

James Ulysses Hankins



Born: 6 May 1852 Decatur, Iowa, USA Died: 3 Oct 1939 Ten Sleep, Wyoming, USA
Spouse Mary Phylomena Peggar Born: 8 Feb 1856 in Syracuse, New York, USA Died: 4 Nov 1927 in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, USA
Marriage: 12 Oct 1873 in Missouri Valley, Iowa, USA [View Info](#)
Children Sex Birth
William Roland Hankins M 10 Aug 1874 in Nebraska, USA
Mildred Hankins F 24 Jul 1875
Mary Concorgia Hankins F 24 Jun 1877 in Iowa, USA
Floyd Hankins M 10 Sep 1878
Anna Elenora Hankins F 5 Dec 1880 in Hay Springs, Nebraska, USA
James Claude Hankins M 7 Feb 1887
Alice Jane Hankins F 20 Dec 1888 in Hay Springs, Nebraska, USA
Lewis Leroy Hankins M 29 Jan 1895 in Hay Springs, Nebraska, USA
SOURCE: One World Tree, Ancestry.com

James Ulysses Hankins

James Ulysses Hankins was born in Decater County, Iowa, May 6, 1852 to Mary and Roland Hankins. In his younger years, he worked as a foreman for the C. B. & Q. Railroad.

James U. Hankins was married to Mary Phylomena Peggar in Missouri Valley, Iowa on Oct. 12, 1873. She was born in Osage County, New York, Feb. 8, 1856.

After some years, they moved to western Nebraska, near Hay Springs, where they developed a stock ranch and raised many acres of wheat and corn when they weren't hauled out or burned up, which was quite often. In 1898 Mr. Hankins thought, it was too much of a gamble, with the dry farming, blizzards and hail, to continue there, so he sold everything except a few necessities --- his horses, a milk cow, and a few chickens --- and started west by covered wagon, with Cody, Wyoming in mind. They traveled overland almost three weeks before arriving at Ten Sleep, Wyoming. They had fresh eggs and milk, and it was a very enjoyable trip.

When they arrived in Ten Sleep, they contracted to put up hay for Mr. Milo Burke. By the time this was finished, they liked Ten Sleep and the surrounding country so well that they decided to make this their home.

In 1900 Mr. Hankins leased the Charlie Wells ranch at Red Bank, Wyoming. This ranch is now owned by Mrs. Dorothy Bush. They farmed the Wells place for three years, and Mrs. Hankins was the Red Bank postmistress. They then homesteaded a place in lower Canyon Creek canyon. After much sweating and hard work, mostly with a strong back and determination by all the family, they finally cleared a nice lot of farm land of all the brush and willows, and had several acres of alfalfa hay, a nice orchard, and a large garden.

After a few years, the family outgrew this place, so he sold it, and leased the old Charlie O'Neal ranch on upper Canyon Creek from Alan Holzworth. He later bought the place, and

ranch and raised stock until his health forced him to retire. The living room is all that remains of the original home place. It now houses the administrative offices for the National Girl Scout Center West.

Mr. and Mrs. Hankins were the parents of eight children --- William Roland, Mildred, Mary Concorgia, Floyd, Anna Elenora, James Claude, Alice Jane and Lewis Leroy. Mildred died in infancy, and Floyd at the age of two years. Claude died in Portland, Ore., at the age of 21, while he was away at college. The rest of the children remained in the area, where they married and raised their families. Roland married the former Ethel May Lewis, in 1903. They were the parents of five children. Concorgia married David A. Allen in 1901. They had one adopted daughter. Anna was married to James A. Allen in 1900. They were the parents of two children. Alice married Alvin B. Carrothers in 1916, and had one son. In 1958 she was married to Robert W. (Bill) Spratt. Lewis married the former Marjorie Keeler in 1918. They were the parents of four boys, one of whom was killed in World War II while a prisoner of the Japanese.

The Hankins family was among the first few pioneer families in the Ten Sleep valley. It was very sparsely settled and the only mode of transportation was by horses. The highways were not much more than cow trails, but about once a year they would make a trip to Billings, Mont., for groceries and supplies. Their lights were kerosene lamps, and their water came from a near-by well or creek, and the powder room was a little board "privy" on the hill. Claude and Alice rode on horseback to the lower Ten Sleep School every day. The fourteen miles each way was pretty rough sometimes when it was twenty or thirty degrees below zero. This meant a three mile walk from the canyon home to school. Although the family sometimes wondered how they did it, it was a good life, and they loved every minute. It is almost unbelievable to glance back and see the progress in the past twenty-five years.

After retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Hankins moved to the town of Ten Sleep, where they lived until her death Nov. 4, 1927. He continued to stay there, and passed away at the family home on Oct. 3, 1939.

Mr. and Mrs. Hankins family were well known throughout the Big Horn Basin, and held the respect and friendship of all who knew them.

This information was furnished by Mrs. Alice Spratt, of Worland, who is the only member of the family now living, who shared in the settling of Washakie County.

SOURCE: A History of Washakie County As Written by Its People, A Washakie County Bicentennial Project, 1976, printed by Northern Wyoming Daily News, Worland, Wyoming, 64-65.

J. U. Hankins Dies Of Heart Attack

James U. Hankins, 87, rancher at Tensleep since 1898, and father of W. R. Hankins of Worland, died of a heart attack at his home in Tensleep at noon Tuesday.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday at the Tensleep Methodist church with Rev. Clyde Hampton of Basin conducting.

Hankins, born May 6, 1852, came to Wyoming and settled near Tensleep 41 years ago and has lived there since that time.

Surviving him are two sons and three daughters.