

# 82nd ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 10

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2002

## \*\*\*INVITATION\*\*\*

### 83rd REUNION TO BE HELD SATURDAY 03 AUGUST 2002

You are invited to enjoy the week-end with our family at the

**Clarion Hotel**  
**3600 E. Cork Street**  
**Kalamazoo, Michigan**  
**1-616-385-3922**

Friday & Sunday plans are whatever you decide, but group plans are for Saturday, August 3. You are welcome to come to our two hospitality rooms as early as 9 AM to visit on Saturday, but please be in our private dining room at 12 noon for pictures. Our buffet luncheon will start at 12:30 PM. The cost of the meal which includes tax, tip, coffee, tea, or soft drink is \$13.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children.

Please let George know by email, telephone, or US mail by 7-15-02 about your plans to come to the buffet luncheon. Prepayment is not necessary as you will pay George or Chris at the reunion. There will be a business meeting before we adjourn at 3:30 PM.



**1908 Robert Adams Reunion**

After we leave the luncheon room, George & Chris have two hospitality rooms for visiting and having time to look through the

reunion books. Chris and family will have plenty of food and beverage for the evening for all. The Clarion Hotel has an indoor pool, whirlpool, exercise room, and cable. We are at poolside so we can be in casual wear and while some of us do activities, such as swimming, others can relax and reminisce. Everyone may stay as late as they want or leave to be home before dark.

The reunion treasury will not pay for rooms, therefore you will pay the hotel directly. George & Chris will be there Friday and Saturday nights. George has reserved a block of rooms for Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cost for a non-smoking room with two double beds is \$80.00 per night plus tax. They give AARP or AAA discounts. Please let George know by email, telephone or US mail by 6-15-01 (latest 7-1-0-1) if you need a block room for Saturday. Anyone wanting to come Friday night needs to make reservations immediately with George or the hotel directly.

George can be reached at:

**email: [gcadams@alumni.nd.edu](mailto:gcadams@alumni.nd.edu)**  
**telephone (pm) 574-291-8267**  
**1334 E. Croydon Court**  
**South Bend, IN 46614-6103**  
**82<sup>nd</sup> BUSINESS MEETING**

04 August 2001

**ELECTIONS:** George Adams, President, called the meeting to order. It was decided to elect the same officers except no game/location chairpersons. They are:

**President:** George Adams

**Newsletter Editor:** Jim Adams

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Barbara Gale  
It was also decided to meet in a place where we can enjoy weekend activities. George & Chris plan to follow up on this.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Barbara reported the total amount on hand for reunion to pay disbursements was \$362.00 with \$250.00 being post reunion collections. The total disbursements were \$219.00 which includes \$133.51 for photocopying and mailing 130 newsletters. Reunion paid Barbara in full which leaves \$143.00 on hand to start the reunion today. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to people on the newsletter address roster. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Please make checks out to Barbara Gale. Please accept our apologies if you did not get an invitation or newsletter this year. George, Jim & Barbara changed procedures which caused confusion with addresses. Please notify George or Barbara about address, email, telephone changes to avoid re-mailing or being missed again. Thank you.

**REUNION LIBRARY:** There were numerous genealogical, historical, and reunion pictures and notebooks on display brought by Dale Greenwood, Dawn Sivley, Jim Adams, Barbara Gale and others which represented the various branches of the Robert Adams Family of Newbury, MA.

The Reunion Library in the home of Barbara has 3 genealogy notebooks, 2 history notebooks of pictures, diaries, etc. 8 reunion notebooks with data for each year

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since 1919, and one notebook labeled "Our Family War Heroes". War data begins with the French & Indian War through current wars. The Civil War and WW1 are emphasized so if anyone has information about family members who have served in the armed forces please forward it to Barbara Gale.

Other notebooks include the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion Recipe book, the Chicago Iroquois Theater Fire of 1903, Treasurer's reports, Marcellus Centennial, The Wildcat (MHS Centennial Book) and the genealogy book by Andrew Adams of Robert Adams & His Descendants.

Jim Adams has collected a number of books on family & local history over the years and made them available for viewing.

It is hoped the enthusiasm and interest shown by the group while looking at the information is contagious and that we will compile all related data so it can be presented at the 100<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2019. Let George, Jim or Barbara know if you are interested in this worthwhile project. Another way you can help is to volunteer to write the family history section of newsletter #11. Barbara will need that information by 01 April 2003. Barbara also needs your family news, such as births, marriages, etc. no later than 01 May 2003 for it to be published in the #11 newsletter.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Francis Morse and Sydney Baugh were the oldest and youngest members

present. Francis is the husband of Mildred and Sydney, born 06 December 2000, is the daughter of Jessica (Adams) Baugh. Her grandparents are Gerald and Charlene Adams. She is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant. Although Muriel Hurt (ND) and the Jack Coleman Family (FL) also traveled a long distance, Gerry & Marilyn Adams came the farthest from Barefoot Bay, FL.

## **POST REUNION NEWS:**

Saturday evening George, Margaret, Jim, & Barbara visited Clare, Sue, Sharl, Dan & Lisa at the Plainwell Pines Nursing Home where Clare (Adams) Price has been a resident since 05 Feb 1999.

George, Chris, Margaret, Amy, Jim, Michael, Mary, Nick, Erik, Dan, Pam, Justin, Daniel, Jory, Tim, Michele, Cody, Christopher, and Barbara had breakfast together before leaving for their homes. Barbara, Jack and Louise Adams visited Clare, Sue & Sharl at the nursing home. Clare has attended most of the reunions and it seemed strange not to see her at this reunion.

**83<sup>rd</sup> REUNION PLANS:** The meeting was adjourned with a reminder the 83<sup>rd</sup> Reunion will be held on the first weekend of August 2002 with a meal and overnight stay for those who choose to do so.

**FAMILY ATTENDANCE:** 59 members and 6 guests attended the 82<sup>nd</sup> Reunion on Saturday, 04 August 2001 at the Sheraton in Kalamazoo, MI. Six branches

were present: Franklin B. & Anna Adams, George & Effa Mae Adams, Chester & Roxanna Adams, Archie & Lillie Adams, Dorsey & Sara Fletcher, and Thomas & Jane McKain. There were 14 children in the group. There were seven states represented: MI, IN, WI, TX, SC, FL, & ND. Three people stayed over two nights and 20 people stayed Saturday night.

## **FRANKLIN B. and ANNA (FLETCHER) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (2)**

Shauna (Adams) Lula & daughter Suzanne of Paw Paw, MI.

## **GEORGE & EFFA MAE ADAMS DESCENDANTS (1)**

Barbara Gale of Coloma, MI.

## **HORACE CHESTER & ROXANNA (BENT) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (28 members & 4 guests)**

George, Chris, & Richard Adams of South Bend, IN.

Margaret (Adams) Wetherell of Chase, MI.

Amy (Wetherell) Posey of Big Rapids, MI.

Jim Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Michael, Mary (Adams), Nick, & Erik West of Rockford, MI.

Francis & Mildred Morse of Kalamazoo, MI.

Dan & Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI.

Marilyn (Adams) Little of Grand Rapids, MI.

Justin, Daniel, & Jory Rendleman of Wichita, TX.

Tim, Michele, Cody, & Christopher of Grandville, MI

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Todd Adams & guest Rebecca of Grand Rapids, MI.

Rolland, Colin, Roxanna, Brigid Morse of Schoolcraft, MI with guests Margaret & Andrea Hunter of Ann Arbor, MI.

Erin Morse and guest Brian Mansberger of Kalamazoo, MI.

## **ARCHIE & LILLIE (DOUGLAS) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (24 members & 1 guest)**

Phillip & June (Adams) Powell of Kalamazoo, MI.

Gerald & Marilyn Adams of Barefoot Bay, FL.

Kyle & Jennifer Stoops, and guest Jeff See of Plainwell, MI.

Edward & Dale Ann Greenwood of Rock Hill, SC.

Gerald, Charlene, & Jennifer Adams of Lawton, MI.

David & Dawn (Adams) Sivley of Schoolcraft, MI.

Jack, Mary (Adams), Trey, and Nicki Coleman of The Colony, TX.

Jessica (Adams), Cody, and Sydney Baugh of Lawton, MI.

Earle, Teresa (Graham), Andrea, & Eric Martin of Schoolcraft, MI.

## **DORSEY & SARA LUCINA (ADAMS) FLETCHER DESCENDANTS: (2 members, 1 guest)**

Muriel (Brown) Hurt of South Heart, ND.

Linda (Hurt) Fox of Ypsilanti, MI.

Lucille Bolley of Battle Creek, MI (guest).

## **THOMAS AND JANE (MORROW) MCKAIN DESCENDANTS (2)**

Jay & Virginia (Osmick) Vliet of Decatur, MI.

### **CURRENT NEWS**

**News received after 31 May 2002 will be in Newsletter #11.**

**HORACE ADAMS**, reported in his 2001 Christmas letter that their grandson, Chris, is in his second year at the US Coast Guard Academy and was a crew member on the Tall Ship "Eagle" sailing to Lisbon. Their grandchildren, John IV, graduated from high school in May 2002 and Hallie will be a junior. John is interested in broadcasting and Hallie in TV editing. Horace & Mary traveled to India, Nepal, Amsterdam, Vienna, Athens, and Thailand.

**SANDRA BOLDMAN**, daughter of John and Sally Boldman, completed her first year at Ball State University and in the summer of 2001 starred in "Children of Eden". John is working for a West Coast company and Sally is an international accountant at Lockheed-Martin.

**JIM BOWE** is a flight engineer on a Boeing 727 for American Airlines at Christmas 2001. Jim, Elizabeth, and their five children are busy with varied activities. Jim uses the Family Tree Maker genealogy program to keep track of family members. We thank him for his hard work which increases the Robert Adams of Newbury, MA database and contributes to the 100<sup>th</sup> Reunion project. You

can visit his website at: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/b/o/w/James-E-Bowe/>

**ELEANOR, BOB, & DONNA BROWN** took two short family trips to visit state parks in Indiana in 2001. Eleanor has regular activities such as a monthly breakfast with her high school class, a weekly luncheon with a lady friend, and swimming at a local health club. Bob retired from Syngenta 30 April 2002 and in October he returned to work temporarily to help with end of the year reports. His plans for January 2002 were to teach two short courses in Albuquerque and Atlanta. He has some Dorsey & Sara Lucina (Adams) Fletcher history.

**GARRY BROWN** sent numerous pictures and data related to the Dorsey & Sara Lucina (Adams) Fletcher and Isaac & Emily (Adams) Bates branches of the Robert Adams family of Newbury, MA. He also enclosed other pictures such as the Porter Sunday School class at Kinney Schoolhouse #5. Jane (McKain) Adams is in the picture so it is probably taken sometime between 1864-1913. Another picture is a group of people in front of a building with a sign on it stating, "Rev. M.C. Daniels (Pastor) and Rev. A.R. McRill (Builder)". Can anyone identify these two pictures? The picture with a sign for pastor & builder is Harmony Chapel built 30 August 1894 on land donated by Dorsey & Sara Lucina (Adams) Fletcher. Thanks to Garry for adding

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historical information about Harmony Chapel. If there are other people who have related information please send it so it can be added to the history.

**JEANNE CAPOZZOLI** wrote 11 Feb 2002 of her travels to Denver & SD to visit her father, Raymond Johnson, who will be 94 in May, 2002. After SD, the family will travel to Hawaii. She sent genealogy papers for the Isaac & Emily (Adams) family.

**JOAN RYAN**, daughter of Alan & Gail Adams, reported on 29 June 2001 about her grandchildren: Sean Cunningham is a senior in research at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo and Pam, his sister, is a junior in high school. Keith and Kevin Healy are a high school senior and sophomore, respectively. Meghann Misiasz is a sophomore at Grinnell College, IA majoring in research. Her brothers, Mitchell, graduated from Hackett Catholic HS, Kalamazoo and plans to study Hotel Management at Grand Valley State University, and Matthew is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**DAWN SIVLEY**, is attending Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. She will be a certified pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for math, science, early child development, and English after 7 more classes.

**JOANN WHEATON** reported in her Christmas 2001 letter that Bill & Laura Stafford and she went to England & France. They saw some of the filming of the Harry Potter Story. Bill & Joann's grandchildren are Grace Stafford

(28 June 1999), daughter of William & Laura (Wheaton) Stafford, and Lindsay (24 June 1994), David (10 April 1996), and Emily (07 July 2000), children of Michael & Amy (Wheaton) Keaton.

**JOHN ADAMS**, graduated from UW-Stevens Point (WI) majoring in English & Journalism in December 2001. He was recently named editor of "Mountain West Turf" & "Potato Grower" magazines published by Harris Publications of Idaho Falls, ID.

**JESSICA ADAMS** graduated from Sturgeon Bay HS and will be attending UW-Stevens Point (WI). John & Jessica are the children of Jim & Linda (Maher) Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

**JIM ADAMS** of Sturgeon Bay, WI has produced a series of interviews of Door County veterans that have been playing on cable television. He encourages other family members to become involved in recording the histories of family & community members.

## **Nursing Home Residents**

**IMOGENE ADAMS** is at Heartland Health Care Center, Room 209, Bed 1, 3625 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI, 49006-5498. Phone: 269-375-4550.

**MARGARET COPLEY** is at White Oaks Residence, Lawton, MI 49065.

## **BIRTHS**

**ALLEN TRENT SHAFFER** was born 24 November 2001 to Gregory & Jodi (Munson)

Shaffer. Allen weighed 6 lb. 4 oz. He joins Nicole, Tony, Brooke, & Brandi. Allen's grandmother is Charl (Price) May, his great-grandparents were Don & Clare (Adams) Price. Allen is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

## **DEATHS**

**GAIL ADAMS** of Kalamazoo, MI, formerly of Gobles, died 26 Jan 2001. Gail was born 26 July 1917 in Schoolcraft, MI, the daughter of Isaac & Ethel (Kinney) Garlock. Gail was employed by the Gobles Public Schools and was secretary to the Superintendent for several years. On 06 Jun 1936 she was united in marriage to Allan B. Adams who preceded her in death on 01 Nov 1989. Also preceding her in death were a brother Richard Garlock and two sisters Helen Ratcliff and Lillian Conklin. Surviving are her daughter Joan (Norman) Ryan of Naples, FL and son, Rodney (Char) Adams of Kalamazoo, MI, 8 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no visitation. A memorial service will be held 3:00 PM Wednesday at the Langeland Funeral Homes Memorial Chapel at 622 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI with the Rev. Greg Gibbs of the Kalamazoo Community Church officiating. Private internment will be in Kendall Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association. Allan is a Franklin

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B. & Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

**LELA ANSTISS**, the wife of Vance Meredith Anstiss, died 16 May 2001 after a brief illness at home. She was born 07 Feb 1913, the daughter of Lillian & Frank Raines. She grew up in MN and IA, and moved to the central CA coast with her first husband, Clifford Marvin Dillehay and two young children in the mid-1930s. She lived in Capitola, San Francisco, & Santa Cruz, where she resided for over 50 years working as a bookkeeper in the County Purchasing Department. Lela is survived by her three children: Phyllis L. Mathis of San Diego, CA, Ronald C. Dillehay of Reno, NV, and Debora L. Randall of Aptos. She has 10 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. No services were held. Vance's parents were William & Minnie Lenora (Bates) Anstiss and is an Isaac & Emily (Adams) Bates descendant.

**CLARE MAY PRICE** died Friday, 17 Aug 2001 at the Plainwell Pines Nursing Home where she resided since 05 Feb 1999. Clare was born 25 Nov 1902 to Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams in Porter Township, MI. She has been a resident of this area most of her life. Her husband, Don W. Price, was born 22 Nov 1897 and preceded her in death on 24 Jul 1975. A grandson, Anthony Gerald Munson also preceded her in death on 23 Feb 1969. Surviving are two daughters, Sharlann May of Portage, MI and Sueann Stozicki

of Kalamazoo, MI. Four grandchildren also survive Clare: Tina Sink, Jodi Shaffer, Lisa DeYoung, and Ray House. Clare has six grandchildren: Nicole, Tony, Brooke, Brandi, Steven, and Trevor. Funeral services were held 21 Aug 2001 at the Truesdale-Ansell Funeral Home, Kalamazoo, MI with Carl Hauserman officiating. Memorials may be made to the Susan Koman Foundation. After the burial service in the Bly Cemetery, Marcellus, MI the family visited at the home of Tina Sink.

## ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

Dave & Dawn Sivley of Schoolcraft & Gary & Carol Huff of Marcellus announce the engagement of their children, **SARA I. SIVLEY** and Gregory D. Huff, both of Ann Arbor. The future bride & bridegroom are graduates of Marcellus HS & the University of MI. She is an engineering project manager of Pfizer, Inc. and he is an engineer at Faac Simulators, Inc. An August wedding is being planned. Sara & Greg will be residing in Ann Arbor.

**MATTHEW POWELL** & Jody Katherine Botford were married 16 Jun 2001 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Libertyville, IL. The reception was held at the Radisson Hotel, Pleasant Prairie, WI. They had a honeymoon in Maui. Jody lived in Libertyville but now they both work at Stryker in Kalamazoo, MI. Matthew went to Western Michigan University and Jody went to Marquette

University. Matthew is the son of Gregory & Jan Powell, the grandson of Phillip & June (Adams) Powell. Matthew is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

**JODI MUNSON** married Gregory Shaffer 23 Feb 2001 at the Kalamazoo, MI Court House. Jodi is the daughter of Sharl (Price) May and the granddaughter of Don & Clare (Adams) Price. She is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant. Gregory, Jodi, Nicole, Tony, Brooke, Brandi, and Allen live in Kalamazoo, MI.

## GRADUATIONS/HONORS

**JEFFREY ADAMS**, son of Gerry & Marilyn Adams, is a second lieutenant in the US Air Force after graduating in April 2001 from Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL. He has been at the Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, MO serving as a security force flight commander, and leaves in June for Frankfurt, Germany. Jeff and Monica are both in the Air Force and will be stationed at Rhein-Main Air Base where they will work for the next three years.

**COLIN MORSE**, son of Rolland Morse, graduated from Schoolcraft HS 02 June 2002. He will attend the University of Michigan in the fall.

**ERIN MORSE**, daughter of Rolland Morse, graduated from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI in April 2002. She hopes to be employed at Altarum, a research and policy

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planning organization in Washington, DC.

**AMY POSEY**, daughter of Bob & Margaret (Adams) Wetherell graduated from Grand Valley State with a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education in 2001. She teaches Kindergarten. Her husband, Mark Posey teaches Third Grade.

**JASON POWELL**, son of Gregory & Jan Powell graduated from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI and plans to do advanced study at Grand Valley State University in the Physical Therapy program in the next two years. He also is a camp counselor.

## FAMILY HISTORY

In the last newsletter we printed letters written by George Washington Alford (great-grandfather of Barbara Gale) and one written by William Kinney to Uri Mason Adams.

We are continuing with stories of Adams-McKain family members in the armed forces. These stories will provide a brief glimpse of military life through the eyes of our family members.

Following is a partial list of Adams-McKain family members who participated in the armed forces over the last 200 years. We hope that family members will add to this list and add to these stories.

**LT. JOEL ADAMS**, born 20 Dec 1729, died 1820. Served in the French & Indian War (1755-1763). He was wounded in the Battle of Lake George in 1755. He was also in the Revolutionary

War as an ensign in Motts Connecticut State Regiment and a Lieutenant in 1778.

**BILDAD ADAMS**, born 03 April 1765, died in the fall of 1826. Served during the War of 1812. Private in Captain Parson's Company of Cavalry attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment (Williams) Vermont Militia. The company muster and payroll slips are in the family reunion collection.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON ALFORD**, born 29 Mar 1831, died 28 Jul 1863 from wounds received in action at Port Hudson, LA. He is buried in grave 2381, Section 36, Baton Rouge National Cemetery. He was a Corporal in Company D, Sixth Michigan Volunteers during the Civil War. (See Newsletter #9)

**ISAAC LEONARD BATES** served during the Civil War as a Corporal in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Cavalry. (in future newsletters)

**DAVID MCKAIN** served at the Battle of Bull Run during the Civil War with the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry.

**HARRY ALFORD ADAMS** served in WW1 (see Newsletter #3 & #4).



Harry A. Adams

**ROSS URIAH ADAMS** served in WW1 (see Newsletter #3 & #4).

**GRACE ADAMS** was the wife of Ross Uriah Adams and also served in France in WW1.

**CARL ADAMS** was in the Army just before WW1 ended. He was stationed at "Normal" (now Western Michigan University).

**DON PRICE** served in the US Navy during WW1. His father signed for him because Don was only 17.

**CARROLL IRVING GALE** was a Private in the US Army during WW1. (see related story below)

**DONALD FRANCIS BROWN** served in the US Army during WW2.

**EMIL JEAN BROWN** graduated from Marcellus HS in 1937 and attended Parsons Business College in Kalamazoo and was working in Holland, MI at the time of his enlistment in the Michigan National Guard in October 1940 with the Holland unit, Co. D 126 Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. His Army training was in Camp Beauregard & Camp Livingston, both in LA. He graduated from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Div. Enlisted Men's Training School 17 Jun 1941 in a class of 100 out of 700 entrants. He sailed from San Francisco in April 1942 on one of the largest ocean liners. The crossing took more than a month, landing in Australia 28 May 1942. The Red Arrow Division was first to embark for overseas duty in one convoy and

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were first in New Guinea where Emil was killed on active duty 26 Nov 1942.

**GORDON ADAMS** served in the US Army during WW2.

**WAYNE SYKES** served in the US Navy as a Commander in the South Atlantic during WW2. He was in the Navy for 3 years and was stationed in Brazil.

**GERALD ADAMS**, born 12 Aug 1953 enlisted in the US Army 01 Jul 1970. He took his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and later served at Fort Devine, MA. He was in Army security. Gerry was discharged 04 Jun 1972.

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## Harmony Chapel

Please share your stories of Harmony Chapel with us for a future newsletter.



Corp. Allen Copley

**ALLEN COPLEY** served in the US Army during WW2 in Australia. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1940 and after serving for a brief period as assistant cashier in the Decatur, MI bank, entered the service 18 April 1941 at Fort Custer. A few days later he was transferred to Company 1 of the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry and went to Camp Livingston, LA for extensive training and was sent overseas. He earned \$79.20 per month while serving in New Guinea.

**JACK ADAMS** served with the US Army Engineer Corps during WW2. The following was submitted by Jack: "In the fall of 1941 I entered the US Merchant Marine and was sent to the Coast Guard training station at Hoffman Island, which lies at the entrance of the Port of New York harbor. Subsequent attempts the

following year to transfer to the US Navy proved futile, so about February 15th I returned to Detroit and volunteered for active duty in the US Army. I was sworn in March 2nd of 1943 and went on active duty March 7, 1943. Basic Engineer training was spent in Camp White, Oregon, thence to Fort Lewis, Washington, Camp Howze, TX, and finally to the 250th Combat Engineer Battalion at Camp McCoy, WI. In August of 1943 we were shipped to Fort Dix, NJ and soon boarded a British Merchant ship. About two weeks later we landed in Southampton, England, and two weeks after that we went ashore on a reasonably quiet Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. We subsequently saw duty in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria. A few days before Christmas in 1945 we sailed from the Port of Marseilles, France for New York, and I was discharged March 5, 1946."

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**HALE THORNTON** served in the US Army during WW2.



**ADELINE & ANDREW THORNTON** served in the same branch of the armed forces.

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Andrew was a Staff Sgt. and wore the silver wings of an airplane mechanic and aerial gunner. The former Kalamazoo Central & Vicksburg HS student entered the army 11 April 1942 at Fort Custer, was sent to Chanute field, Rantoul, IL, and then to the Wendover Gunnery school. He took his training at Wendover Air Base, UT and was stationed at Gowen field, Boise, ID as a member of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomber Squadron. He was a Flying Fortress aerial engineer and top turret gunner and flew 50 bombing missions over Sicily, Italy, France & the Balkans.

He flew his first mission 03 Jul 1943 over Canicatta, Sicily, when Allied air forces were preparing the way for the Sicilian invasion immediately following the Tunisian campaign. His last mission took him over Ancona, Italy on 29 January.

He took part in the first Allied raids on Rome, Foggia, and Naples. He also participated in bombing raids over southern France, Greece, Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, & Yugoslavia after American flying forces moved to bases in southern Italy.

It was while on his 47<sup>th</sup> bombing mission, a raid over Marseilles, France that Sgt. Thornton had his closest brush with death. "We left our base in Southern Italy shortly before dawn the morning of Jan. 26 and headed across the mountains for Southern France, escorted by a squadron of P-38s. But, Jerry (Germans) must have known we were coming."

"They were laying for us. A few miles off our target, out of the clouds came a squadron of thirty 109 Messersschmitt fighters in a head-on massed attack against our bomber formation."

US P-38s roared out to meet them and succeeded in pulling about 20 of them off to one side to keep them clear of our bombers but somehow the remainder of the group broke through the P-38 air defense and came after us."

Flak was coming up from below at the same time, the German fighter pilots flew through their own barrage to get to us."

Every gun on the Flying Fortress was blazing away in a concentrated fire against them, but a half dozen 109s kept hammering away at our bomber and finally landed three 20 millimeter cannon shells in our tail assembly, tearing out big holes nearly 30 inches square. One enemy shell also tore half of our vertical stabilizer and our bomber sides were riddled with smaller bullet holes."

Sgt. Thornton said his pilot at first could not determine what had happened to the ship so he dropped out of formation to prevent collision with other planes in the attack flight.

For seconds that seemed like hours to the Kalamazoo youth, his plane staggered alone, exposed to enemy attack. Incessant shell fire from the Fortress held off the German fighters until the pilot righted the ship and rejoined his formation.

"During the few seconds that we faltered, the 109s sailed into us with everything they had. Somehow we managed to weather the attack and we continued on to drop our bombs on our target."

"Our tail gunner, nicked twice in the neck by shell fragments, was the only member of our crew to be injured, but the plane looked like a sieve when we finally got safely back to our base."

"Our biggest scare came during the height of the air battle, when an 88-millimeter, time-fused shell crashed through our left wing, barely missing a gas tank. The shell tore a big hole in the wing, but fortunately for all of us it exploded about 15 feet clear of the plane."

"I think I lost about 10 pounds on that 47<sup>th</sup> mission, but at the time, I was anxious to get my job over with, so I accepted assignments on other bombers the next three consecutive days."

"After completing the 50<sup>th</sup> mission, Sgt. Thornton went to Africa where he joined his wife, Adeline, for a few weeks before finally embarking for home.

Sgt. Thornton arrived in Kalamazoo, 20 March on a 21-day delayed-en route leave. He reported 17 April to Atlantic City, NJ for re-classification and re-assignment.

"Naturally the thrill of returning home was dulled considerably by the thoughts that Adeline is still in Africa, 4,000 miles away. But, we are both in good health and are willing to wait for the time when we can be back together again."

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Before entering the service, he was a shipping clerk at the Sutherland Paper Company.

Andrew had to leave his wife, Pvt. Adeline Thornton, behind in Africa where she was serving as a WAC with the US Signal Corps. She enlisted as a WAAC 28 Aug 1942 and was called to Fort Des Moines for training 10 Oct. She went to New York to assume her duties with the army air raid warning service where she performed clerical & technical work. Prior to entering the service, Wac Pvt. Thornton was employed by the Miller Lumber Company. Adeline & Andrew were married 06 Oct 1939 at the home of Adeline's parents. Her brother, Carl Ketchum, Jr. was a fireman 1<sup>st</sup> class in the amphibious forces, US Navy and was stationed at Little Creek, VA. (From a newspaper article by Harold Sharpsteen in the Kalamazoo Gazette).

**DANIEL ADAMS** was a seaman in the US Navy and served in Vietnam on the destroyer, USS Carpenter in the Western Pacific in 1966.

**GEORGE ADAMS** George graduated from Marcellus HS. He was a member of the ND marching band & organized the ROTC band.

"I received a commission as a 2LT in the Army from ROTC (University of Notre Dame, IN) in June 1966, went Infantry (Fort Benning, GA) and Military Intelligence (Fort Holabird, MD) Officers' training schools, then served a year in Vietnam in

Military Intelligence, mostly at the Combined Document Exploitation Center, near Saigon. CDEC was jointly operated by the J2 (intelligence) staffs of the Vietnamese Joint General Staff and the US Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). After returning to the US, I finished my active duty as a training officer in Detroit. After my release from active duty, I joined a field artillery USAR unit in South Bend, IN. In the Reserve, I served variously as Battery Commander, Battalion S2 (intelligence), Officer Advanced Course instructor, Brigade Assistant S3 (ops), Command & General Staff Course instructor, and Brigade Executive Officer. I retired in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel."

**ROBERT KUNCE** was in the army shortly after WW2 & served in the USA.

**CARROLL IRVING GALE**, A brief glimpse of Army life as described by Carroll Irving Gale through government papers and personal letters as compiled by Barbara Gale:

Irving, at the age of 22, volunteered to do army work for the National War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States (YMCA). He was accepted after final approval of his application on 24 Nov 1917, and was assigned as a general office manager at Camp Custer, Battle Creek, MI.

Excerpts of a 12 Dec 1917 letter from Camp Custer:

"...I am off duty today (Sunday)...so I am having a time by myself upstairs in the part of the "Y" where we sleep. We have to come up here on a ladder. There is a big crowd downstairs and many visitors today...We have good places to sleep because we have cots and army blankets. Four big furnace heaters warm our building. We have toilet, shower, bath, warm and hot water. All of the "Y" huts are practically the same. The school is going okay. The only thing is all of the men are quite old, that is, just past draft age. I am with a dandy bunch tho, and as "Brandenburg tells Ried, Gale blew a Peck of Snow from the West. The underlined words are the names of our bunch.

"Yesterday PM I walked with "Ole" out on the rifle range...and we went into the front line trenches. There were empty shells all about, so it seemed quite real. We also went through the underground way to another trench."

One story Barbara has heard her father tell is how he would play a portable organ and sing hymns as he accompanied the preacher at Camp Custer.

Irving received his army induction notice 13 April 1918 and was transferred to Chicago, IL by 15 April 1918. While he was at Harrison Technical Training Detachment National Army, he had the temporary title of Sgt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in June and Supply Sgt. in August. Although he thought he would be training

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truck drivers, instead he did carpentry work.

Irving transferred to Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, FL 18 Oct 1918. While there he helped build military installations. The armistice was signed while he was in camp. (11 Nov 1918)

Excerpts of a letter dated 02 Jan 1919 written at Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, FL while Irving was waiting to be discharged:

"...We get no definite news but when our order to move does come it comes quickly so it may come any day now. We have possibly 200 men waiting to leave for Grant and the barracks are getting pretty full. Many fellows have waited in "Demobilization Block" two weeks so if I have to wait that long I can't complain... The time has passed quite fast. They aim to have us do a little "fatigue" each day so we get some odd jobs. One day I raked the dump, and this PM I was a street sweeper....It is not hard of course but its purpose is to give us something to do while waiting orders to move....We have to wear our wool uniforms all the time because the cotton stuff was all turned in to the government. ...My bed is a canvas cot but I have a straw tick so I sleep comfortably. I use my overcoat for a pillow and then if I get cold during the night I can easily get ahold of the coat to put over me. We are not suppose to leave the company street....It's about time for the show and I've written about all there is of interest so will say Good-Night."

Irving was transferred to Camp Grant, Rockford, IL 05 Jan 1919 to be discharged from the Army.

A 05 Jan 1919 post card written in Jacksonville FL while waiting to leave camp describes the experience as follows:

"Just a line to say we're about to start north. There are 99 of us and we have three Pullman cars which will be attached to the Dixie Flyer which leaves early this eve. Will hit Grant some time Tuesday. We have to have supper soon. It is cool but I've plenty of clothing and am OK."

Irving described his activities at Camp Grant before discharge in a 10 Jan 1919 letter:

"...Since landing here Wednesday about 805 we were put right in barracks and not allowed to go away except when put on detail...Soon after breakfast, Thursday we were lined up and moved over to an examining board where we were all examined which took most of the AM....After supper came a quite important event. We all lined up preparatory to signing our discharges....This Friday morning we stood reveille indoors and the officer told us not to run off as we had to sign some papers and turn in our mess kits. ...The payroll was signed Friday evening so our discharges are all ready but are dated for Monday."

His Honorable Discharge from the US Army certifies he was a Private, Co. B, Discharge Detachment #2 on 09 Jan 1919.

Irving remained active throughout his life with veteran

related activities such as Twin City Drum & Bugle Corps where he played the bells, and he was commander in the Benton harbor & Coloma American Legions. He also functioned as chaplain and other activities. He was in charge of many Coloma Memorial Day programs & willingly participated in services honoring fellow veterans.

At the time of his death, 31 Jul 1988, the family received the traditional American flag given to veteran families and on Memorial Day the traditional symbol and flag is placed at his graveside.

## **Adams Family on the 'Net**

You can visit the Adams-McKain Family internet web site:

<http://www.adams-mckain.com>

Send us your name, email address, AOL Instant Messengre username to Jim Adams.

The Adams-McKain web page is updated regularly, stop by often.

## **Newsletter Needs Your Support**

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please let Jim Adams or Barbara Gale know your email address. This newsletter is produced in Microsoft Word format. This would save us some cost of printing & mailing and you could get the newsletter earlier!

The newsletter editor is requesting that family members submit written histories for inclusion in future newsletters. We will keep these histories as part of the permanent family record.

As an alternative, record your family history on cassette tape

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and bring the tape to the reunion or send it to Barbara Gale or Jim Adams. Be sure to test your equipment before your interview and check the audio level.

If you have a good quality family picture to include with your history please send a copy with the history for inclusion in a newsletter. Please send current news and pictures by 28 July to Barbara Gale or bring to the reunion.

## **ADAMS-MCKAIN REUNION**

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## **Reunion Cookbook**

If you have a favorite recipe to share please bring copies to share to the next reunion. We started an Adams-McKain Reunion cook book project and have been adding recipes to the cook book.

## **Watergate Salad**

Submitted by Mildred Morse. Mildred was married to Leslie Adams (son of Chester and Roxanna Bent Adams). After Leslie's death she married Francis Morse.

**Ingredients:** 1 large can of crushed pineapple in own juice undrained

1 pkg instant pistachio pudding & pie filling

1.5 cup or less small marshmallows

1 large carton Cool Whip thawed

**Prodedure:** Mix all together & let sit over night.

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If you have a username for AOLs Instant Messenger you can chat with the rest of the family. If you would like to join family members in a chat session send Jim Adams your AOL Instant Messenger (IM) username to be placed on the list. We can set up a chat room and family members can visit and exchange news.