

Abraham's Flock

1719 - 1954

A history of one branch of the  
Adams family

by

Isabelle Adams Swantek

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#### FOREWORD

First, I wish to emphasize that this is no exhaustive family history. It is, rather, a family story, written principally for my own enjoyment, utilizing data readily available. There are many ramifications to be explored at a future time. I have tried to authenticate the material - if there be errors, I can only say that I am sorry. In a few instances of variation in details, I have accepted the version of Cousin Emma Sturges. Family skeletons have been cheerfully dragged forth into the light of day. We are not saints nor yet great sinners.

I have received help from local histories; old maps, newspapers and letters; from facts given by friends; and from information given and typing done by my immediate family. Especially grateful am I for the encouragement given by my sister, Helen. Mention should also be made of my long-suffering husband, Stephen, who lived for weeks in a galaxy of his wife's ancestors and was sadly neglected while she read history and haunted cemeteries in search of information. But, most of all, this is the work of my mother, Martha Thomson Adams. It is she who recorded facts brought out in conversations with the older generation and who carefully preserved papers entrusted to her by Grandfather Adams.

No one completes a project alone - this simple family record has been written by all who shared their knowledge. Fundamentally, it was written by all who, for the past two hundred thirty five years, lived it.

Isabelle Adams Swentak  
Windbrook Farm, Delhi, N. Y.  
May 12, 1954

#### ABRAHAM AND ELIZABETH

The patriarch of the family branch, as far as this chronicle is concerned, is Abraham Adams, who was born in 1719, in Fairfield, Connecticut. There is some evidence that an older Abraham, born in 1687, was his father, but until time permits further investigation, we shall accept 1719 as a starting point.

Abraham was married to Elizabeth (Betty) Williams, of Redding, Connecticut and they raised a large family. There were five sons; Joseph (b. 1740) Benjamin, Abraham, Abel, and Asel, but there is some uncertainty as to the number of daughters and confusion as to their names.

There was definitely an Ann, the second oldest child, who married Samuel Jaquish and lived at Harpersfield, New York. It is thought that Elizabeth married a Filboro, and a Great-great-sunt Philena thought that there was another daughter named Lydia. But the greatest interest in names centered about the young woman, who later married Zechariah Ferris. She was referred to both as Huldah and Azuba. About 1829, Aunt Philena and her brother Edwin went to Connecticut for a visit and while there met Lemuel Adams (son of Joseph's Hezekiah) who declared that he had visited in the home of the lady in question, and that her name was Azuba. Aunt Philena's insistence upon "Huldah" seems to be borne out by Newtown town records, which listed "Mrs. Huldah Ferris".

Huldah was married to Ferris in 1768 and had at least two daughters. Mary, born in 1768, married Seth Whitlock, "a fiddler", a brother to Hannah (Whitlock) Taylor - about whom we shall hear later. Of the other daughter, Nanea, there seems to be no information other than her birth date, 1770.

The name of Abel Adams appears in a list of persons leasing land from Great Lot 41 in the Hardenburgh Patent in New York State; his particular lot is now included in the Town of Bovina. The date of the listing is August, 1795. Of Abel's children, the names of three are known: Abel, Azor and Anne.

Family tradition has it that Asel Adams served in Washington's bodyguard.

It is thought that young Abraham moved from Fairfield to Redding, but we have no further record.

Benjamin married in Connecticut, lived there in Norwalk and then moved to Stamford (then called New Stamford), New York. His family included: Reubin, born in 1775, married in Stamford, in 1797, to Mary Bosworth; Amanda; Doaha; Lucinda, who married Nathan (son of Joseph); Philena, who married Abram Whitney, in Stamford, in 1799; John born in 1785, and Seymore (or-our) who married Theodotia Beers.

Of the elder Abraham, we know no more, save that he lost his life in the French and Indian War.

JOSEPH AND JOHANNA

Great-great-grandfather Joseph, born in 1740, was married to Johanna Disbrow, born the same year as he. Their family, all probably born in Fairfield or Wadding, Connecticut consisted of six boys and two girls.

I find the name of Stephen Adams (who had been born in 1761 or 2) among a list of those settling in (Rose's Brook or Beaver Dam", (Roxbury) in 1789. Another account states that Stephen came, 1790, in a company of about twenty men and stopped at the Barlow cabin at the foot of Rose's Brook. Five of the number went on to make a settlement in Roxbury; Stephen was among those who stayed and later went back to Fairfield to bring their families here. His name appears in the list of taxpayers for 1805; I find no further record.

Hezekiah was born in 1764, but we know nothing more excepting the fact that he had a son, Lemuel.

Ellen, whose birth year was 1765, married a Gregory and made her home in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Abigail was born about 1767; Joseph in 1770 and Israel about 1772.

Aaron, born in 1774, made his home in Woodstock, New York. He had two sons, Aaron and Harrison, and a daughter, Angeline. The latter accompanied by Aunt Delia, went visiting her Aunt Ellen Gregory in Connecticut, and was much upset when the "little darkies on the plantation" stole and ate the cakes and cookies that she had baked.

More is known of Joseph's youngest son, Nathan. He was born 1777 or 8 and was known as "Nate, the fiddler". He married Benjamin's Lucinda and they lived for a time in a dwelling which stood in the field east of what is now Charles Adams' home in Township (Hobart, N.Y.) The Nathan and Seymour Adams families left Township some time after 1801, as the names were still on tax list of that date. A deed dated Sept. 30, 1803, given by Seymour and Theodotis, granted to Isaac Bennett "parts of lots 84 & 99, containing 55 acres, reserving one and three quarters acres, land formerly owned by Nathan Adams". They went to the central part of the state and, locating south of Ithaca, founded Adams settlement, now known as Adams Corners.

Nathan had at least two daughters. One named Emmaline, was very religious and constantly preached at her father, telling him that she wanted him to go to Heaven with her. Wearied of her nagging, Nathan would retort, "All right! Come on, Emmaline, let's go!"

Another of Nathan's daughters was Amanda. She visited in Township when she was seventeen years old, the date being about 1821. She married Joseph Hollister and their eldest daughter, Amanda Hollister, who left Connecticut at four years of age, married an Upton. It was their son, William Upton, who corresponded with Grandfather Adams, about 1880, on the subject of family history. He lived in the East but moved to Walla Walla, Washington, stopping in Indiana to visit his grandmother, Amanda Hollister.

We do not know the date of Joseph's death but Johanna lived to be at least 89 as that was her age when Aunt Philena saw her, while visiting in Connecticut.

#### JOSEPH AND SARAH

Joseph Adams, Jr., born in Connecticut in 1770, was among the first to make a permanent home in the Town of Stamford, New York.

A grant of 16,110 acres in the valley, along Town Brook, had been made to thirty individuals, most of them living in Stamford, Connecticut, and in 1764, a survey was made by Henry Wooster. The grantees were prosperous people and the project was largely speculative, only a few coming to take up the land, as settlers. There came trouble with the Indians and, during the war years, the original lines of the survey were lost. In 1787, a new survey and map were made by William Cockburn and new impetus was given to settlement of the territory.

A plot, a mile square, as a nucleus for a business center, was laid out in lots forty rods square, separated by eight streets running at right angles. Part of the southern boundary of the Town Plot is still defined by a stone wall which is the dividing line between the Henry Clark (formerly Luther Taylor) farm and the old James Stewart farm, now owned by Charles Adams. The boundary follows the old "Bennett Hill" road and then cannot be distinguished farther, through the fields. Included in the Mile Square was a Parade Lot, located on the former Percy Weeks farm, and a Church Lot. However, when the church was built, in 1823, it was erected outside the Town Plot. The land outside the square was laid out in irregular fashion, mostly in narrow lots. The land taken up by Joseph was to the east of the Mile Square, including only one of the plots, the Budd & Brown lot, number 8, in the southeast corner. (It is the "Daisy lot" east of the sap bush, on the Everett Adams farm.)

It was in 1796 that Joseph came to Township and cleared a piece of land on the hill, above the spot we have always called "The Old House Place." He sowed wheat and built the log cabin, which stood above and to the east of the cellar hole, cherry trees and rose bushes which marked, for many years, the site of the second dwelling to shelter the Adams family. While working on his home site, Joseph stayed with an aunt, whose name we do not know. Her home stood on the Griffin farm (now owned by G.B. Many and Son), on the north side of the present highway. It was opposite an old barn (recently razed) east of the other Griffin buildings. The house lot is now used as a small pasture and contains a spring.

In the autumn of 1796, Joseph returned to Connecticut but came back to Township the following spring bringing his wife, Sarah, and their little son, Smith.

Sarah Smith was born in Brookfield, Connecticut, in May, 1776. She had four brothers, Azor, Lyman, Bryant and Preserve and a sister Affiah.

Azor was evidently unmarried or a widower for years, as he visited or made his home with various relatives and died at the home of his brother Bryant. A cousin Harriet wrote that "Uncle Azor is no more". He died "palsied all over" on Tuesday, January 21, 1853, "at 3 P.M.."

Bryant had at least one daughter, Mary, and Lyman had two sons; James (who had at least one daughter) and Stanley, who in 1829, worked as a stonemason in Washington, about fifteen miles from Brookfield. Lyman's wife was named Sally.

Preserve had a daughter who married Henry Peck and their son, Henry Smith Peck, was born in 1829 or 1830. In 1831, Little Henry showed "symptoms of dropsy in the head" but evidently came out of it all right, as, by 1837, he was starting school, a big boy wearing "trousers" - his word for trousers.

There were two Harriets, neither of whom I am sure I have correctly identified. They were, aunt and niece. It seems that the aunt might have been Preserve's daughter and the other, the daughter of another one of his children, but, at present, there is no information to prove or disprove that theory. Both of the Harriets seemed to get around; the niece wrote to her Township relatives of going to New York in order of seeing a circus parade on the road to Newtown end of a balloon ascension in Bridgeport. In 1842, "The balloon was of fire-red silk and much larger than the church we attend here!" In 1837, the aunt wrote news she thought would be of interest; the Episcopal Society was planning to build a church a few rods from their house, and a railroad was going there, north from Bridgeport, a quarter mile west of their place. "It will cost a sight of money." Both women had visited in Township; the aunt had been here in 1832 and the niece, twenty years later. The older Harriet tells of the passing of her father: if the relationship guessed at be true, it would place the date of Preserve's death as "2 A.M. Sabbath morning, June 3, 1844."

Other relatives are mentioned in letters: Uncle Luther, Uncle V. and Aunt Caroline, Uncle Ezra and Aunt Lucy Dibble (the latter was the last of "Aunt Harriet's great-aunts). Whether they were Smiths or members of Keisk's (Sarah's mother) family, I do not know.

Sarah's sister, Affiah, was born in 1786 and married James Stewart, born the same year. James' father, bearing the same name, had come from Scotland and settled along the Town Brook in 1776 and it was on this farm James and Affiah lived. Their son, Hector I., took his bride, Ruth Botford, on a trip to Connecticut and Harriet reported that they liked her and thought her very pretty. James' son, Charles S. and wife Mary (Cronly) were next on the homestead and then his son, Hector, who lived there during his childhood. Hector's wife was Josephine Bull, a tall, spare woman who did beautiful needlework. One of Mrs. Stewart's stories stays in my memory: in discussing the matter of a young Township woman "keeping company" with a man, considered her inferior, she said it reminded her of the girl who prayed for a man, "Anybody, Lord, send anybody!"

Charles S. 2nd, was the only child of Hector and Josephine. He married Rachel Hoyt and their son, Charles 2nd, recently married Blantina Vanhaabeck.

Hector sold the old homestead several years before his death in 1913, and it passed thru other hands before Charles Adams bought it in 1940. It had been in the Stewart family well over 150 years.

Sarah Smith's father had been failing in health, during the years after his daughters had come to New York State. Lyman had written about it to his nephew, Smith, in the following letter:

Brookfield, January 10th 1830

Sir,

It being Sunday and a very stormy day and not convenient to attend church, I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you by way of Male and inform you that we are all in tolerable good health at present. You may tell your mother that your grandfather remains very much as he was when she and Edwin left and furthermore you may tell them that your Uncle Preserve has got to be a granfer to a very smart boy and you may inform your mother that it was born the next Sunday after they left here. So she can how old it is for we cannot make out how old it is exactly. They think they shall call it Henry Smith. Azor went to keeping house week before last in his store a little South of where he lives. You may inform your mother and Edwin that Edwin Merwin and Ruby Nearing was married about two weeks ago. You may inform Edwin that I had eight carts Bodger full of corn off that peace where he helped me pick. Corn fetches fifty four cents and pork from four dollars and a half to five dollars a hundred. I sold two hogs for four and a half and it is higher now than it was when I sold myne. We have had a very warm open winter so far and not much snow. We had a snowfall last night about four inches deep and by twelve o'clock today it was all gone. January 17th. Since I began my letter, your grandfather has been much poorer than he ever has been. He has been for about five days past quite bewildered or locozy. I was in there last evening and mother told me of considerable that he had done and said she was afraid he would get to very troublesome. I will mention one circumstance. Yesterday he was determined to go over to Mr. Warner's to see what woman was there (he is troubled about a woman he says is around their house) he got his greatcoat on and they could not persuade him not to go. He went out and Azor went after him but to no purpose. He scolded and talked very loud so they gave up and let him go. He was gone a while and came home again but very uneasy and discontented. I hant heard from him today it is probable I should if he is any worse. I wish you would wright soon after receiving this letter for we want to hear from you very much. We hant heard anything from your mother & Edwin since they left here. I shall wright again as soon as I can conveniently. I have been very much hurried in business ever since your folks left here and still remain so. I have nothing more at present so I remain

Yours

Lyman Smith

Mr. Smith Adara

Please to give our respects to your uncle and aunt and all enquiring friends. Please to tell your Uncle Stewart I wish he would wright to me without fail.

Sarah's father died in 1832 and her mother, Keziah, probably in 1839, as her estate was settled in that year. Sarah's share of her mother's effects were set down in detail and evaluated. These went to her heirs, however, as she had died in February of that year. The silver teaspoon mentioned now belongs to my Dad.

Articles of Personal Estate set off to the heirs of Sarah Adara from the estate of Keziah Smith.

October 10th, 1839

1 string of gold beads	53.25
1 silver teaspoon	.54 1/4
2 large tablecloths	.56
2 hand towels	.25
1 plain lite calico bedquilt	.62
1 calico dress	.67
1 blue dress	.62 1/2
1 double dress	.50
1 silk work bag	.08
1 black veil	.06
1 cotton shawl	.25
1 cotton handkerchief	.22
1 muslin "	.06
1 linen "	.08
1 cotton apron	.07
1 linen "	.10
4 night caps	.34
6 linen shirts	2.40
3 pairs linen stockings	.60 1/2
2 pairs woolen "	.60
1 pair cotton "	.35

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To return to earlier times, we had left Joseph returning to the settlement with Sarah and little Smith, who was less than a year old, having been born on September 12, 1796.

The section was sparsely populated and, undoubtedly, the settlers underwent many hardships. Wolves, foxes, panthers and bears were numerous and they disturbed the livestock, killing pigs and small animals. A bounty was maintained on them for many years, varying, from time to time, from 25¢ on foxes to \$25 on wolves. A wolf pen was set up on the old Blush farm and at least one wolf was captured in this way. There is a record of Phillip Sines (who lived, I believe, near the head of the valley) catching a wolf in a trap set on the south side of the old Roxbury road (now Donald Post farm) and taking it alive in a sleigh to Hobart, where it was exhibited and finally shot.

The Indians were not, at this time, the menace they were in some other nearby settled sections, as this was for them a hunting, rather than camping ground. There is, however, an old tale of the Indians planning to kill the family living on the Blush place, but, having received warning, in some way, the settlers escaped by wading up Town Brook and hiding in Griffen Pines.

For many years the pioneers held "General Training" and one of Joseph's fields was sometimes used for drilling.

Joseph was kept busy clearing timber from the land and raising crops. It was, undoubtedly, good ground for wheat and rye, as the adjoining Griffen farm is reported to have had unusually good soil for these grains. "Searing eleven consecutive crops without the use of fertilizer and being in good condition when seeded to grass." He probably grew flax, so necessary to the settler, as the family possessed flax

wheels and bunches of tow have been found in some of the farm buildings. Flax seed was in great demand for medicinal purposes.

As well as clearing the land and planting crops, the settlers turned their hands to any skill or trade they might possess. Joseph was a weaver and followed this trade to some extent after coming to Delaware County. Quantities of cloth were needed for clothing and household use and history reveals that, in 1810, there were 886 looms in use in the county. Tailoring, furniture making, woodworking, wagon making, blacksmithing and other industries were being carried on. The first cut nails to be made in the United States were being put out by Foote More in his trip hammer shop on the Town Brook (the Montgomery Place.)

The only cash income that many of the pioneers had came thru the sale of charcoal, ashes or potash. Jabez Barlow (on the S.G. Post farm in Narrow Notch) had the largest charcoal pits, and it was said that when he was burning, a haze hung over the whole valley for days. There is scarcely a field on the farm which does not bear traces of the pits. There is no record that Joseph ever engaged in charcoal burning. It is quite probable that he might have sold ashes, however, as there was an outlet for these in Griffin's ashery, located on the Blish farm.

To make travel easier and to connect settlements, roads were being laid out by the road commissioners. Beginning in 1794, the road up the valley from Hobart had been gradually extended, so that when Joseph came the road was already past his farm. The first year he was in Township, the old Roxbury (Hardscrabble) road was laid out and in 1809, the crossroad from the present Methodist Church was constructed to join it, making the route to Roxbury much shorter. Other roads were laid out to connect the settlement with Stanford, Grand Gorge and Rose's Brook. In 1806 a private road was built for Joseph, leading from the main road to his buildings running in a northerly direction to the west of the present buildings on the Everett Adams farm.

No payment was made to owners for land taken for highways but they were reimbursed for any damage to property while the road was under construction. On July 10, 1806, Sarah Dingee was paid 75¢ for damage done "to a corner of my land while the road was being prized". This might have been the Widow Dingee who lived with her daughters on the Hardscrabble Road. Her house was on the north side of the road (in what is now Everett Adams' pasture) about opposite the west end of the "Calhoun cherry orchard" lot. Until recently a slight depression and a few stones still marked the site of the house.

The settlers concerned themselves with education for their children, the first school commissioners being elected in 1796. An early site for a school had been located in the northern part of the Town Plot but it is doubtful if a building was ever erected there. However, there was one at the top of Bennett's Hill, on the north side of the highway, in the field where the old log watering trough used to stand. The old school was gone before Dad's memory and the new one erected in the southern part of the old Town Plot. There were two other schools; designated as the North Street school and the "upper district". It was the latter which was attended by all the Adams youngsters, up until the time Dad moved his family to the Bennett farm. It is interesting to note that three generations of young women bearing the Adams name taught in that school: Maria (Ballard) Adams, Martha (Thomson) Adams and Isabelle Adams (Swentak).

On June 10, 1800 Joseph received from Andrew Hurd the deed to his land: 84 acres, comprising the northern part of the long fields above the present buildings and small tract joining it on the west-the sap bush and "daisy lot" (the Budd and Brown plot of the Mile Square already mentioned). Within the next few years, he acquired more land. On May 23, 1811, he bought from Edmund Ellis and wife 35 acres, which extended his property southward to the present highway. Another deed from Edmond and Mary Ellis, dated March 25, 1817, gave him an additional 45 acres, this tract being on the south side of the highway and extending southward beyond the old Roxbury road. This later portion, forming a triangle with the road and comprising 14 acres, was sold to the Taylors and a stone house was built on it in 1823. Many years later, about 1912, a tiny section of only one acre, along the Town Brook, was sold by Charles S. Adams (the first) to the Hobart Water Company as the site of a dam for the village water supply.

While acquiring land, Joseph had also been acquiring a family. In addition to Smith, born in Connecticut, there were two daughters and a son born in the Town of Stamford: Philena, born August 9, 1801; Fidelia, October 1, 1806 and Edwin, July 24, 1810. These births were recorded in the family Bible which Joseph had purchased on September 10, 1798, only two days before Smith's birth. The cost is set down as one pound, nine shillings.

An old biographical sketch states that Joseph was "industrious and faithful to his duties and a Whig of liberal views". He lived a comparatively short time in Township, dying on September 5, 1819, when only 49 years of age. Sarah died February 2, 1839.

Valuation of Joseph's estate shows that they were a provident couple despite hardships and lack of money-making opportunity. Lists made by Smith provide that 43 1/2 acres of the real estate were to go to Sarah, then the personal property was enumerated with value allowed for each article. Small household effects were itemized but no furniture, with the exception of beds; four beds and three bedsteads were listed. Sarah must have "looked well to the ways of her household" as the following items, with values, testify:

41 1/2 pairs of sheets, both cotton and linen from \$1.00 to \$5.50 a pr.	
38 pairs of pillow bars (?)—evidently pillow slips	
28 blankets, from \$1.00 to \$4.25, most of them about \$3.30	
12 woolen sheets, most of them about \$5.00	
8 quilts, from \$1.00 to \$4.25	
23 towels, 3 of them being "brown", \$4.37 1/2 for all	
Table linen, no amount given \$3.75	

Cloth still "in the piece" was mentioned. All hand woven, of course, as were the above items. Following are the yardages:

6 1/2 yards tow cloth	\$1.82 1/2
13 1/2 yards bedticking	5.75
13 yards diaper	2.44
10 yards flannel	5.00
3 1/3 yards "coazy" (kersy)	.60 1/2

Among miscellaneous articles were an umbrella; a clock; a brass "kittle", valued at \$3.40; an ash "kittle"; a "tee kittle"; a "porage pot"; and 3 sad irons,

Neither Philena, Fidelia nor Edwin ever married but lived together in what was always called "The Old Red House", built on the south side of the highway, on the land purchased from Ellis and about opposite the Ellis home, north of the road. In the early years, Smith and his family, and later his descendants, lived in a smaller small house a few rods to the west which dwelling was built first, we do not know. The buildings were of identical plan; on the first floor, four rooms and a small entrance hall with a boxed-in stairway winding to an open left and one small room, which was "finished off". The Red House place had a small red building, close by the road, used for a shop and there were fruit trees growing near the spring, which was situated below the house.

Mrs. A. \$455.44	Philena	\$327.72
Edwin	277.72	Smith
Della	177.72	

The final division was made:

Joseph's other assets included \$77, cash in hand, and most surprisingly, he paid notes of nine of his neighbors, for the sum of \$889.29. The note makers were Benjamin Gilbert \$38.17; George Grant 2 notes, \$22.04 and \$81.81; Damon Taylor \$10.10 and \$41.59; Alexander Shaw \$53.08; Henry Foot \$24.97; Ichabod Taylor \$86.27; Charles Foot, \$97.95 and \$121.23; James Stewart, \$18.04; and Sweton Grant, \$94.54.

(The cattle included 11 cows, designated as "old brindle", "young black", "gun two-year old", etc., valued from \$7.50 to \$15; and 4 yearlings at \$5.50)

Cattle	125.50
COIT	75.00
Mair	65.00
Old Hove	55.00
Sheep & Lambs	24.06
Steeleyards	1.00
Falls - 6	2.25
Pans - 36	6.75
Drags	4.00
Tubs and etc.	.96
Chain 1 & 2 pieces	2.37 1/2
Crow bar	1.12 1/2
Axes - 3	2.25
Hammers - 2	.37 1/2
Saddle	10.00
Axgurs - 3	1.12 1/2
Buckets	22.00
Sap Kettle	6.00
Magnon tires and Irons	4.00
Magnon and sleigh	\$ 4.00
Farming mill and harness -- illegible	

Smith and Edwin-ownables--  
 4 beds and 3 bedsteads at \$33.50, an unspecified number of spoons, worth \$6.00, milk pans and pails valued at \$3.00 and cows at \$27.00 completed the list in which the mother, Philena and Fidelia shared. In a separate accounting were the farm implements and animals.

Philena died first, on November 30, 1884. As Fidelia grew older, she failed in health and caused worry and trouble for the family by her restlessness; getting up when she was supposed to be in bed, felling, and similar misdeeds. They often had to have help in caring for her. The date of her death was March 19, 1889. In the telegram from Charles Adams to David Sturges, telling of Fidelia's death, the telegrapher, evidently baffled by the unusual name, transcribed it "your aunt by Delia"

After the death of the sisters, Edwin was cared for by the Charles Adams family. Old account books show that he boarded with them and they did his laundry. He stayed with them after November, 1892 and a final entry notes, "Death closed up the account. Uncle Edwin died April 2, 1895". He left an estate of \$2800.00

After the old sisters and brother were gone, the red house was occupied for many years by Lydia Grant and her father "Charlie R". I remember him as a small old man, with pale blue eyes and a long beard. He lived to be over 90. We liked to go there as children, to tease Charlie R. to play for us on the old fiddle he kept underneath the kitchen lounge and to watch Lydia weave rag carpet on the big loom in the loft.

About 1900, Lydia's uncle, Dan Grant, was ill (and later died) there and the neighbors took turns "sitting up" with him. Grandmother Adams wrote her opinion of one of the watchers: "Pa' is over to Charlie R's tonight. Charlie R. wanted him to sit up part of the night. Mr. Decker wanted to sleep part of the night, he said. Mr. D. came back there last night and then went to bed. He was there all day today doing nothing and, if he could not sit up tonight, then he should go home. It did just make me out of patience today to see him promenading around, smoking a cigar, when he should have been home helping Winnie".

Later Lydia married Frank Corbin of Roxbury, who worked for Dad for years, and after Frank's death, she moved her family from the Red House. It was then occupied by a succession of tenants who were careless and destructive and it fell into such a state of disrepair that it was entirely razed about 1940.

SMITH AND RACHEL

At the time of Joseph's death, Smith was 23 years of age and he became the head of the family, continuing to live on the homestead. Five years later, on February 11, 1824, he married Rachel Taylor, daughter of Zalmon and Hannah (Whitlock) Taylor. She had been born in Fairfield, Connecticut, probably in the village of Newtown, in 1797.

The Taylors came about 1801 and settled a half mile east of the Adams farm on the "Old East Place". They built a house and barn on the hill and a shop on the eastern bank of the brook, south of the present bridge. The house has been gone for a long time-for many years butternut trees and a tall, old Bellflower apple tree marked the site. The shop, too, disappeared long ago, but the barn stood until about 1950. The fields are used by Charles Adams as pasture for his Angus cattle. The hurricane of 1950 did a great deal of damage to the large stand of white pine on the place.

Zalmon seems to have been a man of many enterprises. He wove cloth and blankets he killed "hogues" for his neighbors; made nails, and farmed. He had a mare that he rented out and he carted various products to and from Catskill, the trading center of the whole area. Butter constituted the principle outgoing load and among the items he brought in were lime, sand, iron, hides, brick and oil. In May of 1815, for example, two of his loads were: A load of 1400 pounds of hides from Catskill, for which he charged two pounds, sixteen shillings; and a load of bark from Roxbury, for the tanning of the hides. These were for David Wainwright, who had established a small tannery in the Town Plot. (Wainwright later moved his tannery to Hobart.) He also engaged in woodworking in his shop. For Sarah Adams, he made a set of chairs; for Philena, he made chairs and repaired her spinning wheel; and Smith, in 1832, had him make a rocking chair, two common bedsteads and a coffin, the four items costing \$8.25.

Zalmon was evidently not averse to making money in small ways, as he received two shillings from Lemuel Bangs for "my boy to the store to git you run". (Bangs mentioned as teacher, blacksmith and surveyor, had come from Stratford, Connecticut about 1790 and was the father of four sons, all of whom became Methodist preachers. John was the famous circuit rider of the Delaware Circuit).

There were six Taylor children: Heseekiah, David, Zalmon, Jr., Rachel, Lovina, and Hannah.

Zalmon Taylor died on January 29, 1839, a short time after his seventieth birthday, and Hannah, his wife, lived until September 24, 1854. Three years before his death, he sold to Smith and Edwin Adams the two parcels of land, containing ninety acres, which made up the East Place. The purchase price was \$1400.

Only two days before his death, Zalmon made his will. It is written in a small, beautiful hand on pages tied with a tiny blue bow and reads as follows:

Last Will and Testament of Zalmon Taylor

January 27, 1839

In the name of God, Amen-  
I, Zalmon Taylor, of the town of Stamford, in the County of Delaware and State of New York, being in a poor state of health but of sound mind and memory, thanks be

to Almighty God for the same, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make, ordain and publish this, my last Will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christianlike burial, at the discretion of my executors hereafter mentioned, not doubting that the general resurrection I shall receive the same again, by the almighty power of God, and touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, devise and bequeath and dispose of the same in the following manner (that is to say after my honest and funeral charges is paid out of my estate by my executors hereafter mentioned) I do give and devise to my beloved wife Hannah Taylor all my real and personal estate during her natural life and from and after the decease of my said wife, I do give, devise and bequeath unto my daughter Hannah Taylor the sum of Three hundred dollars. I do give and devise unto my son Hezekiah Taylor fifteen dollars. I do give and devise unto my son Zalmon Taylor, Junior, five dollars. I do give and devise unto my son David Taylor one hundred dollars. I do give and devise unto my daughter Rachel Adams one hundred dollars. I do give and devise unto my daughter Losina Foote, the sum of one hundred dollars. And in case that there will be any of my estate left after paying all of the aforesaid legacies, I do give and devise the same to be equally divided between all of my heirs aforementioned, and it is my will and testament that the land and premises of which my wife Hannah Taylor has a deed of in her own name, that she dispose of the same as she thinks proper, and the above legacy are not to be paid until one year after her decease, in case she will survive me, and not to draw any interest until the end of the year aforesaid. And I do hereby appoint my son David Taylor and my son-in-law, Smith Adams, executors of this, my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine.

Zalmon Taylor L.S.

Signed, sealed, published and declares by the above mentioned Zalmon Taylor to be his last will and testament, in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses, in the presence of the testator.

Luther Taylor  
Ichabod Taylor  
D. McDonald

On the 27th of March, an agreement pertaining to the division of the estate, was made between Hannah and her children, as heirs, and Smith Adams and David Taylor, as executors:

Articles of Agreement made the twenty-seventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine between the Widow Hannah Taylor and Hezekiah Taylor, David Taylor, Zalmon Taylor, Smith Adams and his wife Rachel, Henry Foote and Losina his wife, Widow and heirs of Zalmon Taylor, deceased of the one part and Smith Adams and David Taylor, executors of the last will and testament of the said Zalmon Taylor, deceased, of the other part: Witness; the said parties of the first part agree to release their right claim and interest in and to their respective legacies mentioned in said last will and testament on the terms and conditions following, that is to say-The said executors are to sell the real estate belonging to the said Zalmon Taylor at the time of his decease together with twenty acres of land contiguous to the said lot the fee simple of which belongs to the said widow, to the best possible advantage and as soon as convenient, the interest of the money arising from such sale is to go to the widow during her lifetime for her support with the right to draw upon the

principle sum arising from the said twenty acres, after paying off the debts, and certain money and furniture to be paid to Hannah Taylor hereafter mentioned the said widow is also to have the use of the farm as aforesaid until sold and her provision for one year and the use of such household furniture as she may think proper during her lifetime. Hannah Taylor to be paid out of the estate one hundred and four dollars, a debt that she holds against the said estate and fifteen dollars in lieu of a cow and her bed and linen or the value thereof which is not to be included in her dividend of the property and after taking out the said sum she is to share equally with the rest of the heirs. The said Smith Adams and wife are to allow to the estate fifty dollars which they have received previous to the death of the said Zalmson Taylor and the bed bedding and linen of the said Lozina Foot not to be included in the dividend. The said Hezekiah Taylor is to allow one hundred sixty dollars to the estate which he has received. The said Zalmson Taylor is to allow to the estate one hundred and fifty four dollars which he has received. The said David Taylor is to allow to the estate seventy four dollars which he has received, the said sum to be included in the estimate of the property and each to receive the amount as part of his portion of the estate-as so such money paid out after paying the said Hannah Taylor, second, the said one hundred and four dollars, together with her bed and linen and the fifteen dollars in lieu of said cow, and fifty dollars to Hezekiah Taylor which said sums are to be paid before making the dividend. The said heirs are all to share alike after taking out the foregoing sums to be allowed the estate. The said Zalmson Taylor is to allow to the said David Taylor ten dollars off from his dividend. After the 7 of the said property the said heirs are to come into possession of their respective shares and pay the interest thereof annually to the said widow, the said Smith Adams and David Taylor to collect the said interest and pay it over to the said widow. In witness whereof we have hereunto respectively set our hand the day and year above written.

Robert R. Menzie  
Witness

David Taylor  
Smith Adams  
her  
Hannah X Taylor  
mark  
Henry Foot  
Hannah Taylor  
Lozina Foot  
Rachel Adams  
Hezekiah Taylor  
Zalmson Taylor

Zalmson's son, Hezekiah, was born in Connecticut, in 1796, and came to Township when a small child. When a young man, he cleared land for a farm but soon left it and went into the coopering business in the Town Plot, where he died on April 16, 1860. His wife, Phebe, died in the autumn of the same year. They had a family of fifteen children. It was their son, Sampel, who married Abigail Barlow and lived in the stone house, on the plot of land bought from the Adamases. The Sam Taylor's eldest daughter, Abigail, born May 9, 1858, married William J. Calhoun. They lived on the old homestead and later the stone house was enlarged by a frame addition, which lasted only a few years; now only the original building stands, the date of its erection, 1823, still visible over the doorway. When Mr. Calhoun's health failed, they moved to the old

Lucifer Taylor house, where they lived until his death. "Abbie" lived until 1953. Their eldest daughter, Edith (Mrs. Clyde Smith, who lived all her married life in the west and died there in 1935) was Aunt Mary Adams' special girlhood friend; and, as my sister and I grew up, the younger daughter, Helen, was our constant companion. Their only son, Byron, lives in the west.

Zalmon Taylor, Junior, took his own life.

David Taylor, born in 1806, married Maria Powell and they had six sons and one daughter; John, William, George, Edward, Remond, Charles Wesley and Frances. Best known to the Adams family was Charles Wesley, who was called by his second name. He married Olive Schoonsmaker and lived at the head of the valley until, years after her death, he retired from farming, lived a short time in the Luther Taylor house and then bought a home in Hobart. His daughters, Robina and Frances now live in Hobart. There is also a son, Clarence. The old farm was purchased by Charles and Everett Adams for pasture.

Hannah Taylor married Erasmus Lyon and their children were Marietta (Webbit), Anna, and David. I remember Dave Lyon as a spare old man, who portered about as janitor in the High School in Hobart. His daughters were Clara and Cora; The latter married Marion Shackleton, a half-cousin of Mother.

Lozisa Taylor married Henry Foote and they lived (at least in the 1830's) in Goswagport. At one time they occupied part of what was later the Wesley Taylor farm. Her daughter, Sally Ann, corresponded with and visited her Tomahip cousins. Another daughter, Hannah, married a Wilcox and they lived in Elstera. She was "a clairvoyant doctor" and apparently made money as "hockie 'Saccus'" reported, after visiting there, that she "tossed a roll of bills big enough to choke a cow" under the couch. In the hope that he would not see it. She died rather young - "used up by her trances."

Rachel Taylor married Smith Adams, as stated previously, and they were now the owners of the old homestead. On May 6, 1835 they had received from Sarah and her other children, deeds to the land Joseph had bought from Hurd and Ellis in 1800 and 1811. Smith now owned a wood lot, probably inherited from his mother's family, in Redding, Connecticut. In April, 1834, his cousin, Stephen Adams, was most anxious to buy it, as it joined his farm of 80 acres and he needed the timber. He wrote Smith that he would pay "in cash, as much as anyone else. Please let me have it and you will confer a favor". It is presumed that Smith did sell, as there is no further record of property in Connecticut.

Smith and Rachel were the parents of five children: Sarah Della, Eliza Jane, Mary Emaline, Charles Smith and Austin.

Rachel Taylor died on June 16, 1816, at 58 years of age. Smith remarried and lived until August 6, 1871. His second wife was Betsey Squires and upon his death, she settled all claim to his property for the magnificent sum of \$7,50 and left town-ship. She died at the home of her nephew, Drakine Squires, in Harpersfield.

Sarah Della, who was born April 18, 1825, married John Bennett, son of Isaac and Nancy Bennett, whose farm adjoined that of the Adamses.

Isaac built the large house on the place, part of which is still in use. On February 26, 1823, an indenture was signed between Bennett and Kenneth McKenzie, whereby the latter was to "build and finish" a house 36 ft. by 32 ft., for the sum of \$255. (McKenzie had a grist mill farther down the Town Brook, and devoted one day each year to grinding salt, which was brought in from Catskill in large blocks). Later, in 1866, Oscar Bennett built the present larger part of the house.

An interesting fact concerning Isaac, is that he was one of the few settlers to own a slave. "Black Sam"-Sam VanAlstyne, born in Schoharie, was his property for some years, but in 1822, was adjudged by the overseers of the poor of caring for himself and set free.

The Bennett family seem to have been rather politically minded, as the father and sons, Oscar and Daniel held various town offices, such as overseer of the poor, justice of the peace and highway commissioner. Daniel, who died at the early age of 32, had twice been supervisor. Pictures of John Bennett show him to be of rather dour appearance.

Sarah died in 1886, leaving no children.

There was evidently a little trouble in the division of John and Sarah Bennett's effects, as Grandmother Adams wrote to her sister-in-law Eliza:

"I suppose you know the things that were John Bennett's were to be sold at auction last Thursday. Charley expected to go up but when the time came churning and other work prevented, so he thought he could not go. Neither Mrs. Bennett nor Lottie have been inside our house since you was here. I guess they cannot forget the beds and the spoons, although Mrs. B. did come out one day, when Charley was going to Hobart, to ask him what became of John's gold eye glasses. Do you remember about Sarah's giving them to Mrs. Alex F. Grant a year ago last fall when we were there? Charley had forgotten the circumstance entirely, until I recalled it. He could not tell Mrs. B. but has told the boys since. It now appears that John also had a pair of gold spectacles and those Sarah gave to Oscar. \*\*\*\* Oh, I most forgot to tell you; I have 2 1/2 pair of linen sheets and 3 pair of linen pillow slips. That makes the 5 1/2 pair of sheets and 5 pair of linen pillow slips in the memorandum. Guess we have got them all but the two table cloths and it is queer what became of one. C. has not been up there since you got your things."

Although no relation to the Bennetts, we felt a sort of kinship through Sarah and due to the fact that we later lived on the homestead. Oscar stayed on the farm, married Selina Sturges and was the father of Emerson, Sherman, and Charlotte, but now the entire family is gone. Emerson did not marry. Sherman had two sons, neither of them lived to manhood. His wife, nee Emily Cook, after struggling many years to keep a boarding house business, in Stamford, afloat, died in the County Home. When I visited her there, she was deeply interested in what had happened to the old home, inquiring in detail about the house and delighted that few changes had been made. Charlotte (Lottie) lived with her parents on Maple Avenue, in Hobart, after they left the farm. She did not marry and her chief interest was in gardening. After Dad bought the Bennett farm, she frequently came up to take things she had left stored in the attic. This enormous storeroom contained everything from a goose poke to a set of carved chessmen and was a treasure house to draw upon for old hoopskirts and frock coats, for "dressing up". We were much intrigued by the way the house and

a long barn were connected by means of a woodshed, in the New England manner; an arrangement not duplicated in the community. There were other features we loved a great orchard of apple trees, mostly Northern Spies and Red Astrachans; a tiny smoke-house, guarded by a towering elm tree; a little spring, whose stoned-up walls supported mosses and sweet little ferns; a spreading yellow rose on the wall below which grew a clump of borage, called for some unknown reason, "smellage".

Two of Smith and Rachel Adams' children had brief lives. Mary Esoline lived only from January 28, 1829 until May 6, 1831. We do not know how long Austin lived. The only record is a tiny note from Sarah to her grandmother, Sarah.

Stanford, May 27, 1837

Granna,

I now take this opportunity to write a very few lines this afternoon while Eliza is rocking Austin. Austin hant been asleep today til since he came from your house. I don't know as you can read it for I am writin on my lap. I hant no more to write at present.

Granna Adams  
Sarah D. Adams

Eliza Jane Adams was born August 29, 1826, and married David Sturges. His family were among the first to settle in the Town of Roxbury, Aaron Burr Sturges having cleared land there prior to 1800. Their small farm was on Ferris Hill, above the village of Grand Gorge. When I first knew the place, it had grown up quite woody all about, the lawn was carpeted with the glossy green leaves and blue blossoms of myrtle, there were Juneberry trees in the yard and azaleas and ladies' slippers grew in the pine swamp back of the house.

Two children were born to David and Eliza; Lindley and Emma.

Eliza was stricken with cancer and, although she went to a hospital in Albany for treatment, help came too late and she died at home in 1892. David continued to live on Ferris Hill with his son and daughter until his death in 1909.

Lindley, born November 24, 1858, was a man of small ambitions. He married Miss Schenerhorn, but their life together was brief, as she left him, taking their son, Charles, with her. She later married a man named Vroman and now Charles Sturges Vroman and his wife live in Great Bend, Pennsylvania. Their son, Harold, and his wife, Margaret, are in the same town. Charles inherited the Ferris Hill farm after Emma's death, but sold it at once.

Lindley's death occured in 1922, and Emma then occupied the home alone. She was three years younger than he, having been born October 20, 1861.

Emma was a great favorite with all the members of our family and we always enjoyed her visits. She and Grandfather Adams spent many hours in reminiscence, both possessing a lively interest in family history and anecdote and both being blessed with keen memory. She had a sense of humor, a fund of humorous stories and could appreciate a joke on herself. As she grew older, she disliked staying long away from home as it meant leaving a few hens she kept, as a responsibility for someone else. Dad urged her to sell them, as they were getting ancient and, to stress the point, told her the story of the man who kept an extremely old, fat hog. When

asked why he had kept it so long, the man replied that, as long as he was in the habit of keeping a hog, he might as well keep the same one. Emma laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks, knowing that the story was parallel to her situation.

She was an amateur painter of considerable ability and her walls were hung with the results of her talent, her best work being landscapes in oil. Others interests were plants, flowers and birds; for many years she had raise chickens, which would alight on her shoulders and eat from her hands. She loved to tell stories of people; I remember particularly the euphonious name of Selinda Semsmith and "Munt Sarah". Fenton, whose husband was an exporter in the Hilleretas.

One of her hobbies was making verses; she sometimes wrote letters in rhyme. She referred to her state of "single blessedness" (from choice- as she had been sought in marriage by a Methodist minister) in a verse, which she titled, "The Old Maid".

There's a cottage on yon hilltop-  
In this cottage, (I've been told)  
Dwells a maiden with her brother  
And they say she's growing old-  
Wonder why she thus has tarried?  
Old maidens oft have married.  
Did they say she's not attractive?  
Or perhaps she's strangely acted?  
Thus the query 'round here goes.  
Wonder if she has no beaux?  
Is there no one here who knows?  
She has all to me confided  
But I surely would be chided  
If I told you what she said.  
Hence, I'll wait 'till she is dead.

Chastfully, Emma lived in her "cottage on yon hilltop" until the autumn of 1942, when she succumbed to a paralytic stroke. To every surviving relative, even second cousins, she left some remembrance. The family is buried in the little township cemetery, where all the early Adamses have their final resting place.

#### CHARLES AND MARIA

My grandfather, Charles Smith Adams, son of Smith and Rachel, was born June 29, 1839, on the homestead. He grew up in the way of all country boys of the time, attending the district school and helping with the farm work and did not marry as young as was common in that day of early marriages. Bertha (Corbin) Sharpe related an incident that had amused her father. Charles had said that he hated to take the time to get married; "it was a puttering job, a puttering job". He was nearly 32 when, on the 9th day of March, 1871, he and Mary Maria Ballard were united in marriage at Stanford, by the Rev. L. E. Richards, pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

The Ballards were the earliest settlers in Vega, a section of the Batavia Kill, part of the township of Roxbury. Peleg Ballard was a veteran of the Revolution, who, with his wife, Martha (Haynes), came from Putnam county in 1794. Their children were: Elizabeth, Benjamin, Asa, Zillah, Jeduthan and James. Peleg lived to be 80 and Martha to the great age of 103. Many of their descendants stayed in the valley and today the seventh generation is living on the farm first cleared by Peleg.

Elizabeth married David Mead, who was, for 22 years, pastor of the First Old School Baptist Church of Vega.

James was the first shoemaker in the valley. He was the father of a large family: Zillah, Catherine, Selinda, DeBoise, Erastus, Margaret, James, DeEtte, Martha, John, Alonzo and Jane. The latter two children were half-brother and half-sister to the others, as James remarried after his first wife's death.

Catherine married Abram Shutts and was the mother of Harriet Augusta, who was called Gussie. Gussie was born in Montgomery Hollow, Roxbury on February 22, 1854. She acquired a half-brother, Asa, and a half-sister, Abbie, children of Abram and his second wife, Zillah Ballard. Abram met his death at Long Branch when he accidentally shot himself while out hunting. He is buried at Long Branch. Gussie's half-sister, Abbie, lived at least part of her life in Jersey City and while there seemed to be dependent on her relatives for her living, as they sent her food and money to pay her rent. Gussie, when about 22, married her cousin Elbert, son of James Ballard. Gussie spent most of her life in Roxbury and after Elbert's death, she and her half-brother, Asa, lived in her house at Hubbell Corners. They were not very congenial and she once said that when she didn't want to argue with him, she would "take a book, go up the road, sit down under a tree and stay all afternoon". She was an expert rug maker and had many orders for work, but toward the end of her life, had to sell some of her treasured possessions, such as hand woven coverlets, to augment her income. After her death, Asa entered the County Home at Delhi and there died.

Margaret Ballard married Gus Stewart and it was her grandson, Gus Stewart, who for many years had a fox ranch in Dry Brook.

Of DeBoise and DeEtte, I have at present only meager knowledge; that the former was married in 1854 and that some of DeEtte's family lived in Esopus.

Erastus lived in the Roxbury section until he was drafted for Army service, at which time he "skedaddled". Incidentally, there was much opposition in the area and many evaded service by the payment of \$300. In 1863, "nine out of ten" had been drafted and a meeting was held at John Meade's at which \$800 was raised, to help those who could obtain payment in no other way. Erastus evidently went to Jersey City,

where he later lived, and raised a family, complaining of high prices: beef was 15¢ - 18¢ a pound and butter 30¢ - 34¢. In 1865, he succumbed to the dread smallpox. His widow, Loise, lived such of the time in or around New York City and at one time acted as companion for a Spanish lady. One winter she went to Havana, feeling that the sea voyage and mild climate would benefit her health.

Selinda Ballard married Charles Peck in 1862, in a ceremony to which 21 couples were invited. They lived in various places in Sullivan and lower Delaware counties. In 1863, Charles was cutting railroad ties, receiving 50¢ each, and rafting them down the Delaware from Lordsville. Three years later, he was still rafting, as a visitor related that the river was low and Charles had to wait "until Monday" to take down his raft. In 1872, he went to Michigan but Selinda refused to accompany him and he undoubtedly returned and resumed rafting, as he is mentioned as one of the "old waterdogs" of the Delaware.

John T. Ballard stayed on the old homestead. His wife, Peace, was a small, energetic woman who kept in touch with the many relatives and knew (and related) all the neighborhood gossip. They were an ambitious and prosperous couple. In 1875, Peace wrote that John had "got himself in the mud again" by purchasing, for \$1626, the farm of a bankrupt neighbor; that made more work. They kept a dairy and sold fir-kins of butter; yearly made quantities of maple syrup (called 'molasses) and hundreds of pounds of maple sugar; and maintained large flocks of chickens and geese. Peace carded and spun, and wove great amounts of carpet and cloth. For example, in one week, she wove 29 yards of cloth for trousers. "Double and twisted warp-one strand of cotton filling"-Kersey, she wove for tablecloths "cotton warp and tow filling." She kept her horse epic and span with paint and spent hours working in the yard and with her flowers. She raised tulips, peonies, gladiolus and all the other common garden flowers and many varieties of house plants.

Peace reported all the details of daily life: "I have a bile on my nose. I know for myself it is not a good place for a bile"; her son Smith had caught 40 trout and they had feasted; she had bought in Bloonville, gloves for four-and-sixpence and a pair of walking hoops for \$1.19; Horace Gresaley, coming to speak at Roxbury (Sept. 15, 1888) was to be escorted into town by a company of people on horseback. She was very friendly and liked to make neighborhood calls - "Mrs. H. is dreadful homelick. I have been and made her a visit but I do not know as I shall go again - I heard she said she did not like the folks here for they run avisting all the time and talked about their neighbors". (!). I cannot resist quoting in full one gossip masterpiece:

"Glad to hear that you got home with no more serious accident than stepping in a bog hole. Woods Sweet has been here sewing. She made a Basque like my Express Cloth and trimmed the skirt and plaited it for \$3. My black one is trimmed with a flounce 10 inches wide headed with a row of puffing 4 inches wide, one row of puffing is around the overskirt and on the sleeves and the Basque is made with a big cord. The Express is made with two rows of bias pieces around the skirt with a big cord covered with black. The basque is made with black cord. Betsey Ballard has made my cloak for me in grosgrain silk. I have told you enough about my clothes as they was of most importance I wrote about them first. Ad H. and his wife is parted. The report is that she tried to poison him and he left home. John C. is staying with Sarah. It is a pity he had not gone to states prison long before this time. I hear his bill is getting afraid of him and talk of delivering him to the sheriff. Report

says that Add eat his supper feeling as well as ever but shortly after that not feeling so well he went upstairs to bed with the little girls leaving Sarah with John C. After a while he was very thirsty and got up and drank two different times. About midnight he was taken blind with cramps in the stomach and such a burning in the stomach. He got one of the little girls up and sent her for a light with which he got downstairs but they did not send for a doctor in two days. When he came he said it was a singular case. William Ballard is sick and Aunt Chloe not very smart. Eliza and George was married, she is fixing all sorts of go to housekeeping and talk of going to his folks. Irene Morse is married and Isabel and Rosa Mead, Eber and Alida Morse, Hite Mead and Edith Faulkener. The mercy knows I should think it would make all the young folks sick of getting married to see the way some live that is married. For instance Al N. Such a time as he and his wife had a while ago. They got in a fray and he got jealous and mad and told her he was going over to the fort and started toward the Slost's and she after him, swearing she would kill him. He jumped across the stream and she tried to and fell in. Then he went to Harvey's and she followed him and she and Clist had a quarrel and she turned her out door and she went up in our barn and laid until her clothes froze on her. They got her out and she went to the house and upstairs and that night she was sick and have to have the doctor before she got well. They have had the present of a wooded horse. Egbert and Mary have been up and gone back, she didn't want to go. Alfred G. wants to sell. Hannah Maria and her man has come to live with Uncle Nat. DeWitt Ballard is married and intends to live in that milkhouse on the lower place. Bill Men is living in the Nattie house. Samzy Jenkins has broke his leg. H.K. and Wesley is trying to raise the deuce with him trying to get the property in Wesley's wife's hands. I think it is a pity they cannot wait until he is done with it. I believe I have written all the news that is work knowing and more too and I guess it will want a lawyer to find it out."

John and Peace had two sons, George and Smith. George took over the family farm and it is his descendants that are now the owners. Smith married Estelle Stewart and they spent most of their lives in Roxbury. When Cousin Emma Sturges and I called on her in 1930, Estelle had recently enthusiastically embraced the Seventh Day Adventist faith and she spent the afternoon trying to make us see the light.

The only knowledge I have of Alonzo Ballard is that his wife was named Mary and that they had at least two sons; one born in 1864 and the other three years later in Clovesville.

Jane Ballard married Martin Hait and they made their home on a farm at the head of Rose's Brook Valley. There were six girls and four boys in their family.

Augusta, the eldest of the Hait children, taught school for several terms in Rose's Brook and Vega, married Charles Jackson and had one son, Oliver, and a daughter, Helen, now Mrs. Gideon Wickham. After the death of her husband, Augusta worked for many years in the laboratory of the Sheffield creamery in Hobart. Elderly now, she opens her house in Hobart for the summer and spends the winters with her daughter in Stanford.

Ann, the second Hait daughter, married Charles Fogue and they bought the William Barlow farm in the lower part of the Township. During the school days, Helen and I often visited there, as their daughters, Eleanor and Fannie, were about our ages. We played charades and "table games" and felt pleasantly wicked chanting, to Methodist hymn tunes, such ditties as "O, sing, sing, sing of Lydia Pinkham" and "O, for a thousand tongues to sing 'Beechan's pills are just the thing'". Eleanor

married Oscar Lockett, who later studied for the ministry, and is now preaching in the Baptist Church. Their children were Charles and Ruth. Fannie is teaching in the kindergarten of South Kortright Central School. The Pogues had also a son, George, who estranged from his wife, the former Helen Rifenburg, lives on the home farm. A much younger daughter, Isabelle, married Kenneth Robertson of New Kingston. Charles and Anna died in the space of a few months, both comparatively young people.

Stephen Hait and his wife Susie (Nesbit), who recently recovered from a severe illness and leg amputation, are retired from farming and live in Hobart. Their daughters are Marguerite (Christian) and Evelyn (Hancock) (Manshaeffer).

Mary Hait died while a young woman, leaving her husband, John Dales, with four small children; Miles, Burr, Martin and Dorothy, all of whom are now married and live nearby.

Alonzo Hait was twice married; his first wife was Miss Misner, the second, Miss Chase.

Martha's married name is Smith and she lives in Jefferson.

John stayed on the family farm, rebuilt the house after a fire and refused to sell when most of his neighbors were being bought out by a wealthy woman who wanted the whole valley. His wife was Florence Atwater of Jewett and their eight children; Martin, Clayton, Harold, Donald, Leslie, Herbert, Kenneth and Frances. John Hait died in 1952.

Fred Hait married a widow, Mrs. Crock, who had a son Herbert and a daughter, Mynah, who became a nurse.

Lydia Hait (Sanford) has lived since her marriage in South Side Oneonta.

Dora, the youngest of Jane's children married Harold Dibble. They own a small farm at the foot of Betty Brook and also the adjoining property where the James Dow saw-and-grist mill used to be located. (James' wife, Jennie, was a sister to Uncle Fred Webster). When I used to visit there the mill was always busy and the mill pond well stocked with fish and enormous eels, but the mill is now in ruins and the pond merely a marsh.

To resume with the Ballards: Martha Ballard was born December 23, 1813 and was 32 when her daughter, Mary Maria Ballard, was born. Her parents never forgave her for this unfortunate event and although she visited and was employed at many houses in the neighborhood, she was not welcome at home. She dutifully went to care for her people in case of sickness but, when the emergency was past, they made life so unpleasant that she was glad to escape. She had a deep and abiding love for Maria, worried over and constantly longed to hear from her. "Inn was never more welcome to weary traveler than your letter to me." "I wish that I could get over the mountain to see you but no one has been over since fall." This referred to the Hardscrabble road, which had little travel in the winter, but she rarely let conditions underfoot deter her from walking over to see Maria. She met with such mischances as "falling in a bog hole" and Peace feared that "the panther story will scare her so she will not dare to cross the mountain alone." She gave Maria advice about her health: "If you would take two or three drops of the brandy in a spoonful of water, I do not

think it would hurt you and it would be good for the blood. You must not take more than that for it is very powerful stuff." She also recommended wetting the hair with brandy to encourage its growth.

She often wrote in a religious vein: "You ask if you was ever baptised. You never was and I do not believe a person to be a fit subject for that ordinance short of a new birth or short of being regenerated or born again. If the Lord has ever showed you what you are by nature and what you must be by Grace and has pardoned your sins and separated them from you as far as the east is from the west and has given evidence that you are a child of God, then you are a fit subject for baptism and not without." She attended meetings at the First Old School Baptist Church, which had been organized only two years after the first Ballards came to Vega, and made an effort to be present at Quarterly Meeting. The family seems to have always identified with that faith; in 1878 Benjamin Ballard and his wife were seriously hurt in a horse-and-wagon accident on Red Kill Hill, while on their way to meeting. The present clerk of the church is Mrs. Virtue Ballard.

Martha spent the latter part of her life in Township making her home with Maria and then living with her granddaughter, Eva, after the latter's marriage. I remember her, Martha, as a very tiny lady (we have yet to find any adult woman small enough to wear her dresses), always dressed in black with a black sateen apron, always with a faint fragrance of oatmeal soap. She was very energetic and active for her years and would get up at an extremely early hour in the summer to work in her flower garden under the balsam tree in the side yard. She delighted Helen and me by telling stories and riddles and singing old songs. The song which was most intriguing to me was about two "pretty men". I have found no one outside the family who knew it until recently Mrs. Robert McGregor said it had been taught her husband by his mother. (The McGregors were early settlers. Rob's grandmother was a daughter of the William Shaws, who came to Township and settled on "Sunny Hill" in 1802. Stories of Shaw's remarkable strength have survived to the present day.)

This, then, is our combined efforts of reconstructing Great-grandmother Ballard's song:

Richard and Robin were two pretty men:  
They lay in bed 'till the clock struck ten.  
Then up jumped Robin and looked at the sky,  
"Oh, Brother Richard, the sun's very high."

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You go on with bottle and bag  
And I'll follow after with jolly Jack nag".

"Let's go a-hunting", says Richard to Robin  
"Let's go a-hunting", says Robbin to Robbin  
"Let's go a-hunting", says John, alone.  
"Let's go a-hunting", says everyone.

Other lines followed with similar repetitions:

"How will we get there?" says Richard to Robin, etc.  
"Take cart and oxen", says Richard to Robin, etc.

"What will we hunt with?", says Richard to Robin, etc.  
"Take bow and arrow.", says Richard to Robin, etc.

An old riddle, which tantalizingly eludes me, began:

Riddle, come riddle, come right,  
Where was I last Saturday night?

and concerned a fox and a moonlight night.

Martha Ballard's long life came to an end on February 12, 1912, at the good old age of 98.

Martha's daughter, Mary Maria, was brought up by the Griffin family, who would seem to have been the logical people to care for her. John Griffin, Jr. had remained on the homestead after the death of his father, Heth, who was one of the pioneers, having come from Connecticut in 1798. An historical account relates the trouble he had with wolves: they had little fear of his wolf dog, Paint, and once pulled down a deer only a few rods from his dwelling. John was an excellent farmer, honest in business and fond of social enjoyment. "He lacked not for the needful things of life, possessed good habits, used no tobacco, and filled the measure of his days on the nineteenth day of March, 1867, ages 64 years." He had married Betsey Foote and had two children, Heth and Mary. I cannot remember Mary, but Heth was one of the interesting personalities of our childhood days. We knew him as an elderly man, with short grizzled beard, usually attired in an old-fashioned greenish-black suit (with rounded tails on the coat) and a black derby hat. He lived alone in one part of the farmhouse, raised a fabulous garden and was rumored to have a store of choice liquors. As youngsters, we often played on the barn floor, enjoying the swing which hung from the rafters, and thus made the acquaintance of Heth's black horse, Elijah, who was a strong minded individual. Heth was an atheist and, in derision, had taught Elijah to kneel and "pray". His will provided that \$800 be used for the spread of "free thought". Other bequests were \$10,000 for the erection of a receiving vault in Hobart cemetery and \$10,000 to the "Home for the Friendless", in New York City.

The Griffins sent Maria to school and she became a teacher, her first experience being in the "upper district" in Township, when she finished out the term as substitute teacher. The next year she taught in Roxbury and Mary Griffin kept her up-to-date on the happenings at home. She wrote of the garden: they had peas on July 5th, and tomatoes July 24; they had raspberries and whortleberries and melons and all sorts of flowers; they were painting the house white; they were coloring stockings; "Aschah and I have been picking wild strawberries along the mountain road". Labor troubles plagued them in those days, as well as in the present: "Our hired man has left. We called him four times to get up and he got mad and left. Mrs. H. may go, too. There is no knowing, if you have hired help one day, if you will have them the next. Selina (Bennett) doesn't like her girl and will send her back. She says she doesn't know anything". Other news: M.V.H. had married E.C. "She likely married for pure love - I don't know what else"; the Methodists were having protracted meeting in Hobart and had converted "nearly everybody"; the Griffins and Stewarts were the only families from Township invited to Fannie Babcock's super-stylish wedding in Hobart; she had a "new breakfast shawl, about the size of a Sontag and a new Nubia"; a cow had injured Ma by falling her. She gave Maria all sorts of advice - even to what color notepaper to select.

Maria continued to earn her own living and a memorandum gives the financial results for 1869:

Total amount of money earned during the year	\$73.75
Total amount of expense during the year	27.11
True excess of income over expense	\$46.64

Items of expense included: waterfall net (for the hair) 8¢; gutta percha pin and earrings, 75¢; 1 dozen buttons, 4¢; 6 sheets of paper 3¢; 8 postage stamps, 24¢; and "sent in a letter to J.T.B." (who would be, I presume, John T. Ballard) 68. During all this time, she was having trouble with her hearing and she often became discouraged, fearing she would have to give up teaching. She tried every remedy and appliance suggested to her. An advertisement, dated March 6, 1871, from 9 Gold Street, N.Y.C. lists prices for "artificial ears" at \$6 for a single pair of ears, \$48 per dozen. None of the treatments or instruments proved to be of any help and in later years she resorted largely to the manual alphabet. Some of the neighbors also learned it, in order to converse with her - Heth often came and visited with her in this manner.

Although her handicap was a source of discouragement in her work, it was no hindrance to sentiment and romance was evidently brewing several years before her marriage, as a friend opined, "it will now be My Dear Charles ..."

Following their marriage, Charles and Maria Adams lived on the old homestead and there raised their family; Francis Everett, John Quincy, Eva May, Helen L., Mary Griffin and Sarah Eliza.

Charles was a good farmer and raised the usual crops, having excellent yields of grain, including barley and buckwheat, two grains not commonly grown in the valley today. (His grandson and namesake grew, last fall, a piece of buckwheat, primarily for his bees, and credited it by hand, an unusual feat in the present day). They kept a dairy and sold milk and butter; usually had potatoes and apples for sale; and kept pigs and a flock of sheep. The poultry record for 1872 begins: "January 14. Poultry consists of six hens, seven pullets, six cocks. C. carried 1/2 bushel of buckwheat up for them this day. February 23. Laid one egg." Despite the modest numbers, the hens returned a profit of \$5.32! Both oxen and horses were used for farm work. The last yoke of oxen, Star and Bright, was sold in 1895 for \$90 and replaced the following year by a span of five-year-old horses, costing \$150.

The place was wonderfully supplied with nut and fruit trees. There were several butternut trees and no church social or neighborhood supper was deemed complete without a butternut cake from the Adamses. A large orchard contained a great variety of apples and there were cherries, pears, plums of several kinds, raspberries and strawberries. Most enticing of all was the mulberry tree which stood by the old churnhouse. This building, in which we liked to play when children, sheltered a clutter of discarded small implements, the old "dogpower" for churning and a cheese press.

Maria experimented with cheese making and kept records thereof. In 1875, she noted the making of four - it was the second which was especially noteworthy. "Cheese No. 2. That was made and put to press while perfectly sweet. Did not get it in press until after dinner and Mother said 'twould be spoiled. 'Rose up' while curing. Cut the latter part of February and it is excellent. Very moist, soft and rich. As good a one as I ever made". When we (the Swantaks) bought the Sharpe farm in Bovine, in

1939, after Mrs. Sharpe's death, there was, in the cellar a glass jar of a whitish substance. Her father had obtained it from the Adamses many years before but it had been used and, for some reason, never discarded.

Maria enjoyed working with flowers and made lists of gladioli planted in a bed "below the cherry tree" and drew diagrams showing the location of named varieties of "perpetual" roses. She was very generous with her flowers, giving plants and slips to friends, and the little church was often adorned with bouquets of lily-of-the-valleys or crimson nambars or auretum lilies from her garden. When her health failed, she mourned that she could not get her hands into the dirt, as she loved the actual manual labor involved in growing plants. She related, with amusement, that a pair of "distinguished (do no repeat the assertion!) callers" had caught her unaware "in the garden above the barn, helping 'Pa' transplant sabbage plants."

Reading was Maria's favorite recreation and she would often read until the very last minute then hurry to the kitchen and concoct a most delicious meal, cheerfully admitting that, with her nose in a book, she was oblivious to the passing of time.

She carried on a voluminous correspondence with relatives and had a choice of words and way of turning phrases that is delightful: "Miss Betty is more sprightly of manner..."; "Now hear this!..."; "It is not comanded to hide one's talent."; "You can cudgel your brains over it and it will be good mental discipline and later add to a larger enjoyment of life."; "I sometimes wonder why people will save up so much trash, and then the next moment find myself saving up a roll of old cloth or a tin box or one of pasteboard, thinking they will be of use sometime. I am getting to be almost as penurious as Mother and Charley. Mother wants to save everything, even old strawberry baskets, and when I suggested to C. that he throw out an old, old, bedstead that has been lying around for years and that no one would ever think of putting together again to sleep on, it met with entire disapproval." "You spoke of Will O. being out riding. It seems to me he would better be in school during school hours. I am surprised that Mr. O. does not see the need of a good education for his 'boy' as he calls him, and send him to school. Suppose that John Q. who is shut up in the Condensery from morning till night day after day, for months, should say, 'Oh, it is too pleasant to be shut up in this dark place away from the sunshine,' where would his money come from? 'Go to the Ant, thou Sluggard, consider her ways and be wise! I fear Mr. O. does not always practice what he preached, especially in bringing up boys. But he does preach well, so every one says".

With the passing years, the need for larger living quarters became apparent to Charles and Maria. The small house had had no alteration except for the addition of a long, narrow room to the eastern end. This adjoined the kitchen "entry" and had a window opening into the pantry. It had been built for a milkroom and here shallow tin pans of milk were set for the cream to rise and be skimmed off for butter making. Incidentally, there was in the little entry, an unusual feature-- a noon mark, a device used by the early settlers to mark the time, in a day when clocks were scarce. (This old house was razed after Everett Adams bought the farm.)

The new building, started in 1894, was in the form of an addition to the western end of the old house. It was two and a half stories in height and measured about thirty feet square. Three rooms, one with a bay window, comprised the first floor and the second consisted of four bedrooms, while a stairway led to the two large upper rooms, lighted by dormer windows in the southern slope of the roof.

The cost of the building is very interesting in this day of high prices. The hemlock lumber for the frame was brought in from Pennsylvania at a cost of \$176.79, which included \$90.15 for freight, while the finishing lumber including casings, doors, moldings, etc. for the interior amounted to \$154.87. Labor, including carpenter work, masonry and painting accounted for nearly \$500 more. Charles had estimated the entire cost at \$1055 - it was only slightly higher. Work was suspended during the winter and completed the following summer.

Some new furnishings were necessary: 40 yards of matting at 17¢ a yard; 21 1/2 yards of carpeting cost \$9.73, including 13¢ freight from Kingston; 10 pairs of lace curtains and various other articles. A "memorandum of bedroom suites" listed: Roxbury suite of 1894 (8 pieces) with springs and mattress, \$25; Stamford suite of 1896 (7 pieces) \$24, and Roxbury suite of 1896 (8 pieces) \$31.25. Another item purchased was a "Home Comfort" wrought iron range. This range is still doing yeoman service, exactly sixty years later in the kitchen of Charles Smith Adams, the second.

Maria did not live many years to enjoy these new conveniences. She had become increasingly frail, had to spend long hours in rest and at last on August 1, 1904, succumbed to tuberculosis. I regret that I could not know my Grandmother Adams - I think she was a wonderful person, who successfully conquered her handicaps.

After Maria's death, Charles made his home with their eldest son, Frank. In appearance, he was tall, of rather large frame and he wore a Greeley beard. One eye was sightless, having been injured in an accident in the woods. He was of an uncompromising nature but Mother (his daughter-in-law) understood his way and he, in turn, respected, admired and had a genuine affection for her. He liked to tell of other days and of earlier family concerns, and she was an interested listener. As long as he was able, he helped with chores and the milking, his milking stool being an unusual, high, double-decked affair, but he gradually and unwillingly had to give up work and spent most of his last days in his armchair by the fire. He died November 11, 1921, due to the infirmities of old age. He has been described as "a reliable, upright man of good moral principles and a praiseworthy representative of the illustrious family of which he is a member."

"TODAY'S CHILDREN"

FRANCIS EVERETT

Charles and Karla's first child was born December 20, 1871. He was known only as "Baby" until the following April when he became "Frankie", having been named Francis Everett. He must have been early endowed with those sterling qualities he now possesses as he was the object of such affection from all his relatives. After going to district school, he attended the Academy at Stamford and then entered into partnership with his father, on the family farm.

On January 25, 1899, he married Martha Holmes Thomson of Hobart, who had come to teach school in the Township. She was of Scottish descent, the daughter of Robert and Helen (Craig) Thomson. An account of the wedding, as it appeared in the local newspaper, follows:

About 75 guests gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomson, Wednesday, to witness the marriage of their only daughter, Martha Holmes to Frank Adams of the Township.

It was an exceptionally pretty home wedding, the ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. M. Herrick, assisted by Rev. A. A. Walker.

The bridesmaid was Miss Eva Adams, sister of the groom and the best man was Robert D. Thomson, brother of the bride. The bride wore a dainty gown of white brocade trimmed with lace and she carried a bouquet of white roses.

The bride's maid's gown was of cream cashmere, becomingly trimmed with pink satin and she carried pink roses.

After a sumptuous wedding breakfast had been served, the bride and groom left on the afternoon train, amid the congratulations of a host of friends. The bride looked very attractive in her going away gown of green tulle's cloth and tulle. They will visit Sing Sing, New York and Newark before their return.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams were the recipients of many useful as well as valuable presents.

They are both held in the highest esteem by the community and a host of friends wish them happiness in their new life.

Another account adds:

The bride is one of our most estimable young ladies, a graduate of the High School and prominent in church work. The groom is the eldest son of Charles B. Adams, a wealthy (?) farmer and a young man of excellent character.

For a time, the young ladies (Frank and Karla) lived in rooms in the new part of the house, then Charles' family moved into the new addition, and Frank and Karla moved into the old part. In 1911, as has already been mentioned, Dad and Mother bought, and moved to, the adjoining Bennett farm.

On May 27, 1948, Martha Adams died in the Stamford hospital, having been ill for several months, due to pernicious anemia.

Helen Mary Adams, their oldest child, born November 12, 1899, married George Many (whose first wife, Ethel Haynes, had died, leaving four children, Edith, Earl, Paul and Robert) on August 20, 1924. Ralph Adams Many was born May 29, 1925, and Floyd Brooks, June 20, 1926. Floyd married Ruth Rose in 1951. Wallace Thomson, born August 30, 1928, married Dorothy Jones of Minerva in 1953. The youngest, Kent Malcolm, was born January 12, 1937. The Manys, who have an extensive poultry business, lived for some years on the former Alonzo Haynes farm in Township and in 1951 bought and remodelled the Herman Kniskern house in Hobart.

Isabelle Stirling Adams, whose birth date is August 18, 1901, married Stephen Swantak at Stamford on the 31st of May, 1926. After engaging in the garage business for several years, they bought a farm in Bovina, and in 1944 bought their present farm on the Little Delaware, Delhi. They have no children.

Everett Thomson Adams, born October 15, 1907, bought the old Adams Homestead and lives there with his wife, the former Mary Borra, whom he married in Oneonta June 24, 1934. Their only son is Ronald Borra Adams, born November 5, 1937. Their only daughter, Kay Diane, born October 18, 1935, lived only two days.

Charles Smith Adams the Second, born February 9, 1911, is unmarried. He and Dad live on the Bennett farm which he now owns. Mrs. Robert McGregor has kept house for them for several years.

On June 11, 1913, the last of the Adams children, John Robert, was born. He married Mary Latronica of Walton on June 14, 1936 and they have three children, their names and birth dates being: John Robert, Jr., September 19, 1937; Rose Linda Beth, March 3, 1944, and James Edward, born July 1, 1952. After living in Hobart and Sunside, they purchased the former Simons farm in the Township for their home.

#### John Quincy

John Quincy Adams was born December 27, 1875. He has a lively sense of humor and is quick at repartee. An incident of his youth, which the family loves to recall to his memory, concerns a cold, snowy, horse-and cutter ride he took to Rose's Brook to attend a dance. He started out neatly dressed, wearing a fashionable derby hat, but returned in the wee, small hours with a scarf tied over his ears, having lost his "hard hat" to the stormy gusts sweeping thru the "Notch".

He was always interested in the creamery business, working in the "condensery" at Hobart and was manager of Sheffield creameries in Cobleskill, New York and Nassau. He bought and still lives on a small farm near Nassau Lake.

At Cobleskill, on March 27, 1902, he married Cordelia Ann Joslyn. She died suddenly leaving two little girls; Beatrice Maria, born December 12, 1904 and Gertrude Smith, born November 12, 1907. For many years their Aunt Mary Spickerman kept house for Uncle John and cared for the children.

Beatrice married William Weaver in 1935, and their only son, John Adams Weaver, was born February 18, 1938. Gertude's marriage to George Eager (who had two children by a former marriage) took place October 6, 1931. She died May 4, 1953.

#### EVA MAY

Eva May, eldest daughter of Charles and Maria, was born December 9, 1878. She received her education in the rural school and Hobart High School and spent some of her vacations, with her mother's only lukewarm approval, working in the Kendall House, a summer hotel in Stamford. On January 2, 1901, she married Frederick W. Webster who was born July 14, 1870, was the son of John and Sarah Webster.

The young couple started their married life on a farm on McMurdy Hill, below Hobart, but soon bought the old Swart and Mitchell farm in the Township. They made many improvements and had a pleasant home. The outstanding memories from visits there in my childhood were of the oil paintings which hung in the long dining room; of Aunt Eva's delicious apple tapioca pudding and of the "tree house" - a platform built in a tree as a playhouse for the children. There were three youngsters: Howard Smith (born November 3, 1903); Mary Iva (born December 13, 1905), and Ruth Elizabeth (born July 30, 1907).

The Websters decided to go farther afield and, on a cold, snowy day in 1913, started for their new home, a truck farm in Lakewood, New Jersey. They quickly made a place for themselves in the community and the young people found friends in the neighborhood and soon married.

Howard married Mary M. Vogel in 1927 and their children are Clarence, born 1928 and Glorianna Mae, born September 6, 1932. The Howard Websters now live in Toss River, New Jersey.

Mary married Kenneth Tieter in 1930 and their children are William, born July 15, 1932 and Mary Ann, born July 16, 1937. Their home is in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Ruth married Robert Dobbins in 1926. Betty Dobbins was born July 30, 1928, married Clyde Esselbeck in 1948 and has children. Robert Dobbins, Jr. was born November 15, 1930, married Marian Machlet and has one son, Robert III, born November 3, 1953. Robert and Ruth, who, owing to his work in aviation have lived in several parts of the country, now make their home in Mountainside, N.J.

#### HELEN L.

The fourth Adams child lived only a short time, her life being from December 30, 1882 until the following February 17th.

#### MARY GRIFFIN

Mary Griffin Adams was born July 12, 1884. Her absorbing interest was in music and she took lessons on the then most popular instrument, the organ. She married Charles Warren Post, son of Burton and Martha (Parker) Post, on October 4, 1905 and they lived in Kortright Station, where he managed a creamery. As youngsters we enjoyed visiting there; watching the trains, having picnics and playing with the neighborhood children. The Posts spent the winter of 1915 in California, and on their return, bought the Narrow Notch (Township) farm of his father. Here, in 1916, Uncle Charles died, following an accident. Aunt Mary soon sold the farm and she and the children moved to Lakewood, New Jersey, where her sister, Eva, was living.

Their first child was Charles Maurice, born July 5, 1907. Her married Vivian Irons Cowdrick in 1935 and their children are; Barbara Joyce (January 5, 1936), Charles Maurice, Jr. (January 3, 1938), Nancy Phyllis (January 15, 1948) and Kenneth Eric (February 27, 1950). Janice Lynn, who was born January 18, 1946, died on December 26, 1949. Maurice's work is with a telephone company and they have built a home in Lakewood.

Uncle Charles never saw his only daughter, Evalyn, as she was born October 24, 1916, a week after his death. In 1935 she married Frederick Buswell, Jr. and their son is Frederick 3rd (December 4, 1940.) Eleanor Carol was born August 29, 1938.

The Buswells and Aunt Mary are presently making their home in Germany, under the Army program.

#### SARAH ELIZA

The youngest daughter of Charles and Maria was Sarah, born November 2, 1886. I cannot remember her, but judging from the evidence she was a gentle, affectionate child; generous and loving and, as the saying goes, "young for her age". She lived only one month after her eighteenth birthday, the cause of her death - diabetes. I am very happy to have the Bible that belonged to her.

These, then, are a few of the Adamses. As a family, we are clannish, enjoying the company of one another immensely. We are affectionate but un demonstrative; some of us have a distinct touch of Yankee reserve. We dislike sham and pretentiousness; like to stand on our own feet and do our own thinking. The trait delineated by some as "Adams stubbornness", we call "strong will power" and most of us possess it in good measure. As no one has been outstandingly successful, so has none been a failure.

Abraham is, I think, pleased with his flock.