America when about sixteen years of age with an aged grandfather and a crippled aunt who had*

raised her from babyhood, she having lost both of her parents in infancy. They came to their relatives in Ohio remaining there for about three months, then moved to Fairfield, Iowa. At the age of twenty she was married to Levi W. Hopkins September 29, 1859. To this union were born six children: Sarah Lavina Benson, Enid, Oklahoma; Clara E. Mitchell Wall of Pueblo, Colorado; George W. Hopkins who left home at the age of fifteen; William L. Hopkins of Pawnee, Oklahoma; Gertrude M. Shumway of Tyrone, Oklahoma, and Walter R. Hopkins of Pawnee, Oklahoma. She was converted when a girl of about ten years of age, while at school at recess. She lived a faithful member of the Methodist church until moving to Reno county, Kansas, in August, 1876. She united with the Sumner United Brethren church of which she remained a faithful member until her death which occurred at the home of a grandson, Jesse Mitchell, November 22, 1919, at five o'clock in the morning, her age being eighty years, five months and seven days. Her husband preceded her to the glory world lacking one month of thirty-six years. She lived a true Christian life being always patient in sickness or trouble, never complaining of her lot, but trusting in the Lord who "doeth all things well." She was a loving wife, kind and sweet mother, and a friend of every one. She was loved by all who knew her. In her last few days she was looking forward to the revival services desiring that she might be able to attend and leave her testimony for her Saviour. Her last words were: "But the Lord's will be done." She leaves to mourn their loss five children, nine great-grandchildren and a host of friends. The funeral services were held at Sumner United Brethren church. The Rev. J. H. McNew of Hutchinson, Kansas, her former pastor, spoke of her faithfulness to the church and to Christ. Rev. May W. Smith preached on "She hath done what she could." Interment in Priest's cemetery near Haven, Kansas.

HOBERT A. SMITH

Sarah's daughter, Lavina, wrote in her diary on November 24, 1919: "Cooler & windy. Clara better, she went with us to Sumner church. Everything went off, I think just as mother would have planned it. Rev. McNew, her old pastor made a fine talk & as did the Rev. Mrs. Smith, her son Rev. Smith also officiated. Mother was dressed in her black silk with a rose in her hand and she looked indeed beautiful; pictures of the flowers were taken. **Our dear mother has gone home.**"

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#### **DESCENDENTS OF LEVI W. & SARAH ELIZABETH (CARTER) HOPKINS**

**Sarah Lavina Hopkins** born August 12, 1861 in Davis County Iowa married Thomas Hale Benson on April 22, 1885. [Additional information in separate record.]

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**Clara Elizabeth Hopkins** born January 19, 1863 in Wapello County Iowa married William Mitchell on June 3, 1879. [Additional information in separate record.]

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**George Wesley Hopkins** born August 2, 1866 in Wapello County Iowa came to Kansas with his parents when he was ten years old. At age sixteen he left home to see the world and never returned.

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**William Lincoln Hopkins** born July 3, 1869 in Davis County Iowa married De Leo Rhodes, born August 12, 1877, on March 17, 1903. **[Additional information in separate record.]**

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**Gertrude May Hopkins** born April 1, 1879 in Reno County Kansas married Fredrick J. Shumway on April 29, 1903. **[Additional information in a separate record.]**

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**Walter Ray Hopkins** was born July 29, 1882 in Reno County, Kansas married Elizabeth Holme on January 29, 1911. **[Additional information in a separate record.]**

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