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NOTES ON A LINE FROM HENRY1 ADAMS
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The author shares with many other Adams descendants the following ancestral line from the immigrant Henry Adams: John⁶, Joseph⁵, John⁴, John³, John², Henry¹. There are three excellent studies of the early generations of this line. The first, published by Andrew N. Adams in 1898,[1] does contain errors that are corrected in the other two books and in this paper. A.N. Adams felt that the link between John Adams of Menotomy (the western part of Cambridge, now Arlington) and his father, Henry¹ Adams of Braintree, Massachusetts, was not proven. J. Gardner Bartlett, however, publishing in 1927, established that link and presented material on Henry's English background, using a number of contemporary documents researched by Colonel Charles E. Banks.[2] Enid Eleanor Adams, C.G. (later F.A.S.G.), repeated much of this material in 1974, adding her perspective along with additional detail.¹³¹ The comments below on the first two generations call into question two points which have been frequently published, although not by A.N. Adams or Bartlett. For the third and subsequent generations we have much additional material.

Henry¹ Adams. Four years after Bartlett published his book, the Register published information from a purported Streeter family Bible.[4] Focusing on the family of Henry's daughter Ursula, this record contained an astonishing array of dates, including some for Ursula's father and siblings. Milford B. Streeter, the author of the article, had not actually seen the Bible. Evidently he had offered "a considerable sum" for a Bible mentioned in the 1652 inventory of Stephen Streeter. A year or so later John Hayes Goodwin of South Berwick, Maine, replied, sending a copy of records he said he had found in a Bible in a second-hand bookstore. When Streeter visited the bookstore many months later, the Bible was, of course, gone, probably sold for 50¢ or \$1.

While Streeter claimed that this record was unlikely to be a forgery, it seems for several reasons that it probably was. First, the monetary reward would of course have been tempting. Secondly, if Goodwin was somewhat familiar with the genealogical literature, he would surely have recognized the enormous importance of the book and would have bought it himself. Thirdly, most Bibles do not contain such early records. Fourthly, in the 67 years since publication of the article the Bible itself has not appeared. And, finally, no corroborating baptismal dates for Ursula's four husbands extracted from English parish records appear in the IGI (with the possible exception of Wiffiam Robinson).

1. Andrew N. Adams, A Genealogical History of Henry Adams of Braintree, Massachusetts, and his Descendants; also John Adams of Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1632-1897 (Rutland, Vt., 1898). This book contains many dates not in vital records, obtained probably by correspondence in the 1880s and 1890s. But places, when given, may not be accurate.
2. J. Gardner Bartlett, Henry Adams of Somersetshire, England and Braintree, Mass.: His English Ancestry and Some of his Descendants (New York, 1927).
3. Enid Eleanor Adams, Ancestors and Descendants of Jeremiah Adams, 1794-1 883 (Victor, Idaho: Ancestor Hunters, 1974).

4. Milford B. Streeter, "Streeter-Adams Records from a Streeter Family Bible," Register, 85[1931]:382-385.

[From: NEHGR Vol.85, Pages 382-385]

STREETER-ADAMS RECORDS

FROM

A STREETER FAMILY BIBLE

Contributed by MILFORD B. STREETER of Brooklyn, N. Y.

In the Streeter genealogy, compiled by the contributor of this article and published in 1896,* it was stated (page 4) that Ursula, wife of Stephen Streeter, the immigrant ancestor of the New England family of this surname, "is said to have been the daughter of Henry Adams of Braintree," Mass., who was the immigrant ancestor of the Adams family which has given to the United States two Presidents, a minister to Great Britain, a Secretary of the Navy, and many other men distinguished in letters, science, public affairs, business, and finance. Since, however, it might possibly be inferred from the will of Henry Adams, made in 1646, that his daughter Ursula was then living at home with him, apparently unmarried, "a shadow of doubt," in the words of the Streeter genealogy, seemed to have been thrown around the statement that the wife of Stephen Streeter was Ursula Adams. In 1927, however, there was printed, at the expense of the late Edward Dean Adams of New York City, a little book, compiled for him by the late J. Gardner Bartlett, a well-known authority on the English ancestry of the early settlers of New England, and entitled "Henry Adams of Somersetshire, England, and Braintree, Mass.," in which the Somersetshire ancestry of Henry Adams was clearly set forth and much information was given about the early generations of the family in New England. In this book the Adams ancestry of the descendants of Stephen Streeter, through his wife Ursula, was accepted as proved, and in the REGISTER for October 1929 (vol. 83, p. 512) the present writer called attention to the statement of the new Adams genealogy about the parentage of Ursula Adams and her marriage to Stephen Streeter, and gave a list of their children.

When the Adams genealogy compiled by Mr. Bartlett was published, the exact dates of the birth and death of Henry Adams and of the births (or baptisms) of his children (except three who were recorded in England) had not been found, nor were the exact dates of the marriage of Stephen Streeter and Ursula Adams and the births of their children (except one child) known. The approximate years of most of these genealogical happenings had been skilfully inferred by Mr. Bartlett, but the months and the days of the months remained for the most part undiscovered. It is the purpose of the writer to present in this article some recently discovered Bible records that supply the missing portions of the dates in the family of Stephen and Ursula (Adams) Streeter and some of the missing dates in the family of Henry Adams, including the dates of the birth and death of Henry Adams himself and the date of the birth of his son Joseph Adams, the ancestor of the Presidents.

The story of the discovery of these records must, however, first be told. Some two years ago the contributor of this article inserted an advertisement in the Boston Evening Transcript, in which he offered considerable sum for a Bible mentioned in the inventory of the goods of Stephen Streeter, which was taken 24 July 1652.* On 30 Nov. 1930 Mr. John Hayes Goodwin of South Berwick, Me., wrote to the contributor and informed him that in looking for some old books on genealogical subjects he had found, in a second-hand bookstore, in a Bible printed at Edinburgh

in 1693, some Streeter records. He described the book as "an old Bible, Ten and one half inches long by eight and one quarter inches wide and three inches thick. Thi[s] Old Bible is in pretty poor condition without the front title page and the top cover has been sewed on." "Between the Old and New Testament," added Mr. Goodwin, "there is a family record of Stephen Streeter," and he mentioned some of the names given in this record without communicating the dates. Clearly this was not the Bible sought by the advertisement; but the present writer purchased from Mr. Goodwin a copy of the record in this later Bible, and the copy, "of all records that the bible contains," was sent to him in a letter dated 10 Dec. 1930. These record according to Mr. Goodwin's copy, are as follows:

BIRTHS

Stephen Streeter, Jan. 9, 1600.
Ursula Adams, July 19, 1619.
Samuel Hosier, June 1, 1614.
William Robinson, Jan. 9, 1615.
Griffin Crafts, May 21, 1600.
Stephen Streeter, Dec. 9, 1641;
Sarah Streeter, April 2, 1643.
Hannah Streeter, Nov. 10, 1644.
Samuel Streeter, June 16, 1647.
Rebecca Streeter, Tune 4, 1649;
John Streeter, Sept. 21, 1651
Mary Streeter, Dec. 27, 1652.
Stephen Streeter, June 20, 1667.
Henry Adams, Jan. 21, 1583;
Joseph Adams, Feb. 9, 1626.
Peter Adams, March 1, 1622.

MARRIAGES

Stephen Streeter and Ursula Adams, Oct. 5, 1640.
Her 2nd m. to Samuel Hosier, Oct. 13, 1657.
Her 3rd rn. to William Robinson, Aug. 21, 1666.
Her 4th m. to Griffin Crafts, July 15, 1673.
Stephen Streeter and Deborah Smith, May 16, 1666
Samuel Streeter and Mary Horne, Jan. 21, 1666
Rebecca Streeter and Thomas Skillings, Dec. 24, 1698.
John Streeter and Margaret Davis, April 18, 1671.
Joseph Adams and Abigail Baxter, Nov. 26, 1650.

DEATHS

Stephen Streeter, Sept. [sic, ? July] 14, 1652.*
Ursula Adams, Feb. 20, 1649 [sic, 1679].*
Henry Adams, Oct. 6, 1646.
Stephen Streeter, Feb. 19, 1689.
Stephen Streetem, Sept. 22, 1756.
Joseph Adams, Dec. 6, 1694.
Abigail Baxter Gregory, Aug. 27, 1692.
Sarah Streeter, Nov. 30, 1703.
Samuel Streeter, May 31, 1694.
Rebecca Streeter, Oct. 1, 1719.
John Streeter, Sept. 1, 1746.
Mary Streeter, Feb. 9, 1726.

Samuel Hosier, July 29, 1665.
William Robinson, July 6, 1668.
Griffin Crafts, Aug. 21, 1690.

Mr. Goodwin, unfortunately, did not purchase the Bible in which these records were found; and, when the writer of this article, in May, of the current year, was at length able to call on him at South Berwick and was conducted by him to the bookstore of Mr. A. J. Frazier, in Portsmouth, N. H., where Mr. Goodwin had seen the Bible some five or six months earlier, it was no longer to be found. Mr. Frazier could give no information as to what had become of it; but he said that he believed that it had been at one time in his possession, one of a lot of many old books which he had bought from a party in New York City, where they had been in storage for over twenty years. It was his custom, he said, to buy and sell old Bibles frequently, at from ten cents to one dollar each; and this Bible was probably one of many which had been sold in the usual way, without any special attention being given to it. The present writer has advertised for the Bible both in the Boston Transcript and in the Portsmouth Herald, and cherishes the hope that it may yet be found.

The records printed above, however, carry their own evidence of truth. It seems impossible that any one could have forged them. In the opinion of the writer they are absolutely authentic. It is likely that the missing Bible from which they were copied was at one time the property of a child or grandchild of Stephen and Ursula (Adams) Streeter, and that its owner not only entered in it what might be called contemporary records of the Streeter family but also copied into it records of the preceding generations of the family, as well as a few Adams records, having found these earlier records, probably, in an older Bible (perhaps the one mentioned in the inventory of the goods of Stephen Streeter in 1652), which had been handed down from the immigrant and his wife to their descendants.

To all who are familiar with the early history of the Streeters in New England and the Henry Adams family the importance of these records will be obvious. They confirm the marriage of Stephen Streeter and Ursula Adams and give its exact date. They supply also exact dates for many births, marriages, and deaths in the Streeter family and for the birth and death of Henry Adams and the birth of his son Joseph, as well as a few other exact dates in the Adams family. Nearly all the dates given in these records are in their precision and fullness quite new to the genealogical knowledge of New England.

*The month of the death of Stephen Streeter and the year of the death of Ursula Adams, as given in the copy of the records made by Mr. Goodwin, are certainly errors, either of the person who entered these deaths in the Bible of 1693 or of the person who copied these entries from that Bible. Stephen Streeter died between "this tenth of the fourth month A thousand six hundred and fifty two [10 June 1652], when his will was dated, and "The 24th day of the 5th month 1652" [24 July 1652], when the inventory "of the Hous and goods of Steeven Streeter shoemaker: of Charitowne Inhabitant, late deceased" was taken. Ursula Adams was executrix of the will of her first husband, Stephen Streeter, and was married to her fourth husband, Griffin Crafts, 15 July 1673.