Charles Adams

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

In the spring of 1852 there was organized among the citizens of Cedar township, Van Buren county, Iowa, an emigrant train of about twenty-five wagons. Each wagon was drawn by from three to five yoke of oxen. In the company were, Paul Brattain and family of seven adult persons; William Newman; Lafayette Spencer; Charles Spencer and wife and two children; Henry Newman; George Gimple; Michael Smith and his wife, two sons and a daughter; George Hammonds; Henry Hammonds; Jacob Whetstone and family; George Taylor and family; Robert Carter and family; Adam Barnes and family; Oliver Mitchell and family; John Hilary and family; Napoleon Baker; William Howard and family; Charles Adams and family; Thomas Clark and family; Thomas Whetstone and family; Nicholas Boley and family; John Boley and family; James Watson and family; Hill Watson and family; Iradel Anderson; Mathies Anderson; George, James and William Ebert; Henry and Sloan Keck.

[Lafayette Spencer Day Book; published in Annals of Iowa Vol 8]

Charles Adams
b. 18 Jan 1818 KY
d. 18 Jul 1891 The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR
buried IOOF Cemetery, The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR
s/o Abraham and Emilia Elizabeth (Stringer) Adams

m1. 13 Sep 1838 Greencastle, Putnam Co, IN

Mary Vowell
b. 1815 TN
d. 11 Nov 1852 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
buried Carus Cemetery, Clackamas Co, OR

1850: Cedar, VanBuren Co, IA, Aug 29, 1850; Charles Adams, 33, farmer, $500, KY; Mary, 35, TN; John, 11, IN; Miley, 10, IN; Margaret, 8, IN; Mary, 6, IN; Perlina, 4, IA

ODLC: #5065 Clackamas; Charles Adams, b. 1818 KY; arr OR 01 Nov 1852; sc 11 Feb 1853; m'd Eleanor (Mrs. Eleanor Howard Carter) 10 Jan 1853 at Clackamas Co. Aff: Robert N. Worsham, James McNamara, Wm. Armepriest, Harvey B. May, Thomas W. May

This Side of Oregon p.248-249 wife, Mary died 11 Nov 1852 after reaching OR; father of 5 children (Millie, Margaret, Mamie, Pauline, _ )
1860: Soap Creek Pct, Benton Co, OR, July 2, 1860; Charles Adams, 42, merchant, $2200 $1986, KY; Eleanor, 40, OH; John H. Adams, 20, farm hand, IN; Margaret J. Adams, 17, IN; Mary E. Adams, 15, IN; Amos H. Carter, 15, IA; William Carter, 14, IA; Perлина Adams, 13, IA; Samantha A Adams., 9, IA, Miranda J. Adams, 9, IA (twins); Charles A. Adams, 8, on the plains; Sarah C. Adams, 4, OR; Irene E. Adams, 1, OR

1870: East Salem, Marion Co, OR; June 9, 1870; C. Adams, 52, grocer, $4000, KY; [blank], 50, housekeeping, OH; M.J., 19, f, at school, IA; S.A., 19, f, at school, IA; C., 17, m, NE (on plains); S., 14, f, OR; Jennie, 11, OR

1880: Antelope, Wasco Co, OR, 1 & 2 June, 1880; Chas. Adams, 62, farmer, KY KY KY; Elinor, 59, keeping house, OH Eng Ger

1880: Antelope, Wasco Co, OR, June 1 & 2, 1880; Chas Adams, 62, head, farmer, KY KY KY; Elinor, 59, wife, OH Eng Ger; Charles, 27, son, farm hand, sick w/cold, NE KY OH; Irene E., 21, dau, OR KY OH

Children of Charles Adams and Mary Vowel:

1. John Henry Adams
b. 09 Feb 1840 IN
d. 25 Jan 1915 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
m. 25 Aug 1862 Marion Co, OR

Amanda S. Force
b. 19 Jun 1844 Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR
d. 07 Dec 1929 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1850: Cedar, VanBuren Co, IA, Aug 29, 1850; Charles Adams, 33, farmer, $500, KY; Mary, 35, TN; John, 11, IN; Miley, 10, IN; Margaret, 8, IN; Mary, 6, IN; Perлина, 4, IA

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1870: Springfield, Lane Co, OR, July 6, 1870; John Adams, 30, preacher, $0 $600, IN; Amanda, 26, keeping house, OR; Mary L., 7, at home, OR; Ida A., 5, at home, OR

1880: The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR, June 3, 1880; J.H. Adams, head, 39, farmer, IN Unk Unk; Armanda (sic), 35, wife, keeps house, OR KY KY; Mary E., 16, dau, at home, OR; Ida, 15, dau, at home, OR; Maggie, 8, dau, at home, WT

1900: Portland Ward 9, Multnomah Co, OR, June 14, 1900; John H. Adams, head, Feb 1860 (sic), 40 (sic), m-38yrs, IN KY PA, merchant-produce; Amanda, wife, Jun 1846, 53, m-38yrs, 3-3, OR NY NY; Ida A., dau, Jan 1866, 34, s, OR IN OR, saleswoman

1910: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR, April 15 & 16, 1910; John H. Adams, 70, m1-47yrs, IN KY TN, gate keeper-bridge works; Amanda S., wife, 66, m1-47yrs, 3-3, OR NY NY; Ida A., dau, 45, s, OR IN OR

Children of John Adams and Amanda Force:

i. Mary L. Adams (1863-)
ii. Ida Amanda Adams (1865-1951)
iii. Margaret Adams (1872-1939)
2. Millie Ann Adams
b. 02 Jul 1841
d. 24 May 1917 Salem, Marion Co, OR
m. 16 Oct 1860 Benton Co, OR
buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR

John Wesley Meredith
b. 27 Jul 1832 Oneida Co, NY
d. 09 Jan 1918 Salem, Marion Co, OR

1850: Cedar, VanBuren Co, IA, Aug 29, 1850; Charles Adams, 33, farmer, $500, KY; Mary, 35, TN; John, 11, IN; Miley, 10, IN; Margaret, 8, IN; Mary, 6, IN; Perlina, 4, IA

Children of John Meredith and Millie Adams:
i. Charles N. Meredith (1862-1864)
ii. Susan E. Meredith (1865-1866)
iii. Frank Meredith (1867-1934)
iv. Janette Meredith (1869- )

“John Wesley Meredith emigrated to the State of Oregon in 1853, and occupies a place among her foremost citizens, he is a native of New York, born July 27, 1831, a son of Hugh Meredith, also a native of New York, whose ancestors crossed the sea to the New World before the war of the Revolution. He married Miss Elizabeth Lewis of the State of New York, and to them were born nine children, eight of whom survive. John W. received his elementary education in the common schools and later was sent to Floyd Academy. His first business experience was in the capacity of clerk in a general store, but as he grew older he determined upon a professional life, and chose that of medicine; he read under the direction of Dr. Gellet, but before he had made great attainment in the science, he shipped for the Pacific coast, coming via the Isthmus, July 28, 1853 he landed in Portland, a stranger without means. It was such situations that tested the metal of the pioneers and brought into play all their faculties and quickened their wits. He was obliged to accept any work that came to his hand, and for a time was engaged in rolling logs and clearing land. He then mined for a year, meeting with fair success. He invested the means thus accumulated in land in Benton county. Oregon, where he followed farming for two years; at the
expiration of that period he disposed of the property and went to California, where he was in the employ of the Government for a time. He next went on a prospecting trip to Inyo county, which proved a "fool's errand."

In 1864 he came to Salem and began a teaming and draying business, which soon assumed an importance in the commercial circles of the place; he formed a partnership with O. Adams and they conducted a successful business for three years. Again his old desire for a professional life arose and he entered the office of a dentist, and for three years worked and studied under the directions of a skilled operator. He then opened an office which he has occupied for twenty-three years; he has met with gratifying success and if he has not fully realized the dream of his youth; he has proved a useful citizen and an honor to his profession.

Mr. Meredith was married in 1850, to Miss Millie Adams, a native of Indiana and a daughter of C. Adams, who emigrated to Oregon in 1852; he died in July 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Meredith are the parents of two children, Frank and Jennette; the son is a bookkeeper in the bank of Williams & England and the daughter is a stenographer in the State Insurance office. Mr. Meredith is a Past Master of the A.O.U.W., and is a Master Mason. He was the first assessor of Josephine county in 1856, and has represented a Republican constituency in the City Council of Salem. He is a strong advocate of temperance and casts his suffrage with the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is a citizen strictly reliable and honorable in all his dealings.” [An Illustrated History of Oregon by Hines p.866-7]


Children of John Meredith and Millie Adams:
i. Frank Meredith
b. 
d.

ii. Jennette “Nettie” Meredith
b. 
d.

3. Margaret Jane Adams
b. 1843
d. 21 Jan 1891 Salem, Marion Co, OR
buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR

m. 08 Dec 1864 Marion Co, OR

Harrison Smith
b. 1835 NY
d. 04 Mar 1893 Salem, Marion Co, OR
buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR

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1860: Soap Creek Pct, Benton Co, OR, July 2, 1860; Charles Adams, 42, mechant, $2200 $1986, KY; Eleanor, 40, OH; John H. Adams, 20, farm hand, IN; Margaret J. Adams, 17, IN; Mary E. Adams, 15, IN; Amos H. Carter,15, IA; William Carter, 14, IA; Perlina Adams, 13, IA; Samantha A Adams., 9, IA, Miranda J. Adams, 9, IA (twins); Charles A. Adams, 8, on the plains; Sarah C. Adams, 4, OR; Irene E.Adam, 1, OR
Children of Harrison Smith and Margaret Adams:
i. Luella Smith  
  b. 1866 OR  
  d.  

ii. Clare Smith  
  b. 1877 OR  
  d.  

[Images and descriptions of people are shown.]

4. Mary Elizabeth Adams  
  b. 16 Jul 1844 IN  
  d. 17 Jul 1926 Salem, Marion Co, OR  
  buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR  

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  John, 11, IN; Miley, 10, IN; Margaret, 8, IN; Mary, 6, IN; Perlina, 4, IA  

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  Eleanor, 40, OH; John H. Adams, 20, farm hand, IN; Margaret J. Adams, 17, IN; Mary E. Adams, 15, IN;  
  Amos H. Carter, 15, IA; William Carter, 14, IA; Perlina Adams, 13, IA; Samantha A Adams., 9, IA;  
  Miranda J. Adams, 9, IA (twins); Charles A. Adams, 8, on the plains; Sarah C. Adams, 4, OR; Irene  
  E.Adams, 1, OR  

5. Pauline Adams  
  b. 09 Sep 1849/47
d. 09 Feb 1919 Salem, Marion Co, OR
buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR

1850: Cedar, VanBuren Co, IA, Aug 29, 1850; Charles Adams, 33, farmer, $500, KY; Mary, 35, TN; John, 11, IN; Miley, 10, IN; Margaret, 8, IN; Mary, 6, IN; Perlina, 4, IA

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6. Charles A. Adams
b. 19 Jul 1852 Clearwater, NE on plains
d. 08 Feb 1911 The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR
buried IOOF Cemetery, The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR

1870: East Salem, Marion Co, OR; June 9, 1870; C. Adams, 52, grocer, $4000, KY; [blank], 50, housekeping, OH; M.J., 19, f, at school, IA; S.A., 19, f, at school, IA; C., 17, m, NE (on plains); S., 14, f, OR; Jennie, 11, OR

1880: Antelope, Wasco Co, OR, June 1 & 2, 1880; Chas Adams, 62, head, farmer, KY KY KY; Elinor, 59, wife, OH Eng Ger; Charles, 27, son, farm hand, sick w/cold, NE KY OH; Irene E., 21, dau, OR KY OH

Charles Adams
m2. 10 Jan 1853 Clackamas Co, OR

Mrs. Eleanor (Howard) Carter
b. 21 Aug 1820 Pikerton, OH
d. 13 Mar 1893 The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR
m1. 1841 VanBuren Co, IA to Robert Carter
m2. 10 Jan 1853 Clackamas Co, OR to Charles Adams

Children of Charles Adams and Eleanor Howard:

Sarah Catherine Adams
b. 26 Aug 1856
d. 08 Sep 1903/1905 The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR
m. 02 Mar 1876
Benjamin Franklin Laughlin
b. 04 Jan 1849 MO
d. 29 Mar 1929 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1860: Soap Creek Pct, Benton Co, OR, July 2, 1860; Charles Adams, 42, mechant, $2200 $1986, KY; Eleanor, 40, OH; John H. Adams, 20, farm hand, IN; Margaret J. Adams, 17, IN; Mary E. Adams, 15, IN; Amos H. Carter, 15, IA; William Carter, 14, IA; Perlina Adams, 13, IA; Samantha A Adams., 9, IA, Miranda J. Adams, 9, IA (twins); Charles A. Adams, 8, on the plains; Sarah C. Adams, 4, OR; Irene E.Adams, 1, OR

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Children of Benjamin Laughlin and Sarah Adams:
i. William Guy Laughlin (1878-1892)
ii. Lloyd B. Laughlin (1888-1946)
iii. Lynn Franklin Laughlin (1895- )

Irene E."Jennie" Adams
b. 24 Mar 1859 Albany, Linn Co, OR
d. 21 Sep 1946 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
died in Columbia Sanitarium

1860: Soap Creek Pct, Benton Co, OR, July 2, 1860; Charles Adams, 42, mechant, $2200 $1986, KY; Eleanor, 40, OH; John H. Adams, 20, farm hand, IN; Margaret J. Adams, 17, IN; Mary E. Adams, 15, IN; Amos H. Carter, 15, IA; William Carter, 14, IA; Perlina Adams, 13, IA; Samantha A Adams., 9, IA, Miranda J. Adams, 9, IA (twins); Charles A. Adams, 8, on the plains; Sarah C. Adams, 4, OR; Irene E.Adams, 1, OR

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Samantha Ann Carter French

"Yes, I guess I can qualify as a pioneer of The Dalles. The first time I stopped at The Dalles was in 1852. At that time, of course, I had no idea that I should later go back to The Dalles and live 47 years in the same house. My maiden name was Samantha Ann Carter. My twin sister's name was Miranda Jane. Mother certainly selected good old fashioned names for us. My sister Miranda Jane, now Mrs. Hinkle, lives at No. 1055 Cleveland Avenue, Portland. I was born on August 8, 1850, in Iowa. My father, Robert Carter, with my mother, my two older brothers, Amos and Will, my twin sister and myself, started across the plains for the Willamette Valley in the spring of 1852. On the Flatte Father took the cholera and died in a few hours. My brother Amos was only ten and Will was eight. With these boys and her twin girls, hardly more than babies, Mother pressed on to Oregon.

"When we reached The Dalles, Mother sold her outfit and was paid for her oxen and wagon in gold. Part of this money was a $50 gold slug. The little boat running between The Dalles and the Cascades was laid up for repairs. While we were camped on the river bank someone came into our tent and stole my mother's bag, in which she had all of her records and family papers.

"Mother hired a man to take us to the Cascades in a flatboat. Mother's brother, William Howard, with his family, and our family, shared the expense of the flatboat. The flatboat ran upon a snag and filled so that we barely reached the shore before it sank. My uncle had a daughter 17 years old
who was sick with mountain fever. As we were coming down the river we went ashore at what is now White Salmon, where she died. My uncle made a rough coffin for her and dug a grave. Just as he was about to lower her into the grave two men came up and volunteered to do it for him.

"At Oregon City Mother shared a cabin the first night with a family who had come some time before. The next morning her $50 slug had disappeared. Mother decided not to take any chances by staying there another night. The woman urged her to stay and said there were so many rough characters around that it would be unsafe to stay in a cabin alone and that someone would come and get the rest of her money. Mother found a small log cabin that had been used to store grain in. She rented this and cleaned it up and we moved in. Mother told my brother Amos to take Father's gun and she would take the ax, and if anybody attempted to come in, to shoot when she gave the word. Late that night, Mother heard someone prowling around the cabin, and presently the latchstring was pulled and someone began to open the door gently. Mother said, 'Amos, point your gun at the door and shoot when I give the word.' The door was hastily closed and the intruder disappeared. Mother was sure it was the woman at whose home we had spent the previous night, who had come back to get the rest of her money.

"Charles Adams, who had started out in our wagon train with his wife and six children, lost his wife shortly after reaching Portland. He and Mother were married in 1853. This made a family of ten children for Mother to care for, and before long she had two more. We think the men who worked in the old days from daylight to dark had a hard
time. Mother worked from daylight to midnight. She cooked for her family of 12 children over the fireplace, made her own candles, and, in addition to sewing for her husband and her big brood of children, she took in sewing for neighbors who could afford to pay for it. I doubt if many women worked harder than my mother. She lived to be 76.

"They took up a donation land claim five miles south of Oregon City. After proving up they sold it and moved to Albany. My stepfather bought a farm in Benton County, just across the Willamette from Albany. When my brother Amos was 14 he went to work in a bakery at Oregon City and learned the trade. He followed this, and did prospecting and mining, practically all his life.

"Last week I got word that my brother Amos, who was 84 and lived at Copperfield in the Seven Devils Mountains, was sick with pneumonia. I went up there and found he was in bed with the flu, so I brought him to Portland. He is staying with my twin sister Miranda.

"We moved to Albany in 1858. When the high water in the winter of 1861-62 caused the Willamette to rise so that it flooded our farm, we moved to Salem.

"I was a student at Oregon Academy. Miss Draper, who later married Arthur Nicklin, was my teacher. My sister Miranda and I were registered under the name of Adams, though my brothers retained the name of Carter. My stepfather, Mr. Adams, conducted a draying business at Salem from 1862 for some years. Later he ran a store at Salem. In 1871 he went east of the mountains, going into the stock business at Antelope. When we were at Salem we lived on Court Street. Our property adjoined the lot on which the Methodist Church was built. Our next door neighbor was J. H. Moores, father of C. B. and Allie Moores."

Oregon Journal
May 4, 1926