

# THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Jerry McKelvy, Editor

Vol. 5 – No. 8

August, 2005

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## ALBERT E. ADAMS THE TERRAPIN MAN OF BLUFF CITY

Albert E. Adams was a well known Bluff City man who was born in 1858. I don't know much about him except what I learn from old newspapers and census records. The 1870 census lists him as 12 years old with an older brother named Joseph and a younger brother named Wallace. His mother, Jane was listed as head of the household. From the cemetery records we learn that his first wife, Mary H. Adams died in 1896. She is buried at Bluff City along with at least two of their children, Bulah and Walter, who died as infants.

In later census records (1900 and 1910), we find Albert E. Adams and wife Lucy Adams living at Bluff City, so evidently he remarried. No children are listed in the household.

Albert Adams became known as the Terrapin Man from Bluff City. According to news stories, he found a terrapin near his home in 1886 and marked his initials (A. E. A.) on the shell along with the date. He found the terrapin again in 1904, 1906, 1918, 1923, 1926, and 1932. In 46 years it was never found more than 300 yards from the location of the first marking in 1886.

I tried to do some research on terrapins to find out how long they live. I discovered that there are so many species of terrapins and turtles that I'm not sure of the exact name of the type we have in this part of Arkansas. From looking at pictures, the one that most resembles what we have is called the Eastern Box Turtle. Sometimes, the names turtle, terrapin, and tortoise are used interchangeably, but experts know the difference. Here in Arkansas, we usually think of terrapins as living on land and turtles living in or near the water. The only tortoise we know of is the one in the story of the tortoise and the hare.

Some of the life spans of terrapins were given as 40 to 60 years and possibly one could live to be 100 years old. The research I looked at did not recommend carving initials, etc. on the shell of a terrapin since it could damage the shell. No terrapin wants to live in a house with a leaky roof.

They eat insects, worms, berries, etc. and cause no harm to anyone except maybe eating some low hanging garden vegetables they are able to reach. I have noticed that drivers will dodge a terrapin that might be crossing the highway, but the same driver might go out of his way to run over a snake crossing the road. That shows it's good to have a good reputation. It might pay off in later life. The article I read recommended washing your hands after handling a terrapin since they might carry salmonella.

Albert E. Adams evidently cared about his community, because in 1935, I found that he had donated some land overlooking the bluff from which Bluff City gets its name for use by the Future Farmers of America. They planned to build a log chapter house on the land and

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had plans to construct a swimming pool and a picnic park at the site. I don't know if this ever happened. As you know sometimes plans get changed for one reason or the other.

Albert Adams rented out his farm and went into the lumber and stave business in 1937. He lived to be 82 years old and died February 27, 1941. A few hours after his death, his wife, Lucy Adams, also died. Both of them are buried in the old section of Bluff City Cemetery.

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## AN AMERICAN HISTORY QUIZ (Answers on page 5)

- \_\_\_ 1. Paul Revere was not able to complete his famous ride warning the colonists that the British were coming because **A.** he got saddle sores, **B.** his horse broke a leg, **C.** he was captured, **D.** he was shot and killed.
- \_\_\_ 2. The Star Spangled Banner was **A.** a newspaper, **B.** the name of a play, **C.** a flag, **D.** a ship.
- \_\_\_ 3. A "flivver" was **A.** an enlarged liver, **B.** a fried pie, **C.** an article of clothing, **D.** an automobile.
- \_\_\_ 4. Which of these is not one of the "Great Lakes"? **A.** Great Salt Lake, **B.** Huron, **C.** Michigan, **D.** Superior.
- \_\_\_ 5. The Lewis and Clark expedition explored the Louisiana Purchase. What was Lewis' first name? **A.** Roy, **B.** Andrew, **C.** Meriwether, **D.** Hernando.
- \_\_\_ 6. Charles Lindbergh was **A.** the first to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean, **B.** the first to hit a home run in baseball, **C.** a Civil War general, **D.** the man who shot Abraham Lincoln.
- \_\_\_ 7. Davy Crockett's motto was **A.** "In God we trust", **B.** "Be sure you are right, then go ahead", **C.** "A chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage", **D.** "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country".
- \_\_\_ 8. The first shots of the Civil War were fired at **A.** Bunker Hill, **B.** Concord, **C.** Ft. Sumter, **D.** Appomattox.
- \_\_\_ 9. The first President to die in office was **A.** Thomas Jefferson, **B.** William Henry Harrison, **C.** James Garfield, **D.** John Kennedy.
- \_\_\_ 10. When Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address, he was dedicating **A.** a battleship, **B.** the Washington Monument, **C.** an addition to the White House, **D.** a cemetery.
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## WHEN MILK CAME IN BOTTLES



My work sometimes takes me deep in the woods off the beaten path. Sometimes I come across old home places and I always keep an eye out for open wells, rusty nails, and other hazards. I also look for old antique bottles such as medicine bottles or old soda bottles. Old bottles are getting harder and harder to find these days.

Several years ago I came across this old milk bottle. It is just a plain bottle with no name of a dairy, but it does have the words: THIS BOTTLE TO BE WASHED AND RETURNED—NOT TO BE BOUGHT OR SOLD.

On the opposite side of the bottle are the words: HALF GALLON and a circle about four inches in diameter.

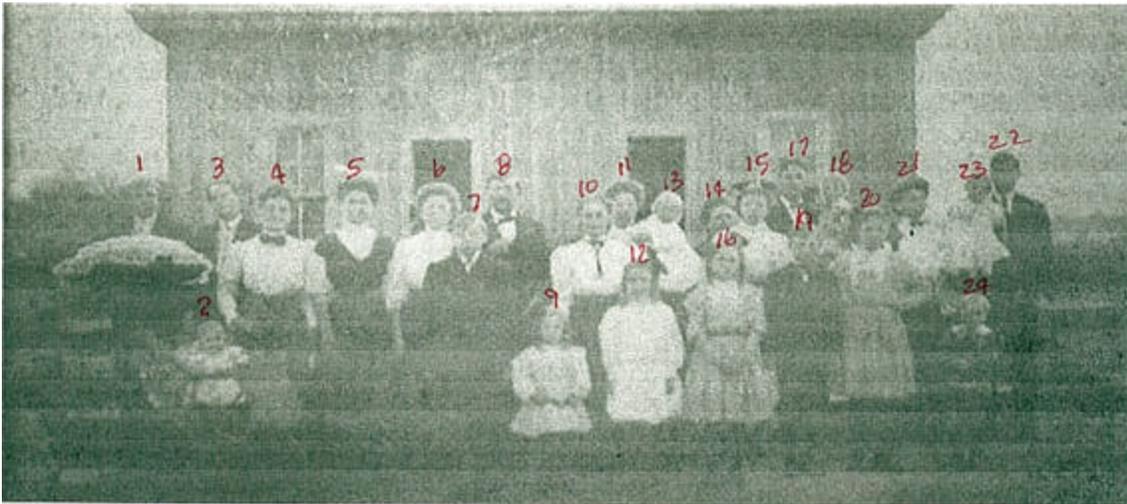
I would appreciate hearing from any milk bottle collectors or others who might know something about the history of this bottle or the time period when it was used.

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### FINE FOR FLIRTING (from The Nevada News—1920)

Bangor, Wales---To promote the best interests of colleges here, a student is liable to a fine of 12 cents if found guilty of ogling or making any sign whatsoever to attract the attention of girls.

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Picture of John and Georgia Anna Hardwick's extended family made about 1909. The story is that John and Georgia's house had burned and this is the house they were living in with the younger part of their family. If the date of the picture is correct, here are the names and ages of the Hardwick family: The Hardwick family settled near Bluff City in Nevada County, Arkansas. *(Thanks to Thomas Knight and Zettie Griffith Link for this picture and information)*

1. William George Hardwick, 17
2. Myrtis Idell Barham, 1
3. Bryce Barham, ?

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4. Ethel Hardwick Barham, 26
  5. Agnes Hardwick Gulley, 27
  6. Johnnie Malinda Hardwick, 19
  7. Homer Hardwick, 13
  8. John Mobley Hardwick, 60
  9. Gladys Gulley, 5 (dau. of Agnes Hardwick Gulley)
  10. Georgia Anna Johnson Hardwick, 50
  11. Sarah Fredonia Hardwick Bustin, 32
  12. Sattie Bustin, 6 (dau. of Sarah Hardwick Bustin)
  13. J. R. Bustin, Jr., 2 (son of Sarah Fredonia Hardwick Bustin)
  14. Eunice Hardwick Moore, 29
  15. Stella Hardwick Griffith, 15
  16. Flossie Bustin, 9 (dau. of Sarah Hardwick Bustin)
  17. Herbert Lee Moore, 24
  18. Earl J. Moore, 3 (son of Eunice Hardwick Moore)
  19. Garland Hardwick, 11
  20. Georgia Ann Bustin, 10 (dau. of Sarah Fredonia Hardwick Bustin)
  21. Frances Hardwick Martin, 30
  22. Berry Martin, 27
  23. Marie Martin, 2
  24. Leroy Martin, 4
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### ANSWERS TO AMERICAN HISTORY QUIZ

1. The answer is C. - Paul Revere was captured and later released without his horse. His famous ride was the subject of a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that began, "Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." Paul Revere was a silversmith by trade and died in 1818.
2. The answer is C. - The Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key who witnessed the British bombardment of Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812. The bombardment lasted 25 hours, but Key noticed that the flag was still flying. The Star Spangled Banner became our national anthem in 1931.
3. The answer is D. - The word "flivver" was a slang word usually referring to the Ford Model T, and is sometimes used to describe any small, inexpensive, or old automobile.
4. The answer is A.- Great Salt Lake covers 2500 square miles in the state of Utah. The salt content is second only to the Dead Sea.
5. The answer is C.- Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the 8,000 mile expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Lewis had a promising future, but his life was cut short. He died from a gunshot to the head at age 35, but the cause of death is uncertain. Some think it was suicide since Lewis suffered from bouts of depression. Others think he was murdered.

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6. The answer is A.- Charles Lindbergh flew non-stop across the Atlantic in 1927 in his plane, “The Spirit of St.Louis”. That reminds me of the time I gave my class a test and one of the questions was to tell what Charles Lindbergh was known for. One student wrote, “He flew his spirit to St. Louis”. After his famous flight, Lindbergh wrote a book, invented an artificial heart, and flew 50 combat missions in World War II. His 20 month old son was kidnapped and later found dead. Lindbergh died of cancer at his home in Hawaii in 1974.

7. The answer is B. – Davy’s motto—“Be sure you are right, then go ahead” was taken from his 1834 autobiography. Sounds like good advice to me.

8. The answer is C.- The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Ft. Sumter, off the coast of South Carolina in 1861. The only casualties during the bombardment were one Union soldier killed and three injured when a cannon exploded as they fired a salute to warn soldiers to leave the fort.

9. The answer is B. - William Henry Harrison stood in a cold rain giving his inaugural address (the longest in history). He caught a cold which developed into pneumonia and died 31 days after taking office.

10. The answer is D. – Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous address in 1863 at the dedication of the national cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The main speaker at the event was a famous orator, Edward Everett, whose speech lasted two hours. Abraham Lincoln was invited to “make a few appropriate remarks”. Lincoln’s address lasted for only two minutes, but became one of the great speeches of all time. When I was in school, we were required to memorize The Gettysburg Address.

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### THE AUTOBIOGRAPY OF GORDON H. IRVIN (PART 4) The story of the Irvin family near Bluff City, Arkansas about 1920

#### ACTIVITIES

I am glad of the memories of the old home. It is pleasant to re-live those nights when we gathered by the fire to play games, eat peanuts, or shell corn off the cob to make meal for bread or for feeding the stock and chickens. It was always a lively time with Mama playing jokes on Papa and him never complaining but just grinning good-naturedly at it all. In the daytime the chickens would flock under the floor to catch the grains of flying corn that fell through the cracks and sometimes the noise of their flapping and cackling would be ferocious. In winter the fronts of Mama’s and the girl’s legs looked as if they were about ready to shed, a result of the constant baking before the fire. It was not that they were partial to the front side--you could not keep turning the chairs around. We men wore overalls which protected our legs from both the cold and the heat. Papa’s place was by the wall on the right side of the fireplace, Mama’s was on the left and always this was so. Close by Papa’s right leg sat the pine box loaded with fat pine for kindling and for giving light to the room. Hard by Mama’s left knee stood the churn waiting for the milk to clabber. Directly in front of the fire all the children and not a few cats arranged themselves in no particular order. Thus it

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was each night until bedtime at eight. This may seem like an early hour but not to us who had eaten our supper at five and had been sitting in the dark ever since.

It was discouraging however, to all the cats that had to go outside and face the cold long night at such an early hour. That is, to all except Old Ben, and even he had to face it but not for long. Since I can remember, everybody said he was Hollie's cat, but Old Ben knew he belonged to me or rather that I belonged to him. When we were all ready to go to bed, Papa would put the cats out the front door and before I could make it to my bed in the back room, Old Ben would be climbing through a broken window nearby. I am glad to this day and I know Old Ben is too that the window stayed broken, for where he lay, it was always warm.

Sometimes, before going to bed, we had family prayer by the fire. Papa would read a chapter in the Bible and Mama would pray and the next night the procedure would be reversed. At such times my father was the most humble man I have ever known. He laid his bare soul at God's feet and cried softly while giving thanks and asking only that he be watched over during the night. Then soon the glowing embers were covered with ashes and we all went to bed. And it is in these processes that timber is woven into the fiber of men and virtue imbued into the hearts of women.

The fireplace room was quite large enough to hold all of us, a dresser, and two beds. The back room was even larger and also had two beds. Mine was in the far end--the one by the broken window. The mattress was filled with corn shucks which insulate real good but are too lumpy for old folks to sleep on. All our bed covers were hand-made patch quilts beautifully designed and brightly colored. Sometimes at night it might snow and then in the morning the beds would all be white as indeed would everything. Our house had no ceilings, so quietly the snow sifted down through the walls and roof and settled over all. It was a cold house in winter, cool even in the summer.

It was Papa's job to be the first one up in the mornings and build fires in the fireplace and in the stove. To this day I don't know why he never put on his shoes until after he had made a roaring fire in the cold early morning. Of course, the kindling pine was inside the house, but the logs were on the porch outside, which most of the time was either wet or covered with ice and snow. I can hear him now as he walked on his heels back and forth at five o'clock in the morning from the porch to the fireplace carrying wood. The colder his heels got, the harder they hit the floor until the whole house would shake. Then it was, he would sit all alone by the kindling fire seemingly in deep meditation, deliberately pausing and gazing long into the flames as he slowly put on his shoes. This was his adventure, his movie, night club, television, his trip abroad--this was his diversion. Or was it simply the lull before the storm? At any rate, the spell would be broken soon enough and we would all be up running, scuffling, and scrounging for a place before the fire. But at least this hour was his alone and he savored its flavor and drew long and deep upon its magic.

As warm weather approached at the end of winter, the scene would change. An open porch, on the front, ran the full length of the house. It was there that we rested for a spell at noon and before retiring on the short spring and summer nights. A wide board extended from the wall to the edge of the porch and served as a shelf for the water bucket, wash pan,

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and soap dish. The towel hung on a wooden roller nailed to the wall. Papa's chair was near the edge of the porch between the steps and the water shelf on the right side. Mama's place was usually to the left of the steps and farther back from the edge, but not always in precisely the same spot like Papa's. It was not the custom for children to occupy chairs on the porch. We preferred a more easy manner, sitting on the edge of the porch or steps or lying back against the wall. I cannot remember hearing much conversation or seeing much activity on summer nights. But, how could one ever forget such a quiet pensive interlude, the soft breezes and mysterious sounds of the night creatures, the toads that croaked only when rain was near and the whippoorwill that sang in the Cay Hills all through the night and finally, my mother's voice saying, "Get up, Gordon and go to bed. You're sound asleep."

(to be continued)

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## ROOM 50—BUCHANAN HALL (from the Oct. 26, 1922 issue of The Nevada News)

Nine members of the McGill family of Chidester attended the University of Arkansas and six of the nine lived in Room 50 in Buchanan Hall.

S. D. McGill, a physician of Camden lived in Room 50 and graduated in 1906. Sidney McGill, an electrician, Minto, a mechanic, Walter, a farmer, J. Tate McGill, a star football player for the Razorbacks and now coach of Prescott High School, and Robert Layton McGill, a freshman in 1922, all lived in Room 50.

Also attending the U. of A. were Sara McGill, a teacher, Josephine McGill, a teacher, and Ann McGill.

The football team at Prescott High School coached by J. Tate McGill has one of greatest winning streaks of any high school team. They played and defeated Little Rock and the score when they played Hot Springs was 77-0.

It was in 1922 that the name "Curley Wolves" was chosen for the Prescott High School football team. A Little Rock sportswriter had used the term in a column he had written and the name was chosen by the entire student body to be the name of the team. The official name was "McGill's Curley Wolves". Before that time, the team had been known as the "Aggies".

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## FROZEN CUCUMBER SALAD (yield = 1 ½ quarts)

2 quarts sliced unpeeled small cucumbers  
2 medium onions, sliced  
1 tablespoon salt  
1 cup vinegar  
1 ¼ cups sugar

Combine cucumbers, onions, and salt. Let mixture set for 3 hours. In a saucepan, warm the vinegar and sugar. Stir to dissolve sugar. Drain cucumbers and add to vinegar mixture. Ladle into plastic freezer containers and freeze. When ready to use, defrost and serve chilled.