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## ADAMS

November 3, 2004  
Mr. Robert E. Adams  
125 Dill St., SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801-1804

Assignment: To locate a John Adams in South Carolina who was the father of George Adams born c1806 in SC, and removed to Monroe County, GA, and was enumerated there in 1850 (aged 44 years). John Adams died in Monroe County, GA, in 1838, estimated to have been born 1770-1780. The name Martin Adams is associated with this family, and client is interested in checking records on a Martin Adams who resided in Greenville County and several men named John Adams who resided in Edgefield County.

Information: The area which became Greenville County (later district) was opened for settlement in 1784. Many families settled there, coming from other parts of South Carolina and from the states of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. In 1800, like other counties in South Carolina, Greenville County became known as Greenville District.

Strategy: We will examine Edgefield records as suggested by Mrs. Austin's report and we will check Greenville deeds and other records for Martin Adams.

Let's begin with the Edgefield County (grantor) deeds for John Adams for the deed books to which Mrs. Austin did not have access (or perhaps she was using Carol Wells' abstracts). We will begin with those in Edgefield County Deed Book 33.

From the index I find deeds from John Adams as follows: 33:237, 36:52, 39:361, and 40:532. There are no other deeds for John Adams recorded until after 1839.

**Edgefield County Deed Book 33, pages 237-238** [copy enclosed from LDS microfilm renumbered ED 98 at SC Archives]:

South Carolina, Edgefield District. John Adams of district aforesaid for \$520 to William McDaniel of same, 141 acres being the land whereon Simon Beck now lives on Rockey Creek of Turkey Creek, waters of Savannah river, adj. John Rowland, Moore Johnson, John Powe, Jonathan Weaver, and Henry Anderson, 12 Dec 1809. John Adams (A), Wit: William W. Pow, Simon Beck (mark). Proved by the oath of Simon Beck 16 Dec 1816 before M. Mims, Clerk. Recorded 16 Dec 1816.

each, one cow and calf each, at lawful age or marriage, one negro, Dick, at their mother's death, all which property I give to them and their heirs forever.

This is to certify to be my Last will and Testament, revoking all others heretofore made by me. Lastly I nominate and appoint my loving wife Sarah Adams and my trusty friend Jonathan Devore and Daniel Roper, my whole and sole Executrix and executors to this my LWT. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal, this 9th day of Dec. (1814)...

Drury Adams (Seal)

Witnessed: Roger M. William, Benjamin Hargrove, Benjamin Roper

Certified and at the same time qualifying Sarah Adams, Jonathan Devore and Daniel Roper executor of the within, May 26, 1814.

Recorded in Edgefield County Will Book A. p. 344-345, July 10, 1815 [Box 2, Pkg 31] Box 1 Pkg 1, Estate of Drury Adams, recorded 1835 Citation: Whereas **John Adams** hath applied for letters of administration on (estate) of Drury Adams, late of the district aforesaid, deceased. (To meet) 27 Oct, 1859 to show cause if any why the said administration should not be granted. Citation read at Red Oak 12 ct 1834 and at a public congregation at Antioch, 23 May, 1824.

Bond with the will annexed: ...**John Adams**, Benjamin Roper, and Sampson Sullivan..(bonded).. 27th Oct, 1834. The conditions of the (bond) is such that if the above bound John Adams administrator (with the will annexed) of the goods..... of Drury Adams , deceased, which were unadministered by Jonathan Devore & Daniel Roper Cate/Cote, Executors, do make ... a true inventory..... Signed: John Roper, Benjamin Roper, Sampson Sullivan.

Warrant of Appraisement declares John Adams " Administrator De bones non, with the will attached.

Appraisal ordered before Jan 1, 1835. Appraisers: Benjamin Roper, Sampson Sullivan, George Elam, George Getson, Charles B. Linebaker Estate Appraisal totaled \$6746.00 including 12 slaves.

A settlement of account and payments of larger amount included the following:  
12 Nov 1836 Benjamin Roper and L. Ganton share - 322.92 4 shares each =  
1956.38 paid to Martha S. Adams, C. S. Adams, Drury S. Adams

Others listed in Account of payments: Lewis Glanton in full of his share 161.46  
Hillary M. Collier 13.25

Note: Apparently it took about 15 years to finally settle this estate.

May 1820 Balance, John Holloway adm: no recognized name

**Will of DRURY ADAMS** [Box 2 pkg 31] Recorded in Will Book A, p. 344-345

Proven April 7, 1815 [Box 2 pkg 31]

In the name of God Amen, I Drury Adams of the District of Edgefield and State of South Carolina, being weak in body .....ordain this my LWT... I lend to my beloved wife Sarah Adams, the land and plantation where on I now live, with 10 Negroes namely dick, Judith, Mima, Barbra, Little Jeany, Quash, Fanny, Anmes, Martha and Charles, four head of horses, ten head of cattle, ten head of sheep, thirty head of geese, and the stock of hogs then remaining on the plantation. Also all the household and kitchen furniture and plantation tools, all which property, after my death already named, I lend to my beloved wife Sarah Adams, during her natural life and at her death, my will and desire is that my son John Adams shall have the land and plantation whereon I now live. All the rest of the property above mentioned at her death, my will and desire is that it should be sold on a credit of 12 months and the money thence arising to be equally divided among my young set of children then remaining by my present wife Sarah Adams, to them and their heirs forever.

Also I lend to my beloved wife Sarah Adams, my wagon and all the gear, with the other property already named during her natural life.....

Viz. I give and bequeath unto my loving son , Abraham Adams at lawful age or marriage, one tract of land cornering on Miles's lands a north course, from thence running a south course to lands held by John Moore, more or less, in that boundary. One negro girl named Betty, and her future increase, one feather bed and furniture, one set of cuttings, one cow and calf, one rifle gun and one large trunk, to him and his heirs forever. My will and desire is that if my son Abraham Adams should die without lawful heir, that all his personal estate, shall be sold and equally divided between his elder brother and sisters. And all his real estate to be sold and equally divided between his younger brothers and sisters then remaining.

Viz: I give and bequeath unto my loving son, James F. Adams, one small tract of land, lying cross the Martintown Road. My will and desire is that all the property then remaining be sold on a credit of 12 months and equally divided between my four children namely, James F. Adams, Mary Devore, Peggy Bird and Elizabeth Roper, all which I leave to them and their heirs forever. My will and desire is that my executors, sell as much of my personal estate as will pay all my just debts.

Viz: I give and bequeath unto my two step children, namely Benjamin Roper and Polley Roper , the tract of land known by the Walnut Hill, one bed and furniture

**LWT of John Adams, Sr.** dated 10/11/1822, probate 11/4/1822, Edgefield County. Wife, Sarah. Sons: James, William H., (100 acres) John, and others. Daughters: Elizabeth Tompkins, Mary Stalworth, Rebecca, and Sarah Holloway. Executors: James and W. H Adams. To Bartholomew S. Adams all my interested in the mill on Hard Labor Creek. -Abstracts of Wills Edgefield County, South Carolina by Delwyn Associates. --- there is a note that this will was torn in places, and that the were other children---

#### **South Carolina Land Grants -**

Martin Adams, 1790, 1793, and 1796, class 2 land grants ( no county listed)  
John Adams, 1786, 1790, 1793, class 2 and class 22 land grants (no county listed)

#### **Greenville County, South Carolina Wills**

Apt 13, File 96 Date: 3/29/1833, probated 4/5/1842

LWT Elizabeth and Jane Hightower of Greenville County...."I do will unto my nephew, Alfred Cantrell, a tract of land lying on both sides of the north fork of Beaverdam Creek, waters of the north fork of the Saluda River, being part of 4 surveys and adjoining each other...the 1<sup>st</sup> granted to Ralph Smith, the 2<sup>nd</sup> granted to Robert Prince, the 3<sup>rd</sup> granted to **Martin Adams**, and the 4<sup>th</sup> granted to Andrew W. Walker....170 acres total."

James Adams - male under 10, male 26-45, 2 females under 10, female 26-45

F. Adams - 3 males under 10, male 26-45, 2 females under 10, male 26-45

### **1810 Edgefield County Census**

Alex Adams - male 10-16, male 45 & over, female 10-16, female 26-45

Drury Adams - male under 10, 2 males 10-16, male 45 & over, 2 females under 10, 2 females 16-26, female 45 & over

Elisa Adams - 3 males under 10, male 10-16, male 16-26,, female under 10, female 10-16, female 26-45

Ca 1784 John Adams - 3 males under 10, male 16-26, female 26-45

Charley Adams - male 26-45, 3 females under 10

Amos Adams - 3 males under 10, male 16-26, 2 females 10-16, female 26-45

Thomas Adams - male over 45

**John Adams** - 1 male under 10, male 16-26, male 26-45, female 26-45

1821 Georgia Land Lottery, John Adams, a resident of Elbert County, dew land in the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Lot 246.

## **Georgia Census Records**

### **1820 Elbert County**

John Adams - 2 males under 5, male 5-10, male 20-30, female 20-30

### **1830 Monroe County**

Martin Adams - male 10-15, male 20-30, male 30-40, male 50-60, female 5-10, female 10-15, female 20-30, female 30-40, female 70-80

### **1830 DeKalb County**

Martin Adams - 3 males 20-30, male 30-40, 2 females 5-10, 3 females 20-30, female 40-50

John Adams - 3 male under 5, male 5-10, male 10-15, male 40-50, female 5-10, 2

## **South Carolina Census Records**

### **1790 Greenville County Census**

Martin Adams

Jesse Adams (not there in 1800)

No John Adams

### **1790 Edgefield County Census, 96<sup>th</sup> district**

John Adams

William Adams, Sr.

Thomas Adams

### **1800 Edgefield County**

John Adams

William Adams, Sr.

Thomas Adams

### **1800 Greenville County Census**

Francis Adams - male under 10, 2 males 16-26, female 16-26

Martin Adams - 3 males under 10, 2 males 10-16, 2 males 16-26, male 45 & over,  
2 females under 10, female 26-45

### **1810 Greenville County Census**

John Adams - male 10-16, male 16-26, male 26-45, 2 females 10-16, female 16-26

Martin Adams - not listed

Charles Adams - male under 10, male 26-45, female under 10

There were only two persons in Edgefield County old enough to be the father of the above John Adams, viz....Thomas and Drury. Thomas left his will, but did not name a son, John. However, Drury's LWT estate does mention a John Adams. The interesting part here is that a bond was given by John Adams, Benjamin Roper and Sampson Sullivan to the estate of John Adams in 1834.

Everyone listed was paid their full share of the estate, except John Adams. There was no accounting found in these estate records to show that John Adams was ever paid his share in full. If this John Adams is your John M. Adams, then we know the answer (he died in 1836). Also, it is difficult to zero in on John's movements in the Georgia records after 1820. He could have been in South Carolina, settling his father's estate, as the administrator. Drury Adams did not name John directly in his will, but indicated that should his son Abraham, die, that his estate should be divided between his "elder brother" and sisters. James F. Adams was given a small tract of land n Martintown Road. He left the plantation and 10 slaves to his wife, Sarah. Drury Adams did serve as a soldier during the American Revolution, however, did not file for a pension.

Another possibility is John Adams, Sr., whose LWT was dated 1822 in Edgefield County. He named sons, John and William H., and daughters. The page was patched and could not be read, however, "there were other children" whose names were illegible.

The only way to further clarify the situation is to research the Edgefield County deed and equity records; sales, inventories, receipts, etc. of estates. What we are looking for his a reference to "John Adams of Georgia". This really means a trip to the South Carolina Archives, and spend several days following up all the leads.

Sincerely yours,

Jeannette H. Austin



Jeannette H. Austin

3010 Sherwood Drive

Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Mr. Robert Adams

125 Dill Street, S. E.

Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Bob:

I went back through some of the Georgia records to try and get a better track record of John Adams. I do agree that he was John M. Adams.

John Adams was apparently a resident of Elbert County after the 1820 census, because he drew in the 1821 Land Lottery, a resident of Elbert County, land in Monroe County. He must have resided in Elbert County until about 1838 when his son, George, married, and then they all removed to Monroe County. Martin Adams (born 1767) was found on the 1830 Monroe County Census, but not John. So, where was he? He may be the John Adams listed on the 1830 DeKalb County Census, with another Martin Adams. We know that in 1822 John Adams of Savannah was added land in the 8<sup>th</sup> District of Henry County, Lot 241; and that he drew in the lottery, land in the 6<sup>th</sup> District of Henry County, Lot 126. Henry County was the parent county of DeKalb.

John M. Adams owned a total of 27 acres in Elbert County on Carters Creek, which he sold in 1835. He drew in a number of land lotteries, and it looks like he did not establish his home in any county for any length of time.

The interesting find is the fact that George Adams and Martin Adams were securities on the estate of John Adams in Monroe County, in 1836. This raises the question whether this Martin Adams was the one born 1767, or the one in DeKalb County in 1830, born 1790/1800.

### **South Carolina Connections**

I searched all of the 1810 South Carolina Census records to find a John Adams of the appropriate age, and who had a son under the age of 10 years. The only person found was - John Adams of Edgefield County. All ages fit the scenario. It appears that he had an older son, born ca 1794. Martin Adams of DeKalb County fits in that age range, however, Martin Adams (born 1767) also had 3 sons who were born in that age range. It is also possible that the John Adams (1820 Elbert County), born 1790-1800, could have been this son.



I can go to the Archives in South Carolina and spend 4-5 days there, going from lead to lead, but it will be rather expensive. If you decide to go yourself, please examine the Edgefield County deeds from about 1819 to about 1830, and the estate papers; as well as the Greenville deeds, wills, estates, etc. through about 1830.

Sincerely yours,

Jeannette H. Austin

**Statement**

Cost of photocopies, and time

\$50.00

Jeannette H. Austin  
3010 Sherwood Drive  
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Mr. Robert Adams  
125 Dill Street, S. E.  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Bob:

Since I last spoke with you, I have been trying to obtain all of the Edgefield County, S. C. records possible. Enclosed are some copies of the deed records from 1798 to 1819. This is essentially the time period in which we are interested in trying to determine if your John M. Adams was the one listed on the 1810 Edgefield County Census. There are two John Adams there having sons under the age of 10, which does fit. One is apparently, John, Sr. and one John, Jr.

Re: James Adams, Sr., died 1822 naming wife, Sarah and sons: James F., William H. and John.

A close study of these particularly deed abstracts indicate that a John Adams, Sr., first purchased 200 acres on Stephens Creek (on Turkey Creek of the Savannah River) in 1773 from Daniel Sullivan. He later sold 100 of this same land to James Adams (his son, according to his LWT). In 1803, he deeded to Joseph Senter (for affection), "all my goods and chattels". He appears to have been buying and selling land on Rockey Creek of Turkey Creek and Stephens Creek from 1773 to about 1800.

From 1807 to 1812, the transactions of John Adams may have belonged to John Adams, Jr., particularly the one dated 1812 when John Adams bought 160 acres of land on Rockey Creek of Little Stephens Creek from Caleb Maulden, and the witness was John Holloway, who could be the husband of John, Jr.'s sister, Sarah Holloway.

Of course, it is desirable to look at the deeds in Edgefield County after 1819, up to about 1830, because your John M. Adams came to Georgia, probably ca 1822. If the deed records continue after 1822 in Edgefield County for a John Adams, then we have to determine if John, the son of John, remained in Edgefield County, and thus is not your John Adams.

I do not have any further access to Edgefield records from here, and, after looking at the above abstracts, believe that Greenville County's records need researching also. The whole thing just needs to be tied together, even if to eliminate some families. My opinion right now is that all of the Adams who resided in Edgefield County (including Abraham and Drury) were kin. I have noticed that there are some "Martin" families in the area, if this means anything. The Martin Adams relationship really needs to be established.

MS JEANNETTE AUSTIN  
3010 SHERWOOD DR  
BRUNSWICK, GA 31520

DEAR JEANNETTE

I HAVE ENCLOSED THE RECORD COPIES FROM BRENT HOLCOMB FOR YOUR REVIEW. THEY DIDNT TELL ME MUCH BUT THEN I AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO READING THESE DOCUMENTS. I BELIEVE BRENT SENT YOU A FULL COPY OF THE REPORT SO I HAVE NOT ENCLOSED THAT. HE ALSO MENTIONED HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSULT WITH YOU SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR FURTHER RESEARCH TO DO.

I HAVE BEEN HAVING A FEW PROBLEMS SINCE I HAD CATARACT SURGERY SO I AM AT HALF SPEED. I HOPE TO HAVE BETTER TIMES SOON AND CAN GET BACK ON THIS PROJECT.

HOPE THIS INFO WILL GIVE YOU SOME NEW LEADS. IN THE MEANTIME, "HAPPY HOLIDAYS"!!

Sincerely Yours

Bob Adams

Rebecca Holloway; son James Adams, John Adams, William H. Adams, Sarah Gibson; dated 11 Oct 1822. John Adams Senr (Seal).

The inventory includes slaves named Molley, Bram, Dolly, Mingo, Joel, Amey, Jack, and one name I cannot read.

At the sale John Adams purchased several items including slaves Bram, Molly, and Mingo.

Comments: Is there any indication in the estate record of John Adams in Georgia that he owned slaves? If so, were any named Bram, Molly, or Mingo? If so, you would have a good case that this was your John Adams. If your John was not a slave holder, then he was not likely this person, son of John Adams, Sr.

Now, to Greenville County records. First, I checked the probate index. The only early Adams estate is a James Adams who died testate in 1815. I read the will (Box 1, Package 13) on microfilm E0075. No John Adams was named.

Now for deeds involving Martin Adams. Dr. A. Bruce Pruitt has published abstracts of Deed Book A through E for Greenville County, which saves us quite a lot of time. I enclose copies of pages showing Martin Adams as grantor in the deeds. Note that the first one indicates that he came from Virginia. Because it may be important, I ordered a copy of that deed:

**Greenville County Deed Book A, pages 157-158** [copy enclosed SC Archives microfilm C2984]:

15 Nov 1787, Robert Prince of Greenville County to Martin Adams of the State of Virginia, for £25 sterling, tract in Greenville District of Ninety Six on the branches of Beaverdam Creek surveyed for Stacy Hooper 19 July 1784 and granted to said Robert Prince 6 Feb 1786. Robert Prince (LS), Wit: T. Lewis, John Lewis.

Comments: Since this Martin Adams was from Virginia, and you believe that John Adams came from North Carolina, does this eliminate Martin Adams from the search? There was one deed for Martin Adams in Deed Book F, not covered by Dr. Pruitt's abstracts. Therefore, I ordered a copy of it. There were no other grantor deeds listed for Martin Adams in the index.

**Greenville County Deed Book F, pages 157-158** [copy enclosed SC Archives microfilm C2984]:

Deed proven before Reubin Barrett by the oath of Wheaton Merritt 8 Oct 1800.

Martin Adams of Greenville County for \$196 to John Barrett of same, tract on branches of Beaverdam Creek, part of tract surveyed for Stacey Cooper and granted to Robert Prince 6 Feb 1786, conveyed to said Martin Adams, dated 18 Oct 1799. Martin Addams (LS), Wit: Whit Merritt, John Hodges, Thos Merritt.

**Edgefield County Deed Book 36, pages 52-53** [copy enclosed from LDS microfilm renumbered ED 99 at SC Archives]:

John Adams of Edgefield District for \$200 to Joel McLemore of same, 375 acres but by a resurvey 391 acres on Rocky Creek, waters of Stephens Creek, Turkey Creek, and Savannah River, on both sides of the old Long Cain Road where it crosses said Rocky Creek adj. Wm Partin, Thomas Barker, Jacob Green, Elizabeth Goodwin, David Nicholson, John Bonham, 21 Nov 1817. John Adams (A), Wit: Moore Johnson, Standmore McDaniel. Mary Adams (X), wife of John Adams, relinquished dower 21 Nov 1817 before Jesse Blocker, J. Q. Proved by the oath of Moore Johnson, 21 Nov 1817 before Jesse Blocker, J. Q. Recorded 3 May 1819.

**Edgefield County Deed Book 39, pages 361-362** [copy enclosed from LDS microfilm renumbered ED 100 at SC Archives]:

South Carolina, Edgefield District. John Adams of district aforesaid for \$300 to Henry Anderson, 260 acres on Rocky Creek, a branch of Turkey Creek, waters of Savannah, part of tract of 546 acres granted to Isaac Lewis which I bought of said John Adams [sic], adj. Jonathan Wever, said John Adams, John Rotten, Thomas Dozier, Reuben Kirkland, 27 Feb 1811. John Adams (X), Wit: James M. Weatherford, John Row. Proved by the oath of John Rowe 13 Sept 1815 before Josiah L. Daniell, J.P. Recorded 32 Feb 1823.

**Edgefield County Deed Book 40, pages 532-533** [copy enclosed from LDS microfilm renumbered ED 100 at SC Archives]:

South Carolina, Edgefield District. John Adams of district aforesaid for \$722.50 to John Henson of same, 591 acres adj. Thomas Peterson, William Adams, Aaron Adams, 27 Nov 1824. John Adams (X) (Seal), Wit: T. Bryan, Joseph Bishop. Proved by the oath of Joseph Bishop 27 Nov 1824 before Robt Bryan, J.P. Recorded 4 Dec 1824.

Comments: The John Adams who signed by mark (A) and the one who signed by mark (X) could be the same person, if the clerk was not careful about recording marks. However, the John Adams who signed by mark (A) cannot be the one who went to Georgia, unless he married a Margaret later. The one who signed by mark (X) is still in Edgefield in 1824, after your John Adams is already in Georgia. Therefore, I believe that both are eliminated from the search. If you have other opinions on this, I will be glad to have them and follow up on other research as necessary.

I was uncertain from Mrs. Austin's report if you had a copy of the actual will and estates papers of John Adams of Edgefield from 1822. Therefore, I ordered a copy:

**Edgefield County Estates, Box 3, Package 39** [copy enclosed from microfilm at SC Archives]:

Briefly, this will names wife Sarah, son Wm. H. Adams, Bartholomew Adams, Elizabeth Toms, Mary Stalsworth, Susannah Tomkins and