

# 84th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 12

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2004

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

### 85th REUNION TO BE HELD SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 2004

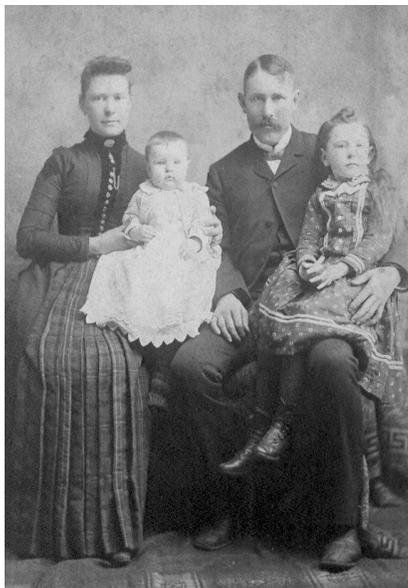
PLEASE NOTE the change to the second weekend in August!

Join the Adams-McKain family on Saturday, August 14 at the Clarion Hotel, 3600 E. Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI (616.385.3922). Our buffet luncheon will start at 12:00 PM.

There will be a business meeting before we adjourn at 4:00 PM.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!**

## FEATURED STORY— FLETCHER HISTORY



Sophia, Muriel, Julius Horace, Mabel Fletcher. Read about the Fletcher family in this issue beginning on page 5.

## 84th BUSINESS MEETING 03 August 2003

**ELECTIONS:** George Adams, President, called the meeting to order. The elected officers for next year are:

President- George Adams  
Newsletter Editor- Jim Adams  
Secretary/Treasurer- Barbara Gale.

**LOCATION:** The group decided to hold the 85th Reunion the second weekend of August in a hotel on Saturday. George will notify the family about plans.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

George reported a total of \$361.00 was on hand for the Reunion to pay Barbara for the 83rd Reunion. The disbursements from 03 Aug 2002 to 02 Aug 2003 was \$147.00. Reunion paid Barbara in full which left \$214.00 to start the 84th Reunion on 03 August 03. The largest cost was photocopying 120 newsletters (\$49.61) and stamps (\$71.65) for a total of \$121.26. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to people on the address roster, however it is imperative to save as much money as possible, so please send the correct mailing/e-mail address and telephone number to George, Jim or Barbara. The Newsletter will be mailed if you do not have an e-mail address. A \$5.00 donation is requested to cover the cost. Please make checks out to Barbara Gale. Thank You.

## REUNION LIBRARY

The 100th reunion is in 2019 and as the Family History section is written yearly, data is being collected for the 100th Reunion.: therefore it is important for all family branches of Horace Hale and Lorrana G.(Kinney) Adams to participate so files can be as complete as possible by the Centennial year. Previously published subjects include genealogy, Franklin B. Adams branch, Candace (Adams) Andrews branch, Civil War, World War One and Two, 1833 Copley Diary, 1903 Chicago Iroquois Theater Fire Marcellus Schools, and Harmony Chapel/Kinney School #5, I am delighted to have Bob Brown write the Family History section for this newsletter and I request **YOU** volunteer to write for #13 newsletter by writing something about your family branch, or add to the above subjects. For example many of the Adams went to the Kinney School #4(better known as the Adams School) which was located on CR 352 and 23rd Street on the SW corner. Porter Twp Van Buren County. Please let me know no later than 1-1-05. Thank You. We need **YOU** and urge **YOU** to help in this worthwhile project.

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The *Van Buren Pictorial History Book* done by the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society will be available at this reunion. Our pictures published in the book are Harmony Chapel

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Church and the Adams School House

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## FAMILY VIDEOS

Dave and Dawn Sivley contributed a video of the reunion held at Prairie View Park, Kalamazoo, MI in 1986. Do you have a reunion or family gathering video you could contribute to our library? This would be a wonderful way for families to participate if they can't come to the reunion.

## MARY CALISTA (ADAMS) SMITH FAMILY HISTORY

Bob Brown donated more family pictures & wrote the family history for this newsletter. One set of pictures of particular interest is Mary Calista (Adams) Smith. Mary Calista (Lizzie) was the 4<sup>th</sup> daughter and last of 6 children born to Horace Hale and Lorrana G. Kinney in Van Buren County on 20 March 1842. She was educated at Hillsdale College, MI. and married David F.(? L.) Smith 25 December 1866. David was born in Wentworth, Ontario, but his birth and death dates are unknown although Muriel Brown noted that his funeral was at "our house" David and Lizzie lived in Burlington, Ontario, Burlington, (?Muscatine) IA. and Chicago, IL.

They had one son Horace Herbert (Bert) Smith born 08 June 1868. In 1900 Horace was the city editor of the Butte Miner newspaper in Butte, MT. Bert had one son named Horace and it is believed he had another child.

Mary Calista died 31 Dec. 1919 and was buried in a receiving vault at Roseville Cemetery, Orange, New Jersey. She was moved to Bly Cemetery, Marcellus on 04 June 1947.

There only have been seven secretaries since 1919. No one was elected until Rena Thornton in 1921 and she continued doing it until 1934. Mary (Adams) Sykes was elected in 1930, .Marian (Adams) Moe in 1935, Clare (Adams) Price in 1939 and Hazel Adams in 1941. Hyldred (Adams) Gale served as secretary-treasurer from 1942 until her death in 1985 for a total of 43 years. Barbara Gale started as co-chairperson in 1979 so the Gales have been secretary-treasurer for a total of 62 years.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Francis Morse and Samuel Conner Adams (15 Jun 2003) were the oldest and the youngest members present. Francis is the husband of Mildred Adams and Samuel Conners Adams, born about June, 2003, is the son of Todd and Rebecca Adams. His grandparents are Dan and Pam Adams. He is a Chester and Roxanna (Bent) Adams descendant. Muriel Hurt traveled the farthest from South Heart, ND.

## 85<sup>TH</sup> REUNION PLANS

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder the 85<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be held the second weekend of August in a hotel on Saturday.,

George will notify the family about plans .

## FAMILY ATTENDANCE

21 members attended the 84<sup>th</sup> Reunion on Sunday, 03 AUGUST 03 at the Marcellus High School. Three branches were present and the states represented were North Dakota, Indiana, and Michigan.

## HORACE CHESTER & ROXANNA (BENT) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (14 members)

George & Richard Adams of South Bend, IN.

Francis & Mildred Morse of Kalamazoo, MI.

Dan & Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI

Justin Rendleman of Mission., TX

Michele, Cody, and Christopher Adams of Grandville, MI.

Todd, Rebecca, Samuel Adams Marilyn Little of Grand Rapids, MI.

## ARCHIE & Lillie (Douglas) Adams Descendants ( 4 members)

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

Gregory and Sara (Sivley) Huff of Ann Arbor, MI.

## DORSEY & SARA LUCINA (ADAMS) FLETCHER DESCENDANTS ( 3 members)

Muriel (Brown) Hurt of South Heart, ND.

Linda K. Fox of Ypsilanti, MI.

Robert Brown of So. Bend, IN

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## CURRENT NEWS

**NEWS RECEIVED AFTER 31 May 2004 will be in Newsletter #13**

### HORACE AND MARY

**ADAMS**, reported they spent three weeks in Spain and spent the summer in Canada remodeling their cottage and renaming it "Mary's New Guest House, just waiting for You". They spent 3 weeks in the Southwest with Robert and Linda exploring the National Parks, and ended the year by spending Christmas in Jamaica with the Cochran Clan.

### EMILY NOELLE SNYDER,

daughter of Carol and Robert Snyder of Flushing, MI. is engaged to Jason Marc Powell, son of Jan and Greg Powell of Kalamazoo, MI.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is an eighth-grade special education teacher with the Zeeland Public Schools.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University. He is working as a Physical Therapist at Blodgett Memorial Hospital in Grand Rapids. A June 26 wedding is planned.

**JOHN AND PAT ADAMS** had an adventuresome, memorable 2003 summer. After graduating in June, Christina spent a month in Germany with two families. John and family spent two weeks in Germany and Switzerland and met John's cousin and his wife

from FL. Jennifer was our interpreter and Christina took us around Dusseldorf when we met up with her and had dinner with her host family. After we arrived home, a 16 year old German girl came to visit for two weeks. August was a busy month with Christina leaving for James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA to major in biology. While Christina spent time in Germany, Jennifer attended the Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond for a week. The program is sponsored by the American Legion for seniors interested in law enforcement. Jennifer will be attending Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA next fall. She is interested in the small campus and hopes to do pole vault there if she qualifies for State again next year. This past spring she placed tenth out of 24 girls in the State meet. This fall, Jennifer was captain of her field hockey team and was the leading scorer with seven goals. After graduation in June, Jennifer will be traveling with her German teacher and several other students to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria for a two week tour. Then it's off to CNU for her college adventure.

### JOHN AND SALLY

**BOLDMAN** report their daughter, Sandy, is working as a theater major at Towson University in Maryland and plans to graduate in December, 2004. Sandy appeared as "Karen" in the

U.S. premiere of the British Musical "Girlfriends" and also appeared on NBC's "West Wing". John quit his job in 2003 and started his own company. He still travels often and spent time in New Orleans and in Seattle. Sally changed jobs so moved from International Accounting to financial reporting. She spent most of her summer in Valley Forge, PA learning a new ledger system.

### JIM AND ELIZABETH BOWE

reports Jim is still flying for American Airlines and he and his brother Mike and their wives started a family business December 5<sup>th</sup> that is a packing, shipping mailbox & copy center [www.postalconnections.com/158](http://www.postalconnections.com/158). He continues to keep busy with his church activities. Elizabeth keeps busy with family activities, including teaching seven students in early AM seminary and doing some craft work. They are also remodeling their home. The 4 girls and 2 boys range from 5 months (Kathryn) to 17 years, each child enjoying their special interests which includes piano, sports, clarinet, etc. The highlight of the year was a Disney Cruise.

**MARIE BOWE** reports she took a couple of short trips and had a lot of visitors. She reports she had a great-grandson born 16 August 03 in Orlando, FL a great-grandson born 21 August 2003 in Vancouver, WA.

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**JACKIE LEWIS COLEMAN, III** (Trey) graduated from Hebron High School on May 30, 2004. He will attend Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX in the fall where he will major in Business Economics.



L to R: Jack, Trey, Nicole, Mary

**TYLER DAVID ADAMS**, son of Douglas & Mary Adams, graduated 30 May 2004 from Schoolcraft HS in Schoolcraft, MI. Tyler will be attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall.

**GREG AND SARA HUFF**, attended the 86<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet in Rhein-Main Air Base when Jeffrey received his USAFE award on February 21, 2004. Sara is the daughter of Dave and Dawn (Adams) Sivley.

**FLOYD AND MURIEL HURT** reported they celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She visited family in Michigan in February and in May they visited their oldest granddaughter who is working on a Masters degree in Grand Forks. Muriel and her cousin Mary went to Las Vegas and in June Floyd

and Muriel attended a wedding of her nephew, Owen Hunt. Muriel was in Michigan in August because her Uncle Marc died and while she was here, she saw numerous people including the Adams-McKain reunion. Muriel was in San Francisco for the National Realtors Convention and received the Medallion Award from the Council of Residential Specialists. Earning the reward is like earning the right to be in the Baseball Hall of Fame. They spent Christmas with Bob and Kris. Floyd keeps busy as mayor of South Heart. ND.

**MARIAN (ADAMS) MOE** writes she keeps active. Her daughter, Shirley, and granddaughter, Kristen has moved to Georgia so they are only about 7-8 hours from her home.

**GENEVIEVE TOPPING** reports her brother, Jason Ashford, who lives in Salem, Oregon had a family reunion August 3, 2003. Jason and Genevieve's parents are Harry and Violet (Feller) Ashford and they had 5 children: Vivian, Jason, Harry, Grace, and Genevieve. The families are a descendents of Isaac Leonard and Emily (Adams) Bates.

**BILL AND JOANN WHEATON** report Joann went to China for three weeks in October. She flew to all the major cities in China, walked the Great Wall and enjoyed a five-day cruise on the Yangtze River. She saw the three

gorges that will be fully flooded in 2006. Joann and David, her seven year old grandson, went to Washington, D.C. and had a VIP tour of the capital and Mt. Vernon. They had a family reunion at Amy and Mike's lake home in Wisconsin and saw Grace's first dance recital in June. They are in the process of adding more employees and equipment to their business. Amy and Mike have Lindsay 9, David 7, and Emily 3. Laura and Bill have Grace 4, and Olivia 15 months. The families were in Charlotte for the holidays.

## NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

**ALLAN COPLEY** resides at 3637 McCain Road, Jackson, MI. 49203 and would enjoy hearing from you.

**MARGARET COPLEY**, who is 99 resides at White Oaks, Lawton. MI.49065

## BIRTHS

**KATHRYN BOWE** was born 18 Nov 2003 to Jim and Elizabeth Bowe of New Holland, PA. She weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long. Kathryn grandparents are John W. and Marie (Anstiss) Bowe. She is an Isaac Leonard and Emily (Adams) Bates.

**LAUREN ELIZABETH POSEY** was born 04 Feb 2003. She is the daughter of Amy (Wetherell) & Mark Posey. Grandparents are Margaret

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(Adams) & Robert Wetherell of Chase, MI.

## WEDDINGS

**DOUGLAS ADAMS AND KAREN BAINBRIDGE** were married in Harmony Chapel Church on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. 2003. Douglas is the son of Gerald and Marilyn Adams, and the late Irene Adams. Karen is the daughter of John and Beverly Bainbridge. A reception was held at the VFW in Marcellus following the wedding. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon at Niagara Falls

**JOHN S. ADAMS and CATHERINE WALTERS** were married 09 Aug 2003 in Jefferson, WI. John is a staff writer for the Jefferson County Daily Union newspaper and Cathy works for the WI DNR. John is the son of James R. & Linda M. Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI and grandson of Dr. U.M. and Clarice Adams.

**TODD ADAMS & REBECCA ANN NEWHOUSE** were married at the Christian Reformed Church in Jamestown, MI on 04 Jan 2003. Todd is a Leslie Bent & Mildred (Snow) Adams descendant.

## GRADUATIONS/HONORS

**W. CHRISTIAN ADAMS**, son of Robert and Linda Adams of Sweet, Idaho and the grandson of Horace and Mary Adams of Lawton, MI received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard, at a ceremony held at the Coast Guard Academy

in New London, CT on 19 May 2004. During his four years at the academy, Christian has academically excelled, placing in the top third of his class and completing a degree in civil engineering. He also was a member of the Academy sailing, hockey, and nationally ranked rugby teams. During Christian's summer deployment, he sailed to Ireland, France, and Portugal aboard the Tall Ship "Eagle," served on a USCG Cutter in the Caribbean and on a buoy tender in Guam. Christian has been assigned to the newest ship in the fleet, the USCG Alder, home ported in Duluth, MN. Christian is a graduate of Horse shoe Bend High School. ID.

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. JEFFREY ADAMS**, 469<sup>th</sup> Air Force Base Group security forces flight commander, winner of the fiscal 2003 security award, will now go on to compete at the Air Force level. The U.S. Air Force in Europe has named him its outstanding Security Force Company Grade Officer of the Year. Although it is not unusual for first lieutenants to receive the award, it is more commonly received by higher ranking officers. Adams, who leads a security force of 105 active-duty, civilian and deployed personnel, was named this year's winner for increasing manning to 99 % from 82 % in eight months, which are the highest numbers since 1995. Adams also initiated quality-of-life upgrades for his unit, including a \$174,000 project

approved and funded for facility improvements. Adams said specific events, such as securing the president of Afghanistan during his visits and watching over antiwar demonstration without incidents were two major accomplishments Jeffrey's wife, Tech. Sgt Monica Adams holds the office of vice-president of the 469<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group Top IV for 2004. Jeffery and Monica have a son, Garrett Sean born 20 March 2000. Jeffrey is the son of Gerald and Marilyn Adams of Barefoot Bay, FL

**KEVIN RYAN PETERSON** graduated from Portage Central High School, Wings Stadium. Kalamazoo on 27 May 2004. A graduation open house was held at the family home June 12, 2004. He is the son of Renet Ryan Healy, the grandson of Norman and Joan (Adams) Ryan. He is a Franklin B. and Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

**DAWN MARIE SIVLEY**, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Western Michigan University in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Science and Mathematics and English on 13 December 2003. She is the daughter of Gerald and Irene (Krieger) Adams.

**JENNIFER LIAN ADAMS** graduated from Massaponax HS (VA) 11 June 2004. There was an open house on Saturday, 10 July at her home in Fredericksburg, VA.

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## FAMILY HISTORY

### Sarah (Adams) and Dorsey Fletcher Family

Sarah Lucina [Lusinah] Adams (Fletcher) was a younger sister of Uri Mason Adams (1832-1900). She was born on Aug. 23, 1835 in Sandusky Co., Ohio. Sarah was less than two years old when her parents, Horace Hale and Loriania Gates (Kinney) Adams, moved from Ohio to Michigan.



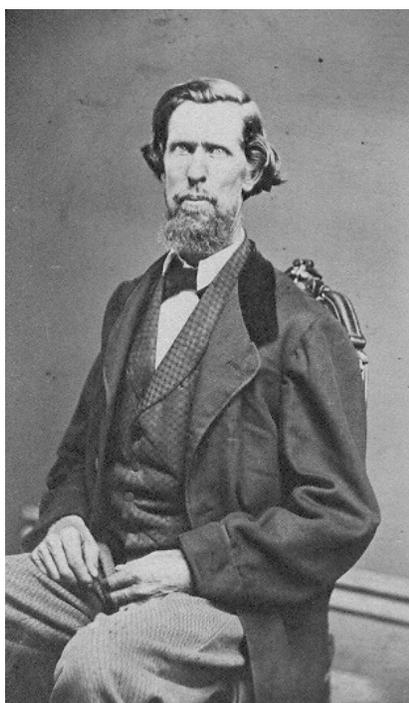
Sarah Lucina Adams

The family settled in what was then eastern Decatur Twp., Van Buren Co.—Porter Twp. was not formed from the eastern half of Decatur until 1845.

Sarah became an orphan the same month she turned 15, when her mother died just three years after her father. The 22-year-old Franklin B. Adams became the guardian of his three sisters:

Sarah, Emily, age 11, and Mary, age 8. Uri was 17.

Sarah Adams married Dorsey Fletcher (1828-1898) on Dec. 3, 1856. Dorsey's sister Lucinda (1830-1879) was Franklin B. Adams' (1828-1910) first wife, and the mother of Clara (Adams) Thornton (1859-1946), who lived near Lawton.



Dorsey Fletcher, son of Thomas and Barbara (Ulery) Fletcher, born 14 Aug 1828.

(See the July 1995 issue of the *Adams-McKain Reunion News* for information on Franklin B. Adams' descendants and <http://members.aol.com/sunny2345/genealogy/sarahadamsfletcher.html> for the obituary of Sarah Adams Fletcher.)

The parents of Dorsey and Lucinda were Thomas Fletcher (1794-1877) and Barbara Ann Ulery [Ullery] Fletcher (1798-1870). The Fletcher

children were born in Hampshire Co., Virginia, in an area that is now Mineral Co., West Virginia. The Fletcher family came to Michigan in 1839, including seven children: Delilah (age 12), Dorsey (11), Lucinda (9), Mahlon (8), Louisa (6), Jacob Henry (4) and Mary Matilda (2).

The Fletcher farm, which had been virgin forest at the time of their arrival, was in Porter Twp., Van Buren Co., about a mile southwest the F. B. Adams farm, and less than a mile northwest of the Uri and Jane Adams farm. Dorsey and Sarah donated the land for the Harmony Chapel, and the original farmhouse stood just to the north of where the chapel now stands. For the first five years, the family lived in the next township to the east, Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo Co. (where other Fletchers lived). Perhaps this was while the farmland was being cleared, since there is a tax receipt for \$4.33 for the year 1839 for the 200 acres that became the Porter Twp. farm.

Dorsey and Sarah had twin sons, born on Oct. 11, 1857, in Porter Twp. Julian lived less than two months; Julius Horace survived. In addition to their son, Dorsey and Sarah raised two girls: Alice Jane Fletcher (Moyer) (b. ~1863) and (Barbara) Ann Fletcher (b. ~1866) were the daughters of Dorsey's brother, Mahlon Fletcher (1831-1867). A third girl, Delcena ("Della") R. Corey, apparently spent time in the home. She was born in Nov. 1857, and was the daughter of

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Dorsey's sister Delila Fletcher Corey (1827-1863) and Nelson Corey. Ann Fletcher married Edwin Cady: they lived in Decatur and named their son Dorsey. The only other children of Dorsey Fletcher's brothers and sisters (of which I have any record) are the six children of Louisa Fletcher (1833-1913) and Harry Bartlett (1832-1907), who lived in Porter Twp.

Alice Fletcher taught primary school in Porter Twp. for at least 12 weeks in 1881 (April-July). Her contract indicated she was paid \$2.50 per week. On the reverse side of the contract is a similar contract for George W. Adams, but for 16 weeks (Nov. 1880 to March 1881) at \$5 per week. Alice Fletcher was about 18 at the time, and George Adams was about 22. (George W. Adams was the grandfather of Barbara Gale and Jack Adams, and the contracts were in Jack's files.)

According to her obituary, Sarah was deaf from about age 12, but was of an "unusually kind and cheerful disposition." It also said the Fletcher home was "famous for its hospitality." Dorsey and Sarah lived on the farm for over 40 years after their marriage, moving to Marcellus only about a month before Dorsey's death on July 17, 1898. Sarah died on Jan. 6, 1914, in Marcellus.

Julius Horace Fletcher married Sophia Elizabeth Stute on Sept. 11, 1881. She was born on Sept. 2, 1864, the daughter of Frederick William Stute (1819-1893) and

Julia (Grogan) (Grimes) Stute (1835-1916). Frederick was a wagon maker in Schoolcraft, and Julia (who came to the U.S. from Ireland, after the death of her first husband) worked in the hotel in Schoolcraft where Frederick took his meals. Sophia's sister, Julia O. Stute (1868-1945), married Lester Matthews, son of William and Lorian (Kinney) Matthews (daughter of Uri and Eunice Kinney). The Matthews first farm home was across the road from the Uri and Jane Adams farm. Sophia also had four brothers (Will of Marcellus, Fred of Comstock, Charles of Battle Creek, and (the youngest) Thomas Arthur; and a half-sister and half-brother, Mary and Michael Grimes.

Besides farming in Porter Twp., Julius Horace was in the harness and farm implement business in Marcellus for 12 years: "J. H. Fletcher, dealer in Vehicles and Farm Implements, Automobiles and Accessories; Harness, Robes, Blankets and Horse Goods." He also operated a steam boat, the "Comet," on Gull Lake, for several seasons.

J.H. and Sophia Fletcher had four children: Mabel Sophia Fletcher (Long) (1884-1923), Muriel Sarah Fletcher (Brown) (1889-1970), (Julia) May Fletcher (McNinch) (Kettles) (1891-1952), and Wyborn [Wyborne] Leroy Fletcher (1904-1951). J.H. died in Marcellus on Jan. 25, 1930. Sophia lived in Marcellus for the rest of her life, first at her own home and later at the home of her

daughter Muriel Brown. Sophia died on June 15, 1953 at a nursing home in Dowagiac, where she had been for several weeks. [see: <http://members.aol.com/sunny2345/genealogy/sophiastutefletcher.html> for her obituary]

Mabel graduated from Marcellus High School in 1901. Her husband, Leroy S. Long (1880-1944), was the son of Charles and Jane (Hartman) Long; he spent his entire life in Marcellus. May Fletcher married Owen L. McNinch and they had one son Arden, born in Nov. 1909. Arden and Marge McNinch had one daughter, Martha Lynn. May married Alexander Kettles in 1921 and later they moved to Canada. Wyborn Fletcher graduated from MHS in 1922. He married Ruby Hassenger in 1925. They lived in Cassopolis, but had no children. Wyborn worked at Bendix in South Bend.

Muriel S. Fletcher graduated from MHS in 1908, and taught the fall term that year at the Knights Crossing School in Newburg Twp., Cass Co. She married Emory Brown on Nov. 17, 1908. Emory was the son of Abner (1837-1909) and Frances Elnora ('Nora') Welcher Brown (1857-1916). Abner and Nora Brown lived in Volinia Twp., and both are buried in Crane Cemetery. Abner Brown came from New York in 1856, and settled in Nicholville in 1857, where he worked on a farm until he bought his own farm four years later. In 1877, the 40-year-old

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Abner Brown married 20-year-old Nora Welcher.

Three of Abner's brothers and one of his sisters lived near Wakelee: Gaylord Brown (1843-1894) and his wife Sylenda had three children, including Elmer, who later lived in Marcellus (son Howard Brown). Philo Brown (1847-1923) married Zelia Cox (1852-1944) and they had eight children and lived in Section 5 of Newberg Twp. Alonzo (Lon) Brown (1855-1926) and his wife Martha (1855-1941) had four children and lived in Volinia Twp. Margelia Brown (1853-1911) married Anson Miles (1850-1921); they lived in Newberg Twp., and had several children, including Bill Miles (1885-1970). Phinley and Fernando Brown may have been brothers too. Finn and Alice Brown lived near Lawton, on a farm on the north side of Bankson Lake. Fernando C. Brown (b. 1841) married Alice J. Copley in 1867—they lived in Paw Paw Twp., and had a daughter, Clarissa. He later lived in Porter Twp. with his second wife, Evaline. Nora Brown's half brother was Manley B. Welcher (1846-1925) of Volinia Twp., and later Marcellus—his wife was Almira Gard of Volinia Twp. (1843-1927). Their son Charles and his wife, Grace, lived in Marcellus, and had two children, Manley C. (1908-1978) and Laura.

Abner and Nora Brown had four sons and a daughter: Floyd (1878-1963), Wilbur

(1880-1952), Emory (1881-1954), George ('Duke') (1885-1943), and (Ila) Bird (1891-1914).

Floyd married Lora McCully in 1898. Floyd's second wife was Lora's sister, Margaret. They lived in Cassopolis, and raised Darlene McCully (b. 1948).

Wilbur married Elsie McKenzie (1884-1970) and they had one daughter, Mildred (1903-1994), who married Harry Shannon (1901-2000). The Shannons, who lived between Volinia and Marcellus, were married over 70 years, and had six children: Starr, Harold, Betty Jean (Kirch), Jack, Beverly Ann (Breseman) (Hennings) (McMahon), and Linda Lee (McConnell) (Weber). 'Duke' married Ethel Goble (1890-1987); they lived in Dowagiac and had four children: Russell, A.J., Roger and Frances. Roger lives in Grand Traverse Co., Mich., as does his daughter, Judy Grime (who has been active in tracing the Brown family tree). Bird married J. D. Emmons in 1909, but she died only five years later (no children).

Muriel and Emory Brown lived on the Fletcher/Brown farm in Porter Twp., or in Marcellus—they bought the house at 219 Dibble Street in 1922. (The house on Dibble Street was adjacent to the home of Uriah and Clarice Adams, which was on the corner of Jones and Dibble.) In addition to farming, Emory worked at building roads, and served on the Cass County Road and Park Commission, including a period of time as chairman. At

one time, he was also an under-sheriff in Cass Co.

Muriel and Emory Brown had five sons and one daughter: Garry Abner (b. 1909), Merton Fletcher (1911-1982), Donald Francis (1914-1976), Barbara Ann (Wheaton) (1916-1993), Emil Jean (1918-1942) and David Emory (1929-1942). Emil Brown died in military service in Nov. 1942 (New Guinea). (His second cousin, Ray McKenzie, was in the same outfit as Emil, and was killed about the same time. Ray was the son of Edwin and Lillie McKenzie; Lillie was the daughter of Philo and Zelia Brown.) David died in an accident at the Fletcher/Brown farm in Porter Twp. in Sept. 1942, just two weeks before his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. All six children attended Marcellus schools, and (except David) graduated from Marcellus High School: Garry in 1927, Merton in 1930, Don in 1933, Barbara in 1934, and Emil in 1937.

Garry Brown noted that J.H. and Sophia Fletcher had indoor plumbing (in their house on North St. in Marcellus) when he was a boy, and the boys used to go down into the Fletcher basement and pump 100-200 strokes on the pressure pump to put water into the tank in the attic. In contrast, the house where he grew up did not get indoor plumbing until after he left home in 1927. They did have their own electric power though: a big steam engine. About 1920-25, the village of

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Marcellus voted to use Mich. Gas & Electric Power.

Garry married V. Ethel Burns in 1936; they lived in Battle Creek and had one daughter, Joan Marie (Reinke). After Ethel's death, Garry married Mary Gordon (b. 1908 in Battle Creek) in 1958. In 1986, Garry and Mary compiled a loose leaf book on the ancestors and descendants of Emory and Muriel Brown. [A copy of this book is in the Adams-McKain records kept by Barbara Gale. An updated copy of the text will be brought to the 2004 reunion.] Garry made a Major contribution to the Marcellus Library, in memory of Emory and Muriel Brown, several years ago (~1985), when the library wanted to build a new wing. The library has expanded again since then, but the plaque is hanging just inside the side door. (Other family members made contributions too. Names I recognized on the plaque included Muriel E. Hurt, Dr. & Mrs. U. M. Adams, the Manley Welcher family, and Mr. & Mrs. Howard McKenzie.) Garry and Mary are living in Tucson, AZ, where they have been for many years. Joni Reinke and her three children, Ryan, Sean, and Shannon (Baldwin), all live in southern California.

Merton married Anna Thornburg (of Lawton/Schoolcraft) in 1933. Merton and Anna had three children: Preston Emory (b. 1934 in Marcellus), Merton James (b. 1937 in Marcellus & d. 1999 in Wichita, KS), and Muriel Ethel

(b. 1938 in Battle Creek). Merton and Anna lived in Marcellus until moving to Battle Creek (probably via Detroit) in 1937 or 1938. They lived in California from 1962-1980, and then moved to Roswell, NM, where Merton died in 1982. Anna moved back to Battle Creek, where she died in 2001. Preston and Ruth Brown live in Waukegan, Illinois; they have two sons, Kenneth and Kevin, and grandchildren. Jim Brown had three children. Muriel and Floyd Hurt live in South Heart, North Dakota. They have a son, Floyd Robert, Jr. (Rapid City, SD), and a daughter, Linda Fox (North Carolina). Bob and Kris Hurt have two children: Sara and Jason. Linda Fox has twin daughters: Tori and Tara. Anna Brown attended the Adams-McKain reunion in 1994; her sister, Lucille Bolley, attended, as a guest, in 1994 and 2001. Muriel Hurt and Linda Fox attended the reunions in 2001 and 2003.

Don was drafted into the army in April 1941, and married G. Eleanor Miller of Buchanan later that year. He was sent to the south Pacific (primarily New Guinea and the Philippines). He served in engineering units and rose to the rank of Captain before the end of the war. Don and Eleanor lived in Buchanan and had two children: Donna F. (b. 1944) and Robert D. (b. 1948). Don died in 1976, shortly after retiring from Clark Equipment Co. Eleanor, Donna and Bob all live in South Bend. Bob attended the 2003 Adams-McKain reunion,

and has revised the Fletcher/Brown family history mentioned above.

Barbara married Ivan Wheaton in 1940. Ivan was born in Kalamazoo, but attended Marcellus schools; then moved to Holland, Mich. as a teenager. Barbara and Ivan lived in Holland, and had three children: William (b. 1941), Nancy (b. 1943), and Sally (b. 1953). Barbara and Ivan both died in 1993. Bill and Joann Wheaton live in Charlotte, NC, and have two daughters: Amy is married to Michael Keaton, and they live in Illinois with their three children, Lindsay, David and Emily. Laura married Bill Stafford, and they live in Colorado with their two daughters, Grace and Olivia. Nancy Hume lives in Holland, Mich., as do her two sons, Tim and Tom. Sally and John Boldman live in the Washington, D.C., area, as does their daughter, Sandy. (Sent by Bob Brown)

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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. Please notify George or Barbara about address, email, telephone changes to avoid re-mailing or being missed. You can also receive an electronic copy of the newsletter in PDF or MS Word format. Please contact Barbara or Jim if you prefer to

# 84th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 12

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2004

receive a digital copy of the newsletter.

## 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 Messenger username to Jim Adams.

## REUNION LIBRARY

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 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.

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 #13 in July 2005. Barbara will need that information by 01 April 2005. Barbara also needs your family news, such as births, marriages, etc. no later than 01 May 2003 for it to be published in Newsletter #13.

## 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 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.

Jim's Genealogy Page for ideas in working on family history: <http://>

[www.sevastopol.k12.wi.us/socialstudies/geneal.html](http://www.sevastopol.k12.wi.us/socialstudies/geneal.html)

If you have a website dealing with family history please contact Jim so he can include a link to your website.

You can find links on his website to sites where you can download genealogical forms (family group sheets, lineage charts, etc.).

Other websites of interest:

Jim's Family Tree Maker:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/a/d/a/James-R-Adams/index.html?Welcome=1005172078>

Jim Bowe's Family Tree Maker:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/b/o/w/James-E-Bowe/?Welcome=1088626260>

Sunny's Family Tree Maker:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/i/n/Kathy-Linderholm-Texas/index.html?Welcome=1088626306>

## ADAMS-MCKAIN REUNION

President: George Adams  
1334 Croydon Court  
South Bend, IN 46614  
[gcadams@alumni.nd.edu](mailto:gcadams@alumni.nd.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Jim Adams  
808 Michigan Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
[jadams@dcwis.com](mailto:jadams@dcwis.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale  
211 East Ryno Road  
Coloma, MI 49038  
[Bg0225@aol.com](mailto:Bg0225@aol.com)