

83rd ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 11

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2003

INVITATION

*

Important: Please note date change for reunion!

84th REUNION TO BE HELD SUNDAY 03 AUGUST 2003

You are invited to enjoy Sunday with our family at

**Marcellus High School
Marcellus, Michigan**

From 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the HS cafeteria/gym on Sunday, Aug 3. The door will be open at noon and the playground and gym will be available so bring your sports equipment. Please bring your favorite dish to pass and beverage of choice. Reservations are NOT necessary.

There will be a business meeting before we adjourn at 3:30 PM.

83rd BUSINESS MEETING

03 August 2002

ELECTIONS: George Adams, President, called the meeting to order. They are:

President: George Adams

Newsletter Editor: Jim Adams

Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale
It was decided to meet at the Marcellus HS cafeteria for a potluck dinner. Barbara will follow up on this.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Barbara reported the total amount on hand 02 Aug 2002 for reunion to pay disbursements was \$455 with \$143 as cash on hand on 04 Aug 2001. \$247 collected 04 Aug 2001 and \$65 as post reunion

collections. The total disbursements on 02 August 2002 were \$279 which included \$130.67 for photocopying and mailing 116 #10 newsletters and \$46.25 for the Van Buren Pictorial History Book. Reunion paid Barbara in full which leaves \$176 to start the 84th Reunion on 03 Aug 2003. 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 notify George or Barbara about address, (including email), and/or telephone changes. Thank you.

REUNION LIBRARY: Since the last newsletter, Garry & Robert Brown contributed more pictures of various branches of the Adams family. Their data included maps, a history of Berrien & Van Buren counties published in 1880, and a 1896 Sunday school class picture of Harmony Chapel with Mary (Adams) Sykes as teacher and Muriel Fletcher, May Fletcher, and Harry Adams as students.

George, Jim & Barbara worked on the Van Buren Pictorial History Book being prepared by the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society. The purpose of the book is to provide a history of public life in schools, churches, businesses, and persons with significant contributions. After Barbara visited Toni Benson at the Van Buren District Library, pictures submitted for possible inclusion in the book were: the Uriah Mason Adams Centennial Farm, the Adams

School House, and Harmony Chapel. The book was pre-ordered but on 12 May 2003 Toni said it would not be available for the coming reunion. There is a great deal of valuable historical information in the Decatur Library, such as the Bess Britton Michigan One-Room School House Collection which includes some schools the Adams were active in. One book of particular interest is "The School District Record of the Kinney School (also known as Adams School) Porter Township #4 Van Buren County, Mich. 1866-1903"



A 12 x 15 picture of Effa May Adams in a 23 x 26 gold frame was displayed by Effa's granddaughter, Barbara Gale. Effa May was born 28 Feb 1866. The exact date of the picture is unknown but it is thought the picture was drawn sometime between 1886 & 1890. A second identification of age was made when Randall Higdon, a respected artist in Coloma stated the glass has a bubble in it—a characteristic of glass in the 1800s to early 1900s. He used the original glass when he restored the picture. Higdon believes the picture is a beautifully done charcoal drawing.

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ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION 1919 – 2019

The 100th reunion is in 2019 and we all need to work toward compiling our family data for all branches of Horace Hale & Lorrainia G. Kinney family. We urge you to help in this worthwhile project & to volunteer to write the family history section for the next newsletter. Suggested topics include historical letters, diaries, other centennial farms in the family, etc. Barbara needs the family history section by 01 April 2004 and other family news no later than 31 May 2004 for it to be published in the #12 newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Francis Morse and Trent Alan Shafer were the oldest and youngest members present. Francis is the husband of Mildred Adams and Trent Alan, born 24 November 2001, is the son of Gregory & Jodi (Munson) Shafer. His grandmother is Sharl (Price) May, his grandparents were Don & Clare (Adams) Price. Alan is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant. Bruce & Donna Morse traveled the farthest from Mt. Dora, FL.

POST REUNION NEWS: The group who stayed overnight Saturday ate at the Food-Dine Café located in the Historical Haymarket Building in Kalamazoo and Sunday morning we ate at the Clarion Hotel before leaving for home.

84th REUNION PLANS: The meeting was adjourned with a reminder the 84th Reunion will be held on Sunday, 03 Aug 2003 with a with a potluck dinner at the Marcellus HS. Barbara will follow up.

FAMILY ATTENDANCE: 35 members and 1 guest attended the 83rd Reunion on Saturday, 03 August 2002 at the Clarion Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI. Four branches were present. There were 4 states represented: MI, IN, WI, & FL. Three people stayed over two nights and 6 people stayed Saturday night.

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

Rodney & Charlotte Adams of Kalamazoo, MI.

GEORGE & EFFA MAY ADAMS DESCENDANTS (1)

Barbara Gale of Coloma, MI.

HORACE CHESTER & ROXANNA (BENT) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (18 members & 4 guests)

George & Chris Adams of South Bend, IN.

Bob & Margaret (Adams) Wetherell of Chase, MI.

Jim Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Francis & Mildred Morse of Kalamazoo, MI.

Dan & Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI.

Marilyn (Adams) Little of Grand Rapids, MI.

Anthony Little & Ginger (guest) of Grand Rapids, MI.

Bruce & Donna Morse of Mt. Dora, FL.

Rolland, Roxanna, Brighid Morse of Schoolcraft, MI.

ARCHIE & LILLIE (DOUGLAS) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (14 members)

June (Adams) Powell of Kalamazoo, MI.

Russell & Sue (Price) Stozicki of Kalamazoo, MI.

Lisa DeYoung, Steven Huffstetter, & Trevor DeYoung of Kalamazoo, MI.

Gregory & Jodi (Munson) Shafer, Nicole Noyes, Brooke & Brandi Munson, and Trent Alan Shafer of Kalamazoo, MI.

CURRENT NEWS

News received after 31 May 2003 will be in Newsletter #12.

GERALD ADAMS, born 12 Aug 1952, enlisted in the Army in June 1970 and had his military training at Ft. Leonard Worth, MO. He served his AIT at Ft. Devens, MA and in April 1971 he went to Misawa, Japan. He was in the Army Security Agency which is a branch of Military Intelligence. From there he went to Udon, Thailand with the 7th RRFS. At that point he was transferred to Phu Bai, Vietnam with the 8th RRFS and stationed with the 101st Airborne where he flew in single wing aircraft copying Morse code and locating designated targets for ground operations. He returned to Misawa, Japan until he was discharged in Oakland, CA on 05 June 1973.

HORACE & MARY ADAMS, reported they are retired & Mary

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is involved with church, hospital, & many other activities. Their travels included England, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, & Myanmar. Robert & Linda still live in Idaho and their son is a 3rd year cadet in the US Coast Guard Academy. Maryjo & John are in Texas. Maryjo is a Professor at Sam Houston University. Their children, John IV, is a freshman at Texas Lutheran University & Hallie is a junior at Huntsville HS.

JIM & LINDA ADAMS celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 24 June 2003 and are planning a wedding for their son, John who will be getting married to Cathy Walters on 09 Aug 2003. John is a reporter for the newspaper in Ft. Atkinson, WI & Cathy works for the WI DNR. Jim & Kim Adams had twins (Storm Uriah & Jaiden Skyler) on 27 Jan 2003. The babies arrived early but both are doing fine & keeping their parents very busy. The twins were welcomed by their sister, Raeanne who will be a 4th grader next year. Jessica Adams finished her 1st year of college at UW-Stevens Point, WI. She is living at home for the summer working two jobs in the resort industry. Linda is busy with her real estate career, helping with the grandchildren & volunteers in the community. Jim finished his 32nd year of teaching & was elected President-elect of the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies, the professional organization of social studies teachers. Jim was selected "Teacher of the Year" in the

grade 9-12 category by VFW Post 3088.

GEORGE ADAMS has taken a new position as postmaster at Rolling Prairie, IN 46371.

George & Mary Chris will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary on 09 August 2003.

MARGE (ADAMS) & BOB WETHERELL have both retired. Bob recently sold his land survey business & Marge retired after many years with the Reed City school system. Bob & Marge are also the proud grandparents of Lauren Elizabeth Posey, born 04 Feb 2003. Lauren is the daughter of Amy (Wetherell) & Mark Posey of Big Rapids.

JOHN & PAT ADAMS reported he continues with his work, and he was head timer in the swimming program last summer & winter. Pat is still teaching sixth grade. Christina graduated from high school in June 2003 & will be attending James Madison University. Jennifer is active in track & field which included going to a pole vaulting camp. She also enjoys being on the swim team. Jennifer was a 4-H counselor for 9 year olds who came from a troubled home life.

JIM & SUE ADAMS reported they are working on genealogy and Jim is the editor of the Alford Family Association Quarterly. They had a trip to the Mormon Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT and as they said, "What a gold mine!" Jim continues with the credit union and his work at the golf course.

Sue continues with her hobby of quilting.

JOHN & SALLY BOLDMAN reported they continue with their work with John traveling to New Orleans instead of Hawaii and Sally still working for Lockheed Martin. Her project for 2002 was quilting. Sandy, their daughter, had a successful year at Ball State. She was an assistant to a hall director and she appeared in several independent and training films. She was also a featured dancer in a dinner theater production of "On the Town". She transferred to Towson University, Washington, DC in January to take advantage of more performance opportunities.

JIM & ELIZABETH BOWE report that Jim still flies for American airlines as first officer on the "Super 80". He flies out of Laganardia, JFK, and Newark airports. He also keeps busy with church responsibilities. Elizabeth teaches early AM seminary in her home and is busy with routines of Jenna Mariel (16), a junior in high school, Loralie (14) a freshman in high school, Jeremy (12), a sixth grader, Rachael (10), a fifth grader, and Jonathan (3), a preschooler.

FLOYD & MURIEL HURT reported she continues to sell real estate and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Council of Residential Specialists for a 3 year term. She attended the General Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Fargo, ND in June. Floyd is mayor of South Heart since July 2003 to finish the 2 year term of the mayor who

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died. They had numerous trips throughout the year, the trip to Alaska being a "super trip". They celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary in January.

MICHAEL & AMY KEATON and their children, Lindsay (a 3rd grader), David (a 1st grader), & Emily (a 2 year old) keep busy with school activities and summer weekends at their Wisconsin cottage. They bought an 1850s home in the Lake Forest, IL historical district so will be working on the home.

ROBERT KUNCE writes he keeps active marrying couples but the chapel was sold so now he does the ceremony in gardens, on beaches and/or in historic sites. This is his 11th year as an organist for the St. John Lutheran Church.

SUZANNE LULA, daughter of Richard & Shauna (Adams) Lula is transferring to Western Michigan University this fall as a junior with a major in archaeology and a minor in English.

FRANCIS MORSE celebrated his 90th birthday on Sunday, 07 Sep 2002 at the Uriah M. Adams Centennial Farm, Porter Township, Van Buren County, MI. Mildred & many family members and friends including former co-workers and school classmates were there to honor his life's activities. A special treat was listening to stories the group told and discussing some 1919 pictures of the Centennial Farm found recently.

DAWN (ADAMS) & DAVE SIVLEY reported the "guys" annual fishing trek to Rice Lake

in Canada was successful and Dawn was honored as "Year of the Woman" when she caught 3 salmon on the Pere Marquette River. Dawn, Dave, Greg, & Sara had a trip to Grand Marais the weekend of 04 July 2002. Dawn & Sara visited Jeff, Monica, & family in Missouri before they left for Germany. Dawn has been busy with classes and subbing at Marcellus Schools.

BILL & JOANN WHEATON reported most of their time and effort goes into their business. Joann has started to take the older grandchildren on individual trips. Bill & Joann finished the house remodeling which included a new roof & siding.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT MARGARET COPLEY is at White Oaks residence, Lawton, MI 49065.

BIRTHS

STORM URIAH & JAIDEN SKYLER were born to Kim and James Uriah Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI on 27 Jan 2003. Jim is the son of Linda (Maher) & James R. Adams and a grandson of Clarice (Nemmers) & Dr. Uriah M. Adams. They are Roxanna Arvilla (Bent) & Horace Chester Adams descendants.

MASON JAMES HOLTMAN was born 06 May 2002 to Josh & Amy (Powell) Holtman at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI. Mason's grandparents are Dennis & Sandra (Powell) Munson. His great-grandparents are Phillip & June (Adams)

Powell. He is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

OLIVIA PENN STAFFORD was born 06 Aug 2002 in Denver, CO to Bill & Laura Stafford. She weighed 8# 3 oz. And was 21.25" long. She joins her sister, Grace. Her grandparents are Bill & Joann Wheaton. Olivia is a Dorsey & Sarah Lucina (Adams) Fletcher descendant.

DEATHS

IMOGENE M. ADAMS died Saturday, 26 April 2003 at Heartland Health Care, Kalamazoo, MI. Imogene was born 16 Dec 1919 to George W. & Emma J. (McGee) Kimmel in McGee, MO on the family farm. She was the second oldest of 9 children. Imogene attended school in Greenville, MO and graduated from high school. Although teaching was her interest, she began work at the PX Exchange in St. Louis and on 15 Nov 1941 in Union, MO she married Army Air Force Staff Sergeant Gordon Adams. Military life took them to New Jersey, North Carolina, and Michigan. They lived in Mattawan before settling in Lawton where Gordon worked for Welch. After his father (Franklin K. Adams) died, Gordon and Imogene also managed his farm. Imogene was active in school activities such as band boosters, PTA, and Girl Scouts. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Lawton-Paw Paw Chapter #257, Lawton Fire Department Auxiliary and a member of the Martin Van Buren Chapter of the American Revolution. After Gordon died 05 May 1969,

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Imogene worked at the First National Bank in Lawton. Her children are: Carolyn (Lee) Chapman of Kalamazoo, Shauna (Richard) Lula of Paw Paw, and Glenna (Dana) Knowlton of Kalamazoo. There are four grandchildren: Kelly Leary, N. Gordon Chapman, Suzanne Lula, & Christopher Knowlton. There are two step-grandchildren: Rob & Paul Knowlton. Services were held on Wednesday, 30 April 2003 at the Betzler & Thompson Funeral Home, Paw Paw, MI with Rev. Ron Brooks officiating. Interment was at the Oak Grove Cemetery, Lawton. Gordon is a Franklin B. & Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

You can find Imogene's memory page at this address: http://www.lifestorynet.com/details.cfm?&OBIT_ID=472

HALE THORNTON, JUNIOR son of Hale and Beatrice (Bale) Thornton, died 10 March 2002. He and his wife, Lucille who he married 06 May 1944, at the Methodist Church, Paw Paw, MI previously lived in the Paw Paw/Lawton area before moving to Blanchard, OK where their daughter, Susan, and her husband, William Butcher reside. William & Susan have two children: Valerie Ann & Jenny Lynn. Hale & Lucille have a great-grandson named Khayman Sepastian Butcher Flud born 28 Dec 1997. Hale & Lucille also have a son, John Edward Thornton who has a daughter, Cassie Sue, born 01 Sep 1981. Hale graduated from Lawton High School, attended

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. He served in WW2 in the armored division of the US Army as a Private 1st Class spending 20 months in Alaska & the Aleutians. Hale is a Franklin B. & Lucinda (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

WEDDINGS

Dave & Dawn Sivley of Schoolcraft & Gary & Carol Huff of Marcellus would like to announce the marriage of their children, **SARA IRENE SIVLEY** and Gregory Dean Huff. The wedding took place on 17 Aug 2002 at the Marcellus United Methodist Church and the reception was held at the Lawton Community Center. Father Richard Downing officiated the service and Pastor Peggy Boltz was the reader. 180 people were in attendance. Sara is a 1998 graduate of Marcellus High School and 2001 graduate of the University of Michigan. Kelly Adams, cousin of the bride, served as Maid of Honor. April High, friend of the bride and Nicole Coleman, cousin of the bride, were bridesmaids. The bridesmaids wore maize colored gowns and carried bouquets of ivory roses and stephanotis. Gregory is a 1996 graduate of Marcellus HS and a 1999 graduate of the University of Michigan. Gary Huff, father of the groom, served as best man. Jacob Balazer & Scott Halvorsen, friends of the groom, were the groomsmen. The couple enjoyed a week long honeymoon in Mexico. Sara is a Business

Operations Coordinator at Pfizer, Inc., and Gregory is an Engineer at FAAC, Inc. The couple resides in Ann Arbor.

GRADUATIONS/HONORS

CHRISTINA MARIE ADAMS, daughter of John C. & Pat (Keddell) Adams of Fredericksburg, VA announce that Commencement Exercises were held 14 June 2003 at the Massaponax High School in Fredericksburg. There was a graduation open house on 26 July 2003 at her home. Christina was selected as Fredericksburg Optimist Club "Student of the Month" for October. A member of the National Honor Society and German Club, Christina also has been active in the ACE Club for community service and has served as chair of that organization. She was selected for Virginia Girls State and attended the Governor's German Foreign Language Academy last summer. In addition to receiving top honors for clarinet and participating in marching band, Christina is an accomplished pianist and earned admission for three summers to Brevard Music Center. Christina is also active in the 4-H program. She plans to continue her education in college studying biology and German with a concentration in music.

ADAMS-MCKAIN REUNION

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FAMILY HISTORY

Harmony Chapel

is located at the corner of County Road 652 & 88th Avenue, Porter Township, Van Buren County, MI



The editor wishes to thank Barbara Gale, Pam Adams & Dawn (Adams) Sivley for their assistance in compiling this information.

The following address by Mrs. Lena Wright was taken from the Friday, 12 Nov 1943 issue of The Schoolcraft Express:

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Read at the Harmony Chapel Service of Home Coming last Sunday

Dear Friends, I'm here today to welcome you;
Some of you are old friends, and some of you are new—
But whether you are old or whether you are new,
Here's a very glad welcome awaiting you.

We're meeting today after a good many years.

So many have gone and left us in tears.

Harmony Chapel today is not what it was—

There's been so many changes we just stop & pause.

The neighborhood has changed with not many faces

Of the older group now that are still on their places—

Fred Ward, Millie Lee and the two Adams boys

Are about all that are left to remember the joys

Of the older times now long gone past

For time has a way of slipping so fast.

Now the Matthews, Cooleys, Fletchers and Parishes,
The Castners, Kinneys, Mungers and Harrises,
The Adams, Wards, Waldrons and Youngs, too—
I knew them all when the church was new.

Of course, I was a small girl but I can still almost see

When the stone was hauled for the basement in 1893.

We lived at that time just east below the hill

And the work was laid out by a Rev. McRill.

The farmers around all came in for their share,
And whate'er was to be done they were always there!

Ready and willing, and raring to go—

For a brand new church was an effort you know.

With the kindly old Pastor Rev. McDaniels there—

I still think of him, as he offered prayer—

As the beautiful corner stone was laid

And a very great tribute to it was paid.

Well, I saw the church built from the basement to roof

And to say it was grand isn't half enough;

And to top it all off was Gabriel blowing his horn—

(Made by Will Moyer) and it stood many a storm

Raised on the steeple so high in the air—

I wish that today it might still be there.

But along came a wind at the weakening rod

And down fell Gabriel his face in the sod.

(No one had the nerve to return him to place),

So he was discarded the sad part to face.

The steeple too has been remodeled you see

For it's not near as high as it used to be.

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Then we had hitchin' rails—
they're all gone too—
How we kids loved to play on
them when they were new.
I remember so well when they
were filled—all around—and
In the church-yard too til no more
space could be found.

There were lots of fine horses and
carriages too
Some single, some double, some
old and some new
But now the autos have come to
stay—
Three or four is the most (only
there's a special today).

In later years amid toil and din
This false ceiling was then put in:
To ease up on the cash! (Though
they said it was coal):
But whichever it was it would
reach the same goal.

The Kerosene lights which hung
from the dome
Have long been discarded and
new ones have come.
Albert Corey filled them and
trimmed them with care
And washed all the chimneys—
not a spot was seen there!
He was the janitor then that's
been long years ago—
But you folks will remember,
that, I very well know.

Then there was Sant and Ella, in
accustomed place,
I still think of Ella, as, out she
would race
As the last hymn was sun, so's to
prepare

A lunch for the preacher; if it was
chicken he got his share,
For'twould be some time as he
went on his way
As he had two more sermons to
preach that day.
The drive was not made with
quite so much speed
As it is with the auto, for lunch
now there's no need.

Well, Pastors have come, and
Pastors have gone
So many in later years I haven't
known
But as I remember—the one I
prefer—
Was Reverend C. Willis in 1904.

Now this year there's been some
more changes made
The walls have been painted with
Kemtone that won't fade.
The seats were replaced by some
from the rear,
And all were revarnished and put
in repair;
The basement walls too, have
been painted with care,
It's really a treat to eat down
there.

We've a chicken supper once a
year
And a free-will offering that isn't
so dear.
If you don't believe it just come
over and see—
There'll be plenty of chicken and
coffee and tea.

A brand new furnace has been
added too

Which we got without very much
ado.
Everybody gave of their ready
cash freely.
And we hope you all like the
changes—yes, really!
And if I haven't rambled on too
long I'd still like to say—
Let's make this an Annual
Holiday!
But come the Sunday before
Labor Day next year
Harmony Chapel's doors will be
open never fear!
And ready to welcome you, just
as today—
So don't forget! A year's not far
away.

Mrs. Lena Wright

The Schoolcraft Express – Friday,
November 12, 1943

The following was taken from a
1944 newspaper clipping
(possibly the Kalamazoo
Gazette):

120 Attend Harmony Chapel 50th Anniversary

The home coming and
celebration of the 50th anniversary
of the Harmony Chapel church
last Sunday was well attended,
about 120 being present. The pot
luck dinner was much enjoyed.
Charles Mohny was
superintendent of the Sunday
School and teachers were selected
from some of those who formerly
attended but have moved away.

The morning worship consisted
of a praise service and an
illustrated address on Rural Bible
Missions by Mr. Nelson.

The afternoon session included
an address of welcome, responded

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to by "Memories of Harmony Chapel." There was also special music, a love feast and an address, "Thank God and take Courage," by Rev. Peter Ypma.

Those from away attending the meeting were from Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Schoolcraft, Decatur, Marcellus, Coldwater, White Pigeon, South Bend and North Liberty, Indiana.

Arrangements were made for the erection of Harmony Chapel April 21, 1894, when Sant Harris, Jule Fletcher, Edwin Cooley, L.M. Waldron and Henry Mauk were elected trustees and Jule Fletcher, Sant Harris and L.M. Waldron were chosen a building committee.

On August 30, 1894 the cornerstone was laid. The ministers present were Rev. M.C. Daniels, pastor; Rev. A.R. McRill, builder; Rev. A. Smith, president of the conference; Father Wm. Thompson and Rev. L.F. Hutt. The sermon was preached by Rev. A. Smith. His text was taken from I Peter 2:6. "Behold I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." The church was dedicated the following winter. Jule Fletcher donated the ground and it is deeded to the trustees of Harmony Chapel.



History of Harmony Chapel

The Kinney School was located on the SW corner at the intersection of 50th Street and C.R. 652, seven miles north of Marcellus, Van Buren, MI. Its purpose was to teach children of the district reading, writing, and arithmetic, with good citizenship mixed in.

The use of the building was expanded when an itinerant minister, Rev. Williams could not proceed to his next appointment because his pony became lame. Realizing that it would be some time before the pony could travel, and wishing to be about the Lord's business, Rev. Williams asked the school board for permission to hold services at the schoolhouse. The board granted his request.

In May, 1890 Rev. Williams continued on his circuit leaving a Class of Believers known as Ward's Class of Southeast Porter Ronde Circuit. Richard Ward was the Class Leader. Original members of the Class were: Richard and Mary Ward, Dorsey and Sarah Fletcher, John and Lavina Glover, L.M. and Mary Adella Waldron, William and Alice Moyer, Edwin and Mary Cooley, Santford and Ella Harris, Monroe & Corrie Harris, Semore and Laura Winters, Albert and Jane Correy, and Ross and Mary (Mellie) Lee.

From the year 1890 to 1895 there were 47 members. The group soon realized that a larger building was needed. On April

21, 1894 a meeting was called for the purpose of erecting a church. Trustees were elected who consisted of Santford Harris, Jule Fletcher, Bill Cooley, L.M. Waldron, and Hank Mauk. Harris, Fletcher and Mauk acted as the Building Committee.

The site for the church was donated by Dorsey and Sarah Lucina (Adams) Fletcher. Sarah was the daughter of Horace Hale and Lorainia Gates (Kinney) Adams. On May 12, 1894 another meeting was called to determine if the church should be built with brick or wood. It was decided to be a wooden structure. The job of building the wall was given to Jasper Andrews. On June 18, 1894 another meeting was called to decide if there should be a tower built on the church. Santford Harris was not in favor of it so requested his resignation as trustee. Dorothy Fletcher was elected to fill the vacancy. Rev. M.C. Daniels was the pastor and Rev. A.R. McRill was the builder. The farmers assisted in the work by providing sand, gravel, and stones; grading and disposing of debris.

On August 30, 1894 the cornerstone was laid. Present were: Rev. M.C. Daniels, pastor, Rev. A.R. McRill, builder, Rev. A. Smith, president of the conference; Father William Thompkins, and Rev. A.F. Hutt. The sermon was preached by A. Smith. His text was taken from I Peter 2:6. The members of the church were truly proud of the edifice that had been built to glorify God. The church was

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dedicated the following year, however, no record of the dedication has been found.

A weather vane depicting Gabriel blowing his horn was erected at the peak of the steeple which was designed and donated by William Moyer. A windstorm, which occurred around 1896, demolished the weather vane.

The foundations of the sheds which were built to shelter the horses in stormy weather, can still be seen at the rear of the church.

A chandelier with a kerosene lamp lighted the way into the church. The interior was lighted from a chandelier containing eight oil lamps, and could be lowered or raised as needed. A bracketed lamp gave light to the organist and choir. Albert Correy kept the lamps filled and burning bright. The transition from gas to electric occurred in 1934.

Rev. C.L. Ellis, President of the Methodist Protestant Conference, learned of the new church from his brother-in-law, Ross Lee. He advised them to join an established group, thus gaining strength and protection. After much prayer, the church became a member of the Methodist Protestant Conference at the Annual Methodist Protestant Conference which was held at Harmony Chapel in August, 1898. We reminisce about the wonderful times we had at the Methodist Protestant Conference campgrounds at Midland Park, Gull Lake. We always looked forward to the August gatherings at the campgrounds.

This fellowship continued until the Unification of the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant Churches in June, 1939. Our Southern M.P. brethren, who exceeded us in numbers, voted to merge with the M.E. brethren. Thus, we became members of the United Methodist Church. Our identity was soon lost as a result of the moving and diverging of our ministers.

Having been informed that four Methodist Protestant churches in our area were to be sold, and that a meeting with the officials of the Conference had been scheduled, five families of the neighborhood joined the church group in protesting the sale of Harmony Chapel. The other three churches in the area which were to be sold were: Porter, Edwards Corners, and Flowerfield. The five families joining in the protest were: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ward, Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Copenhaver, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stratton, and Carl Adams. In the early 1960's we were informed that the church was for sale and that we were free to purchase it.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ritsema discussed with Rev. John Tuckey, President of the Michigan Missionary Conference, the difficulty of obtaining good ministers for Harmony Chapel Community Church. In 1965 Rev. Tuckey contacted Wilma Lee and arranged an interview concerning the future of the church. At that meeting the difficulties the church was encountering and the means available from the Missionary

Church to help them, was discussed. Following prayer and careful consideration, the church asked Rev. John Tuckey to provide them with ministers. Not only did he say they would provide them with ministers, but their lawyer would also arrange for the purchase of the church and obtain a deed from the Methodist Conference.

When the boundary line dividing the Michigan and Indiana Missionary Church areas was changed in 1970, we were transferred to the Indiana District. Rev. Tuckey was no longer our district superintendent, and we missed the fellowship and activities we previously enjoyed. After being transferred to the Indiana District, Harmony Chapel was asked to join the Missionary Conference in the Fall of 1971. An agreement was signed after enumerating the support that Rev. Tuckey had given Harmony Chapel Church, and being assured of the following terms: 1) The right to withdraw when we ask in writing; 2) The return of all properties that formally belonged to Harmony Chapel Church to its Board of Trustees. The agreement was signed by Julia Bent, Daryl Brown, Floran Mast, another Conference representative, Darrell Engle and Wilma Lee.

A foyer was constructed in 1971 in order to eradicate a number of hazardous conditions, especially that of the front steps. Pastor Darrell Engle, with a number of willing hands, completed this project.

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Knowing that being without a parsonage was a drawback in engaging a minister, and having to rent a cottage for a year to compensate for the lack of a parsonage, the decision was made to build one. An acre of land across from the church was donated by Mellie Lee for the location of the parsonage. A loan was received from the Missionary Conference and the building began in the Spring of 1972. Pastor Engle supervised receiving help from enthused individuals. Rev. Floran Mast, present Administrator for Hubbard Hill Retirement Community in Elkhart, Indiana, donated his services as a licensed electrician. A good parsonage is now located on this property.

In 1978, under the direction of Pastor Stephen Runyon, the basement of the church was completely remodeled. It is now uplifted to the Glory of God.

The debts on Harmony Chapel's properties were clear, and in 1979 a celebration was planned. Additional plans for that year included the renewing of the interior of the sanctuary.

The following record was taken from a report book which may have belonged to Mrs. Jule Fletcher, and was recorded by Lena Riggs.

FLOWERFIELD CIRCUIT:
1920's M.P. Methodist Protestant

-Harmony Chapel Sunday Service 11:30 a.m. (10:30 a.m. S.S.)

-Edwards Corners
2:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. S.S.)

-Flowerfield 7:30 p.m.
(10:30 a.m. S.S.)

1920 – Rev. Jones began
September 5

1924 – A. Earl Hatt, Pastor

1926 – J. A. Fuhrman, Pastor

FLOWERFIELD CIRCUIT:

1930's – M.P. Methodist

Protestant

-Edwards Corners 10:00a.m.
(11:00 a.m. S.S.) Wed. 8:00 p.m.

-Harmony Chapel 11:30 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. S.S.) Thurs. 8:00 p.m.

-Flowerfield 8:00 a.m. (10:00
a.m. S.S.) Tues. 8:00 p.m.

1934 – G. M. Grinnell, Pastor

FLOWERFIELD CIRCUIT:

1940's M.P. Methodist Protestant

1940 – B.F. Hitchcock, Speaker
and former preacher on this
circuit

-Ladies Aid had some fine new
tables built and installed in
basement

-Wednesday Ladies Aid was
entertained by women of the
church including Mrs. Gilert
Duel, Mrs. Harold Ward, Mrs.
Earl Copenhaver.

-joint S.S. picnic with three
churches and Pleasant Valley at
Bankson Lake (this was probably
held where Miracle Camp is now
located, as it was a Catholic camp
at this time and was open for use
by other organizations)

-in June a Children's program,
directed by: Mrs. Gilbert Deuel,
Mrs. Kenneth Battees, Mrs. Carl
Adams

1942 – B.W. Densmore, Pastor;
Supt., Whilma Lee

1945 – F.E. Densmore, Pastor

1947 – Donald E. Armstrong,
Pastor; Supt., Mrs. Frank Brazee

1949 – Leonard Washmuth,
Pastor

-Homecoming All Day Service on
September 4, 1949

FLOWERFIELD CIRCUIT:

1950's

1950's – Henry Houseman, Pastor
(He was Principal of Decatur
Schools)

HARMONY CHAPEL

COMMUNITY CHURCH:

1960's, 1970's

-Church School – 10:00 a.m. ,
Church Service 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Gerald (Irene) Adams, S.S.
Supt.

Pastors: Paul Teet, Chuck
Perkins, Gary Stout, Eugene
Carpenter (John Moran did some
preaching during the 1960's as
well)

Harmony Chapel was purchased
from the Methodist Church by the
community with the help of the
Missionary Church. Joe and
Donna Parham had a very active
youth group during these years.
They conducted the church's first
Bible School and had a booth at
the Marcellus Bluegill Frolic.

1970 – 1976 – Darrell Engle,
Pastor (Wife, Kathy)

The parsonage was erected and
new entrance added to the church

HARMONY CHAPEL

MISSIONARY CHURCH:

1976 – 1993

1976 – 1978 – Steve Runyon,
Pastor (Wife, Nancy)

Church basement renovated with
paneling and ceiling

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1978 Spring and summer –
Interim Pastors included: Ron
Pfingst; Bill McVay; Bill Waun
1978 – 1980 – Chuck Baker,
Pastor (Wife, Ruth)

The half circle window above
the sanctuary door was reversed
so it could be read properly

HARMONY CHAPEL MISSIONARY CHURCH:

1980 – 1993 (Continued)

1980 – 1985 – Bob Debolt, Pastor
(Wife, Wanda)

Children's Cadet program and
Bible Schools

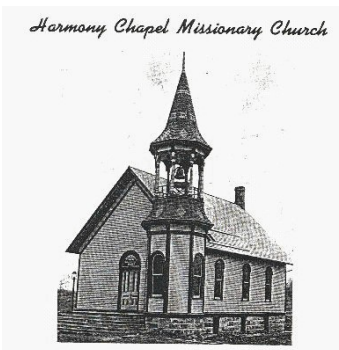
1985 – 1989 – Dick Fidler, Pastor
(Wife, Linda)

June Colter, S.S. Supt.

New, lower church ceiling
1989 – 1993 – Daryl Bowers,
Pastor (Wife, Laura)

Harmony Chapel withdrew from
the Missionary Church July 31,
1993, and presently has an
independent status. We have
received encouragement from the
many speakers supplied by the
Evangelical Mennonite Church
and our two primary speakers
during this past year: Dan Lane
and Rick Harrell. Presently,
Martin Crosthwaite is our interim
pastor and is being considered a
very strong pastoral candidate.
We truly feel God's hand has
been leading us and we are
optimistic in seeing how He
accomplishes "immeasurable
more than we ask or imagine
according to His power that is at
work within us, to Him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for

ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians
3:20



Kinney School, District #5
Porter Township, Van Buren
County, Michigan

The Kinney School was located
on CR 652 at 90th Street (South on
CR 652 from Harmony Chapel
Church) on the SW corner. It is
uncertain whether the building
was moved or it was burned.

From the column "100 Years
Ago" – True Northerner (now
Courier Leader): "April 3, 1892 –
Miss Kate Powell will be the
teacher at #5"

Raymond Cook's first teaching
position – 1922 – 1923 Kinney
School. This booklet was issued
at the end of the school year:

In 1922, when Evelyn Klien first
started school at Kinney, she was
in the 5th or 6th grade. Raymond
Cook, the teacher, drove a horse
and buggy to school and would
often pick her up as she walked
from her home.

Evelyn's brother, Francis Klien,
married Lucile Hooper in 1928,
when Lucile was 16 years old.
The Hooper's lived on the Erroll
Corey farm, west of the Harmony

Chapel Church, when Lucile
attended Kinney School.

Some Teachers:

Raymond Cook – 1922-1923
school year – 1st teaching job
Whilma Lee (d.)
Bessie Bundy (Jewell) 57585
Gearhart Road, Three Rivers, MI
49093. At Kinney 1 year.
Katherine Lynn – 2 or 3 years.
Jewell's had store/gas station at
US 131 & M219 for many years.
Kathleen Burlington
Shirley Wright a pupil in 8th gr.

Pupils:

Lucile (Hooper) Klien (widow)
b. 21 March 1912; m. Francis
Klien 1929 (age 16)
822 Constantine St., Three
Rivers, MI 49093 Phone: (616)
279-5986 Attended Kinney
School 4 years

Evelyn Klien (Dozeman) widow
4857 E. Milham Road, Apt. H
Kalamazoo, MI 49000
Phone: (616) 327-2601

Shirley Wright
24462 CR 352
Lawton, MI
Phone: (616) 624-6067

1908 Souvenir Booklet
Caption: Not for School but for
Life we learn

KINNEY SCHOOL

District No. 5
Porter Township
Van Buren County, Michigan

RENA E. THORNTON, Teacher

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PUPILS

Vaughn Bartlett
Bessie Newman
McKinley Bartlett
Effie K. Newman
Alma Breseman
Harold E. Ward
George Calvert
Clark Wood
Mae Lomison
Wayne Hoyt
Earl Copenhaver
Carl Breseman
Murl Copenhaver
Frank Breseman
Gladys Lomison
Eliza Chapman
Elsie Breseman
Gladys Harwell
John Breseman
Iva Hoyt
Fannie Chapman
Loyd Holcomb
A. T. Bartlett, Director
C. H. Adams, Moderator
F. A. Ward, Treasurer

1911 Souvenir Booklet
Caption: "Tis Education forms the
mind

Just as the twig is brut the trees
inclin'd

PORTER

Public School
District No. 5

Porter Twp., Van Buren Co.,
Mich.

HELEN M. HEFFNER, Teacher

PUPILS

Iva Beach
Aaron Chapman
Eliza Chapman
Fannie Chapman

Earl Copenhaver
Marjorie Fox
Murl Copenhaver
Dorothy Gillette
Mary Harton
Gladys Harvell
Hale Hoyt
Iva Hoyt
Wayne Hoyt
Whilma Lee
Gladys Lomison
Bessie Newman
Effie Newman
Anna Nichols
Charles Nichols
Edna Nichols
Harold Ward

School Board

M.R. Hoyt F. A. Ward C.
Adams



The Kinney School

The 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. Look for the newsletter to be in both Word & PDF format that you can download from the website:
<http://www.adams-mckain.com>

. 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 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.

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.

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.

ADAMS-MCKAIN REUNION

President: George Adams
1334 Croydon Court
South Bend, IN 46614
gcadams@alumni.nd.edu

If you have pictures or other items that you would like to share with the Adams-McKain reunion

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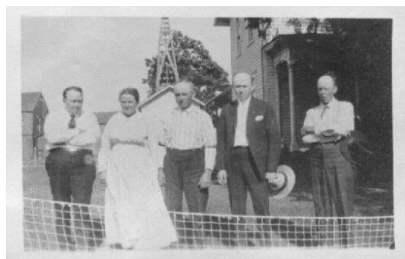
STURGEON BAY, WI

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please contact Barbara Gale or Jim Adams. We would appreciate family letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, military records, birth, death, marriage notices, school yearbooks, etc. that we could add to the family history.

The Adams-McKain web page is updated regularly, stop by often to see the new changes.

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



Mason Clarence, Effa May, Horace Chester, Ross Uri, Archie Leonard Adams. This picture was taken at the Uriah Mason Adams Centennial Farm c. 1919.

Please send your news to:
Newsletter Editor: Jim Adams
808 Michigan Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
jimadams@adams-mckain.com

Please send your updated addresses & contributions to the newsletter to:

Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale
211 East Ryno Road
Coloma, MI 49038
Bg0225@aol.com
