



Genealogy

OF THE FAMILY OF

Adams of Brooklyn,

New York,

Descended from those

OF THE

Northern-Neck of Virginia,

U. S. A.

COMPILED
BY
WM. NEWTON ADAMS, Jr.
BROOKLYN, N. Y.
1872.

The Adams Family.

THIS family of **Adams**, of **Brooklyn**, N. Y. is descended from a family of great respectability, which, at an early period, settled in the Northern-Neck of Virginia, where it became possessed, by grants and purchase, of considerable landed estate.

The exact date at which the family came to America, or whence they came, can now no longer be ascertained, owing to the mutilation, and in some instances total destruction, of county records in this portion of the State during the late war.

The first mention we find of the name of **Adams** in the Northern-Neck, is in a grant to **John Adams** of 393 acres of land in Stafford County, in April, 1705, his will (now destroyed) being recorded in 1730. From 1726 down, we find many grants, amounting in the aggregate to several thousand acres, to different members of the family, until we come to

Abednego Adams of Fairfax Co., Virginia, the first direct ancestor of whom we have any authentic information. He was born in 1721, and settled in Fairfax Co. on lands lying between the North and

South Branches of "Little Hunting Creek." This was in the neighborhood of "Mount Vernon," and the family frequently visited at the home of Washington. In 1749 we find our ancestor appointed sole executor of the will of his cousin William Godfrey of Fairfax Co., whose real estate he inherited. In this will, mention is also made by Godfrey, of his cousins "George and Josias Adams" in Maryland, which would seem to indicate that at least some of the family originally settled in that State. In 1760, we find a grant from Lord Fairfax, Proprietor of the Northern-Neck, to Abednego Adams, for 100 acres of land in Fairfax Co., and in 1763, a lease from the latter to one John McIntosh, of Colchester, of 190 acres. Mr. Adams was a "Planter," and a man of substance for the times in which he lived. He married three times; his first wife (by whom he had three sons) being a Miss Peake* of Virginia, the descendant of a family of great antiquity in England, tracing back to A. D. 1284, temp: Edward I. and the Conquest of Wales. Of this family Sir Robert Peake was with Charles I. at the Battle of Naseby, and Major Henry Peake in the Cavalry Service with Prince Rupert, while Sir William Peake was Lord Mayor of London in 1668. The name of Mr. Adams' second wife we have not been able to ascertain. His third wife was Hannah Moss, member of a family of distinction in Fairfax Co., several representatives of which have filled the position of Clerks of the County.

Abednego Adams died on his plantation, near Centreville, on the 1st November, 1809, at the advanced age of 88 years, and in his will, executed 28th June, 1804, he mentions the following children:

Josias Peake, of whom hereafter.

* Mary, daughter of William Peake, of Fairfax Co. (vide Record of Mills of said County for 1761.)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Francis, | of Centreville, Fairfax Co. Born 7th February, 1749. Served in the Revolutionary War as a private, persistently refusing promotion, and was rewarded by President John Adams for his services, with an appointment in the "Excise Office," equivalent to that of Collector of Internal Revenue at the present day, an office which he filled with great credit. He married, 8th February, 1777, his cousin Anne, daughter of Humphrey Peake of Fairfax Co., by whom (who died 24th December, 1827, aged 71) he had issue: Thomas Louis —died an infant in 1780. Sarah Peake —died an infant in 1782. Catherine H. —died July 14th, 1797, aged 20. Elizabeth —died an infant in 1788. George —born February 12, 1784, and married, 13th December, 1812, Anna Maria, daughter of Presley Lane, for 30 years presiding officer of the Pennsylvania Senate, and had issue: Francis George and Sarah Louise. He died March 31st, 1816, aged 32. Mary S. —married John Hening 26th February, 1804. Anne Peake —married Dr. Benedict Middleton Lane January 22, 1811. Frances Tontson —married George W. Lane 9th March, 1813. |
| John, | went to sea, and was never heard from. |
| Robert, | married Lucy Cordell of Leesburg, Loudoun Co., and had issue, with others, George Martin . |
| Abednego, | of New York, builder, married, and had issue: Robert of New York, builder, Abednego , and others. |
| James, | builder, married Miss Bruner, and had issue: Samuel , Julia , Elizabeth married Wm. Hurdle of Georgetown, D. C. Sarah Jane —married Thos. Davidson of Washington, D. C. Mary, Maria . |
| Mary Ann, | of Centreville, died unmarried in 1822, bequeathing her farm, "Spring Hill," and other property, to her sister, Mrs. Peake, and her daughters. |

* *Francis Adams, died 1812 at his homestead in Centreville, called "Mt. Gilead". This is one of the few houses in the town that survived the battle of Bull's Run, and still stands "a noble wreck in ruinous perfection."*

Sarah Moss, born 15th April, 1778, married, 18th January, 1801, Thos. Peake of Centreville, and died 20th December, 1839, leaving issue: **Wm. Brown**—married Jane Eliza, daughter of Joseph Powell of Fairfax, C. H. **Thomas Adams**—married Mary Ann Elam. **John Adams**—died young. **Mary Adams**—married Wm. Brown Carter. **Ann Louisa**—married John Goodman. **Sarah Jane**—married James Clarke. **Frances Elizabeth**—married Reeve C. Norton. **Lucy Catherine**—married Wm. C. Pride. **Pamela Ann**—married John Allen. **Margaret Ann**—married George Goodman.

Josias Peake Adams, of Loudoun Co., Va., son of Abednego Adams of Fairfax Co., was born about the year 1748. He was a Merchant and Land-holder, possessing large estates in Virginia and Kentucky. In 1791, being then a middle-aged man and a bachelor, he married Elizabeth Price, daughter of Benjamin Crump, of Fauquier Co., member of a family of wealth and distinction in the State.

Mr. **Adams** died at Centreville, Fairfax Co., in November, 1796, and by his marriage with Miss **Crump** (who was born in 1773, married secondly, Capt. Anthony Hughes, by whom she had issue, and died in Jefferson City, Mo., 21st July, 1845) had issue:

- (1.) **Francis**, of whom hereafter.
- (2.) **William Godfrey**, of Alexandria, Va., born 9th October, 1795. He was educated at Newtown, Va., and joined his brother Francis in business at Alexandria, but his health failing rapidly, he went to Europe, and resided for some years in Marseilles. About the end of the year 1820, he returned to Alexandria, where he died, unmarried, 27th January, 1821, aged 25 years, bequeathing his estate, real and personal, to his nephew, Wm. Newton

Adams, and his niece, Jane N. Adams.

Mrs. Chas. W. Woolsey of New York thus writes of him in 1869:—"He was slightly built, his health being always delicate. He had the features and hue of a Spaniard; very black eyes and hair, and very much given to segars; an 'exquisite' in the matter of dress, and always the 'gentleman.'"

Francis Adams, of Alexandria, Va., and Matanzas, Cuba, son of Josias Peake Adams, was born in Centreville, Fairfax Co., 22d July, 1793, and was educated at Newtown, Va. About 1813 he established himself in Alexandria, under the firm name of Adams, Herbert & Co., with a branch house in Norfolk, and did an extensive shipping and commission business. On the 26th December, 1814, he married Mary Ricketts, daughter of William **Newton** of Alexandria, Va., and sister of Commodore John Thomas **Newton**, U. S. N. This family of **Newton**, one of the oldest and most aristocratic in Virginia, is descended from John **Newton**, Lord Mayor of the City of York, England, abt. 1600, whose ancestor, Sir Ancel **Gornap**, overcame and took captive a Moorish Prince at the battle of Ascalon in 1192. For this, and other deeds of valor, he received many marks of favor from Richard "Coeur de Lion;" among others, he was permitted to bear as his crest the figure of a Prince kneeling and surrendering his sword.

From 1815 to 1818, Mr. **Adams** was vestryman of "Christ Church," Alexandria, where William **Adams** had been a warden from 1765 to 1775, in the same vestry with Genl. Washington. He served in the War of 1812, his widow afterwards receiving for his services a grant of 160 acres of land. His health failing, he made several voyages to Europe and the West Indies; was appointed U. S. Consul at Trieste,

Austria, 3d March, 1819. He finally settled in Matanzas, Cuba, establishing himself under the firm of Latting, Adams & Stewart, and bought a coffee estate across the bay from the city, which he called "Mount Vernon." He was appointed "U. S. Consular Commercial Agent" at Matanzas 8th August, 1823, and died at "Mount Vernon" 3d May, 1825, Aged 32 years, being buried on the estate.

Mrs. Chas. W. Woolsey of New York, thus describes him:—"Mr. Francis **Adams** was a man of rare purity of mind and morals; of great refinement; a charming companion in social and domestic life; highly cultivated and accomplished, and all this combined with very unusual business abilities and a most winning and gentlemanly address, which made him friends of all who knew him."

By his marriage with Miss **Newton** (who was born in Alexandria, 12th March, 1795, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., 27th February, 1869, aged 75 years, and is buried at Norwich, Conn.) he had issue:

(2.) **William Newton**, of whom hereafter.

(1.) **Jane Newton**, born in Alexandria, Va., 15th March, 1816, married, 15th April, 1833, James B. Goddard of Brooklyn, N. Y., son of Judge Calvin Goddard of Connecticut, and has issue: **Francis Adams**—married Ida Prevost. Colonel **Calvin**—married Caroline Atwater. **William Newton**—married Ella Taylor.

(3.) **Mary Ricketts**, born in Alexandria, Va., 19th November, 1820, married, 26th June, 1850, Gardiner Greene of Norwich, Conn., son of Honorable William Parkinson Greene, and has issue: **Gardiner**, **Leonard Cassal**.

(4.) **Louisa Hoteland**, born in New York, 21st May, 1824, married, 18th April, 1850, Arthur Moore Beardsley of Utica, N. Y., son of Judge Samuel Beardsley, and has issue: **Mary Adams**, **Samuel Arthur**.

William Newton Adams, of Brooklyn, N. Y., son of Francis Adams, was born in Alexandria, Va., 15th September, 1818. He is a merchant, having received his mercantile education in the house of Messrs. G. G. & S. Howland of New York, Mr. Gardiner Greene Howland having been his guardian. When about 19 years of age he went to Venezuela, where he engaged in business for some years, and married, on the 29th September, 1844, Doña Maria del Carmen, daughter of Don Vicente de **Michelena y Rojas** of Caracas, Administrator of Customs at Laguayra and President of the Tribunal de Comercio at Caracas, a descendant of the ancient family of "de **Michelena**," of the Valley of Oyarzun, in the Province of Guipuzcoa, whose "Casa Solariega," or manor-house, is in the town of Goizueta, Province of Navarra, Spain.

In 1848, Mr. **Adams** went to the Island of Cuba and became a partner of the well-known house of Messrs. Brooks & Co. of Santiago de Cuba. He was for many years United States and Venezuelan Consul at that place, President of the Philharmonic Society, and a leader in social as well as business circles.

In 1865 he returned to his native country, and became a partner of the house of Messrs. Moses Taylor & Co. of New York. He resides on Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn; is connected with "St. Andrew's" Episcopal Church as vestryman, and is one of its principal supporters.

By his marriage with Miss **Michelena** (who was born in Caracas, 16th July, 1824, died in Santiago de Cuba, 19th November, 1871, and is buried in the family lot at Norwich, Conn.) he has issue:

(1.) **Mary Eliza**,

born in Caracas, 30th June, 1845, married in Santiago de Cuba, 10th April, 1862, Theodore Brooks, son of

- Thomas Brooks, and has issue: *Theodore, Thomas William, Ernest Augustus, Amelia Teresa.*
- (2.) *William Newton,* born in Caracas, 25th November, 1846, merchant, Vestryman of St. Andrew's Church, Brooklyn, married, 25th May, 1870, Elizabeth Harper, daughter of James Linklater Truslow of Brooklyn, and has issue: *Amy Louise.*
- (3.) *Francis Vincent,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 10th April, 1849, died there March 12th, 1853.
- (4.) *Louisa Amelia,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 18th April, 1850, and married, 29th September, 1870, James Linklater Truslow, Jr., son of James L. Truslow of Brooklyn, N. Y., and has issue: *Marie Germain.*
- (5.) *Charles Frederick,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 27th July, 1851, Graduated LL B. in 1871 from Harvard Law School. Admitted to the New York Bar 14th September, 1872.
- (6.) *Thomas Brooks,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 24th October, 1852, merchant.
- (7.) *Maria del Carmen,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 16th December, 1855, and died there 23d September, 1858.
- (8.) *Francis Vincent,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 10th November, 1856.
- (9.) *Ernest Henry,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 16th December, 1857.
- (10.) *Frederick Augustus,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 24th January, 1859.
- (11.) *Maria del Carmen,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 17th February, 1860, died there 19th November, 1862.
- (12.) *Henry Augustus,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 20th September, 1861.
- (13.) *Caroline Mathilde,* born in Santiago de Cuba, 14th June, 1863.