

## **THE ADAMS FAMILY OF BARTON STACEY, HAMPSHIRE, 1816 to 1880s**

**by Linda Moffatt © 2018  
for the Barton Stacey History Group**

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**WILLIAM ADAMS** was the first with this surname in Barton Stacey parish and raised a large family in Bransbury from 1816. He was born about 1790 and married a lady called Ann. The censuses of 1851 and 1861 show that she was born about 1791 in Wilcot, Wiltshire. So far, one possible marriage for this couple has been found: William Adams of Kimpton, Hampshire married Ann Smith of Wilcot, Wiltshire at Wilcot parish church on 26 April 1813. Ann Smith, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Smith, was baptised at Wilcot on 26 October 1794. However, the age she gave at census times and the age recorded when she died, suggest she was born around 1791, so this should be treated with some caution.

William and Ann Adams had nine or ten children in the hamlet of Bransbury in Barton Stacey parish. He died aged 45 and was buried at Barton Stacey on 10 July 1835. Ann was living at the time of the 1841 census in Bransbury with her children Charles, Elijah and Jane. Her son George had married and moved into Barton Stacey village by this time. On 29 October 1842 at Barton Stacey she married secondly Thomas Batt, a farm labourer of Bransbury (baptised 23 October 1804 at Barton Stacey, son of William and Mary (Paice) Batt).

Ann Batt died in 1866. The only son to remain in Barton Stacey parish after her death was Charles Adams who was a farm labourer who raised his family in Bransbury until the early 1880s before moving to Ibthorpe, Hurstbourne Tarrant.

### **Children of William and Ann Adams, born and baptised at Barton Stacey,**

- i. Jacob, baptised 14 January 1816. He married but the name of his wife is presently unknown. At the time of the 1851 census he was widowed, a shoemaker lodging in Upper Clatford, near Andover. He died in 1855 aged 39.
- ii. [perhaps] William, who was buried on 21 February 1841 aged 23.
- iii. **GEORGE**, baptised 18 July 1819. A farm labourer, he married, on 12 October 1839 at Kingsclere, Hampshire, Sarah Lovell (baptised 17 December 1820 at Kingsclere, daughter of William and Jane Lovell). We know from their second son's birth certificate that they were living at Moody's Down (Barton Stacey parish) at the beginning of 1843. They moved soon after to Dartford, Kent, where George Adams died aged 27 in 1848. Sarah married secondly John Norman (son of Mark Norman) on 4 November 1849 in Erith, Kent and had a daughter Sarah Ann Norman in 1850 in Plymouth, Devon.

### **Children of George and Sarah (Lovell) Adams,**

- i. George, born 1840 in Bransbury.

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- ii. **CHARLES**, born 7 January 1843 in Moody's Down, called William Adams on his birth certificate. At the time he joined the Royal Navy (Royal Marine Light Infantry) on 22 June 1861 at East Stonehouse, Devon, he stated that he was born in Andover and that he was then resident in Barton Stacey parish. However, his birth certificate shows that he was born in Moody's Down. When he enlisted he was a groom aged 18 years 4 months, was 5 feet 6½ inches tall, with brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion and by religious persuasion a Baptist. He extended his service on 2 March 1870 and was discharged on 21 July 1882, having completed 21 years of service<sup>1</sup>.

We can only catch glimpses of his time as a seaman. At the time of the 1871 census he was at sea aboard HMS *Pylades*, a wooden screw corvette launched in 1854 and sold in 1875. In 1881 he was aboard HMS *Blanche*, an Eclipse-class wooden screw sloop, launched in 1867 and sold in 1886. Under the command of Captain Cortland Simpson, she undertook a survey of Rabaul's Harbour in 1872. Blanche Bay is named after HMS *Blanche*. She finished service on the Australia Station in 1875. While sailing to England she was almost lost rounding Cape Horn in bad weather. After being refitted and rearmed, she was sent to the North America and West Indies Station, where she remained until 1881. [Wikipedia].

Private Charles Adams was discharged on 21 July 1882, having completed 21 years of service. In 1882 in East Stonehouse he married Elizabeth Jane Polmeer (born in Warleggan, Cornwall in 1846, daughter of Nicholas and Mary Polmeer). Charles Adams became foreman of a stables in East Stonehouse and was later a bus driver in Devonport. Between 1901 and 1911 the family moved to Camberwell, London, where his daughter Blanche at her marriage said her father was a 'horse keeper'. By 1911 he was a watchman for London County Council.

Charles Adams died in Camberwell in 1917 aged 76 and Elizabeth went to Ontario with the family of their daughter Blanche, arriving at Montreal on 15 May 1920 aboard the *Grampian*. She died in 1931 aged 85.

**Children of Charles and Elizabeth Jane (Davies) Adams, born in East Stonehouse, Devon,**

- i. Blanche Adeline, born 1883. She married James William Poulton on 16 September 1905 at St John the Baptist, Islington, London. A pedigree posted at Ancestry states that they emigrated to Canada in 1920 and lived in Ontario, where she died at St Catherines in 1960.  
Children - William Charles, John Leonard, Florence Blanche Maud and Frederick Nicholas Polmeer.
- ii. Florence Stella, born 1884. She married Harry Polmeer in 1902 in London. A daughter Stella Lavinia.
- iii. **WILLIAM CHARLES**, born 1885. He emigrated in 1906 and was a machinist in St Catherines. He married Elsie May Weeden there (daughter of Walter Henry Weeden) on 21 September 1911. Earlier that year she had been a clerk at the Salvation Army Headquarters in London and had emigrated to join William for their marriage.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Archives' reference ADM 158/209/4/10.

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- iv. Beatrice Maud, born 1888. In 1911 she was a grocer's assistant, living with her married sister Florence Polmeer in Leyton Essex.
- iii. **WILLIAM**, born 1848 in Dartford, Kent. He moved to Plymouth as a child, where in 1868 he married Ellen Norris. He owned his own barge in Plymouth before moving back to Dartford in Kent in the 1890s, apparently after the death of their elder son. He was a boat proprietor and lived on South Embankment (presumably of the Thames).  
**Children of William and Ellen (Norris) Adams, born in Plymouth,**
  - i. William Henry, born 1871. He died aged 22 in Plymouth in 1893.
  - ii. **FREDERICK GEORGE**, born 1875. He became a coal foreman in Dartmouth. He married Emma Jane in about 1895 and had a daughter Norah Annie.
- iv. Eliza, baptised 18 February 1821. She died at 3 years of age and was buried on 22 July 1824.
- v. Harriet, baptised 9 February 1823. She died two weeks later and was buried in 23 February.
- vi. Mary Ann, baptised 16 May 1825. In 1846 she married William Waters, a farm labourer of Newton Stacey (son of Henry and Sabina Waters).  
Children - Henry, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Lloyd Charles, Fred and Jane.
- vii. **CHARLES**, baptised 18 February 1827. He was a farm carter in Bransbury. In 1862 he married Mary Benham (born 1844, daughter of Henry and Jane (Siney) Benham of Bransbury). He was a farm labourer in Bransbury until the early 1880s, before moving to Ibthorpe in Hurstbourne Tarrant parish, Hampshire, where he was a groom and domestic gardener. He died there in 1911 aged 84, his wife in 1917 aged 73.  
**Children of Charles and Mary (Benham) Adams,**
  - i. **HENRY WILLIAM**, born 17 September 1862 in Bransbury. A farm labourer in Ibthorpe, in 1888 he married firstly Emma Briant (born about 1863, daughter of farmer John H. Briant of The Deane, Hurstbourne Tarrant). She died in 1906 aged 44.  
Henry Adams married his second wife Emily Jane Benham (born 9 March 1885) in 1922. He died in 1949 aged 87, his wife in 1953 aged 68.
  - ii. Ellen, born 1865 in Bransbury. She married Harry James Newman, a domestic coachman and valet, in 1885.  
Ellen Newman, a widow of the George Hotel, Andover<sup>2</sup> died on 18 February 1918 aged 53.  
Children - Lily Maria, Beatrice Maud, Arthur James, Frederick Charles.
  - iii. Alice, born 1867 in Bransbury. She married Charles Bradbury, a wheelwright and estate carpenter of Hurstbourne Tarrant (son of Grant Bradbury).  
Children, as known - Nellie, Arthur F., Florence, William Charles, Bertie, Lilian Mary.
  - iv. Bertie, born 1884 in Hurstbourne Tarrant. He died in 1909 aged 25.
- viii. Eliza, baptised 27 November 1829. She died three weeks later and was buried on 14 December.
- ix. **ELIJAH**, baptised 8 September 1833 and said to be ten years old in 1841. He was a soldier in Plymouth, Devon in 1851. The transcript of the 1851 census lists 20-year old Private Elijah Adams, with the 23rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Welch Fusiliers) at the barracks at Plymouth Citadel. He gave his birthplace as Barton, Hampshire. The

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<sup>2</sup> The George Inn was situated in George Yard, High Street. This pub closed after 2010.

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Royal Citadel in Plymouth, Devon, England, was built in the late 1660s to the design of Sir Bernard de Gomme. It is at the eastern end of Plymouth Hoe overlooking Plymouth Sound, and encompasses the site of the earlier fort that had been built in the time of Sir Francis Drake.

It is difficult to trace his army career in the intervening years. The following is perhaps the most likely account. Elijah Adams enlisted on 23 October 1849 with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The British Army Worldwide Index for Jan-Mar 1851 lists 3403 Private Elijah Adams with the Royal Welch Fusiliers stationed in Plymouth<sup>3</sup>. He was appointed to Corporal on 1 October 1852. The Regiment served during the Crimean War (1854-56) fighting at the Battles of Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol. It went on to serve during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, fighting at the Relief of Lucknow. Sergeant Elijah Adams was awarded the Clasp for the Relief of Lucknow. He was severely wounded there on 10 March 1858 and so was discharged from the army<sup>4</sup>.

In 1860 he married Harriet Dore Porter (born in Newton Stacey, baptised 2 March 1834 at Barton Stacey, daughter of John and Martha (Dore) Porter). They moved around 1864 to New Alresford, Hampshire, where Elijah Adams died aged 39 on 31 December 1870. Harriet was a hall caretaker and then a shirtmaker. She married secondly James Marsh, a farm labourer and they lived in Pound Hill, New Alresford, before moving to Ganders Down Farm, Cheriton. She died in 1919 aged 87.

**Children of Elijah and Harriet Dore (Porter) Adams,**

- i. **WILLIAM JOHN**, born 1861. He became a house decorator and married Emma Jane Merritt (born Hinton Ampner, daughter of Robert and Ellen (Merritt) in 1884 in Alresford and lived in Edward Terrace, New Alresford.

**Children of William John and Emma Jane (Merritt) Adams,**

- i. Beatrice Daisy Emma, born 1885. She died at a few months old in 1886.
  - ii. William Percy, baptised 27 March 1887 at Alresford.
  - iii. Elsie Sybil, born 1893.
  - iv. Florence Vera, born 1894.
  - v. Cicely Ada, born 1897.
  - ii. Martha Ann, born 1863.
  - iii. Charles Dore, born 1864 in New Alresford.
  - iv. Harriet Elizabeth born 1866.
  - v. Alice Mary, born 1868 a twin.
  - vi. Eliza Jane, born 1868, a twin.
- x. Jane, born about 1834. She was a cook in Kingsworthy at the time of the 1861 census. She married Alfred Harding in 1863 and by the time of the 1881 census was widowed and living in Hartley Wintney, where she ran a laundry business.

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<sup>3</sup> The National Archives reference: WO 12/4003.

<sup>4</sup> Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards, Indian Mutiny Medal, 1857-1859.