

The Kinney Family

by

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01 July 2009

The part of Van Buren County where the Kinney family settled in the 1830's was known as the "Kinney Settlement." It was centered on the Elijah Kinney farm which was less than a mile north of where the Adams Centennial Farm is now. The area was then part of Decatur Twp., but was included in Porter Twp. when it was formed in 1845. The Kinney family is a large one, and this Kinney family summary will only include the information most pertinent to attendees of the Adams-McKain Reunion.

Lorania Gates (Kinney) Adams and her parents, Elijah and Lucretia Kinney

Lorania Gates Kinney (1808-1850) married Horace Hale Adams (1805-1847) in Milan, Ohio, probably in 1826 or 1827. They had five children who survived to adulthood: (1) Franklin Bildad, (2) Uriah Mason, (3) Sarah Lucina (Fletcher), (4) Emily Lorania (Bates), and (5) Mary Calista (Smith). The first three children were born in Ohio, and the last two in Van Buren Co., Mich. The farm was located in Porter Twp., on the Cass-Van Buren Co. line. The Adams-McKain Reunion is centered on their son Uri M. Adams (1832-1900) and his wife, Jane (McKain) Adams (1847-1913).

Lorania G. Kinney (Adams) was one of 11 children (five sons and six daughters) of Elijah and Lucretia (Colvin) Kinney. Elijah was born on Nov. 5, 1785 (or 1787), in Amenia, Dutchess Co., NY. He was the son of Didymus (b. 1743) and Eva Kinney. Lucretia was born about 1787 in Danby, Bennington, Vermont, the daughter of George and Mary Colvin. Elijah and Lucretia were married in 1806 in New York. Lucretia died on Dec. 23, 1852. After she died, Elijah married Mary Millikin Bebee. Elijah died on June 17, 1864. Both Elijah and Lucretia are buried in Kern Cemetery.

Elijah was one of eight children of Didymus (b. ~1743) and Eva Kinney. The children (all born in NY) were Didymus (1773-1814), Priscilla (1775-1866), Solomon (1777-1839), Joseph (1779-1843), Stephen (1784-1847), Elijah (1785-1864), Manoah (1787-1816), and Ruben (1790-1830). Of these, Stephen and Elijah came to Porter Twp. Niles Hartwell Kinney, son of Didymus (b. 1773) and Phebe (Hartwell) Kinney, settled in Prairie Ronde Twp., Kalamazoo Co., MI. Elijah's brother Joseph (1779-1843) moved to Hancock Co., IL, but the rest of the family apparently stayed in New York.

Lucretia was one of nine children of Amos and Mary Colvin. (The children were apparently all born in Danby, Bennington, Vermont.) Lucretia's brother, George Colvin (1780-1855), also moved to Porter Twp. and is buried in Kern Cemetery. He had two daughters by his first wife, Bethny Bushee): Susan Colvin married Isaac Gould. Her sister, Eunice Colvin (1809-1879) married Uri Kinney, and was the mother of Lorania G. (Kinney) Matthews McDaniels (see more about her below).

Elijah and Lucretia Kinney came from Milan, Ohio to Van Buren Co., Michigan, about 1835, with seven unmarried children, and son Luther and family, and son-in-law, Samuel Corey—according to the *History of Van Buren County, Michigan*, published by Ensign in 1880. Elijah bought 160 acres in Section 24 of Porter Twp., and lived there until he died; after that his son Stephen lived there.

1840 & 1845 censuses

In the 1840 Federal census for the part of Decatur Twp. that later (1845) became Porter Twp., there are five people surnamed Kinney (only heads of households were listed): Elijah, Luther, Stephen, Uri and Hiram. (Hiram is hard to read; it may be a different name.) George and Martin Colvin are also listed. In adjacent Prairie Rond Twp. (Kalamazoo Co.), Niles H. Kinney is listed (as are Samuel D. Corey, and George, Benjamin, Jonathan and Thomas Fletcher).

In the 1845 census of Porter Twp., there are six people surnamed Kinney: Elijah, Luther, Orrin G., Uri, and two named Stephen. (Only males age 21 or over were listed. Horace Hale Adams, Thomas Fletcher, and Nelson, Sanford and Warren Corey were also listed.) Other Kinney family members settled in nearby areas of Kalamazoo County.

Elijah and Lucretia's children

There is information about five of the 11 children of Elijah & Lucretia Kinney: (1) Luther (1807-1882), (2) Loriania Gates (Adams, 1808-1850), (3) Phoebe Lucina (Corey, 1818-1855), (4) Stephen (1825-1883), and (5) Joseph (1826-1876). In addition, the name of the daughter who married Samuel D. Corey was Sarah. The two other sons may have been named (7) Hartwell, and (8) Uri, but this is not certain. (There is one source that lists a son Elijah, born in 1814, and Hiram is a possibility) In the 1850 census, Laura (age 21, born Ohio) in the Elijah and Lucretia Kinney household would appear to be their daughter. (There is a girl in the 10-15 years old age group in the 1840 census who would presumably be Laura. There is a girl 15-20 years old in that same census who would be Phoebe Lucina.) The names of the other two daughters are not known.

Luther Kinney, the oldest son of Elijah and Lucretia, married Emily Adams (1809-1888) on Dec. 2, 1830, in Ohio. She was the daughter of Bildad and Mary (Haynes) Adams (and the younger sister of Horace Hale Adams). Luther and Emily came to Porter Twp. in 1835 with his parents and settled just the south of them. In 1864, Luther and Emily moved to Minnesota for a couple years. When they returned to Michigan in 1868, they settled in Benton Twp. in Berrien Co. They had no children. There is an engraving of their home in Benton Twp. in the *History of Berrien and Van Buren Counties, Michigan* (Ensign, 1880) which includes an inset of their original log cabin in Porter Twp., and their pictures:



Luther & Emily (Adams) Kinney

Elijah and Lucretia's son Joseph (b. 1826) married Eliza J. Stillwell in 1848. In the 1870 census, Joseph and Eliza are living in Porter Twp. and have four children. Joseph died on May 21, 1876 at age 49 years, 10 months and 18 days—killed by lightning.

Elijah Kinney had both a brother and a son named Stephen. Elijah and Lucretia's son Stephen (1825-1883) settled on his parents' property after his father died. In the 1880 census his wife's name is Mary and they have a son, Freddy (age 10).

Elijah's brothers' families

Elijah's brother Stephen (~1782-1847) married Hannah Wright in 1810. They came to Porter Twp. in the fall of 1838 with a family of eight children. They bought 230 acres in Section 26. His son, Orrin Gates Kinney (1815-1882), married Rachel Judson on June 26, 1841, and they located in Section 25 in 1842. Prior to her marriage at age 20, Rachel was living in the household of Horace Hale and Loriania

(Kinney) Adams for at least three years, and they were the witnesses-of-record at the marriage. Stephen and Hannah's son Stephen Hiram Kinney (b. 1833) was the youngest of their 14 children. He served in the Civil War and married Sara Louise Millman.

Elijah's brother Didymus (b. 1773) married Phebe Hartwell in 1795 and they were the parents of Niles Hartwell Kinney (b. 1800 in NY). Niles H. Kinney (d. 1856) and Sarah (Lilly) Spears (d. 1847) moved to Prairie Rond Twp., Kalamazoo Co., in 1835. They had six children, but we only have the names of five. The oldest and the youngest, Didymus C. (b. 1823 in Ohio & d. 1898) and Nathan S. Kinney (b. March 9, 1844 in Prairie Ronde Twp. & d. Feb. 15, 1928) both lived in Kalamazoo Co. at the times of their deaths. Didymus C. Kinney married Caroline Webb in 1855, and they had four children: Frank W, Elmer D., Charles, and Sarah.



Didymus C. Kinney

Nathan S. Kinney married Mary McKain (sister of Jane Woods McKain) on Feb. 4, 1869. They lived in Oshtemo (Kalamazoo Co.). He was a merchant, Postmaster, and Township Supervisor for nine years. Nathan and Mary had five children: Ethel, D. C., Hartwell, Hal N., and Nathaniel. Thus the Nathan S. & Mary Kinney branch of the family is connected to the reunion from both the Adams and McKain sides.

On pages 3-5 of the 2000 newsletter is information about Nathan's sister, Phebe H. (Kinney) Sayles, in an article about the death of her daughter, Kittie (Sayles) Moore and seven other Moore family members in the Iroquois Theater Fire in Chicago (30 Dec. 1903). The Sayles family lived in Oceana Co., Mich. Two others brothers moved west: Niles H. to Iowa and William to Nebraska. Another sister died at age 11 in a fire (apparently while at school).

Elijah's brother Joseph was born in 1779 in Amenia, Dutchess Co., NY. He was living in Orchard Park, Erie Co., NY, in 1803, and he married Priscilla Richmond (1782-1861) that same year. They had four children, all born in NY: Thurman (b. 1810), Miranda (b. 1818), Joseph R. (b. 1820), and Lavelette (b. May 6, 1826, in Buffalo, NY). Joseph and family moved to Hancock Co., Illinois, and both Joseph and Priscilla died there—Joseph in 1843 and Priscilla in 1861.

Lavelette Kinney married Jane Butler on Oct. 18, 1849, in Quincy, Illinois. He died on Oct. 25, 1895, in Mitchell, Kansas, and she died on June 4, 1911, in Chelan Co., Wash., and is buried in Cashmere, Wash. This branch of the Kinney family is in touch with the reunion.

Uri and Eunice Kinney family

Uri Kinney (1801-1851), Elijah's nephew, settled in Section 12 in 1835 and lived there until his death. He married Eunice Colvin (1809 -1879) in 1827 in Ohio. One of their six children was named after their aunt: Lorania Gates Kinney (1833-1907).



Lorania (Kinney) Matthews McDaniels
with granddaughters Opal & Oriel Matthews

In Dec. 1885, the younger Lorania married William F. Matthews (1823-1864), and they lived directly across the road from Uri and Jane (McKain) Adams. William and Lorania Matthews had one son, (William) Lester Matthews (1863-1925). He married Julia O. Stute, sister of Sophia E. Stute (Fletcher). (Sophia's husband, J. H., was the son of Dorsey and Sarah (Adams) Fletcher.) Lester and Julia Matthews had three daughters (Opal, Oriel, and Marion.). In 1905 they moved to a farm at Indian Lake near Vicksburg, Michigan, in Kalamazoo Co.

Lorania's sister Lovena (1834-1862) married William's brother Lyman Matthews. After Lovena's death, their three sons (Uri, Charles and Finley) were placed with various relatives. In the 1870 census, Charles V. Matthews (age 12) is living with his aunt Lorania. Later, Charles married Jennie C. Feller, sister of Jason Feller—who married Sarah Sophia Bates, daughter of Emily L. (Adams) Bates. So this branch of the Kinney family has a second connection to the Adams family. Finn Matthews married Anna Wilson in 1888; they lived (with son Leon) just a little more than a mile SW of the Uri and Jane Adams farm.

In the 1880 census for Porter Twp., Van Buren Co., the Uri and Jane Adams household is listed, with their five children (the youngest, Ross Uri was not born yet). However, there are two extra Adams daughters: Danise (age 13) and Dora (age 10). These girls were actually Diadama and Dorothy McDaniels. (Thanks to Gayle Griffin and Jack Adams for this identification.) They were the daughters of James McDaniels, a neighbor living just south of the Adams farm, who married Lorania Kinney Matthews after her first husband died. Also listed in the Adams household in that census is Augusta Mathews ('other,' male, 16, b. Mich., farm laborer, parents born in Ohio). This appears to be Lester Matthews from across the street. There are several possible explanations for these unexpected listings, but I can't help imagining that someone was playing a joke on the census taker.

Corey family

It was mentioned above that Samuel Corey married Sarah Kinney, daughter of Elijah and Lucretia. In addition, Nelson Corey married Elijah and Lucretia's daughter, Phoebe Lucina, on May 12, 1842, in Decatur Twp. (Nelson's second wife, Delilah, was the sister of Dorsey Fletcher.) Nelson's brother Sanford Corey married Eliza Matthews, the sister of William and Lyman Matthews. Sanford and Eliza Matthews lived directly across the road from Dorsey and Sarah (Adams) Fletcher (about a mile WNW of the Uri and Jane Adams farm).

Additional Information

There is much more information available on the Kinney family in the reunion files and elsewhere. See our website, www.adams-mckain.com. (There are several links included there.) Or, contact Bob Brown or Jim Adams. As was stated in the last newsletter, we have recently made contact with two members of the Kinney family: (1) Carol Kinney is a descendant of Joseph Kinney (Elijah's brother), and (2)

Joyce Kinney Hines is descended from Nathan S. Kinney and Mary McKain. (Joyce is actually more closely related to most reunion attendees through her McKain ancestry than through her Kinney lineage.)