

# 90th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #2

No.6

South Bend, Indiana

01 July 2010

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

### **91st ANNUAL REUNION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 2010**

The reunion will be held at River Oaks County Park in Galesburg, Michigan. Lunch is planned for 12:30 PM. Family will begin gathering at 11 a.m. Cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (ages 4-12). This includes meat dish, table service, soft drinks, water, and rentals. (There is also a \$5 per vehicle admission charge for entry into the park—you may need exact change.)

Please make your lunch reservations by August 7<sup>th</sup> by contacting George Adams—his e-mail and mailing address are on the last page of this newsletter. (You may pay him at the park.) Bring a dish to pass (e.g., salad or dessert).

We will again be at the Big Shelter. There are restrooms, electricity, grill, convenient parking, playground, horseshoes, and hiking trails. Directions: The park is just off I-94, between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Take Exit 85 and go one mile north to M-96 (third traffic light); then one mile west to the park. If you need a place to stay, one suggestion is the Best Western at 3640 E. Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI. (269-381-1900)

Auctions started in 2005 and the total amount raised through 2009 is \$2541.00. We will again have an auction, so please bring your “treasures” for sale: family photos, handmade items such as jams, jellies, pies, and afghans. Silent auction items available are: “Genealogy Starter Kit” which includes Family Tree Maker 2010 (for Windows (computer not included!)), the book, “Weird Michigan-Your Travel Guide to Michigan’s Local Legends & Best Secrets,” and two scrapbooks by Maxine L. (Reiling) Parish.

A business meeting will precede the auction.

## **BUSINESS MEETING:**

### **90th Annual Reunion: 08 August 2009**

Held at River Oaks County Park in Galesburg, MI.  
**Elections and Location:** George Adams called the business meeting to order. Officers for 2010 are: President: George Adams; Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale; Webmaster: Jim Adams; and Newsletter Editor: Bob Brown. Next year’s 91<sup>st</sup> reunion will be on August 14, 2010. The need for an Assistant Secretary to help with addresses and mailing was discussed. Since then, Bill Wheaton volunteered to do this, and Barbara handed over the address rosters in January 2010. Please send your correct address, phone number and e-mail address to Bill. Barbara remains Secretary-Treasurer so please send other correspondence and the requested \$5.00 donation for the cost of printing/ mailing and other expenses. Please make your signed check out to Barbara Gale—(see last page for addresses).

**Treasurers Report:** Barbara reported a total of \$2524.57 was on hand to pay for the 2008 Reunion. Total deposits were \$684 and total disbursements were \$292.55. The total amount on hand to start the 90<sup>th</sup> Reunion is \$2916.02. The amount collected Reunion Day was \$264, so that 2009 began with \$3180.02. Four disbursements totaled \$172.92, so the amount on June 22<sup>nd</sup> is \$3007.10.

**Newsletter:** In 2009, 144 newsletters were sent by July 10<sup>th</sup> (64 by regular mail and 80 by e-mail). The cost for printing/ mailing hard copies was \$96.00 (\$1.50 per copy), so \$120.00 was saved by e-mailing 80 copies. We need to continue collecting money for yearly expenses as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> in 2019. A Memorial/ Honorary fund was started in 2001 and the family is encouraged to participate in it. \$425.00 is currently in the fund.

**Reunion Activities:** It was a very rainy day so the Shelter was very much appreciated. The children had fun playing on the stage. Mike (with assistance of Margaret, George and Jim) made the auction an

enjoyable time for the adults (\$189.00). It also was a good time to visit.

We celebrated summer birthdays of Jim Adams and Mike West, and George Adams' retirement from the Post Office. Attendees presented Jim, Mike, and George large greeting cards—signed by all. George retired July 3, 2009 from USPS with almost 34 years of creditable Federal service because of active military service, and accumulated sick leave. His service included Officer-in-Charge at Bristol, IN, Postmaster at Millersburg, IN and later at Rolling Prairie, IN. He quipped that the date he chose to retire gave new meaning to "Independence Day."

Barbara showed pictures of the William and Helen (Adams) Kunce family branch, donated by Mary (Kunce) Miller. The pictures include Robert and Nancey (Wade) Kunce, and their children, Kathleen and Mary. Kathy has one daughter, Jennifer, who has two children: Kellie and Syler. Mary has three daughters: Nicole, Amanda, and Alexandra, and one granddaughter, Haylie Jade Contreras, daughter of Nicole. Other pictures are of Phillip Miller, Mary and Nicole. The Kunce family visited Hazel and the Jack Adams and Gale families when in Michigan. Helen, Kathy, and Mary came to the 47<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 1966. We thank Mary for the pictures.

**THE CENTENNIAL YEAR:** There are only eight newsletters to write, excluding 2010 and the actual Centennial year. There are some branches where there is minimal information and no one has volunteered to write up their family history. Staff encourages you to write about your branch, or provide data for staff to do so. (If you don't want to do your whole branch, please send partial information.)

**FAMILY ATTENDANCE – 08 August 2009:**

Total attendance was 37 (36 members and one guest). Francis Morse was the oldest person (98) and Riley Dane Little, the youngest (15 months). Riley is the grandson of Marilyn Little. Muriel Hurt came the farthest, from North Dakota. Family came from Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**GEORGE & EFFA MAY ADAMS  
DESCENDANTS (1)**

Barbara Gale of Coloma, MI

**HORACE CHESTER & ROXANNA (BENT)  
ADAMS DESCENDANTS (29)**

George & Chris Adams of South Bend, IN

Bob & Margaret (Adams) Wetherell of Chase, MI

Jim & Linda Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI

Michael, Mary (Adams) Nicholas, & Erik West, all of Rockford, MI

Dan & Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI

Keri, Hayli, & Caleb Throneberry; Daniel & Jory Rendleman, all of Hudsonville, MI

Todd, Rebecca, Samuel, Avalene, & Aliyah Adams of Zeeland, MI

Marilyn Little of Walker, MI

Tony and Riley Little of Walker, MI.

Francis Morse of Kalamazoo, MI

Rolland Morse, Margy and Andreea Hunter of Kalamazoo, MI

**DORSEY & SARAH LUCINA (ADAMS)  
FLETCHER DESCENDANTS (7)**

Muriel (Brown) Hurt of South Heart, ND, and her guest Mary (Mohny) Morris of Battle Creek, MI

Preston & Ruth Brown of Goreville, IL

Bob Brown of South Bend, IN

Nancy Hume of Holland, MI

Sally Boldman of Ijamsville, MD

**CORRECTIONS to the 2009 newsletter:** (1) On page 4, Floyd & Muriel Hurt are Teytum and Peyton Streeter's *great*-grandparents, and (2) on page 8: Charla Kingsbury (not Kingsford) sent information on the Musselman family.

**CURRENT NEWS:** (News received after May 31<sup>st</sup> may be in the 2011 newsletter.)

**Jim and Linda Adams** report that their son Jim has taken a new job, and his wife Kim has returned to school working on a marketing degree. Their son John continues as capitol bureau chief for the *Great Falls Tribune* (MT), and has also been named as the regional correspondent for *USA Today*.

**John & Pat Adams** report **Jennifer** graduated from Christopher Newport University in Dec. 2007. She enrolled in Prince William Academy, graduating in June and then worked there as an officer until Dec.

2008. Matt—her high school sweetheart, graduated from the US Naval Academy in May 2008, then left for flight training in August at Milton, FL. Jennifer and Matt were married December 20, 2008. Since Jan. 2010, the couple have lived in Milton, FL, where Matt is undergoing helicopter training. He was recently promoted to Lieutenant (Junior Grade).

**Christina** is now living in Arlington, close to D. C. and loves her new house. She passed her National Boards for cytogenetics and has trained some employees for specialized lab test procedures. **Pat and John** visited Matt and Jennifer in Florida during spring break. As the Bornemeiers were there at the same time, they toured the Naval Aviation Museum at NAS, Pensacola, and the next day saw the Blue Angels practice. Next stop was at Fort Barrancas for a tour of the pre-Civil War fort and water battery, built by British, Spanish, and American engineers over a period of nearly 80 years. Their remaining time was spent on the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Pat visited cousins and aunts at Mohawk Valley in upstate New York. She continues to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and John stills rides the rails to work in Crystal City, just outside Washington, DC.

**Mary Adams** had a total hip replacement at Lakeview Hospital, Paw Paw, MI. It was a special week because it was the setting of her first professional employment, and where she spent many hours as a volunteer. She went to the family cottage in northern Ontario in June, and stayed in Canada until mid-October with only a quick trip home in August for a visit with sister, Martha and a high school reunion. They also went to the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI, and saw Lt. Chris with his cutter and crew. Chris also made frequent visits to the family cottage upgrading the family cottage of 65 years. In June, she visited granddaughter, Hallie, in Houston. She is an intern with the Texas Golf Association. She shares her life with a Yorkie puppy named Chloe. Mary visited the Cochrans in Troy, AL, in October to see the homecoming game and to help Mary Jo after her surgery. John IV finished at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo), and plans to work as a

Parks & Recreation Youth Director. Mary enjoys her “Garden Home” at Friendship Village.

**Rodney Adams** reports his grandson, Brent Adams, married Blythe Christiansen in November 2009 and his granddaughter, Heather Leigh, married Charles Benefield in May of 2008 in Mesa, AZ. Rodney now has his first great-granddaughter (see births). Brent and Heather are the children of Adam D. and Laura L (Abnet) Adams. His grandchildren: Kira Sutton, graduated from High School in June, 2009 and her brother, Shane, graduates June 2010 from High School in Sumter, SC. Kira and Shane are the children of Theron and Hope (Adams) Sutton.

**Tim and Michele Adams** report Tim was deployed to Afghanistan in Dec. 2009 as SGT. He is a truck driver. He looks forward to R &R (two week leave) in Kansas starting September 18<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to contact Tim, the family e-mail can be used: [wordstodie4@yahoo.com](mailto:wordstodie4@yahoo.com).

The family just finished the 2009-10 school year. Cody is 13 now and he is going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade this fall at Fort Riley Middle School. Christopher is 10 and will be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade this fall at Ware Elementary. Grace will be 5 in July so she will be in kindergarten in the same school as Christopher. Abigail is her mother’s little shadow. The family plan to drive home sometime after June 25th and will stay with their in-laws in Hudsonville. School starts August 16 so they probably will not be coming to the Reunion.

**Floyd and Muriel Hurt’s** daughter, Linda, bought a home in Fargo, ND, in April, and they helped her move. Linda’s girls are 16 and will graduate from High School in 2011. Tara is interested in writing, acting, and costuming plays. Tori is interested in science. Granddaughter Sara teaches in Grand Forks and her husband Clint works for NDSU doing flying & mapping. They and their sons, Peyton and Teytum live in Grand Forks, ND. In April, cousin Mary and Muriel went to Las Vegas for a week of fun and relaxation. In July, Muriel had knee surgery, but was hospitalized for problems after our reunion. Grandson Jason still lives with them, racing his 4 wheeler & dirt bike on weekends. He works in the oil fields during the week. Floyd

keeps busy with many community activities including being Mayor. Muriel still sells real estate.

**Ellen (DeHaven) Peterson's** activities with family and friends include traveling to Scottsdale and Tucson, AZ in January, skiing at Lake Tahoe in April, and celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in her home town of Wayzata, MN. She went horseback riding in Vail and saw daughter, Betsy, in New York in August. Ellen spent time with Nicholas (her son), Jenny, Taylor and Bennett in Sept./Oct. Bennett Nicholas Peterson was born September 22, 2009. Ellen enjoyed "David Cook" concerts in Kansas City, Mystic Lake, Duluth, South Dakota, and Florida between April and November. Ellen's parents were Edward and Jane (Sykes) DeHaven, her grandparents were Claude and Mary (Adams) Sykes. She is an Uriah M. and Jane (Woods-McKain) Adams descendant

**Dave and Dawn Sivley** reports that Dave went on a fishing trip with his brother Gary, Gary's son and grandsons, Matt and Micah. Later there was salmon fishing in Ludington. They both went to the Upper Peninsula with their son-in-law's family to Grand Marais in July. Mary, and her husband, Jack, came to visit for a few days in August. Sara and Greg moved into a spacious home with 36 acres. Avila, 22 months old, loves to look at books. Dave works in Schoolcraft at Concepts Molds and Dawn teaches Kindergarten in the Marcellus Schools.

**Mary Adams (Sykes) Wylie** has lived for 14 years in South Addison, Maine, a tiny village "far Downeast," about half way between Acadia National Park and the Canadian border. Originally from Benton Harbor, she migrated there via New York City and Washington, D. C. For the last 20-odd years, she has worked as writer/editor for a psychotherapy magazine (currently senior editor) in Washington—which she can do from home, thanks to the internet. She says she ended up on the ocean partly because she grew up on Lake Michigan--once you have been able to look out on a huge body of water, it's hard to live without one! Mary is the daughter of Wayne Sykes and the granddaughter of Mary Calista (Adams) and Claude Pliny Sykes, and a descendant of Uri and Jane (McKain) Adams.

Mary commented that "Reading the reports of the Adams-McKain reunions takes me back to my Grandfather and Grandmother Sykes's house on Pipestone Street, in Benton Harbor. I remember it seemed like such a grand place to me, with a wonderful, big attic, full of furniture and intriguing old items. There was also an endless back yard of lawn and trees, rock arbor, fruit and vegetable garden (my first 'gardening' experience was planting watermelon seeds), behind which was a kind of no-man's land of rough terrain and beyond that, far in the distance, a train track—you could hear the train whistle at night in the summer."

### **BIRTHS:**

**Haleigh Benefield** was born to Charles and Heather (Adams) Benefield in February of 2009. Haleigh's grandparents are Adam D. and Laura Adams, and her great-grandparents are Rodney and Carol Adams. Her g-g grandparents were Allan and Gail Adams, and her g-g-g- grandparents were Franklin K. and Josephine Adams. She is a descendant of Franklin B. and Anna (Fletcher) Adams.

### **DEATHS**

**Drusilla Mae Wiedenbeck** (1926-2006) passed away in Kalamazoo on Dec. 19, 2006, following a long illness. She was the first daughter of Sherman and Beatrice (Reiling) Wiedenbeck. She is survived by her sister, Pat (Stuart) Halverson of Mattawan, a nephew, Marc (Toni) Halverson of Kalamazoo, and her mother's sister, Maxine (Reiling) Parish of Sturgis. Visitation was in Three Rivers and graveside services were at the Marcellus Cemetery. She was a descendant of Frederick and Ellen Bent.

**Irene K. Bent** died on March 2, 2010 at age 100. She was born on Oct. 27, 1909, in Iowa, and taught in a one-room school in Nebraska 1927-1936. She married Cleon S. Bent, grandson of Frederick and Ellen Marie (Wood) Bent. Cleon was a first cousin to the children of Chester and Roxanna (Bent) Adams. Irene is survived by two daughters, Carol Brown (Don) and Cleola Tyler (Larry), five grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Irene was a resident of Alameda, California, for 69 years, and taught in the Alameda School District for 27 years,

retiring in 1975. Services were held at the Bay Farm Community Church in Alameda.

**Dr. Roger E. Brown**, age 90, died at his home in Williamsburg, MI, on April 2, 2010. He was born Feb. 20, 1920, to George and Ethel (Goble) Brown of Volinia Twp. He graduated from Michigan State College in 1950 (Veterinary Medicine). He later obtained a Master's degree there and a Ph.D. from Purdue. He taught at Mich. State Univ. and University of Missouri until he retired in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Esther, and daughters Judy Grime and Margaret Brown and son Edward Brown; also two grandsons, Mark and Todd Petro, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held in Traverse City, MI. Roger's father was a brother of Abner Brown.

#### **WEDDINGS/ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mary Adams reports **Rob & Linda** celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary by going on a Caribbean cruise in January. They were married 18 Aug. 1979.

#### **GRADUATIONS/HONORS:**



Jessica Adams with Colorado's  
First Lady, Jeanne Ritter

**Jessica L. Adams**, daughter of Jim and Linda Adams, of Sturgeon Bay, WI, was the recipient of a 2009 Governor's Service Award presented by Colorado First Lady Jeanne Ritter on the capitol steps in Denver. Jessica is a 2006 graduate of Northland College, Ashland, WI, and is currently team leader for 20 AmeriCorps VISTA participants.

Working through Colorado Campus Compact at Regis University in Denver, Jessica received the Governor's Achievement Award for work with volunteers located at 13 programs sites throughout Colorado. "It is heart-warming to see organizations and individuals give so much of their time to the people of Colorado," said First Lady Ritter, a former Peace Corps volunteer. Jessica is currently a board member of the Blue Mountain Project which seeks to bring medical and educational services to Hegley Gap, Jamaica. Jessica is the granddaughter of the late Dr. U. M. and Clarice Adams of Marcellus.

**Jim Adams** received the "Robert Snively Award" at the annual convention of the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies in Madison, Wisconsin. The WCSS is a professional organization of 500 social studies teachers and college professors. The award is presented to a WCSS board member each year to recognize the recipient's contributions and service to the social studies community. Jim is a past president of the WCSS and was the program chairman of its Great Lakes Regional Conference and a delegate to the NCSS House of Delegates. Jim served as "webmaster" of the WCSS web site for many years (and now, of course, serves in that capacity for the Adams-McKain Reunion).

#### **REUNION LIBRARY:**

**John W. ('Bill') and Marilyn Adams** donated a notebook compiled by their father, John K. (Jack) Adams, titled "McCullough-Alford-Adams Data". The contents include (1) Martha Ann (McCullough) Alford-Stewart, (2) William Alford, Sr. (War of 1812), William Alford, Jr. (Civil War), (3) Uri & Jane Woods (McKain) Adams papers, newspaper clippings of marriages, births, and deaths, (4) George Washington Alford (Civil War) and (5) George and Effa May Adams family.

Martha Ann McCullough was born 16 April 1816 in Tallenanus, County Monaghan, Ireland. Her parents were Dr. Patrick and Mary (Hamilton) McCullough. The family migrated from Ireland to Canada in 1826. At age 14, Martha married

William Alford on 19 January 1830. The first six children were born in Wellington, Ontario, and the family migrated to the Kalamazoo area (Mich.) in 1838. They settled in Alamo where the other 8 children were born. Three years after William died on 04 August 1849, she married John Windecker Stewart. She survived him 21 years, dying on 19 April 1909. William, Martha and children are buried in Green Bower Cemetery, Alamo Twp., except for George Washington Alford, (Barbara Gale's great-grandfather) who died 28 July 1863, while serving in the Civil War—he is buried at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Kathy (Sunny) Linderholm's** web site is still available on the internet as an archive. The easiest way to access it is to click on the link on our web site: [www.adams-mckain.com](http://www.adams-mckain.com). Barbara has put print-outs of selections from Kathy's web site in a binder, which will be made part of the reunion library: (1) Thomas McKain & Jane (Morrow) McKain, pages 1-14; (2) Jane Woods McKain and Uriah M. Adams, pages 15-23; (3) Effa May Adams & George Adams (né Alford), pages 24-30; and (4) William Alford and Martha McCullough, 27 pages. Kathy's web site is a good source of information for many branches of the family.

**Roe/Rowe family:** One of our major sources for Adams family history is *A Genealogical History of Robert Adams of Newbury, Mass....* by Andrew N. Adams (1900). On page 9 he records the information that John Adams (b. 1694 in Suffield, CT) married Abigail Roe or Rowe, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Remington) Rowe, in 1722, and on pages 18-19 lists their five children. Recently we found more information about this ancestral line on the web site of the Suffield Historical Society: [www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org/families/roe.htm](http://www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org/families/roe.htm)

Hugh Roe (b. ~1617 in England & d. 5 Aug. 1689 in Suffield, CT) married and had seven children, including Peter Rowe. Hugh Roe first settled in Weymouth, MA, and his first wife (mother of the first three children) died about 1653-54. His second wife was Abigail (last name unknown); they married about 1654-55, and she was the mother of

the last four children, including Peter. Hugh was a sealer of leathers at Hartford (1663). He was in Suffield in 1674 and was a voter at the first town meeting. Many other details included on this web site, but it seems that either Hugh or Peter changed the spelling of the family name from Roe to Rowe.

Peter Rowe was born ~1662 in Weymouth, and died on 24 Jan. in 1688/89, in Suffield, CT. On 26 July 1722 in Suffield, he married Sarah Remington, daughter of Thomas and Mehitable (Walker) Remington. Sarah was born 8 Dec. 1668 in Rowley, MA. Their daughter Abigail (who married John Adams) was born on 23 Sept. 1691 in Northampton, MA, and was the second of their 10 children (which are all listed). The five children listed for John and Abigail Adams agrees with Andrew Adams' list, but contains as few more details: (1) Moses Adams (b. 8 Jan 1723, Suffield, CT; m. Mehitable Sikes); (2) Simeon Adams (b. 20 Nov 1724, Suffield, CT; m. Susanna Underwood); (3) Anna Adams (b. 8 Jun 1727, Suffield, CT); (4) Joel Adams (b 20 Dec. 1729, Suffield, CT; m. Elizabeth Fowler) – they were the parents of Bildad Adams and grandparents of Horace Hale Adams; (5) Lucy Adams (b. 31 May 1731, Suffield, CT; m. Moses Granger.)

### Updating the Adams Family History:

The Andrew Adams book was published in 1900 and has the descendants of Robert and Eleanor Adams documented within a few years before that date. We have discussed updating the book by creating a supplement covering the next several generations – to be completed in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> reunion. We have a draft completed for one branch of the family, but need information to do this for other branches. We will discuss this again at the 2010 reunion.

### FAMILY HISTORY SECTION:

#### (1) One-Room Schools:

The children of Uri M. and Jane (McKain) Adams attended the Kinney School (Porter Twp., Van Buren Co., District No. 5), while the children of Uri's brother Franklin B. Adams presumably

attended the Adams School (District No. 4). These two schools will be the primary focus of this article, although other one-room schools in the area will also be mentioned.

According to Ensign's *History of Van Buren Co.* (1880), the first school teacher in Porter Twp. of whom there is a record was Warren S. Corey (brother of Nelson Corey, whose second wife was Delilah Fletcher) who taught in the Kinney Settlement. The location of this first school is apparently not known, but was in the part of the township later served by the Adams and Kinney Schools. This source states that of the ten school districts in 1879, six were organized in 1845 (which was the year Porter Twp. was established).

In 1879 there were ten districts—seven whole and three fractional (partly in another township). There were 22 teachers and 397 “scholars of school age,” with an average attendance of 348. Value of school property was \$4650, and total expenses for the year were \$1587.



Adams School

(Sign says “School District No. 4 of Porter”)

The **Adams School** (Porter Twp. District No. 4) apparently had two different locations over the years. On the 1860 map a school is shown in the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 13, entirely

surrounded by land owned by Franklin B. Adams. (This may possibly be the location of the first school mentioned above—where Warren Corey taught). On the 1873 map (and all later maps and references) the Adams School is located about 250 yards to the south, on the southwest corner of CR 352 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 24).

The **Kinney School** (Porter Twp. District No. 5) was located on the SW corner of CR 652 and 90<sup>th</sup> St., in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26. This is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile directly south of the Harmony Chapel. Various sources list a number of children of the Adams and related families that went to this school. The Bess Britton One-Room School Collection at the District Library in Decatur lists Dorothy and Leslie Adams as students in a souvenir (end-of-year) booklet (probably 1923). Another item (1908) shows Rena Thornton as a teacher, and C. H. Adams as District Moderator and A. T. Bartlett as District Director.

In the Adams-McKain Reunion files are three contracts for teachers at these schools: Alice Fletcher and George Adams at the Kinney School, and Claude P. Sykes at the Adams school. Alice Fletcher's contract was for 12 weeks (April-July) in 1881, for \$30.50 (or about \$2.50 per week). George Adams contract was for 16 weeks (Nov. 1880 to March 1881), for \$80.10 (or about \$5.00 per week). Claude Sykes contract was also for 16 weeks (Dec. 1894-April 1895), for \$125 (or about \$7.80 per week). (Copies of these contracts have been donated to the Decatur library.)

Alice Fletcher (1862-1917) was the daughter of Mahlon Fletcher (1831-1867, brother of Dorsey Fletcher); she later married William Moyer. George Adams (1859-1941) was adopted by Franklin B. and Lucinda (Fletcher) Adams; he married Effa Adams. Barbara Gale is George and Effa's granddaughter. Claude P. Sykes (~1874-1949) married Mary Calista Adams (daughter of Uri M. and Jane W. McKain Adams) on Aug. 25, 1898.

In photo section of the Brown family history prepared by Garry and Mary Brown in 1986, there are xerograph copies of two groups of students from the Kinney School—from *approximately* 1885 and 1895. Names of interest in the older photograph include Mary Adams, Mason Adams, and Tommy Stute. Family members in the later photo include Mabel Fletcher, Floyd Moyer and Ross Adams.



Mary Adams (top, right), and  
Mason Adams (bottom, left)

Images of Mary, Mason and Ross Adams, and Mabel Fletcher cropped from these two photos are shown on this page. Copies of the entire pictures (with identifications) will be brought to this year's reunion (and have also been donated to the Decatur District Library (for the Bess Britton Collection).



Mabel Fletcher

Mason C. Adams (1877-1928) was the son of Uri M. and Jane W. (McKain) Adams. Mary Calista Adams (1876-1970) was his sister; she married Claude P. Sykes in 1898. Tommy Stute (b. 1874) was the brother of Sophia E. (Stute) Fletcher (mother of Muriel Brown). Mabel Fletcher (1884-

1923) was the sister of Muriel (Fletcher) Brown. Floyd Moyer was the son of Alice (Fletcher) Moyer. Ross U. Adams (1883-1943) was the son of Uri M. and Jane W. (McKain) Adams.



Floyd Moyer, Floyd Harris, Ross Adams

There is a note in the Bess Britton Collection wondering what happened to the Kinney School—whether it burned or if it was moved. The answer was indicated in a few lines written by Muriel (Fletcher) Brown in the front of a book, *Pollyanna* (pub. 1913/1914) by Eleanor H. Porter. She wrote: “Found this in the Porter School house along with others, when Father bought the school house.” Her father, Julius Horace Fletcher, owned land starting just 1/8 mile north of the school, and he probably moved the school to a location where there were buildings on the property, about 3/8 mile from where the school house had originally stood.

**In Cass County**, there are a few one-room schools of interest in both Marcellus and Volinia townships. Marcellus children originally attended the Bly school in the SW ¼ of Section 14, near the Bly Cemetery. On the 1860 map, the Marcellus Post Office was in the western ½ of Section 14, about a mile east of where the village of Marcellus was later established. H. W. Bly had owned the land where both the school and the cemetery of that name were located. The village of Marcellus was laid out in 1870 in its current location in anticipation of the coming of the railroad, and the Marcellus Community Schools District No. 9 was organized in 1873. A brick school building was erected in the

village when children became too numerous for the Bly School to handle. Rural students continued to attend Bly School, however. There is a photo (newspaper clipping) of 17 Bly School students plus one teacher in 1926-1927, and one of the students is Francis Morse.



Francis Morse (top, right)

According to Howard S. Rogers' *History of Cass County from 1825 to 1875* (1875), the first school house in Volinia Twp. was known as the Crane School, which was built in the spring of 1833. On the 1860 map, the school is shown just across the road from the Crane Cemetery. On later maps, the school is located one-half mile to the north, still on the Decatur Road. The 1998 Adams-McKain Reunion Newsletter (Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 7) says that "From Cass County history books, it is learned that upon her arrival in Volinia Township in 1833, Charlotte Copley taught school in her father's home. She was 17 years at the time. She received \$2 per scholar for a three month term. There was no public school at this time, but there was a log schoolhouse in Section 17 on the land of David Crane."

Both the McKain family and the Brown family went to schools in Volinia Twp., although there are not records of which school. There were rural schools in Sections 7, 9, 11, 13, 18, 21, 30, and 34 on an early map of Volinia Twp. The McKenzie family (related to Browns) went to Briar Patch School (in Section 34, about 2-1/2 miles west of Wakelee).

In the July 1997 Adams-McKain Reunion newsletter, there was an article on members of the Adams family who attended Marcellus High School. If you have information on schools

attended by our ancestors, please share them with the reunion.

## (2) Copley, Lawrence and Buell Families:

The Copley, Lawrence and Buell families all lived in the NE part of Volinia Twp., Cass Co., Mich. – in the area that includes Nicholsville, Charleston, and Little Prairie Ronde. In the July 1998 issue of the Adams-McKain Reunion newsletter (vol. 1, #6, pages 7-8) is a 4-column article about Alexander Copley family. The article you are reading now will, for the most part, cover new information rather than repeating what was included in 1998.

Various members of the Adams-McKain reunion are connected to the Copley family in different ways. The connection for most members is that Esther McKain, sister of Jane Woods (McKain) Adams, married Edwin B. Copley, son of Alexander B. Copley. Brown family members have two rather tenuous connections to Copley family: (1) in the 1860 census, Abner Brown, is listed in the A. B. Copley household in Volinia Twp. (Abner had come to Nicholsville in the spring of 1857 and worked on a farm for 3-4 years, until he was able to buy his own.) In addition, (2) Abner's brother, Fernando C. Brown (1841-1913) married Alice J. Copley in 1867. Alice was the daughter of Thomas Nelson Copley and Clarissa Nichols of Nicholsville. In 1860, T. N. Copley owned 40 acres in Section 13 of Volinia Twp. Thomas was the son of Ebenezer Copley, making him first cousin of Alexander B. Copley (1822-1899).

Ebenezer Copley (1787-1841) and Alexander Copley (1790-1842) were the two youngest children of Thomas Copley IV (1743-1797) and Mary Holcombe, his second wife. According to the Holcombe family history, Thomas Copley IV was born on 28 December 1743 at Suffield, Hartford Co., CT, and married Mary Holcombe, daughter of John Holcombe and Mary Kent on 11 July 1774 at Granby, Hartford Co., CT. Thomas Copley IV died on 4 January 1797 at North Granby, Hartford Co., CT, at age 53. They had nine children. (Ref. [www.holcombegenealogy.com/data/p166.htm](http://www.holcombegenealogy.com/data/p166.htm))

Ebenezer Copley was born on 19 December 1787 at Granby, Hartford Co., CT. He married Annis Alvord, daughter of Asahel Gould Alvord and Sarah Morey, on 19 Jan. 1809 at Jefferson Co., NY. Ebenezer Copley died on 15 March 1841 at Volinia, Cass Co., Mich., at age 53. Annis Alvord was born on 9 March 1793 in CT, and died in Feb. 1848 at Volinia, Cass Co., Mich., at age 54.

There is a biography of Ebenezer and Annis' son, A. G. Copley (b. 1815), on pages 579-580 of *Portrait and Biographical Record of Berrien and Cass Counties, Michigan* (1893). (He should not be confused with Almon George Copley, 1817-1853, son of Alexander and Esther Copley.) The first two paragraphs of this biography are about Ebenezer Copley (with some information on his father Thomas, who served in the Revolutionary War and died in that conflict while trying to evade capture by British troops). This source says Ebenezer was both a farmer and a shoemaker. He was drafted to serve in the War of 1812. "About 1835 he came to Michigan and settled on Section 13 [of Volinia Twp.] where he entered eighty acres of Government land. ... He built a frame house shortly after settling on his farm, and this was considered something at that time, for log houses were the rule." He died in 1842, and his wife in 1848. They had 10 children, four of whom were living when the account was written (early 1890's): A. G. [Section 13, Volinia Twp.], Thomas N. (Decatur, Mich.), Ebenezer (Wayne Twp., Cass Co.), and John J. (Wexford Co., Mich.).

Alexander Copley was born on 12 Nov. 1790 at Granby, Hartford, CT. He married Esther Nott on 25 Sept. 1814 at Champion, Jefferson, NY. She was born on 20 Apr. 1794 in Barnard, Windsor, VT. They had 13 children (list provided by Pat Lawrence Reitano):

- (1) Charlotte (1815-1845) married Samuel S. Ward (of Niles, Mich.)
- (2) Almon George (1817-1853), married Lydia Anderson
- (3) Marinus Return (1818-1823)
- (4) Esther Evoline (1820-1821)

- (5) Alexander Bennett (3/11/1822 to 3/27/1899), married Jane Hathaway; two sons: Edwin B. and Ward
- (6) Esther Evoline (1824-1904), married Levi B. Lawrence; three sons: Linneus, Archie and Austin
- (7) Lepha (1826, six months)
- (8) Marinus Return (1827, six months)
- (9) Mary Olivia (1828-1858), married E. H. Phetteplace
- (10) Flora (1830-1854)
- (11) Euphemia 'Phem' (1832-1896), married Rev. Wm. A. McCallom (sp?)
- (12) Napoleon Eugent (1834-1858)
- (13) Harriet 'Hattie' (1836-1908), married B. G. Buell [Barber Grinnel Buell]; Daughter Jennie and son Lincoln

Charlotte (Copley) Ward died at age 30, but left a diary, primarily about the family's move from Dayton, Ohio, to Little Prairie Ronde [Cass Co.], Michigan Territory, in June 1833, when she was 17 years old. See pages 4-7 in the July 1998 issue of the Adams-McKain Reunion newsletter (vol. 1, #6).

Levi L. Lawrence (1783-1857) married Mary Fales (1783-1839); they had 7 children: (1) Ezra Dean, (2) Daniel Fales (b. 1809; married Sara; he was killed by Indians), (3) Myron M. (1811-1834), (4) Maria S. (1813-1898), (5) Jane (married Cornelius Terwilliger), (6) Levi B. Lawrence (6/12/1819 to 8/13/1895; he married Esther Evoline Copley), and (7) Sylvia (1821-1892; married S. VanKye).

Esther (Copley) Lawrence, and B. G. Buell (Barber Grinnel Buell, husband of Harriet Copley) both kept diaries for many years (Esther starting in 1855 and B. G. ending in 1898). Pat Lawrence Reitano brought it to our attention that these diaries were the basis for a chapter in a recent book: *For Shade and For Comfort, Democratizing Horticulture in the Nineteenth-Century Midwest* (2004) by Cheryl Lyon-Jenness (who is on the history faculty at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo). The focus of the book is the landscaping (shade trees, flower gardens and lawns) that pioneers in southern Michigan established around their houses (primarily

from 1850 to 1880). The diaries included much information on this subject, and so serve as the basis for Chapter seven (pages 179-213) in the book, but quite a bit of background about the families is also included (especially pages 181-185). The diaries and chapter give insight into rural life in south-western Michigan over a span of almost 50 years.

### **NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE:**

This newsletter is sent by regular mail or e-mail to people on the mailing list. It is also posted on our website, <http://www.adams-mckain.com>, in both PDF and MS Word formats. (If the version sent to you by e-mail doesn't print correctly, you can download the other version from the website, or contact Barbara, Bob or Bill if you want a copy mailed to you.) Jim is also working on a "beta" page that can be found at <http://adamsmckain.com/>. Please take a look and give Jim some feedback at [adamsmckain@gmail.com](mailto:adamsmckain@gmail.com)

**Newsletter and Website Need Your Support:** We request that family members submit written histories for inclusion in future newsletters. (Contact Bob or Barbara.) We will keep these histories as part of the permanent family record in the reunion archives. 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. We would appreciate more good quality family pictures, either with your history, or separately. Jim continues to add to the website including entries on related families. He encourages you to send data, pictures, diaries, and especially data on veterans (branch, dates/places of service, etc.). You may send what you have by e-mail to: [adamsmckain@gmail.com](mailto:adamsmckain@gmail.com), or regular mail. In addition to family information presented on our website, [www.adams-mckain.com](http://www.adams-mckain.com), there are links to other websites, including the two listed below and several SW Mich. websites. If you have a website dealing with family history, please contact Jim so he can include a link to your web site.

**Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society** has a new (redesigned) website with a new site address:

[www.vbrgs.org](http://www.vbrgs.org). There is a row of buttons on the left-hand side of the opening page, and you may want to explore cemeteries and obituary index, etc. Also, if you are not aware of their current military service documentation projects, click on "Military Registry Project" and "World War II Project." The WW II project is for those serving in WW II who were born, died, buried or resided in Van Buren Co. The military registry project is for the counties of Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo and Van Buren - for anyone who resided in any one of these counties at some time during their lifetime

**Return to the Adams-McKain website often because changes and additions are constantly being made!**

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>

There are also links to these two websites on the reunion's website: <http://www.adams-mckain.com>.

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