

MEMOIR
of
ROYAL ADAMS KEITH
of
Grafton, Massachusetts
and
Genealogy of His Family
1809 1934

Compiled by
Ellen L. Keith and Amelia T. Keith
of Grafton

Alice R. Richards
from the
Graston Annts
Ellen and Amelia
May 30, 1934

Royal Adams Keith was the son of Royal Keith and Deborah Adams, son of Simeon Keith Junior and Rebecca Leland, son of Simeon Keith and Abigail Aldrich, son of James Keith Junior and Mary Hodges of Taunton, eldest son of Reverend James Keith and Susannah Edson both of Bridgewater.

The Reverend James Keith came from Scotland in 1662 at the age of 18 and on February 18, 1664 was settled over the first church in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and remained its pastor until his death on July 23, 1719, nearly fifty-six years.

He married Susanna Edson, daughter of Deacon Samuel Edson, May 3, 1668. She died October 16, 1705, aged 65 years.

They had nine children.

The parents of Royal Adams Keith whose descendants are given in this little book were:

Royal Keith, born in Northbridge, February 23, 1769 and died November 13, 1857.

Deborah Adams, daughter of Captain Aaron Adams of Northbridge, was born August 29, 1777 and died December 13, 1857.

They were married December 26, 1797.

They had ten children.

DEBORAH

Born March 11, 1799

Died June 9, 1885

LOUISA

Born June 15, 1801

Died January 20, 1808

GEORGIANA MARIA

Born August 19, 1803

Died August 19, 1853

CAROLINE

Born March 3, 1806

Died 1806

CLARISSA CAROLINE

Born February 12, 1807

Died 1812

ROYAL ADAMS

Born December 27, 1809

Died August 27, 1882

CLARISSA ANN

Born May 13, 1812

Died January 19, 1889

CHARLES EDWARD

Born February 5, 1815

Died November 3, 1881

SARAH CAROLINE

Born October 15, 1817

Died September 1, 1907

HENRY RICHARD

Born January 5, 1823

Died May, 1866

When a boy Royal Keith came to Grafton to live with an uncle and learn the shoe trade. In 1797 when he was 28 years old he purchased a farm in the southerly part of the town, built a new house and brought his bride Deborah Adams Keith to make a home there.

Royal Adams Keith, the first son of the family though the sixth child, remained on the farm which was constantly increasing in size till in 1833 the last purchase was made and over 500 acres were acquired and the name of Keith Hill was given to the fine location. His father from the first was a shoe manufacturer as well as farmer and carried on the two successfully.

In 1840 Royal Adams Keith met Lydia Dexter Fisher, daughter of John Fisher Junior and Abigail Newell of Killingly, Connecticut.

She was born May 1, 1820.

They were married September 2, 1840.

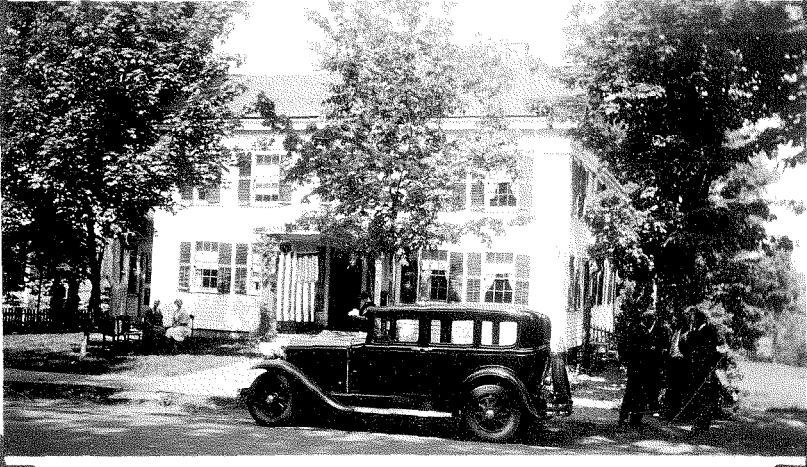
Abigail Newell was the daughter of Samuel Newell and Lois Cady. John Fisher Junior was the son of John Fisher and Elizabeth Marcy and grandson of Barzillai Fisher and Lydia Dexter who were born in 1730 and 1732, and married October 3, 1754. They came from Pawtucket, Rhode Island to Killingly in April 1783. No record of this branch of the Fisher family has been found back of Barzillai who was a tailor by trade and was said to weigh 125 pounds and be spry and hard to handle. His wife had one black eye and one blue eye, so tradition says.

Royal Adams Keith and his wife Lydia Dexter (Fisher) Keith lived for the first seventeen years of their married life on Keith Hill in a home built ready for them south of the home of his father. A change of business then took them to Grafton Centre where they remained about seven years when, in 1868, they returned to Keith Hill to live on the old home place of his parents who died in 1857 and which the death of his brother Henry in 1866 had left vacant.

Here, they remained until his death August 27, 1882, and his wife occupied until her death April 28, 1900. Her daughter Amelia and her son John and his wife Anna, were her companions and caretakers of the home and farm.

A more extended history of the Keith family was compiled by Charles Edward Keith and printed in 1873. Several copies of this are still preserved in some branches of the family and give the genealogy of the family up to about 1873 from the Reverend James Keith in 1662.

There is also in the family a copy of "Keith Memorial" by Ziba C. Keith of Brockton giving descendants of Timothy fourth son of Reverend James Keith, and a larger book "The Leland genealogical Record of Henry Leland and his descendants."



1. ROYAL ADAMS KEITH
and
2. LYDIA DEXTER FISHER
were married September 2, 1840.

The following is a genealogical record of their descendants up to 1934.

They had eight children:

3. HERBERT FISHER
Born August 19, 1842 Died May 10, 1915
4. EDWARD WALTER
Born April 23, 1843 Died December 9, 1905
5. MOSES ADAMS 7
Born January 23, 1845 Died September 5, 1918
6. SAMUEL NEWELL
Born January 23, 1847 Died March 4, 1892
7. CHARLES WATERMAN
Born April 19, 1849 Died November 9, 1933
8. ELLEN LOUISA 5.
Born March 29, 1851 *Died Sept. 5, 1940*
9. AMELIA TAFT
Born June 27, 1854 *Died Sept. 11, 1935*
10. JOHN FISHER
Born November 17, 1857 Died August 8, 1922



(3) HERBERT FISHER KEITH

and

GERTRUDE FLAGLER

of New Hackensack, New York.

Married September 22, 1887.

Gertrude died February 1, 1908 at their home
in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts.

Herbert died there May 10, 1915.

(4) EDWARD WALTER KEITH

and

MARY C. DICKS

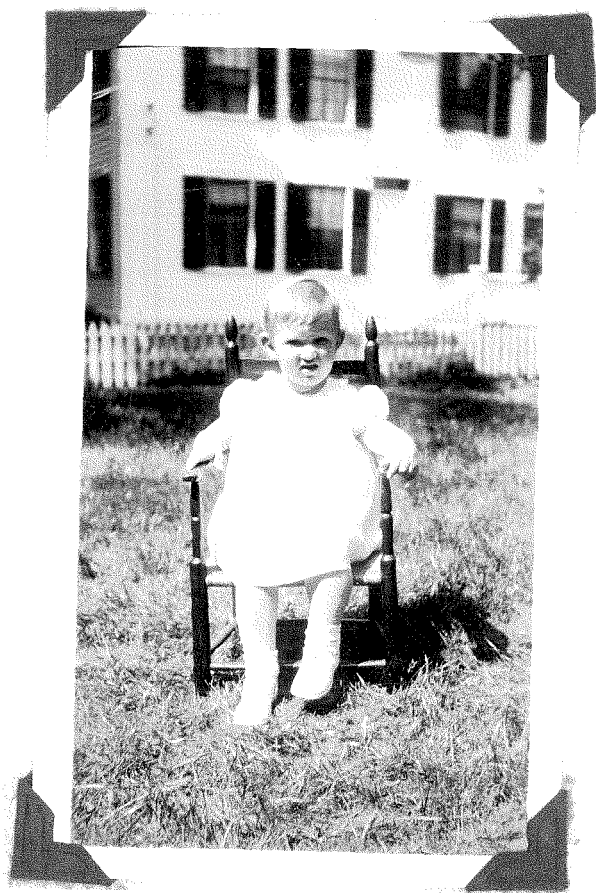
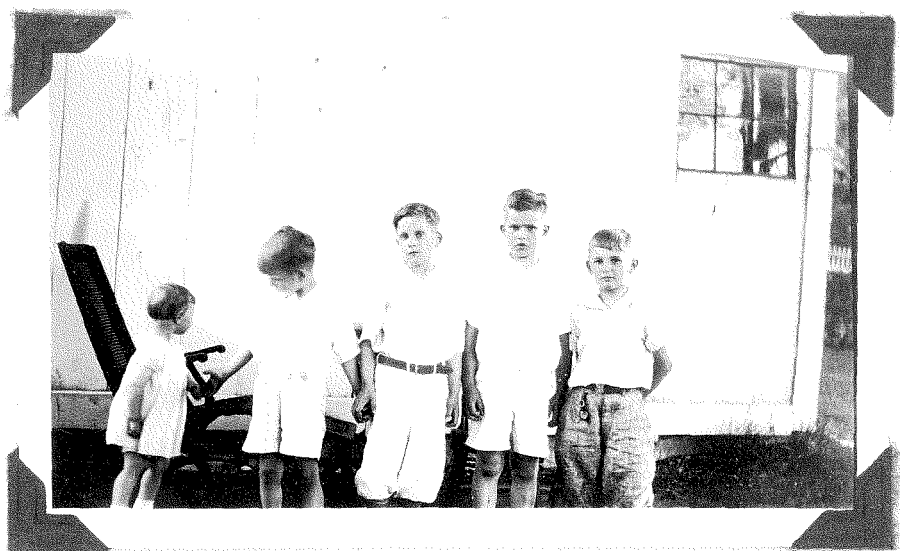
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Dicks

of Dayton, Ohio.

Married May 31, 1870.

Edward Walter died December 9, 1905.

Mary C. died July 23, 1932.



Parents

(5) MOSES ADAMS KEITH

and

SARAH AUGUSTA REDDING

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Redding
of Grafton.

Married January 16, 1867.

Children

11. LOUISE AUGUSTA

Born September 17, 1867

Died Aug 20, 1966

12. EMMA CLARA

Born September 15, 1870

- *Dec. 1947*

13. ALICE REDDING

Born December 14, 1874

- *June 23, 1944*

14. ROYAL

Born July 1, 1879

Dec. 1964

15. ARTHUR HARRISON

Born February 5, 1885

Nov.
Died ~~March~~ 27, 1887

Parents

(12) EMMA CLARA KEITH

and

RALPH W. ROGERS

son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen S. Rogers
of Grafton.

Married October 28, 1896.

Children

16. BERTHA KEITH

Born January 25, 1898

17. NORMAN LELAND

Born November 26, 1899

Died April 3, 1901

18. GRACE MILDRED

Born February 25, 1902

April 1951

(16) BERTHA KEITH ROGERS

and

THOMAS F. VON KAMECKE

son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Von Kamecke
of Grafton.

Married October 29, 1921.

(18) GRACE MILDRED ROGERS

and

WALTER DICKINSON LEARY

son of Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon H. Leary
of Boston.

Married June 10, 1924.

Parents

(13) ALICE REDDING KEITH

and

EDWARD ROWLAND RICHARDS

son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Richards

Born in Wednesbury, England, July 12, 1871. *Died Apr 3, 1953*

Married November 30, 1898.

Children

19. LOUISE KEITH

Born September 25, 1899 - *Died March 13, 1969*

married June 21, 1927

Wilbur Seeley Sherwood - July 4, 1896

Died October 28, 1971

20. RUSSELL ARNOLD

Born July 16, 1901

married Oct. 19th 1946

Susan Elizabeth Kuchta - April 17 - 1911

21. HAROLD REDDING

Born September 20, 1911

married Nov. 18, 1950

Cather Beardsley Beecham - June 13 - 1911

Parents

(19) LOUISE KEITH RICHARDS

and

WILBUR SEELEY SHERWOOD

of Hartford, Connecticut

Married June 22, 1922. 7

Children

Walter Beach Sherwood
Born Dec. 6, 1915 - Died 1944

Dorothy Mae Sherwood
Born Mar. 7, 1920
married Laurence Gavin - Dec. 1945

Children of Dorothy

Cheryl Henderson Gavin - May 7, 1947
Janis Sherwood Gavin - Sept 1949
Keith Sherwood Gavin - Dec 11, 1950

Parents

(14) ROYAL KEITH

and

GERTRUDE IRENE MORAN

of Boston.

Married February 17, 1912.

Children

(22) CLAIRE FRANCES KEITH

Born March 17, 1919.

Parents

(6) SAMUEL NEWELL KEITH

and

MARY E. ADAMS

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Adams of Grafton.

Married February 15, 1872.

Mary died January 25, 1905.

Children

23. ANNIE JOSEPHINE

Born November 2, 1872

Died May 31, 1930

24. JOSEPH B. A.

Born November 10, 1873

Died January 18, 1874

Parents

(23) ANNIE JOSEPHINE KEITH

and

CHARLES SUMNER BURKE

of Boston.

Married May 5, 1894.

Children

25. BEATRICE

Born May 5, 1898

Died August 10, 1898

- 26. ELIZABETH

Born July 10, 1903

27. ROYAL GRANT

Born March 4, 1907

Parents

(7) CHARLES WATERMAN KEITH

and

CARRIE AUGUSTA HAYDEN

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lovett Hayden
of Hopkinton.

Married January 28, 1880.

Children

28. CARRIE ETHEL

Born March 26, 1881

Died August 30, 1881

29. ROYAL ADAMS

Born July 18, 1882

30. NINA HAYDEN

Born October 26, 1884

31. ROBERT ELWIN

Born November 16, 1888

Died August 3, 1911

Parents

(29) ROYAL ADAMS KEITH

and

LAURA LOUISE HANSEN

daughter of Neils and Christine Hansen
of Denmark.

Laura was born in San Francisco October 18, 1887.

Married July 2, 1910.

Died December 10, 1919.

Children

32. EDWARD

Born May 10, 1911

Died May 11, 1911

Parents

(30) NINA HAYDEN KEITH

and

WILLIAM MERRILS WHEELER

son of Mr. and Mrs. Crayton B. Wheeler
of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Married June 1, 1914.

Children

33. CAROL ELIZABETH WHEELER

Born July 1, 1917

34. JEANNETTE KEITH WHEELER

Born June 1, 1920

Parents

(10) JOHN FISHER KEITH

and

ANNA AUGUSTA FAY

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Fay of Westboro.

Anna was born August 31, 1860.

They were married June 16, 1888. 5

Children

35. HAROLD NEWELL

Born April 29, 1890

Died July 20, 1918 8

36. CLARENCE EDWARD

Born August 3, 1892

Died January 12, 1910

37. EVELYN WINIFRED

Born November 1, 1893

4 38. WILLARD FAY

Born June 9, 1895

39. ERVING FISHER

Born October 23, 1896

40. MORRIS BREWER

Born March 28, 1898

41. GEORGE ROBERT

Born September 14, 1900

Parents

(38) WILLARD FAY KEITH

and

EDITH MARION

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Walter Howe
of Holden.

Born May 27, 1896.

Married June 1, 1922.

Children

42. ROBERT HAROLD

Born December 10, 1925

43. NORMA CAROLYN

Born March 9, 1932

Parents

(39) ERVING FISHER KEITH

and

STELLA GERTRUDE

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waldo E. Harrington
of Princeton.

Born July 3, 1903.

Married October 15, 1921.

Children

44. MARION LOUISE

Born February 27, 1924

45. ROGER ERVING

Born April 8, 1927

46. BARBARA ANN

Born September 3, 1930

47. DOROTHY WHITEHOUSE

Born September 21, 1933 Died September 23, 1933

Parents

(40) MORRIS BREWER KEITH

and

IVA REYNOLDS

daughter of Mrs. Lucy E. Pratt of Worcester.

Born July 22, 1903.

Married October 15, 1924.

Children

48. CHARLES EDWARD

Born August 18, 1927

49. HAROLD MORRIS

Born March 6, 1929

Evelyn W. Keith
Anna A. Keith-
Ellen L. Keith
Amelia F. Keith
Louis A. Keith
Emma K. Rogers
Gertrude B. Keith
Royal Keith
Edith M. Keith
Robert & Norma Keith
Royal S. Burke
George R. Keith
Elizabeth Burke
Erving F. Keith Roger Keith
Morris B. Keith
Harriet Mearns
Walter D. Leary
Israel W. Leary
Claire F. Keith
Ira R. Keith
Charles & Harold Keith
Bertha Von Kamecke
Willard Keith

Russell Arnold Richards
from the
Graston aunts
Ellen and Amelia
May 30. 1934