

## ABRAM ADAMS

Abram Adams was a fascinating person who resided in Price County, Wisconsin, originally in the Town of Brannan, currently the Town of Spirit, since 1921.

Many specific details of his life are unknown, however, some things are known. The evidence of record shows that he was born to James and Caroline Green Adams, on September 10, 1844, in the village of Greene, New York. He was married to Helen Stevenson, the daughter of Thomas and Helen Stevenson, on July 8, 1874, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The 1890 U.S. Census of Veterans shows that Adams served aboard the USS *Essex* as a Seaman in the U.S. Navy from July 1863, to August 1864, and as a Corporal in the 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry from January 1865, to September 1865.

The USS *Essex*, a 1,000 ton ironclad river gunboat, took part in the Red River Campaign of March--May 1864. The Red River Campaign comprised a series of battles fought along the Red River in Louisiana during the American Civil War from March 10 to May 22, 1864.

Adams was a world traveler. Of record is a document showing that he sailed from Liverpool, England, and Queenstown, Ireland, arriving in New York, on April 20, 1874.

The 1880 U.S. Population Census, town of Brannan, 1 June 1880, shows Adams, age 36, was born in New York and his occupation was running a sawmill. His wife Helen, age 26, was noted to be a housekeeper. Living with them were a son Benjamin, age 5, and B.S. Stevenson, a father-in-law, age 55, noted to be working in the sawmill.

In his publication A Glimpse of the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County (ca. 1905), Sackett stated that *"at the spring election in April 1879, the town of Brannan, consisting of the south two tiers of towns of the county, and embracing the settlements at Ogema and Spirit, completed its organization and elected its town officers. The first town meeting of Brannan was held as provided for in the act of creating Price county at the school house in town 34, range 3 east known as the Spirit settlement on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1879 when A. Adams was elected chairman."*

Under an act of the legislature passed in the early spring of 1879, the county of Price was established.

The History and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley 1891-92 noted *"The village of Phillips became the county seat of Price county on its organization in March, 1879. A handsome county building was erected in 1880, at a cost of \$10,000, with a temporary jail."* Adams, as a town chairman, was a member of the Price County Board of Supervisors. At a Board meeting on March 15, 1880, he was appointed to a building committee "...with full authority to perform all acts necessary to be performed by such committee in the matter of the erection of County buildings..."

The History and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley 1891-92, noted that Adams had taken up a homestead claim, *"but he had not yet moved his family to the property."*

He was awarded a Homestead Certificate on April 23, 1891 for the south half of the north-east quarter and the south half of the north-west quarter of section four, in township thirty-four, north of range three east, containing one hundred and sixty acres.

On October 31, 1884, Mrs. Helen Adams, of Phillips, had purchased Lot 14 and the north-west one-half of Lot 13 of Block 3 of the Village of Phillips, for the sum of \$200.00. This was on Avon Avenue.

*THE BEE* reported on August 25, 1885:

*"Mr. A. Adams has his fine house on Avon Avenue nearly completed. When finished it will be one of the finest in the city."*

*THE BEE* reported on September 1, 1885:

*"A. Adams in fixing up his Phillips property has made a practical exposition of the beauty of the hardwoods of this region. Mr. Adams owns a saw-mill in the south-eastern portion of this county, where he has cut up much birch and maple in addition to his regular run of pine. From this mill he has shipped up a birch floor which he has laid in the hall and dining-room of his building here. The lumber was sawed three years before it was dressed and matched, and has lain in dry quarters ever since. It is laid in strips an inch thick and two inches wide, showing an inch and a half face as it lies in the floor. The grain is simply beautiful; with all the delicate tints from dark brown to faintest green that is shown by the richest walnut. When oiled and polished this floor will be second in beauty to nothing in the state."*

*This birch flooring can be bought in the log, delivered at the mill, for \$5.00 a thousand feet, and the cost of sawing it, which is more than pine, is about the same. To make it into flooring costs say \$3.00 more, and then it is worth \$25 or \$30.00 beside the railroad. The margin of profit in the work is about the same as the chap realized who bought for one dollar and sold for two--"one per cent."*

*The hardwood of this part of the state is large and solid, with straight grain, and without knots. The lumber is worth in actual quality double that sawed in other places which habitually supply the hardwood market, owing to the infinitesimal amount of waste. The timber stands everywhere among the pine, and only needs enterprising men with adequate machinery, to double the present business of northern Wisconsin.*

*The only reason this lumber is not in demand for inside finishing right here at home is that the houses being hurriedly built are not as a rule set on a solid foundation, and when they settle, settle unevenly and open the best made joints in the woodwork; wherefore it does not pay to incur the expense of the fine joiner-work necessary on hardwood trimmings. But the time will come."*

July 27, 1894: The Phillips fire.

*THE BEE* reported on September 19, 1894:

*"Mr. A. Adams is about to commence the erection of two fine residences on his lots on*

*Avon Avenue. Let the good work go on."*

THE BEE reported on February 14, 1900:

**Married**

*"HOBE-ADAMS.--On Saturday evening Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. O.K. Hobe of Knox Mills to Miss Helen Anita Adams of Brannan.*

*This quiet but pretty wedding ceremony took place at The Manse, the Rev. Samuel Howell Murphy officiating, and was attended by the mother of the bride, Mrs. Helen Adams and Mr. and Mrs. M. Christianson and family. After the ceremony the groom became the host and invited company and Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and family to the wedding supper at Hotel Van.*

*The bride is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Christianson and at various times has visited Phillips, and has made many friends in this city. The groom is the superintendent of the E.H. Hobe Lumber Co. of Knox Mills. The party returned to their home at Knox Mills that evening, where they have furnished a beautiful home and where they were surprised by a gift of a piano from the Swedish-Norwegian Consul for Minnesota, Mr. E.H. Hobe and wife of St. Paul, had been added to the adornments of their home. THE BEE, and all friends of the bride and groom wish them a long and happy life."*

The Presbyterian Church and Manse on Avon Avenue were directly across the street from the Adams' two residences. As of 2016, neither the Church nor the residences are still standing.

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on December 6, 1900:

*"Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Hobe gave a Thanksgiving dinner and all present say they never enjoyed a finer dinner. How could it be otherwise? When Mrs. A. Adams and daughter, Mrs. Hobe, start to do a thing they do it right, you can rest assured. The dinner was followed by singing, solos being rendered by Mr. Hienbach, of St. Paul, and Mrs. A. Adams. It was a great display of talent for our small berg, and we hope for a repetition soon. There was also a story, "When I was a Boy," by the Hon. B.S. Stevenson."*

*"Mr. Hienbach, E.H. Hobe Lumber Co.'s bookkeeper from St. Paul, has come to Knox to stay and we welcome him, as he is a fine singer as well as master of a fine violin that he has played for twenty years and is not afraid to use it."*

THE BEE reported on January 26, 1901:

*"Born, to Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Hobe, of Knox Mills, on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, a son."*

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on August 29, 1901:

*"Mrs. O.K. Hobe entertained last Sunday. Those present were: Mrs. Helen Adams and daughter, John S. Brandt, of St. Paul, and Dr. Jacob Dahl, of Minneapolis. All had an enjoyable time. The music was fine as was also the songs rendered."*

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on October 17, 1901:

*"We understand that the E.H. Hobe Lumber Co. has sold their entire business to Mr. Bradley, of Tomahawk. We will miss Mr. Hobe, for he has brought a great many settlers*

*to this place. He has built up Brantwood and Knox Mills and has been a great help to the community. We wish him success where ever he may go."*

*THE BEE* reported on March 21, 1903:

*"Mrs. A. Adams died March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1903, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. O.K. Hobe, 3214 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn., where she had gone for a visit last September, before going to her new home in Idaho. Her health had been failing for a number of years, and it was necessary to undergo a very critical operation. She had only left the hospital a short time when taken with pneumonia, after which she had a paralytic stroke on the right side, and had nearly recovered from that when taken with the grip, then asthma. They were even then hopeful of her recovery, when a second paralytic stroke, this time on the left side, reached her heart, and she died without a struggle.*

*Mrs. Adams was born in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, in the year 1856. She was of Scottish descent, her great grandfather being nephew to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford. Her ancestry was traced back, very remotely, to King Robert Bruce.*

*She leaves a husband, a married son, B.S. Adams, who resides in Idaho, a married daughter, Mrs. O.K. Hobe, of Minneapolis, a daughter, Hacı Valvere, aged 15 years, a son, Eben, aged 13 years and a father, Mr. B.S. Stevenson, who is also in Idaho, and a sister, Mrs. Barbara Christianson, of this city, all of whom are inconsolable at their irreparable loss.*

*Mrs. Adams was a lady of rare sweetness of disposition and beloved by all who knew her."*

Sometime prior to 1903, the Adams' moved to Juliaetta, Idaho, where they built a new house in the style of a Scottish castle, in honor of Mrs. Adams' ancestry.

After moving to Idaho, the Adams' are reported to have started a seed company selling Alaskan wheat. They eventually got into some legal trouble for false claims and the U.S. Mail.

Daughter Helen Hobe continued to reside in Minneapolis and visit her father in Idaho. *KENDRICK GAZETTE* (Kendrick, Idaho) reported on April 16, 1909, that *"Mrs. O.K. Hobe and son Earl left Tuesday evening for Minneapolis."*

Adams continued to travel into his later years. In December 1922, at the age of 78, he sailed from Los Angeles, to Honolulu, returning to Seattle, in February 1923. In November 1923, he traveled from Kingsgate, British Columbia, to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

A Florida Deaths database at [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) shows that Adams died on November 2, 1925, at Tampa, Florida, and was buried at Juliaetta, Idaho, on November 3, 1925. His occupation was listed as a farmer. Death on one day in Florida, and burial the next in Idaho, may indicate a possible date error.

At the Price County Board meeting on January 13, 1880:

“Motion made that a suitable ordinance or resolution be drawn, providing for and authorizing the issue of the bonds of Price County to the amount of \$10,000 in denomination of \$500 with interest at the rate of 8% per annum, the sum of \$2,000 with accrued interest to be payable each for five successive years commencing with the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1881, said bonds to be made payable at the first National Bank of Milwaukee, to be negotiated by the County Treasurer, David O’Brien, at not less than par or face value and that the fund so received, on the sale of said bonds, shall be set aside and only used for the purpose of providing a site and erecting County buildings in the Village of Phillips, the County seat of Price County, for the use of said County.  
Roll called and above motion carried, all voting aye.”

At the Price County Board meeting on March 15, 1880:

“Sup. Adams submitted the following resolution--

Resolution No. 36

Resolved, that A. Adams and Wm Farrell members of the Board of Supervisors and F.W. Sackett, County Clerk, be and are hereby appointed and constituted a building committee for Price County, with full authority to perform all acts necessary to be performed by such committee in the matter of the erection of County buildings, and that they shall be required to report at each regular meeting of the Board, as to the progress and condition of the work, and further

Resolved that said committee shall continue to act and remain a standing committee until the buildings are completed and said committee discharged.

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine and report upon plans and specifications for the building, negotiate for a site, and superintend the erection of said building, examine and endorse or make a recommend on all bills submitted to the board in the matter of the County buildings, and to perform all other duties usually performed by such a committee and report as above required.

Moved by Sup. Farrell that the above resolution be adopted. Roll called and resolution adopted, all voting aye.”

Courtesy of Karen Baumgartner:

Citations for some of Abram Adams records. These are available on FamilySearch.org

"Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FPZ3-4BN> : accessed 12 March 2016), Abram Adams, 02 Nov 1925; citing Tampa, Hillsboro, Florida, reference cn15461; FHL microfilm 2,116,640.

Florida Deaths, 1877-1939

GS Film number 2116640

Reference ID cn15461

[Adams' parents were named on the index of his death record. The image was not available on this site.]

"United States Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XGSJ-Y2L> : accessed 12 March 2016), Abram Adams, Jul 1863; citing p. 389, volume 27, place of enlistment Chicago Illinois, NARA microfilm publication M1953 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 21; FHL microfilm 2,381,762.

[Naval enlistment. image available. blue eyes, lt. brown hair, fair complexion, 5' 11 1/4" height.]

"Hawaii, Honolulu Passenger Lists, 1900-1953," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR9-JGKB> : accessed 12 March 2016), Abram Adams, 1923; citing Ship , NARA microfilm publication A3422 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.). [Ship name: City of Los Angeles.]

"Wisconsin, County Marriages, 1836-1911," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XR2H-MHH> : accessed 12 March 2016), Abram Adams and Helen Stevenson, 08 Jul 1874; citing Oshkosh, Winnebago, Wisconsin, United States, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison; FHL microfilm 1,275,611.

Wisconsin, County Marriages, 1836-1911

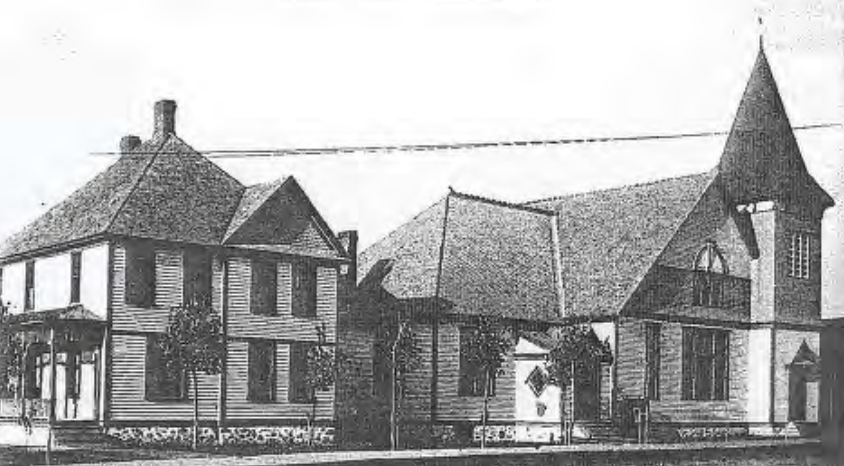
Reference ID P 354 no.189

GS Film Number 1275611

Digital Folder Number 007622502

Image Number 01771

[above all from FamilySearch.org. His parents are named on marriage record too.]



Presbyterian Church and Manse - Phillips Wisconsin  
Photo courtesy of Catherine Mess



Hotel Van - Phillips Wisconsin  
Photo courtesy of Catherine Mess





Adams Home in Idaho  
Photo courtesy of Justin Cope



*Photo of Abram Adams provided by Bill Hoffman*