

## Interesting Facts About The Adams Family



This interesting surname is a patronymic of Adam, which is of English origin, and is from the Hebrew personal name "Adam", which was borne, according to Genesis, by the first man.

The name is of uncertain etymology; however, it is often said to be from the Hebrew "adama", earth. It was very popular as a given name among non-Jews throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. The personal name was first recorded in England with one "Adam Warenarius " in Lincolnshire in 1146 - 1153. The surname development since 1281 includes the following: John Adamson (1296, Scotland), William Adames (1327, Worcestershire) and Richard Adamesone (circa 1400, Norfolk).

The second president of the United States, John Adams (1735 - 1826), and his son John Quincy Adams (1767 - 1848), who became the sixth president, were descended from Henry Adams, a yeoman farmer who had emigrated from Barton St. David, Somerset, to Massachusetts (United States of America) in 1640.

This Adams family, (not the weird bunch that you see on the TV), were mostly agricultural labourers that originated in Oxfordshire. Then, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they started migrating to Kent, presumably because there was more work there.

Also, at the beginning of the main part of this document you will see that even officials can make careless errors on official documents. The Parish Records entry for the marriage of Benjamin Adams (1811 – 1883) and Sarah Dorsett (1811 – 1888) says that it took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> November 1831. Obviously, the Parish Clerk forgot that there are only 30 days in November.

John Adams (1823 – 1849) married Sarah Harper (1829 – N/K) in 1848 but sadly he died just over a year later, leaving Sarah with a young daughter to look after. It is even more sad to note that John and Sarah's daughter, Alice Martha Adams died in 1855 at the age of only 6.

In all records that Samuel Dorset/Adams (1831 – 1920) appears (see below) in his surname is recorded as Dorset, presumably because although he was Benjamin's son he was born before his parents were married.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 1852 District Thame Vol. 3a Page 651**

Samuel Dorset married Eliza Oliver

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 1859 District Thame Vol. 3a Page 603**

Samuel Dorset married Sarah Archer

(**N.B.** Samuel was entered as Dorset not Adams, His mother Sarah's maiden name. Presumably he was born before Benjamin and Sarah were married.)

During WW2, the death of Edward Cyril Adams (1916 – 1940) would be worth investigating further as his Commonwealth War Graves' Commission entry says:

Swung when taking off from crane and flew into HT wires when setting off on a night practice flight.

His RAF Service Record says he was a Pilot Instructor. Was he teaching another airman when he died? If so, what happened to the other man, did he survive?

William Adams (1846 – 1911) died by drowning in the river Medway, in July 1911, and as an inquest was held it would be interesting to find out more about this i.e., were there any newspaper stories on this?

Also William's wife, Sarah Adams (nee Coulson, 1845 – 1911), died in August 1911, from 'morbus cordis' which just means heart failure so it is possible that the death of her husband 'broke her heart'.