

## **Sophia Gear Farrar House, 119 N. Bench St., c. 1870**

### **Summary**



Sophia Gear, daughter of Hezekiah Gear and Sarah Gilbert Gear, was born in Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, either 10 or 14 May 1800.

Sophia arrived in Galena in April of 1826 with her brother, Charles Gear, of Wisconsin.

Sophia Gear and Amos Farrar married 6 January 1831 in Galena. (Sophia's obituary states she and Amos Farrar married in the fall of 1830.) The officiant was Rev. Erastus Kent.

A daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Farrar, was born in 1832.

Amos Farrar died of consumption (tuberculosis) Tuesday, 24 July 1832 at his home in the Stockade, at the corner of Perry and Bench streets, during the Black Hawk War. He is buried in Old City Cemetery, Galena. Sophia Farrar and her brother, Hezekiah H. Gear, served as administrators of Amos' estate.

Sophia Farrar modernized the Stockade immediately after the Black Hawk War was over with weather boarding, lathing, and plastering inside.

Sophia Farrar petitioned William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri, on behalf of her step-daughter, Margaret Farrar, a minor, regarding a land claim in April of 1833.

Daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Farrar, died 21 September 1837. She was 5 years old. Sarah is buried beside her father in Old City Cemetery.

There was a series of lawsuits by Sophia against George Davenport and his partners.

In 1840, Sophia Farrar was enumerated with 1 male 5-9 years old, 1 female 10-14, 1 female 15-19, and herself.

In 1845, Sophia Farrar supported Martha Ann, an enslaved woman in Galena trying to win her freedom.

Sophia Farrar bought land in Jo Daviess County in 1847 and 1848.

Step-daughter, Margaret Farrar, died in Galena 10 May 1855. Margaret is buried in Galena's Old City Cemetery. Sophia Farrar served as executrix of Margaret's estate.

Sophia was a teacher in Galena.

She died 16 July 1883 in Galena. Sophia Gear Farrar was said to be "the oldest female settler in the lead mines." She was 83 years old. She was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery beside her brother, Samuel Gear.