

81st ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 9

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2001

INVITATION

82nd REUNION TO BE HELD SATURDAY 04 AUGUST 2001

You are invited to enjoy the week-end with our family at the

Holiday Inn (Holidome)
2747 South 11th Street
Exit 36B US 131
Kalamazoo, Michigan
1-616-375-6000

Friday & Sunday plans are whatever you decide, but group plans are for Saturday, August 4. You are welcome to come to our two hospitality rooms as early as 9 AM to visit on Saturday, but please be in our private dining room at 12 noon for pictures. Our buffet luncheon will start at 12:30 PM. The luncheon includes coffee, tea, & soft drinks. (alcohol extra). The cost of the meal which includes tax and tips is \$13.00 for adults and \$6.50 for children (children who get a plate are charged).

Please let George know by email, telephone, or US mail by 7-15-01 about your plans to come to the buffet luncheon. Prepayment is not necessary as you will pay George or Chris at the reunion. There will be a business meeting before we adjourn at 3:30 PM.

After we leave the luncheon room, George & Chris have two hospitality rooms for visiting and having time to look through the reunion books. Chris & family will have plenty of food and beverage for the evening for all. The Holidome has a pool, hot tub, sauna, exercise room, pool tables for \$1.00 per game, and a game room for those who are staying overnight. We are at poolside so we can be in casual wear and while some of us do activities, such as swimming, others can relax and reminisce. Everyone may stay as late as they

want or leave to be home before dark.

The reunion treasury will not pay for rooms, therefore you will pay the hotel directly. George & Chris will be there Friday and Saturday nights. George has reserved a block of rooms for Saturday, August 4th in the Holidome area. The cost for a non-smoking room with two double beds is \$109.00 per night. They give an AARP or Priority Club discount which will be taken at check-in time which is 4 PM. Check out time is 11:30 AM. Please let George know by email, telephone or US mail preferably by 6-01-01 (definitely by 7-1-0-1) if you need a block room for Saturday. Anyone wanting to come Friday night needs to make reservations immediately with George or the hotel directly. Anyone wanting rooms away from the Holidome need to make their own reservations.

George can be reached at:

email: gcadams@hotmail.com
telephone (pm) 219-291-8267
US mail: 1334 E. Croyden
Court
South Bend, IN 46614-6103

81st BUSINESS MEETING 06 August 2000

ELECTIONS: George Adams, President, called the meeting to order. Pam Adams moved, Michael West seconded, and the group approved the motion that last year's officers be reelected. They are:

President: George Adams
Newsletter Editor: Jim Adams
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Gale
Game/Location Chairpersons: Mary West & Dawn Sivley

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara reported the total amount on hand for reunion to pay disbursements was \$222.00 with \$84.00 being post reunion collections. The total disbursements

were \$200.00 because of supplies needed, such as envelopes, notebooks, and index dividers. Reunion paid Barbara in full which leaves \$22.00 on hand to start the reunion today. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to people on the address roster. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Checks are to be made out to Barbara Gale. **REMEMBER:** notify Jim Adams or Barbara Gale of address changes.

LOCATION: Michael West moved, Rolland Morse seconded, and the group approved the motion that the 82nd Reunion be held on the first weekend of August 2001 and reserve the Holidome in Kalamazoo for a meal on August 4 and rooms for those desiring to stay overnight. After discussion it was agreed the Reunion treasury would not pay for the meal or room reservation and Chris and Barbara would notify the family about final plans.

MINUTES: Barbara reviewed the minutes of the 80th reunion emphasizing the coat-of-arms and the recipe book. A recipe for hamburger casserole from Mary (Kunce) Beasley was distributed to each family present to place in their Reunion Cookbook.

CARDS: Cards were signed by family and mailed to Imogene Adams, Clare Price, and Francis & Mildred Morse.

NEWBURY: Jim reported on his trip to Newbury, Mass. and displayed related pictures, books, and the town flag. The flag was authorized on 31 May 1684 and has a background of green with a red cross on a white field in the upper left hand corner. Jim found Robert Adams' home and grave. Pictures are on the Adams website.

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DISPLAYS: Bob & Kathy Neer displayed family pictures showing various members in her family. Pictures showing marriage, birth, and death dates of the Dorsey & Sara Lucina (Adams) Fletcher families were displayed. Dr. Robert Brown donated slides taken from various Bibles and other books his father, Donald Brown, had on hand.

REUNION LIBRARY: The genealogy, history, and reunion notebooks plus other materials were displayed. After discussion about continuing to scan the books started in July, 1999 it was decided to try to complete the project by the 100th anniversary in August 2019. Now is an excellent time to sent pertinent family information. Barbara reported that three newly formed notebooks have been added to the library collection. Genealogy notebook #3 has genealogy data other family members have sent about their family branch, the history book has additional pictures, and reunion book #8 starts with the 80th reunion. The third notebook is additional information and pictures Barbara provided about the Chicago Iroquois Theater fire in 1903.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim, Linda, & Jessica Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI came the farthest. Virginia (Copley) Vliek and Christopher Adams were the oldest and the youngest members present. Virginia is the daughter of Earl E. and Laura (Hughes) Copley. She is a Tom & Jane (Morrow) McKain descendant. Christopher, born 29 May 2000, is the son of Tim and Michele (Gerritsen) Adams. His grandparents are Dan & Pam (Dykema) Adams. He is a Uri Mason & Jane Woods (McKain) Adams descendant.

DATES: We thank all of you who have contributed to making these books possible, urge you to continue sending information and to write an article for the family history section. The date information is due for the family history section in #10 newsletter is 01 April 2002. Other information for the books is due by 01 July 2002 or bring it to the reunion next year.

82nd REUNION PLANS

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder the 82nd reunion will be held on the first weekend of August 2001 with a meal and overnight stays for those who choose to do so at the Holidome in Kalamazoo, MI.

FAMILIES IN ATTENDANCE

Twenty eight people attended the 81st reunion on 06 August 2000. There were twenty adults and eight children.

SIDNEY AMOS & MARY ADDIE (PHILLIPS) SMITH DESCENDANTS (2)

Robert & Kathy Neer of Bedford, IN.

GEORGE & EFFA MAE ADAMS DESCENDANTS (1)

Barbara Gale of Coloma, MI.

HORACE CHESTER & ROXANNA (BENT) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (21)

George, Chris, & Richard Adams of South Bend, IN.

Margaret (Adams) Wetherell of Chase, MI.

Jim, Linda, & Jessica Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Michael, Mary (Adams), Natalie, Nick, & Erik West of Rockford, MI.

Rolland, Roxanna, & Brigid Morse of Schoolcraft, MI.

Dan & Pam Adams of Hudsonville, MI.

Michele, Cody, & Christopher Adams of Grandville, MI.

Marilyn Little of Grand Rapids, MI.

ARCHIE & LILLIE (DOUGLAS) ADAMS DESCENDANTS (2)

David & Dawn (Adams) Sivley of Schoolcraft, MI.

THOMAS & JANE (MORROW) MCKAIN DESCENDANTS (2)

Jay & Virginia (Copley) Vliek of Decatur, MI.

CURRENT NEWS

SANDRA BOLDMAN, daughter of John & Sally Boldman, is attending Ball State University, Muncie, IN theater acting program. Her first performance at BSU was the play "Vital Signs". John went to a reunion with his submarine buddies. Sally works as an accountant & financial analyst for an international group with Lockheed Martin Company.

JIM BOWE is a flight engineer on a Boeing 727 for American Airlines. He is a clubmaster and teacher for teens in the church and Elizabeth serves as the Young Women's President. Their five children are busy with typical age related activities.

BRUCE & DONNA MORSE have traveled this past year in Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, Wisconsin, and toured Switzerland, Italy and Austria on a motorcycle. They enjoyed greeting Michigan family and friends on a motorcycle tour in May 2001.

RODNEY & CHARLOTTE ADAMS have seven grandchildren: Brent, Heather, Kyra, Shane, Katie, Isabell, and Anne.

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BILL & JOANN WHEATON enjoy their four grandchildren and Joann had a trip to England and Wales in February 2001 with the Staffords.

NORMAN & JOAN (ADAMS) RYAN spend their winters in Naples, FL and summers in Lawton, MI.

JOHN & GENEIEVE TOPPING have two MG sport cars so are active in the MG club. She also enjoys golf and visited Jason Ashford (her brother) and family.

SUZANNE LULA, daughter of Richard & Shauna (Adams) Lula, is a freshman at KVCC. Her main interest is archaeology so she may transfer to another college. She is still active in the Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Shauna is a substitute teacher in elementary/secondary schools in Lawton, Gobles, Decatur, Paw Paw, & Mattawan. Shauna has antique shows the last Sunday (7:30-4:00 PM) in the months April through September in Allegan.

SARA SIVLEY, daughter of David & Dawn (Adams) Sivley, plans to be married to Gregory Huff 17 August 2002. Sara goes to Spain June 22-August 9 as a participant in a University of Michigan program. After the program is completed, Greg & Sara will tour the area. Greg works with computers for FAAC Company. Dawn plans to attend Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI in the fall to complete her degree in elementary education.

JIM ADAMS was recently elected to a two year term on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies. Jim was one

of 75 WI teachers selected to participate in the Wisconsin Educator's US Holocaust Memorial Museum Trip & Seminar program which was sponsored by the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations.

Nursing Home Residents
CLARE PRICE is at the Plainwell Nursing Center, 3260 East "B" Avenue, Plainwell, MI 49080.

MARGARET COPLEY is at White Oaks Residence, Lawton, MI 49065.

IMOGENE ADAMS is at Heartland Health Care Center, 3625 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006.

BIRTHS/ADOPTIONS
SYDNEY ANN BAUGH was born 06 December 2000 to Theo & Jessica (Adams) Baugh at Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo, MI. Sydney is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

TREVOR JAMES DEYOUNG was born 06 January 2000 to Dan & Lisa (House) DeYoung. Trevor is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

EMILY JOANN KEATON was born 07 July 2000 to Michael & Amy (Wheaton) Keaton Barrington, IL. Emily is a Dorsey & Lucina (Adams) Fletcher descendant.

JAMES WILLIAM ADAMS, (13 April 1991) son of John W. Adams since 16 April 1999, with formal adoption on 27 February 2001.

JOHN ADAMS, a senior at UW-Stevens Point (WI) majoring in English & Journalism was the program director for the campus

radio station. He was also named news editor of the student newspaper.

JESSICA ADAMS, a senior at Sturgeon Bay HS, recently returned from a language immersion trip to Spain with her Spanish class. John & Jessica are the children of Jim & Linda (Maher) Adams of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

DEATHS

ANNA T. BROWN, 86, of Battle Creek, MI died Friday, 13 April 2001 at Heartland Health Center. She was born 27 September 1914 in Kirkwood, IL to M. Jerome & Florence (Beatle) Thornburg. Anna attended the 75th Reunion on 07 August 1994.

She married Merton (Fletcher) Brown 23 January 1933 in Goshen, IN. He preceded her in death on 03 September 1982. They had three children: Preston E. Brown of Waukegan, IL; Muriel E. Hurt of South Heart, ND; and a third child, M. James Brown, preceded her in death. She has seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

Anna attended Kalamazoo Central HS, received her GED in California, and trained as a practical nurse at Community Hospital in 1954. She worked at Community Hospital until 1962 and at the University Hospital in Palo Alto, CA. She then served as a private duty nurse until 1980.

Merton worked as a machinist in Detroit, Battle Creek, and later out West. Merton is a Dorsey & Sarah Lucina (Adams) Fletcher descendant.

WEDDINGS

AMY LEE POWELL, married Josh Holtman ~~12 May 2001~~ at the Lake Doster Golf Club with the reception held at the Heritage Hall. They had a Jamaican honeymoon before returning to work. Josh is a supervisor for Maintenance Master,

*They married
04 May 1998.*

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Kalamazoo, and Amy is a receptionist for a doctor at Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo. Amy is the daughter of Dennis & Sandra (Powell) Munson. Amy is an Archie & Lillie (Douglas) Adams descendant.

KELLY ANN CHAPMAN married Richard Leary 26 May 2001 in Florida where they live. There was a reception 09 June 2001 in Michigan for the families. Kelly is the daughter of Nathaniel & Carolyn (Adams) Chapman. Kelly is a Franklin B. & Anna (Fletcher) Adams descendant.

GRADUATIONS/HONORS

NATALIE R. WEST graduated from Rockford HS with academic honors on 31 May 2001. She plans to go to Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI this fall.

MARY (ADAMS) WEST graduates with a Masters Degree from Western Michigan University in August. She is working as a teacher consultant of the visually impaired in the Greenville Public Schools. The family's summer plans include a trip to California to visit family & friends. Natalie & Mary are Uri Mason & Jane Woods (McKain) descendants.

HORACE ADAMS retired with honors for his 58 years of practicing law in Van Buren County. He graduated from Paw Paw HS in 1936, University of Michigan in 1940, and University of Michigan Law School in 1942. He served two terms as prosecuting attorney, helped the Lakeview Community Hospital Authority, and was President of the Michigan Community Hospital Authority. Horace received tributes from county judges, the Van Buren Board of Commissioners, and the Courthouse Restoration Committee.

When someone remarked 58 years was a long time of service, he commented that his father "Bert" practiced law in Van Buren County for 71 years from 1905 to 1976.

FAMILY HISTORY CIVIL WAR LETTERS

There are 7 letters written by George Washington Alford (great-grandfather of Barbara Gale) and one written by William Kinney to Uri Mason Adams. These letters are made available to us by Jack K. Adams. Every attempt was made to keep the letters as close to the original as possible, using original spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.



GEORGE WASHINGTON ALFORD, born in 1831 in Eramosa Twp. Wellington County, Ontario, Canada, was the son of William Alford and Martha Ann McCullough Alford. George married Ann Maria Stewart on 29 March 1853. They had three children; one being George Washington Alford, Junior (28 January 1859) After his parents died, George lived with Franklin B. and Lucinda (Fletcher) Adams and assumed the last name of Adams. George married Effa May Adams so George Washington Alford, Senior is the grandfather of George &

Effa's 4 children: Harry, Helen, Hazel, and Hyldred Adams.

These letters were written by Corporal George W. Alford. He was in Company D, Sixth Michigan Volunteers. He enlisted on 20 August 1861 and died 28 July 1863 from wounds received in the battle of Port Hudson, LA on 30 June 1863. He is buried in grave #2381, section 36, Baton Rouge National Cemetery, Baton Rouge, LA.

(Note: the first letter is the last four pages of a letter from George W. Alford written to his sister Anna in the spring of 1862 from Baton Rouge, LA. The first part has not been found.)



ANN MARIA STEWART ALFORD

Ann was born about 1837, the daughter of John Windecker & Nancy Wales (Rathbone) Stewart. She was widowed on 28 July 1863 and she died on 22 October 1864

Letter #1: " -a few shots we did and killed five when the Laurel Hill passed they gave her a peppering, they fired in all about 135 shots killing one man and wounding one while we with our rifles killed five and not fired a hundred shots. We ran out of wood and nearly out of steam, so we ran down to the woodpile which was out of their

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range and by the time we got wooded and steamed up the no. 8 and no. 3 gunboats and the sloop of war Brooklyn came down and we all went but when we got there the battery had fled so the no. 3 gunboat opened on the town with shell from an eleven inch Columbia and she gave them about twenty five when they showed their shirt-tails on the

appearance of the white flag the firing ceased and we all went ashore and found the town deserted except (one or two words missing) one shell from the gunboat bursted in a store and killed the man who owned it, we stayed all night there and plundered the town taking away everything valuable, we got all kinds of dry goods fancy goods carpeting boots and shoes watches and jewelry hats caps coats pants vests tobacco cigars wine whiskey brandy razors knives forks spoons pocket cuttery and other articles to numerous to mention. When we arrived here we found that one of our sloops of war had been having a little fuss---a band of those accursed guerrillas had been into the city and

fired on a small boatload of our Marines as they were going from the ship to the shore, they did not kill any but three were badly wounded, the old Commodore ordered his men to fire the bow gun at them, it was fired, then he ordered two rear guns fired, the men did not

understand the order so they gave them a whole broadside and I tell you it made some big holes in the buildings, one ball went over the (word gone) from the river and killed a bull, it frightened the people so that they all left for the woods and the (several words missing) of them (word missing) not got some yet, they think we are a going (words missing) the city. We have good times here on picket guard, I

am a picket now, two miles from the garrison where we are quartered, we get all the milk and corn bread we want, fresh meat too, when we want something we take it, I was badly in want of something to read so yesterday I went into an old Rebel's house and went to a bookcase and helped myself as such as I liked. I took seven nice books and a novel or two. I found a good rubber overcoat and a good vest hanging on a nail upstairs so I took them. The paper I am writing this letter on I took out of the same house, so you can see what liberal people Secesh (from the word secessionist) are as the sheets are larger than you ever saw before. I hope you will not find fault if it is not full. The weather is very dry and hot, new potatoes and cabbage have been in the market here for over six weeks, I saw green corn, roasting ears two weeks ago, There is a man near our picket line who is an officer in the Rebel army in Virginia, he is up there fighting Yankees as they call us Northern men and we are here eating his corn and sugar. His plantation is 1200 acres, we went up there yesterday and took everything he had. We got four hundred hogsheads of sugar, seven hundred barrels of mollassas, a lot of corn, over a hundred head of cattle horses mules, a lot of hogs sheep and goats, several wagons, one fine carriage, one buggy, and all of his slaves, it would have done your heart good to see the nigers grin when they found out we were going to take them away too, it leaves ole Bird's plantation in a bad fix, him in the Army, and his wife off in the woods, and his cane without nigers to hoe it."

Letter #2: "June Seventh

I received a letter from Maria last evening dated May 13th making four from her since we landed in New Orleans. I received one from

her the same day we landed here and also one from Lon and one from De Los, his was written after the battle at Shiloh where he had the fun of giving Secesh a lick, we are in hopes of getting a crack at them here soon. I have got charge of two outposts, one of them is on the priciple avenue leading out of the city and is in a grove of live (word missing) and magnolias. I have got me a good bed made of a bale of cotton under a tree, so I lie in the shade and loll all day. Potatoes are worth seven dollars a bushel here, corn two dollars a bush, beans thirty six dollars a bushel, flour can't be bought, when there was any it was worth thirty dollars a barrel. They have no money here except shin-plasters, several men have told me they have not seen five cents in silver in nearly a year, they have bills from five cents to five dollars. Thirty dollars in gold will buy a hundred dollars in Confederate treasury notes. Now, Anna, I want you to kiss the little gal for me and when you write tell me how she gets along. I want you to take good care of her so that I can see her when I get home. I have not got any little girl any more, my little Stella has gone and left me and I don't know how I shall live without her when I get home, give my love and respects to those that inquire about me, tell them I am scorching in the hot sun of Louisiana among the Rebels and the alligators but I think I can stand it if my Anna can. I have had awful hard fare since I left (word missing) I'm (word missing) left there nine days of an- (word missing) spent on transport two days from Baltimore to Virginia, nine days from there to (word missing) Island, seventeen days from there to New Orleans, twenty one days on the Ceres up and down the river and most of that forty nine days we lived on hard crackers and watter, we had enough to eat but no place to cook it on ship board, we have been here

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since the 29th inst. We came out on picket last Wednesday and will stay a week, last

Monday night at eleven o'clock we were called up to march out in the country to clean out a Rebel camp but when we got there the cowards had showed us a clean pair of heels. So we laid down on our guns by the roadside until morning, then we filled our shirts with black berries and started for home. There is hundreds of acres of blackberrys, the largest and sweetest I ever saw. I can go out here and pick a pail full in twenty minutes, they are as long (large) as my thumb, figs are plenty here and so are oranges, apples do not grow

here, some years are plenty, wheat barley and oats do not grow here. They have very good corn here but most of the crops is cotton and cane. Write soon to George W. Alford Sixth Michigan Regiment Company D. 2nd Brigade in General Butler's Division Baton Rouge Louisiana Via New York. At the top of one page, written upside down was the following: Be sure to put on Via New York Anna. Give my love to Mother and all the folks at home and tell them to write."

Letter #3: "New Orleans Nov. 10/62

I have wanted to write to you for a long time but did not know where you was nor what company you were in until last Monday I got a letter from Helen telling me your address. I have no particular news to tell you but I want to hear from you so bad I don't know what to do. I would have answered William Green's letter but I did not know where to send it and would have written to you before only for the same reason. I have been sick ever since the 20th of September, I have done no duty since then till last week and then I was not fit for duty

but our company were detailed to go up the Jackson Railroad to Ponchatoula on a reconnoitering expedition and I could not think of staying at home so I went and got devilish well used up, we were gone five days and marched eighty miles over railroads and through swamps, we marched up the railroad until we

met the Rebel pickets, they fired on us and run, we gave them a shot as they went, then the long roll was beat in their camp which was about a mile ahead, we turned our faces homeward, marched about two miles and camped for the night We would have gone back in the morning and gave them a brush but we found out they had five thousand men and we had only a hundred and fifty, so we took our breakfast and started for home, we crossed the dismal swamp and ~ home by another route, we lived on the planters while we were gone and you can bet we had the best the plantations afforded. I threw my blankets the second day and slept under the stove in some kitchen every night. Now I want both of you to write to me and tell me how you like soldiering and how you fare and how you like your officers. Have you good quarters to live in and plenty of blankets to keep you warm and is your health good. You must take good care of

yourselves and not expose yourselves any more than you are obliged to, stay inside at night as much as possible. There is a mail steamer in tonight and we will get a mail tomorrow. I shall hope that I get one from you. I received one from Helen on Monday last and one from Root's folks. I have not heard from lawton in two weeks. We are going to leave our tents and occupy houses in the city, General Sherman thinks we will have better health in houses than in tents.

The weathers fine and warm here, the flowers are all in blossom and people are making gardens. Now write as soon as you can and as often and I will do the same. Subscribing myself your affectionate brother.

George W. Alford Sixth Reg. Mich Vol Co. D New Orleans, La."

{Brothers written as plural is an enigma, he had only one brother in the Army, William, there may have been a brother-in-law with him.

Helen was another sister. By Lawton he meant Lawton, Mich. where his wife Ann Maria lived. }

Letter #4: "New Orleans, November 12th/62

Dear Sister Helen,

I received your letter of October 9th last week, it came to Camp on Monday but I was gone off on a reconnoitering expedition and did not get it till Friday night. I was glad to hear from you as I always am. I received a letter from Sarah Root yesterday, one from Maria and one from dear brother William, I had written to him yesterday and told him there was a mail ship coming in and hoped to hear from him and it came, how glad I was to hear from him but sorry to hear that he had been sick I wish he could get his discharge. Oh, I am so glad that mother was there to take care of him, poor boy, how I wish he had stayed home, I know how to pity him, I have had a trial of being sick far away from home and among strangers, no one to care for me, or speak a kind word of encouragement to me or give me a drink of water half the time when I called for it. I felt sometimes that I'd rather die than not, the nurses in the hospital have no more feelings than a brute, they will Sit and play cards and let a man die in the room and not know when they died. This is no idle talk as you may think for I saw it while I was in the hospital myself, I know that

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hundreds in the Army are dying every day for want of a little care. I wish that Will were with me so I could take care of him if he was sick.

That tramp last week was the first duty that I have done since I was sick and it came near using me up, we marched eighty miles in five days over railroads and through swamps, we crossed the old dismal swamp in the same place we did last spring, we marched up towards Ponchatoula until we met the Rebel pickets, we met them in the night, they fired on us and ran into the swamp, they loaded and sneaked out again and fired at us, they did not harm a man of us, we fired a volley after them but we did not go to see if we kill any or not.

Their pickets were about a mile from their camp when the firing commenced, they beat the long roll in their camp so we turned our backs on them and marched two miles and camped for the night, we expect they come down on us before morning but they did not come, if they had they could have bagged us without a struggle, as we only had a 150 men and they had five thousand. We lived well on the planters while we were gone.

How I wish Mother could (several words missing) I know she would

if she could but it would be a long trip for her if she had the means.

I will try to send you my ambrotype, I would have sent one ere this but I hate to give these Rebels two dollars for one on a copper plate without a case. I could get the same thing in Baltimore for twenty five cents. I would be glad to have yours if I could carry it but I have no place to keep such things, only in lockets, when I get home I want it in a case. I have not got Maria's with me. I must bid you good bye,

so write soon and often to your affectionate brother,

George W. Alford Sixth Regt Mich Vol Co D New Orleans, La.

Give my love to Mother and Father and all the rest, tell Anna to write to me."

Letter #5: "New Orleans Sunday Dec 21st/62

Once more I sit down to address you, my health is good and I hope these scratches find you and all the family in the same fix, we expect to leave here soon on an expedition up the river against Port Hudson and Vicksburg, General Banks with fifty transports and about thirty thousand troops arrived here last Sunday and have gone up to Baton Rouge where we will stop and recruit till we join them, I expect to have some fun when we get up to Port Hudson, that is, if the Rebels don't run before we get there. General Banks has superceded General Butler in this department. We are now living in the Louisiana cotton press a few blocks before the United States Mint where we quartered last spring when we first landed here, the health of our regiment is improving since we moved out of our tents. We shall see hard times again when we leave here but still I am anxious to go for if there is any fun I want a finger in with the rest.

You said in your last letter that Mother wanted to know what kind of treatment I had when I was sick, I will tell you, with all in the hospital were treated worse than you would treat a sick dog, I had no bed except my blankets spread on the floor, I got salt beef and bread and gruel to eat and rain water to drink, that is, if I could go Out and get it myself and if I could not I went without it as a general thing, the nurses in the hospital are so hardened that they have no feelings, they have seen so much sickness and death that they have lost all sympathy and would not leave their

dinner if the whole regt were dying. I have seen them sit and play cards and let men die without a Soul near them, no one knew when they died, I used to think that death was an awful thing and could never witness a funeral without solemn reflections, now I can meet a funeral procession every hour without so much as giving it a passing thought but when I am alone and get to thinking over the names and numbers of my own company that are now sleeping in the Sacred Soil of Louisiana unbidden tears will flow in spite of my stout heart that has become hardened in the Army

If you were here I would take you to the Gravier Street Theater this evening, I am going, I go every Sunday night, the play is always better Sunday night than any other. Gravier Street Theater I think is the best in the city. I have been to Charles Street Theater and Camp Street Theater and to the academy of music but I don't like any as well as Cravier Street, this is a gay old city. I have seen nearly every street and alley and cubby hole in it, all the exercise I get is walking up and down the pavements. Sometimes I go to the City Hall while away and hour or so in the library, it is a very extensive one, I wish I had it, or one as good, at home, I could not read it through in my lifetime. We have just received news of another battle at Baton Rouge fought yesterday, our boys flagged them again, how I wish we had been there, we will probably go sometime this week. Give my

love to Mother and Father and Anna, and Ett, when you see her tell her I feel as though I was forgotten by her. Tell Anna to write to me , also tell her to kiss little Marion for me. Tell Father and Mother I would be glad to hear from them at all times. The bugle has sounded for Divine Service but I shant go, I am going to take a walk, if you were here I'd go

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with you and take a stroll in Jackson Square with its shaded walks, green trees and fragrant flowers and old Jackson mounted on his horse, is standing on a large pedestal made of granite.

Well, you are not here and I have seen a great many times I shall not go there.

Good bye and write soon and often to your brother and well wisher.

George W. Alford Sixth Regt Michigan vol. Co. D. New Orleans, La."

Letter #6: "New Orleans, Thursday March 5th/63

Dear Sister,

I have just received your letter of Feb. 1st. and was glad to hear from you. I received a letter from brother William on Monday last, it was dated Feb. 10th, he was at Nashville, Tenn. and was well. I have nothing new to tell you so if I don't write much you must make allowance for it. We buried one of our company last Sunday and will bury another this afternoon. We are under marching orders, I don't know when we shall go, probably tomorrow as we are ordered to be ready at any minute, every man is provided with a hundred rounds of cartridges, we expect to go up the river to Port Hudson, there are eleven regt's of us under marching orders.

The weather here is like summer, the peach and plum trees were in blossom four weeks ago and the gardens look fine, flowers are more plenty that you ever saw in Michigan, the fields are covered with green carpets of white clover.

One year ago today we left Virginia for Ship Island and if I was back there today I would be glad.

Give my love to Mother and Father and Anna, tell them all to write as often as they can, tell them to direct their letters to New Orleans until

further orders from me, our letters will follow us where ever we go, if it is to England. I must close and get ready for the funeral, so good bye for the present, I will write again the first opportunity and I hope by that time to have something to say that will be a little more interesting than this letter is, you must excuse Haste and Blunders too and write soon and often to your affectionate brother,

George W. Alford Sixth Regt Mich Vol Co D New Orleans, la.

To Helen Alford Oshtemo, Michigan

Enclosed you will find a few gumbo seeds, plant them as you would corn, four feet apart."

Letter #7: "In Bivouack on Lake Ponchatrain

Tuesday April 28/63

Dear Sister,

Your welcome letter of April 10th reached me on Sunday morning last and found me enjoying good health and I hope this epistle will find you all the same. I have nothing by way of news to tell you so you will make due allowance for a poor letter. I have not seen or heard much that would be interesting since I wrote you last, we don't see much out here except aligators and musketoes (?) and maguson(?) snakes, hungry women are coming inside our lines nearly every day, they are not allowed to leave rebeldom as the military authority don't give any papers to leave the confederacy but hunger will go through a stone wall. So the women will steal away from their homes in the night and come to the lake and bribe some old fisherman to smuggle them across to the Yankees. A woman with four children, the oldest eight years old came to my picket post yesterday. She was landed about five miles above me and with her little children she had walked the five miles

through the swamps, as soon as she came in sight of us she bust out crying, I asked her the cause of her tears and she replied that she was weeping for joy and on her knees she returned thanks to God for her deliverence from a land of starvation, it was just noon when she came to us and I invited her to partake of a soldiers homely fare which she did with as much gusto as if we had set before her all the viands of the Indies. She was a lady in every sense of the word and her family were bright pretty children, two boys and two girls, she told me the same sad tales of war and starvation that they all tell that come in from Dixie, she paid 160 dollars to a man to bring her twelve miles in a skiff and paid eleven dollars a day for board in Maisonville and had only corn cakes and (word missing) at that, the men are all gone to war and their wives and children are starving at home, this lady came from Pennsylvania and so did her husband who is a conscript in the Rebel army. There are hundreds and thousands of confederate soldiers wives in this department in a starving condition, I cannot imagine how they have the heart to stay and fight for a cause so hopeless when their families are starving at home. The weather is very warm here but we have a fine cool breeze from the lake, so we don't feel it so much. I hope you have told Willie where I am yet so that he can write to me, I am very anxious to hear from him and would write him if I knew where to address him. Give my love to Mother and Father and write soon and often, I would write more such as it is if I had time but I want to say a few words to sister Annie. Good bye more anon George W. Alford. Direct as usual to New Orleans with company and regiment on the envelope.

This was written to his sister Helen"

81st ADAMS-McKAIN REUNION News

Volume #1

No. 9

STURGEON BAY, WI

01 July 2001

The following letter was written by William S. Kinney to his cousin Uri Mason Adams and transcribed by Jack K. Adams: "Not certain about heading on this letter.

Lake Hanski Nov 18th 1863

Dear Cousin,

I received your letter and was glad to here from you. I am well as usual and tuf as a bare and I hope that I will keep so while I am in uncle sams service. We are on the frontiers yet and I guess we will stay there this winter, there is no one to bother us as there is no one here but a part of our company, we do not have duty to do, there is only one guard out at a time and that is in the night and he is in the tent the most of the time, if it is cold the boys goes in the tent, we are in tents yet. the weather is warm and pleasant. It was rather cold about two weeks ago but is warm and pleasant now. There has not been any snow here this fall, I guess the snow cannot find us up here in the wilderness. I do not no any other reason for there has been snow down the river and down south. I have no news to write for there is nothing a going on here, there is no settlement here. You must excus all mistakes for I have written fore letters and it is getting late. I have been home, I could not get a furlow so I took a french furlow, that is one of my own, just pick myself up and started, I was gone five days and a half. I must close my letter, give my best respects to all and take a good share to yourself.

Wm. S. Kinney

To Uri Adams

ps do not forget to write."

Newsletter Needs Your Support

The newsletter editor is requesting that family members submit written histories for inclusion in future newsletters. We will keep these histories as part of the permanent

family record.

As an alternative, record your family history on cassette tape and bring the tape to the reunion or send it to Barbara Gale or Jim Adams. Be sure to test your equipment before your interview and check the audio level.

If you have a good quality family picture to include with your history please send a copy with the history for inclusion in a newsletter. Please send current news and pictures by 28 July to Barbara Gale or bring to the reunion.

REMEMBER: 01 April of each year is the date for submitting data if you wish to have it published in the next newsletter.

Military Service

We are interested in recording the history of family members in the military service. Please submit information to Barbara Gale or Jim Adams. You can review back issues of the newsletter for previous articles on family members & their military service.

You can visit the Adams-McKain Family internet web site at the following address (URLs):

<http://www.adams-mckain.com>

or

<http://members.aol.com/sunny2345/genealogy/index.html>

You can access these sites by using Netscape, American On Line (AOL), Internet Explorer, or other web browsers.

Send your name, email address, & any other pertinent information to Jim Adams. The Adams-McKain web page is updated regularly so stop by for a visit. If you have suggestions for future topics or would like to submit pictures,

diaries, histories, etc. for the web site and the newsletter, please contact the editor.

Adams-McKain Reunion Cookbook

If you have a favorite recipe to share please bring copies to the next reunion.

LOIS PLAYFORD'S HOME MADE ICE CREAM

(Obtained from Jean Clime)

For 6 Quarts:

4 Cups Sugar

1 teaspoon salt

3 Tablespoons Flour

10 eggs (well beaten)

3 quarts milk...scalded

Make Custard of above ingredients and when cooled, add the following:

2 quarts of cream

3 Tablespoons of either Vanilla Extract or Lemon Extract, depending on flavor desired....

don't use Lemon Juice.

FOR 2 Quarts:

1 1/3 cups sugar

1/3 teaspoon salt

1 Tablespoon Flour

4 eggs (well beaten)

1 quart milkscalded

When cooled add the following:

1 pint cream

1 Tablespoon Vanilla of Lemon Extract.

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