

With the permission of Violet's son, Mike Noble, I am posting this record here to share.

**LIFE STORIES OF RODOLPH DIETZ ADKINS AND SALLIE JANE STUMP  
WRITTEN BY THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER, VIOLET (ADKINS) NOBLE**

Rudolph Dietz Adkins was born, 24 Nov. 1864, on Big Laurel Creek (Hager, W. Va). Lincoln County, West Virginia. He was the third child of the thirteen children born to James Willis Adkins and Elizabeth Burns, James Willis' second wife.

As a youth Dietz, as he was called, worked on his father's farm, along with his brother and sisters. Like other farmer's children, he got little education. School lasted about four months out of the year, during winter. In the spring and summer school closed so the children could help with planting and cultivating the crops; and in the fall, they helped with harvesting and putting food away for the winter. As a result, many children in their late teens were still in school -in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. This was the case of Rodolph Dietz, who married at the age of nineteen, his school teacher, Sallie Jane Stump. They were married 27 Dec. 1883 in Hager, Lincoln County, West Virginia. Dietz and Sallie were the parents of eleven children all born in Hager, West Virginia.

Dietz's father, James Willis Adkins, had given him enough land on Big Laurel Creek, for farm. He built a big, two- story, log house on the farm; and he and Sally began their lives as farmers. He planted an orchard of apples, pears, peaches, plums and cherries. He and Sally cultivated a large garden vegetables, and fields of corn and oats. He also had a field of cane to be made into molasses, and a field of tobacco for a "cash crop", to buy things not grown on the farm. Like his father, mother, grandparents, and their families, Dietz and his family never used tobacco. Dietz raised hogs to kill in the winter for food. Sheep were raised for their wool to be made into clothing, and for food. Dietz provided well for his family.

When oil companies came in to Lincoln County to buy up leases to drill for oil and gas, Dietz signed a lease with the Jaynes and Wysong Gas Company, to drill for gas on his property. The company set up wells on Dietz's property and pumped gas, for which he received a royalty check every three months. Shortly after this time, Dietz sold his farm and moved his family to the county seat, Hamlin, West Virginia. He bought a lot in Hamlin and his son James Bartley, "Jack", built a house for him. After he moved to Hamlin, he worked for Clayco Gas Company awhile.

Sallie Jane Stump was born, 4 Nov. 1866, in Rocky Gap, Bland County, Virginia. She was the first child of the six children born to Joseph Bartley Stump and Martha Ann Stowers. When Sallie Jane was five years old, her parents left Virginia and moved to Lincoln County, West Virginia, along with her grandparents, John Larkin Stowers and Dicey (Fletcher) Stowers. Sallie's father bought a farm on Big Laurel Creek (Sias, W. Va), in Lincoln County, West Virginia; which he cultivated to feed his family, as well as being the community blacksmith. Sallie was a typical farm girl. She milked cows, fed livestock, and did household chores.

Sallie's parents could not read or write so Sallie was determined to get as much education as she could get in those days. She was an excellent student, superior in math -and her handwriting was exceptionally beautiful. Sallie finished the elementary grades. There were no high schools back in those days. Because of Sallie's accomplishments, her teacher recommended her to the local board of education, and she was hired as a teacher. While she was teaching, she married one of her students, Rodolph Dietz Adkins on 27 Dec. 1883, at the age of seventeen. Dietz was nineteen years old.

Sallie and Dietz had a long and happy life together. She was a very good mother- was very strict with her children. She was a good wife, always looking after the welfare of her family. She worked along-side of them in the garden and in the fields. In the fall she sat for days beside her spinning wheel, spinning wool to make winter clothing. She knitted sweaters and socks for her large family. Sallie was a dressmaker. She not only made beautiful dresses for her own daughters, she was paid to make dresses for other young ladies in the community. She made her own bedding: sheets, pillow cases and quilts. She was known for her beautiful quilts. Her original patterns and designs were works of art.

Sallie was also a mid-wife. She delivered many, many babies for her neighbors. Although, I was delivered by another mid-wife, grandma was present to see that all went well with my birth. Sallie Jane (Stump) Adkins was considered a very accomplished woman in her day.

I remember the times I visit grandma, Sallie, as a teenager. She was in her 70s. She had retired from all of her household duties