

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

Invitation! 79th Reunion to be held Sunday 02 August 1998

...

You are invited to the **ANNUAL** reunion which will be held from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria, Marcellus, Michigan). The door will be open at noon.

Although the playground will be available, the gym also will be open, so bring your sports equipment.

Please bring your favorite dish to pass and beverage of choice.

Family is coming from California, Georgia, Wisconsin, Indiana, and other states so let's all be there to share stories and memories, and to learn more about our family.

Barbara Gale requests current news, pictures, announcements, and suggestions for topics in future newsletters by 01 August 1998.

...

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 submit the tape for the July 1999 newsletter by 01 June 1999. 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.

Business Meeting 78th Reunion

...

03 August 1997--George Adams, president, called the business meeting to order.

Barbara Gale reported current news. Ray and Edith Johnson reported excellent crops in the summer of 1997. The Boldmans sent greetings. John is busy with work, travel, and karate; Sally finished her MBA in May 1997 and works for Lockheed Martin; and Sandy is active in high school theater productions such as "Our Town". Horace and Mary Adams traveled to the East Indies and USA in 1996. Bill and Joann Wheaton writes Bill & Laura work at GE in Seattle and Mike & Amy work at Keaton & Associates in the Chicago area. Robert Kunce writes he works on the oldest sailing ship in the world that still sails out of port. Hale and Lucille Thornton report they live near their daughter, Susan, and husband. Art & Marian Moe send greetings and wishes they could be at the reunion.

Barbara reported Ralph Nichols donated a picture taken in 1907 as a postcard of the Anstiss family home in Groton, SD where nine children were born. The family lived there until they moved to Santa Cruz in 1920-21. Ralph's grandparents were William Henry and Minnie Calista (Bates) Anstiss. Minnie was the daughter of Isaac and Emily Loriania (Adams) Bates.

The former home of Claude and Mary (Adams) Sykes at 645 Pipestone, Benton Harbor, MI which is 100 years old this year, has been an emergency shelter for the last 15 years. The shelter expanded in 1991 and has 10 bedrooms, 24 hour staff, and a learning center. (Herald-Palladium, St. Joseph, MI: 17 Nov 1996)

Treasurer's Report

...

Barbara Gale presented the treasurer's report, re-emphasizing the need to balance income and disbursements. Measures suggested at the 04 August 1997 reunion to resolve the imbalance were reviewed and it was decided to continue as planned. After a discussion, it was decided to mail the newsletter annually to everyone on the reunion roster. A **\$3.00 donation** is encouraged. Checks are to be made out to Barbara Gale. **REMEMBER** to notify Jim Adams or Barbara Gale of address changes.

The following were elected as officers:

President: George Adams
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale
News Editor: Jim Adams

...

The problem of a game area and equipment was discussed and it was decided that Mary West and Dawn Sivley would explore using the gym and coordinate activities.

After discussing time and location for the 79th Reunion, it was decided to meet 02 August 1998 from 1-5 PM in the High School cafeteria, Marcellus, MI. Mary West will schedule the reunion.

After numerous suggestions on subjects to feature in the Family History section, it was decided Jim and/or Barbara would choose the topics for the next newsletter. Some suggestions are: Centennial Farms in the various family branches, each branch of the family, more genealogy data, and family letters of historical interest. Anyone interested in contributing to this section of the newsletter, please send to Jim by 01 May 1999. Barbara suggested that the annual newsletter be mailed no later than July 1 of each year.

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

After discussing the statement, "No addresses will be put on the internet" it was clarified to allow e-mail addresses to be put on the internet. The Adams-McKain Family Association does not subscribe to the Genealogical Helper but individuals could subscribe personally.

•••

Barbara Gale presented the newly formed notebook entitled "Adams-McKain History Book" as proposed at the 04 August 1997 meeting. Barbara encourages everyone with historical data to donate pictures and articles to develop this section. Barbara reminded the group of the growing family data on hand.

Numerous suggestions were made as to its preservation:

Scanning the data (cost prohibitive) and/or donating to one of the following locations:

- a. Marcellus High School
- b. Marcellus Township Library
- c. Van Buren County Library
- d. Paw Paw Historical Society (Hartford, MI)
- e. Cass County District Library (Cassopolis, MI)
- f. Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)
- g. Burton Library (Ann Arbor, MI)

The updating of the Robert Adams genealogy book was also explored.

The preservation of historical documents at Marcellus High School was discussed, Barbara requesting Dawn and Sara Sivley to research if there is a list of teachers between 1894-1924 (example: George W. Adams). NOTE: Dawn and Sara reported on 20 February 1998 that neither the High School or the Marcellus Township Library have records of past teachers. Dawn and Sara suggested that family data left in Marcellus would best be preserved at the Marcellus Library.

Chris Nafziger is the current librarian. It was decided that those individuals interested in research and preservation, would continue compiling data and sharing with others until a definite answer was identified.

Clare (Adams) Price and Brooke Lynn Munson were the oldest and youngest members present. Clare is the daughter of Archie and Lillie (Douglas) Adams and Brooke Lynn (05 September 1996) is the daughter of Jody Munson. Brooke is an Archie and Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant. Clare Price, Sharl May, Jody Munson, Brooke Mundson represented 4 generations. Lisa and Steven Huffstutter came the farthest from San Antonio, TX. Brian is temporarily stationed in Germany.

A decorated cake was presented to Dawn (Adams) Sivley because today is her birthday and she received her Associate Degree at Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, MI on 04 May 1997. Her daughter, Sara, was awarded honors from the Society of Women Engineers at Michigan Technological University and was elected precinct delegate at the Farm Bureau Seminar held 15-20 June at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Jessica Adams entertained the guests with Irish step dancing. She had just returned from competing in Ohio. Her hand made costume is decorated with designs from the Book of Kells

The meeting was adjourned with the reminder that the 79th Reunion will be held 02 August 1998 at the Marcellus High School cafeteria.

31 persons attended the 78th reunion on 03 August 1997:

Franklin B. and Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant (1): Joan (Adams) Ryan of Loveland, OH.

George & Effa Mae Adams descendant (1):

Barbara Gale of Coloma, MI.

Chester & Roxanna (Bent) Adams descendants: (17)

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

Adam Wetherell of Grandville, MI.

Jim & Jessica Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Mary (Adams) and Natalie West of Rockford, MI.

Francis and Mildred Morse of Kalamazoo, MI.

Dan and Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI.

Rolland, Patti, Collin, Roxanna, and Bridget Morse of Schoolcraft, MI.

Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant: (10)

David, Dawn (Adams), and Sara Sivley of Schoolcraft, MI.

Clare (Adams) Price of Kalamazoo, MI.

Sue (Price) Stazicki of Kalamazoo, MI.

Lisa (House) and Steven Huffstutter of San Antonio, TX. Brian is in Germany.

Sharl (Price) May of Portage, MI.

Jody and Brooke Lynn Munson of Portage, MI.

Thomas and Jane (Morrow) McKain descendant (2): Gerald & Virginia (Copley) Vliek of Decatur, MI.

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

Events

Births:

Alexander Adams Thornton was born 20 February 1989 to Michael Jon and Linda (Ceparo) Thornton. Alex is a Franklin B. & Lucinda (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

Patrick Alexander was adopted by Raymond & Lisa (Osmick) Carlson. Patrick was born 10 May 1996. He is a Thomas & Jane (Morrow) McKain descendant.

Brooke Lynn Munson was born 05 September 1996. She is a daughter of Jody Munson. Brooke is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

Eliza Marian Davis was born 20 February 1997 to Michael and Stacy (Legault) Davis. Elisa is a Franklin B. & Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

Khayman Sebastian Butcher Flud was born 28 December 1997. He is a grandson to William & Susan (Thornton) Butcher. Khayman is a Franklin B. & Lucinda (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

Cody Charles Baugh was born 26 March 1998 to Theodore and Jessica (Adams) Baugh. Cody is an Archie and Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

...

Marriages:

Virginia Osmick and Gerald Vliek were married 07 December 1996.

Jessica M. Adams married Theodore William Baugh 19 September 1997 in Paw Paw, MI. Their parents are Gerald & Charlene Adams of Paw Paw, MI and Lynn and Vickie Baugh of Kalamazoo, MI. A Paw Paw High School

graduate, Jessica is a Medical Records Specialist at Lakeview Community Hospital. Theodore graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School and attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College. He is a parts manager at Heslinga Lawn and Power store.

James Uriah Adams and Kimberly Rae Harnett were married 27 June 1998 in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Jim is the son of James R. and Linda (Maher) Adams and the grandson of the late Uriah Mason and Clarice (Nemmers) Adams.

...

Anniversaries:

James and Sue (Neel) Adams, married 06 June 1958, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Garry Abner and Mary (Gordon) Brown, married 27 September 1958 will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

George & Mary Christine (Curry) Adams married 09 August 1968 will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Robert & Margaret (Adams) Wetherell married 21 September 1968 will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Michael and Mary (Adams) West married on 24 September 1977 celebrated their 20th anniversary.

James and Kyle (Powell) Stoops, married 28 April 1972, had their 26th anniversary.

Gregory and Janalee (DeVries) Powell, married 08 September 1972 had their 25th anniversary.

Dennis and Sandy (Powell) Munson, married 07 October 1972, celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Graduations/Honors:

Jeffrey Adams, son of Gerald and Marilyn Adams, is a University of Maryland honors graduate with an AD in management and a BS. He completed the FBI personal defense instructor course and has trained more than 170 police in self-protective techniques. Some past activities as a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force include an award for providing security during federal prisoner exchanges and work in the 21st Space Wing Installation Resource Protection Program. As a member of the Emergency Service Team, he organized EST training. He also has been a counselor for Enforcement Explorers Post where he introduced youth to law enforcement. He is a member of the Colorado Peacemakers Association, Colorado Springs Gang Coalition, and has volunteered for community events such as Easter Seals Telethon and Special Olympics.

Kelly Ann Adams, daughter of Douglas and Mary (Deschaine) Adams graduated from high school in Schoolcraft, MI on 31 May 1998. She plans to attend Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI and is interested in art.

Sara Sivley, the daughter of David and Dawn (Adams) Sivley graduated from high school in Marcellus, MI on 31 May 1998. She plans to attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI and is interested in engineering.

George Adams tried out for the Jeopardy! TV show in Chicago on 24 June 1998. He passed a 50 question qualifying test and participated in a mock Jeopardy! game. He hopes now to be called to appear on the show sometime in the coming year.

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

Overland Trip in 1833 Revealed in Old Diary

Thomas McKain and Jane (Morrow) McKain had 8 children, two being Jane (Woods) McKain who married Uriah Mason Adams and Esther who married Edwin Bennett Copley.

(The following is taken from a photocopy of an undated newspaper feature "Centennial Farm Series", probably the Dowagiac Daily News circa 1963. If any readers can supply further information please contact this editor. Charlotte Copley is the writer of the diary. Care was taken to copy it as it appeared, including errors).

Charlotte Copley was the oldest daughter of Alexander and Esther Nott Copley. She spent her pre-school years in Champion, Ohio, located at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. She assumed some of the responsibility for her juniors at an early age, for her father had occasional calls afield as a textile machinist.

It is assumed that Charlotte's lifelong love of flowers came from her mother. She recorded in a notebook having set out rose bushes, quinces, apricots, fleur de lys, hollyhocks and lilac spicata while living at "Delightful Hill" near Dayton, Ohio. She also recorded characteristics and botanical names of flowers she wished to remember.

Charlotte kept an account of the overland trip of the Alexander Copley family from Dayton, Ohio to Little Prairie Ronde, Michigan Territory in June 1833.

A copy of the diary Charlotte kept on this trip is one of the precious documents now in possession of Earl Copley of Decatur.

-4-

Following is the contents of Charlotte's diary:

"Sunday, June 9th. Started 10 o'clock from Delightful Hill. All well and high spirits. Found roads quite good for a few miles. Found 2 new kinds of flowers on the prairie. Stopped at 2 o'clock 8 miles from Dayton and got dinner in the woods. Drove through a beautiful country, roads pretty good till evening when went through dismal swamp. Stopped 14 miles from Dayton at (Col.) Mr. Morrisson an excellent farmer. Camped by the side of the road.

"Monday, June 10. Left Mr. Morrisson's at 8 o'clock, roads much better than yesterday. Crossed Miami passed through Troy which is pleasantly situated on the bank of the Miami. Stopped 2 miles beyond Troy and got dinner and I saw 2 rafts go over a dam. The road runs by the river through beautiful country. Found some fine springs. Arrived at Piqua just before sun down. It is handsomer than Troy. Camped on the common. Almost everyone we met would say, "where are you going and where did you come from". Slept much better last night than we did the night before.

"June 11. Tuesday morning. Left Piqua at 8 o'clock. Found wild strawberries, gooseberries, roses in abundance and logways too. Martin Mount Joy, (one of the hired hands) shot 4 squirrels while we were kindling the fire and could have shot as many more if he had time. In the afternoon went through beautiful woods on both sides of the road. Went through Cynthian on the bank of Cynthian Creek. There were 2 log houses and two or three log cabins. Crossed the creek on rottenbridge. Camped near a Virginian's house where a fiddling and dancing going on. Children all well. Martin and Henry, (hired

hands) went to look for deer in the morning, saw none but found fresh tracks.

Wednesday, June 12. Started 1/2 past 8 through rough roads, deep mud holes and thick woods. Drove the cows ahead of the teams and stopped at a hoosier's where we found some bark swings in a barn and rested some time. While we were resting Pa killed a wild turkey. Henry killed one and Martin killed a young one and, to cap all, Henry broke the tongue of the wagon. Stopped and got dinner. Started on again, roads bad and snakes aplenty. After sun down got stuck in a mud hole, went half a mile beyond the mud hole and stopped, tired, wet, and hungry. It was 12 o'clock before we went to bed, but still I did not regret leaving Delightful Hill, not half so much as I did in losing most all of my flowers out of the box. We pass a great many German settlers just from Germany in the forenoon where Pa started from the day he got home from Michigan.

"Thursday, June 13. We all felt rather stupid this morning. Had a small shower and didn't get started until 11 o'clock, roads very bad indeed. I kept close behind the waggon so as not to lose any more of my flowers. Stopped and ate luncheon at a farmer's. The roads are thronged with travelers all a going to St. Joseph or beyond. This afternoon crossed a logway 1/4 of a mile long. We stopped at a farmer's 1 mile from St. Mary's. All well. Flora, (her 3-year-old sister) says, ask Pa why he does not go home. She wants to go to Aunt Olive's (presumably the wife of William Bildad Copley). The farmers say there are deer and turkeys in abundance.

Diary continued on Page 5

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

"Friday, June 14. Pa tried to get the heaviest part of his load conveyed to Fort Wayne in a keel boat down the St. Marys but the boats were gone and he concluded to get another yoke of oxen, for which purpose we stopped at St. Mary's. We hear the wolves growl like fun in the woods. St. Mary's is a considerable a town compared with Cythian (sic). It has 3 taverns, 2 or 3 grocery stores, a number of houses, blacksmith shop and so on. The worst part of the road is between St. Mary's and Fort Wayne. Pa bought another yoke of oxen for \$55 which started from Dayton on Friday, a day before we did. Bought some gingerbread which was made in Dayton. Left St. Mary's at 2 o'clock, went 4 miles and camped in the woods along with a family that was going to Lake Michigan. Plenty of deer in the woods but we were so busy that we had no time to hunt them.

"Saturday, June 15. Started 15 minutes of eight, roads bad, got stuck in a mud hole twice. We camped in a thick woods before sun down. Henry and Bennett went to look for deer but it began to grow dark and they heard snapping, fighting and growling and run back. Our reflector is a grand thing. We have to bake every evening.

"Sunday, June 16. Awoke this morning and found ourselves all here safe and sound notwithstanding there were plenty of wolves in the woods.

"Martin went to hunt deer, did not have time to find any. Our horses got loose this morning and started for home. When we found them the oxen and cows had gone; some had gone on and some had gone back. Henry saw a large buck and a number of turkeys when he was looking after the cows. At last we

found the cows, oxen and calves and started at 10 o'clock. Some bad holes but got along tolerably well. Came to the edge of Shane Prairie and ate dinner, 2 large brown crane flew overhead and lit Pa attempted to shoot one of them but missed. Went through the prairie, good improved roads and thickly settled. Stopped at Shanesville, a small town on the St. Mary's River.

"June 18. The landlord had a beautiful doe which he caught when a fawn 2 years ago. He let it out to run in the woods every day. It had a little spotted fawn 3 weeks old, the prettiest creature that I think I ever saw. Left Wilshire at 8. Went 5 miles through thick woods. Roads not cut out and very crooked. Dined in Indiana. Crossed Blue Creek, a steep bank to go in and out. Henry's wagon came very near upsetting in the creek. One bed fell out and got wet. Camped in the nine mile wood.

"Wednesday, June 19. We expected to hear wolves howl last night but were disappointed. Started at our usual hour, 8 o'clock. Went through thick woods, crooked roads, mud holes and deep ditches, though there were some beautiful woods. We dined in a shower, got wet. Just before the shower came Pa shot a turkey. They are not very good this time of year. There are a great many little young turkeys in the woods. Passed one or two homes in the course of the day but still we do not feel lonesome. We have a lively set of us. Camped in the woods away from any house. Built a good hot fire which together with the mosquitoes and gnats made us quite comfortable. I assure you.

"Thursday, June 20. We all felt as though we had been stewed but made out to get started at 8 o'clock. We had some tough mud and very steep ditches right up and down. Dined in some beautiful woods. We have had to drink puddle water all along. Back (she takes it back in view of good milk supply), as have plenty of milk. The cows have better feed than there are in pastures in Dayton. Took up a stray horse which followed us. We camped on the banks of a beautiful creek which runs over stones and gravel. 7 miles from Fort Wayne Martin shot some squirrels and Henry bought some honey at the house on the bank of the creek. There is plenty of wild honey. The whip poor wills sang in the trees over our tent. The new moon cast her silver rays in the water. We had a most delightful evening indeed. It reminded me of a story I had read.

"Friday, June 21. Left our Paradise at 8 on bad muddy roads for 2 miles when we came to the Indian chiefs. He lives in a large brick house, has a large farm, and a great many horses. They dress in the Indian fashion, to the Indian chiefs. He lives in Ft. W. We met a boy who was after it who took it and gave us a hind quarter of venison killed last night. After we passed the chief's we came up on the summit. On the bank of St. Mary's, sandy, no mud. Found spotted lillies as handsome as tulips, a number of flowers and whortleberries, the first I had seen since we left Fishkill. Indeed it is a delightful place. Went to Davis Mill, found the boat had not arrived. Camped on a field of 50 acres, a kind of commons covered with low bushes. On the bank of the river Martin shot 2 turkeys, tender. The boats came about 3 o'clock. We have beautiful spring water. Martin and Henry went to Fort Wayne, saw a canal boat just arrived which came from Buffalo through the lakes and

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

up the Maumee River. It was full of French and Germans just come from their native lands. Our goods all arrived there safe. Mr. Brown shot a turkey and left it in the woods. We all feel well and in good spirits.

Centennial Farm Series

“Saturday, June 22. A delightful morning. We can see the sky all around us far and near which is something we have not done for some time, the woods were so thick. We are where they say shillings and six pence again. Started half past 8. Hill and plains, now and then a mud hole. We don't mind them. The ground is covered with strawberry vines and some strawberries as large as those we had at Mr. Cathcart's. I wish you could see what a beautiful flower Pa found this noon. The stalk is from 1 to 2 feet high with leaves something like a plantain which grow on the stalk. The flower has 3 white oval petals, hollow petal, shaped like a balloon which is pink, spotted and striped. Some call them the lady slipper. They grow in wet places. We are on the ridge between the waters which flow to the Gulf of Mexico and the St. Lawrence. Came to the St. Joseph road 4 miles from Ft. W. We went around the town on account of the river which was too high to cross with wagons. Camped 6 miles from Ft. Wayne, 2 miles from any house. In this place a man had 12 sheep killed on one night by the wolves last fall.

“Sunday, June 22. (The diary dates it 22nd in error). Rained some towards morning but we heard nor saw any wolves. Woods not very thick. Came into Kendallville. The trees are large and scattering. The ground is covered with strawberry vines, day lillies and numerous flowers. Got stuck in a swamp

hole. Crossed the Ell (probably Eal) River, dined, had a smart shower. After dinner through thick woods, camped 2 miles from the Ell river in the woods. Rain.

“June 23, (sic) Monday. We had a good thunder shower towards morning which gave us a good soaking. Through thick woods again. It's muddy, some ups and downs. Good road on a hill, sandy with thick strawberry in abundance. Nelly (one of the horses) hurt her leg yesterday so we cannot use her. Mr. Brown rode Jenny ahead to get another yoke of oxen. Road good, sandy. About noon came to a jumping off place, a very steep hill to get down and a deep muddy swamp hole at the bottom of it. We were near three hours before we got through. It was the worst place we have had or shall have, I hope. Got dinner. The country around is beautiful, hills and prairies covered with grapes and spotted lillies. Crossed Blue River and camped near a Frenchman. Mr. Brown got a yoke of oxen for us. Evening is clear and beautiful.

“Tuesday, June 24 (sic). Road not very good. Arrived at Mr. Murphy's tavern on the edge of the barrens which are 16 miles long. Got dinner. Started on through delightful country, sometimes on the edge of a hill or on top of one. A prairie on each side with a stream running through it which looks like a canal running through a rich meadow. Saw a lake off through the prairie woods, woods and prairie around it. Came to another lake larger than the first, called Wolf Lake. The edge was covered with pond lilies just opening. Pa went out in the canoe and got one. They are very beautiful. Bought a fish just caught. Weighed about 2 pounds, very good. Passed several houses and camped in the barrens.

It rained some in the afternoon.

“Wednesday, June 25 (sic). Beautiful morning. Jenny has foundered or something. She is quite stiff. I ventured to ride her and rode all day. A thing I thought I never could do. Came to the Elkhart bottoms about 11 o'clock, mud and mosquitoes. Dined in the bottoms. Arrived at Sugar Hill 4 miles from Elkhart River. Found an empty cabin, took possession for the night.

“Thursday, June 25 (noted this should be the 27). Found the log cabin quite a comfortable thing. Started at 8 o'clock, came to the Elkhart River about noon, crossed it. Dined on the edge of Elkhart prairie, found some flowers which used to grow in Matteawan on the banks of the creek. Went across the end of the prairie. It is most all covered with fields of wheat. Don't like old withered fields. About half a mile from Goshen we started a doe from the side of the road. It soon bounded out of sight. Mr. Brown leaves us here in Goshen. He is going to Mr. Lawrence's in 2 weeks. Camped by a log mill on a rock run half a mile from Goshen.

“Friday, June 27 (sic). Went through a beautiful prairie, excellent roads, crossed the Elkhart on a bridge. Went through Elkhart town. Crossed the St. Joseph above the junction of the Elkhart in a flat. It took some time to cross. The river is deep and wide. Camp on the Christian (Christiann), a beautiful stream and moonlight evening.

“Saturday, June 28 (sic). Started late, went 8 miles, barrens, pleasant. Arrived at Edwardsburg at 12 o'clock, a pleasant village on the edge of Beard's (Beardsley's) prairie with a beautiful lake at the side of its sandy shore.

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

Jenny is quite unwell. We dined in Michigan Territory for the first time. Started, crossed the Chicago road, went 4 miles. Jenny is too sick to proceed. Left her with Henry at a house. He is to stay until she gets better. Good roads. Arrived at Rock Lake about 8 o'clock. Camped on the sandy beach. It is a large and beautiful lake.

"June 29 (it is really the 30th) Sunday. Very warm. Goo__" Frank Copley, who wrote an introduction to the diary in October, 1963, including much of the family history in the east, had this to say. "This is the final entry. From her brother, Bennett, we learn that they arrived at their destination, Little Prairie Ronde, the following day. Readers are left to speculate as to how she intended to complete the entry. Was it to be another reference to 'good roads'? We venture the opinion that she had had her fill of both good and bad roads. And then the thought may have crossed Charlotte's mind that a century and more later others of the clan might be perusing her little journal. Oh no. The very thought gave her pause and all she could think of writing, and never did, was 'Good Night.'"

From Cass County history books, it is learned that upon her arrival in Volinia Township in 1833 Charlotte taught school in her father's home. She was 17 years of age at this 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 of Volinia Township on the land of David Crane

•••

Editor: Jim Adams
jadams@mail.wiscnet.net
920-743-7857

-7-

Copley Family Has Very Interesting Background

By Arlene Wright
Daily News Staff Writer

Earl E. Copley, who is the current owner of the Copley centennial Farm, has in his possession a number of documents concerning the history of his ancestors. The farm is located on Van Buren Road in Section 2 of Volinia Township.

Among the documents are a diary which was kept by Charlotte Copley and which is quoted in another story, and a letter written by William Copley to his brother Alexander.

Alexander Copley (great-grandfather of Earl) left the Connecticut Valley, where there was a family interest in a grist and sawmill, in the 1800s, the moment westward had begun and he wanted to seek his fortune elsewhere. He moved to Jefferson County, New York, and there his textile apprenticeship ended. He married Esther Nott while living in Jefferson County, and they later had 12 children.

The family made frequent moves therein, living in Champion (near the end of Lake Ontario), New Hartford, Walden and Matteawan for brief periods of time.

While living in Walden, Alexander and William Copley made spindles and looms on their own account.

From Matteawan the family went to Buffalo on the Erie Canal and at Buffalo engaged in water passage to Sandusky, only to end up at Cleveland. They went to Massillon

by water, overland to Wellsville, by river to Cincinnati and north to Dayton.

There were various kinds of mills in Dayton. Some of the Matteawan looms had been designed for Dayton's first cotton mill and Alexander Copley found employment there.

The Copley family settled on a 15 acre tract adjoining Dayton. The site was well above the valley and the district was called "Delightful Hill".

Alexander had dreams of an integrated spinning and weaving operation. While living at "Delightful Hill" he raised silkworms and experimented with a new variety of mulberry, the morus multicaulis. The silk fab-industry was in full swing and was expected to be very prosperous in the 1840's when the subsidy was removed.

He never became as involved in the silk industry as he had dreamed, probably due to removal of the 50-cent-a-pound bounty. He eventually went into a phase of the furniture business, making furniture shooks for assembly elsewhere.

The Alexander Copley family lived in Dayton for four years. During this time, Alexander became acquainted with Le Grand Anderson, formerly of Shenandoah Valley. Anderson had gone on many scouting trips and in 1823 had picked a tract of land in Van Buren County, Territory of Michigan, for his future home. The Anderson family migrated to Michigan in 1832.

It is believed that it was through the Anderson's Alexander Copley eventually migrated to Michigan. After the Anderson's moved to their new home, Alexander rode to the area on horseback. He wanted to see if the site was favorable for his

78th ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION

Volume #1

No. 6

STURGEON BAY, WI

08 July 1998

dream for a water driven mill of his own.

Alexander liked what he saw and returned to Dayton to sell his holdings and bring his family to Michigan. Among the things the family brought with them were two wagons, three yoke of oxen, one span of horses, four Durham cows and several head of cattle, poultry, etc. The wagons were loaded with castings for plowshares, cuttings of Isabella grape vines and rhubarb roots, one of which had come all the way from New York. The Copley family at this time consisted of the parents and seven children ranging from one to 18 years of age. Three hired men also accompanied them to Michigan.

Alexander purchased 140 acres of land from a surveyor. There had been a Potawatomi reservation on the territory just north of Nicholsville and the government bought the land from the Indians. The government in turn paid surveyors in land scripts and the surveyors sold the land to settlers.

Although the Potawatomi reservation had been abolished, a considerable number of the Indians remained in the area.

The only way to get across the Dowagiac Creek was to go to Nicholsville where "Lawrence's Crossing" was located.

The early settlers crossed the creek and went out on the prairie to settle because they didn't have to clear the timber. This is how "Little Prairie Ronde", located about a mile-and-a-half north of Nicholsville, derived its name.

Having been a millwright, Alexander supervised in building a dam where Dowagiac Creek joins Bunker Lake.

Alexander and his family lived in a log cabin until 1839. The first frame home to be built in the community was then built by the Copley family. Because there were a lot of

windows in the house, it was known as the "window house." The house consisted of a two-story upright with a one-story wing.

The house and the buildings on the farm now are the original buildings erected during the 1850's. They have been restored and remodeled through the years.

The same year, 1839, Alexander Copley helped to lay out the road from Schoolcraft to St. Joseph.

He had gone into farming when he came here, running generally a grain and livestock farm.

Alexander Copley died five years after coming to Michigan, at 51 years of age. The family duties then fell pretty much on Alexander B. Copley. Alexander B. purchased additional farm land, bringing the total acreage of the farm to 259. Alexander B. eventually took possession of the farm.

Alexander B. was married to Helen Hathaway and they had two children, Edwin B. and Ward.

Alexander B. Copley started the National Bank in Decatur. In 1870 he moved to Decatur and Edwin took possession of the faarm. The banking institution, now known as the First State Bank, has been operated by the Copley family for 96 consecutive years.

Earl E. Copley, son of Edwin, is currently president of the bank, and has held this position since 1816.

The farm was divided at the death of Alexander B. The main part of the farm was carried on by Edwin B. Ward sold his portion.

Along with operating the farm, Edwin also held interest in the bank.

Edwin was married to Esther McKain. In 1892 they moved to Decatur so their children could go to school. A hired man took care of the farm and the livestock for them through the winter, and in the summer the family returned to the farm to live.

After Edwin's death in 1916, Earl Copley became president of the bank and owner of the 140 acre farm and has continued as such to the present time.

The farm has been operated on a share-crop basis since 1916. It has always been operated as a general grain and livestock farm and at the present time is operated by James Smith.

...

We're on the 'Net!

You can visit the Adams-McKain Family internet website at the following address (URL):

<http://205.213.168.3/adams.html>

Visit Kathy Linderholm's homepage with Adams & McKain obituaries, pictures, stories, and lots more!

<http://members.aol.com/sunny2345/genealogy/index.html>

You can access these sites by using Netscape, American On Line (AOL) or other web browsers.

The Adams-McKain homepage has the newsletters, e-mail addresses of family members, links to other Adams family sites and links to general genealogy information.

It is updated regularly so stop by for a visit. If you have suggestions for future topics for the website and the newsletter, please contact the editor.

President: George Adams
1304 Croyden Court
South Bend, IN 46614
219-291-8267

Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale
211 East Ryno Road
Coloma, MI 49038