

## ADAM PHILIPS

Adam was born Dec 27, 1762 near Baltimore Maryland, but his parents soon moved to Rowan County North Carolina. His mother was a Welsh lady, and his father is also believed to be of Welsh descent.

In 1781 Adam joined the American forces at Bates Ford on the Catawba River. The Commander in Chief was General Green, With General Davidson, Colonel Locke, Major Smith, and Captain Simmons as other officers. He was in the Battle of Cowans Ford when General Davidson with 300 men intercepted Cornwallis, and Adam was in conversation with General Davidson when the General was killed, February 1, 1781. Adam took refuge behind a tree, and fearing to expose his arm because of the heavy fire, took his cartridges from his cartridge box at his back, and kept them in his mouth for immediate use.

Shortly after the war, Adam married a Cherokee Indian, and in 1784, his first child Elisha A. Philips was born. Eli's mother died in childbirth, and in 1785 Adam remarried to Hannah Bailey the daughter of a Baptist minister. They lived for a while in Rowan County, where he practiced the trade of Shoemaker, but before 1790 Adam moved his family to Mecklenburg County where most of his children were born. He had 10 children including Elizabeth (1791), Christianberry (1793), Reuben (1795), Sewall (c1798), Catherine (1801), and Hiram (1803).

In Mecklenburg County, Adam was a schoolteacher, and continued his farming operations. In 1803, he moved to the mountains of Buncombe County where he lived until 1809. According to his son Reuben, "There was no church, no school, and No Sabbath", so he moved his family some 20 miles east to a location near Asheville. Here his daughter Catherine and son Reuben got jobs teaching school. Elisha joined the Militia in the war of 1812, but saw no service in that war. Reuben drilled his male students according to Duane's Military Tactics, but being only 16 he also saw no service.

Adam was a devout Methodist, and became Class Leader in the Methodist Society in Buncombe County, a position he held for 40 years. Hannah was also a devout christian, as well as being trained in medicine, and was an asset to her community until she died May 18, 1848. She is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Rowan County, where Hiram was also buried on February 14, 1852. Adam applied for a veterans pension in 1850, but since his house and all belongings had burned in 1844, his pension was not granted until 1852. In 1855, Adam applied for a bounty Land Claim on his Revolutionary War record. He died about 1859, and is buried in Bethesda Cemetery, Haw Creek, Buncombe County, North Carolina.



Adam Phillips

The Clergy, members of the family; and friends.

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In giving this Biography, it is rather discouraging and certainly embarrassing to have to admit that, really there is but little known of the life of Adam Phillips.

The passing of the years, the destruction of priceless records, when Court Houses have burned, the failure of families to preserve private papers, has caused a chapter in the History of America to be left unwritten.

In 1682, many families came to America, from Wales and settled in the kindly domain of William Penn, "Where every man, was treated as a man, and where independence of thought and action was the portion claimed as his own"- and here was generated the spirit, which later led the descendants of these pioneers to engage in the Revolutionary War.

In 1760, nearly one hundred years later, a score or more of these families migrated into Virginia, North and South Carolina.

With this company came the Sewalls, Baileys and the Phillips, who settled in Eastern North Carolina, and whom we find later in the Counties now known as Orange, Rowan and Buncombe.

From this stock came Adam Phillips, who was born in 1763

In those days History was made largely in the telling, and so handed down from one generation to another---but, "The woodman and the Rifle man, was ever pressing on toward the setting sun, and this led to a separation of the families, and naturally, their traditions were lost in their new surroundings--so, that we of today, who would like to know of the life of these early settlers, are left in a sea of doubt and indission

Adam Phillips, was evidently reared in a home where, Spirituality, mental attainments and Patriotism were the dominating features, as his after life demonstrates.



In 1785, he married Hannah Bailey, and of this union ten children were born.

Hannah Bailey-Phillips, was a woman of culture and unusual mentality, having studied Medicine, and was of some note, as an authority, in this locality.

In their home, there must have been a strong Spiritual atmosphere, for Adam Phillips was an ~~an~~ ~~untiring~~ ~~worker~~ in the Methodist Church, having the distinction of serving as a Class Leader, for forty years

Their son Reubin was a Minister, and certainly their influence, had reached unto the third and fourth generation.

Adam Phillips seems to have prospered in Worldly goods, for there are records of transfers of property, to be found in Rowan County and here in Buncombe. Among them a deed to his daughter Catherine Phillips-Bell, who was a well known teacher, here and in Asheville. This daughter, was the Mother of the Rev. George Hamilton Bell, who is buried in this lot.

There is a tradition, that ~~the~~ first home of this couple burned, and with it the cherished uniform, which he had worn, when in the Army, and which is said to have been ornamented with gold buttons.

I have been told that the children, evidently charmed by the word -gold- searched in the ashes, for those bits of the precious metal, probably, not for their Historic value, but for the lure of the -gold- which was so rare in those days.

His Army experiences, so far as I can find were along the Catawba River, in Rowan County, where he served under Colonel Francis Locke and Captain Sommons.

He was in the battle of Cowans Ford, when General Davidson, with 300 men intercepted Cornwallis, and he was in conversation with General Davidson, when the latter was killed, February 1. 1781

A great grand son, well remembered listening to the recounting of the



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incidents of that battle, by his aged **size**, and was, as a boy would be, **especially** interested in the statement, that there was no protection from the enemy, save a tree, behind which he stood while fighting. So, fearing to expose his arm, when reaching for the bullets, in the Cartouche or Cartridge box, which was carried on his back, he filled his mouth, with them for immediate use.

After the battle of Cowan's Ford, he was placed in charge of the prisoners in Salisbury.

Those days were stormy days, when men were fighting for their Religious and Political Liberty--torn between their inherent love of their Mother Country England, and the land of their adoption, America- which in contrast, was so new-so crude-so hard- and we of today, who are, as it were luxuriating in that for they fought-realize, that we can neither say nor do enough to properly honor their memory.

This man, Adam Phillips, the Revolutionary Soldier, and our Ancestor, whom we would so love, to have "live in song and story" came out of the horrors and hardships of this war, back to these beautiful mountains, where, along the cool, sequest'rd vale of life, he kept the even tenor of his way" leaving to us the influence of a well spent life, "For he had fought the good fight, and he had kept the Faith"

So here he must sleep, that long, last sleep, in this quiet, peaceful Church yard, with nothing to bear witness, save -this-brief-Army-record-of- his-Patriotism- engraved-on this-simple-white-stone.

Compiled by Mrs. Leslie Battle Clark, of Dallas Texas, and given when she unveiled the marker to the memory of Adam Phillips, in Bethesda Cemetery, Haw Creek, Buncombe County, North Carolina, on Sunday September, 4th. 1938

(Mrs Clark is a great-great grand daughter of Adam Phillips, on her Father's side)

