

SETH ADAMS

A PIONEER OHIO SHEPHERD

By Charles Sumner Plumb

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Among the pioneers of the Northwest Territory, along the Ohio border on the east, were many men of sterling worth and rather unusual administrative ability. Notably among these men in Ohio history, was Seth Adams.

The following pages will briefly discuss his ancestry, review his movements as a citizen and pioneer, and set forth his relationship to early day American sheep husbandry.

The Adams genealogy herewith was furnished by a grandson of Seth, Mr. Washington Adams of Zanesville, who is now (1933) 83 years of age, in good health, with clear mental faculties.

THE ADAMS FAMILY GENEALOGY

HENRY ADAMS of Braintree, Massachusetts, came to America in 1634 from England, and died in 1646. He was seven generations removed from Seth. Henry had a family of eight children.

EDWARD ADAMS, the eighth son of Henry, the sixth generation from Seth, was born in England in 1630. He came to America with his parents. In 1652 he married Lydia Rockwood, and died in his Medfield home in 1716. Edward was a Selectman in Medfield for many years, and was also a Representative in the Massachusetts General Court (the Legislature) from Medfield in 1689-'92, and 1702.

JOHN ADAMS, the third son of Edward and Lydia, of the fifth generation from Seth, was born in 1657 in Medfield. John was twice married and was the father of fourteen children. His second wife was Deborah Partridge. John passed his days in Medfield, where he died in 1751 at the ripe age of ninety-four years.

EDWARD ADAMS, the first son of John and Deborah, the fourth generation from Seth, was born in Medfield in 1682. He was married twice, his first wife being Rachael Saunders. He had a family of seven children. He died in 1742 in Milton, Massachusetts, where he was living.

JOHN ADAMS, commonly known as "Deacon Adams," of the third generation from Seth, was a son of Edward and Rachael. He was born in Milton in 1709, and like his father was married twice, first to Sarah Swift, and second to Widow Warren, mother of General Joseph Warren, hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill. John was the father of thirteen children, four of whom were sons, and each active in the Revolutionary war. He died in 1790, aged eighty-one years.

SETH ADAMS, SR., the father of Seth, Jr., was a son of John and Sarah, born in Milton in 1740, married Ann Lowder, and died in 1782. With John Kneeland he

established a publishing-house in Boston. He became a post-rider in 1769, and in 1765 became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

SETH ADAMS, JR., a son of Seth, Sr., and Ann, was born in Boston in 1767, and married in 1793 to Elizabeth



SETH ADAMS.

Apthorp. Seth and Elizabeth were parents of the following eleven children: Thomas Bulfinch, born in Boston in 1794; Mary Ann, born in Boston in 1795; William Apthorp, born in Boston in 1797; John Apthorp, born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1798; Charles Ward,

born in Dorchester in 1801; George Frederick, born in Dorchester in 1802; Elizabeth, born in Dorchester in 1804; Francis Thomas, born in Marietta in 1805; Robert Seth, born in Zanesville in 1806; Lucy Ann, born in Wakatomaka in 1809, and James Freeman, born in Zanesville in 1812.

Seth, the father of these eleven children, was for some years a merchant in Boston, and engaged in shipping, dealing in an assortment of goods, as is shown in the following advertisement, copied from the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Saturday, October 15, 1796: (From Old State House Collection, Boston.)

ADAMS AND LORING

“Have received by the ships *Minerva* and *Galen*, a handsome and extensive assortment of European Goods, which they are now opening at their Wholesale and Retail Store, No. 55 Cornhill. having personally formed respectable connections in Europe for their present and future supplies. They flatter themselves of having it in their power to sell on such terms as will be satisfactory to purchasers.”

Up to the early days of the eighteenth century, but little is known of the life of Seth Adams. He no doubt attended the public schools in Boston, and like his father followed up a commercial occupation, as soon as his years would permit. The period of time in which he engaged in wholesale and retail trade, with an interest in the shipping industry, is not known to the writer.

In a search for some of the facts associated with the migration of Mr. Adams from Massachusetts to Ohio,

some newspaper articles by Mr. E. H. Church,* a favorably known Zanesville historian of some half-century ago, furnished considerable desirable information as a part of this study of Mr. Adams' life.

In 1783 the United States acquired from Great Britain all the territory held by her east of the Mississippi River. A portion of this, including what is now Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, became known as the Northwest Territory. In 1786 there was organized in Boston what was known as "The Ohio Company of Associates," with the purpose of settling and developing this Northwest Territory. In 1788 General Rufus Putnam, representing this company, with a group of emigrants reached the region where the Muskingum river enters the Ohio, and there founded Marietta. This western country was the scene of much border warfare with the Indians, but settlers poured in and the Indians were either subdued or forced back. In 1794 General Anthony Wayne had a well-organized army which at the battle of Fallen Timbers defeated the Indians and brought organized peace, which was signed by twelve chiefs of different tribes.

Ohio now grew with considerable rapidity** and settlements sprang up and developed in every quarter. In 1799 there were in existence and enjoying peace and prosperity the towns of Marietta, Columbia, Cincinnati, North Bend, Gallipolis, Manchester, Hamilton, Dayton, Franklin, Chillicothe, Cleveland, Franklinton, Steubenville, Williamsburg and Zanesville. Their prosperity

* "The Early History of Zanesville"—The *Zanesville Daily Courier*, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 1879.

***Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. XX, 1922, p. 617.

and safety was accomplished through much tribulation and danger, for during the period of their development the Territory had passed through its second war with the Indians, to which a retrospect is necessary. Under Governor St. Clair, Ohio had been organized as a Territory in 1798, at which time there were about 5000 free males of age within its boundaries.

At this time, according to *Encyclopedia Americana*, Ohio had a population of 42,000. Transportation and trade were increasing on all hands. On the Ohio river there were packets running regularly for mail and traffic between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, making the round trip in about four weeks. The first vessel of any size or importance was the brig *St. Clair*, built at Marietta, of 110 tons burden. It was loaded with provisions, sailing down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and across the Gulf of Mexico, finally landing safely in Philadelphia. Transportation by land was by the heavy and cumbrous trading wagons drawn by four and six horses. Cincinnati was a great distributing point for the southern and central part of the territory.

The interest in these lands of the Northwest Territory was especially great in New England, and Seth Adams became filled with a desire to see the West and note its possibilities. So on March 3, 1803, in company with the Rev. T. H. Harris and John Dix, his brother-in-law, he started with Marietta as his objective. In a two-horse carriage from Boston, they crossed the Alleghanies to Pittsburgh, and continued to Wheeling. From there they proceeded down the Ohio river in what was known then as a keel-boat. They reached Marietta in good condition, and the New Englanders there re-

ceived them hospitably. Among the friends of Adams at Marietta were General Rufus Putnam, Judge Gilman, Judge Woodbridge and Return J. Meigs, Jr., who later became governor of Ohio and one of its noted citizens.

Mr. Adams had intended settling in either Ohio or Kentucky, and so desired to examine the soil and study the climate. With Dix as a companion, Mr. Adams got two horses from Marietta friends, and started to explore the land in northern Kentucky. They examined lands about Limestone, now Maysville, and then went on to Lexington, Danville and Frankfort, all small villages. From Frankfort they traveled down the Licking river to Newport, Kentucky, where they crossed the river to Cincinnati, a town of perhaps 400 houses and 1000 population. From here they went up the Ohio to Marietta, which they reached on June 1st.

Messrs. Adams and Dix had examined a large area of land, and were well pleased. The beauty of the country and fertility of the soil surpassed their most sanguine expectations, so they decided to make their home in the West, and planned to come back with their families. They returned to Wheeling, which was reached on June 9. Here they harnessed their horses and returned to Boston by the route by which they had come West. Mr. Adams was much pleased with the land between Danville and Lexington, Kentucky. He bought about 5000 acres there with the proviso that Mrs. Adams would make her home with him in that part of the country. On arriving home he gave a glowing description of the country, but Mrs. Adams refused to move to Kentucky. As a New England woman she comprehended the demoralizing effect of slavery.

In the fall of 1804, Mr. Adams finally decided to make his home in Ohio, where he had numerous friends and acquaintances. So on November 1st, in a strong four-horse carriage which he had purchased, he started for the West with his family, which consisted of the wife and seven children, a nurse-maid, a bound boy and a hired man named William Gregory. This latter rode the family horse and assisted in keeping the carriage upright while crossing the Alleghanies. The children were Thomas, Mary Ann, William, John, George, Charles and Elizabeth, the latter six months old.

After a long and tedious journey, with an upset but once, and that in crossing the Juniata river, they arrived safely at Wheeling late in November, 1804. Shortly before their arrival the weather had turned bitterly cold, the boats had stopped running and the river was closed with ice. Consequently Mr. Adams and family remained in Wheeling until the next March. During his stay at Wheeling he sold his horses, excepting the family one, and the carriage. Then with the river free of ice, the family took passage down the Ohio to Marietta, which they reached about the middle of March. The river was then very high and had overflowed its banks and part of the site of Marietta. The tavern at which he stopped was surrounded with water, which also covered the first floor. When the flood subsided Mr. Adams rented a large frame house and opened a store in the front rooms. He had purchased a stock of goods in the East, and these followed him to Marietta.

In the spring of 1806, Adams purchased from Dudley Woodbridge, of Marietta, 2000 acres in one tract at

the mouth of Wakatomaka Creek, near where Dresden is now located. For this he contracted to pay \$10,000, in six annual payments, and gave his notes for the same. This purchase was for the purpose of establishing a flock of Merino sheep. On this tract were two log cabins and a sawmill, located three-fourths of a mile up the creek from its mouth. Into one of these cabins he removed his stock of goods from Marietta, and established here in the wilderness a trading-post, and commenced trafficking with the hunters and Indians, trading goods for pelts and furs. In October, 1806, at the term of court in Zanesville, he took out a license to sell merchandise and paid a fee of five dollars a year for the same. In the fall of 1806 and spring of 1807 Mr. Adams erected a large, two-story hewed log house on his farm, with a wide hall through its center. He covered the house with shingles and built a cellar under it, which was such an unusual thing to do in that day that it was the wonder of the neighborhood. The people marveled at such a large house and the use he had for it. One part being completed in the fall of 1807, he placed his family and goods on a boat at Marietta, and started for the new home on Wakatomaka Creek. All things moved smoothly until the boat arrived at Duvall's dam, in the Muskingum, when it got out of the control of its pilot, and ran under the water flowing over the dam, and barely escaped filling and going to the bottom. The boat was landed on the island at the point and the goods taken out and dried, after which it was bailed out, and the dried goods replaced on board. It was a difficult job to get up by the falls at Zanesville, but by hard work they were finally cleared. The boat finally reached

Wakatomaka, one mile west of the home of Major Jonathan Cass.

When Mr. Adams moved to this new home Indians were numerous in this section. They came from long distances to trade their pelts and skins for ammunition, dry goods, trinkets, etc. Captain Pipe, a noted chief of the Delaware tribe, often visited this post. His headquarters were on a branch of the Mohican river in what is now Ashland county. The branch of the Delaware tribe to which Pipe belonged, resided along the Muskingum, Tuscarawas and Cuyahoga rivers. Chief Pipe was over six feet tall, of erect and splendid carriage, and was well known to the white settlers on the Muskingum and its branches. He had great influence among the Indians and was popular with the whites. In the fall of 1808, Captain Pipe and his squaw, a small, fair-skinned woman, and a large number of Delaware Indians, came to Seth Adams' trading post to exchange goods. While the braves were trading, the squaws and children remained on a grass-plot near the post. When the trading was over, the bottle was passed around. When it reached Captain Pipe he politely declined. Day after day trading was engaged in, each evening the Indians returning to their camp. At a time when the season of trading was about ended, Mr. Adams invited Captain Pipe and his squaw to dine with him in their home, which invitation was accepted. The Indians were ushered into a carpeted room, the first they had ever seen, and were wonderfully surprised at the elegance surrounding them. When dinner was ready, Captain Pipe seated himself at the right of Mr. Adams, while his squaw sat at the right of Mrs. Adams. Said Mr.

Adams, "Captain Pipe, you are the only Indian I have ever seen who would not drink whiskey," to which the Chief replied, "Mr. Adams, you are greatly mistaken. I like whiskey as well as any other Indian, but always refuse to drink in the presence of my tribe because it presents a bad example to my people, and especially to bad Indians. Among white gentlemen and peaceful Indians I never refuse to drink." Mr. Adams turned to his son William and requested him to go to the cupboard and bring a green bottle and a glass, which he passed to Captain Pipe. The Captain poured out a small drink and said, "Mr. and Mrs. Adams (and turning around) and children, here's to your good health." He then drank, bowing at the same time politely to each person in the room. After drinking he turned to Mr. and Mrs. Adams and said, "We have a saying in our language which I think has a great deal of wisdom in it. It is this: 'Captain Whiskey is a great warrior; fight him long enough and he is sure to get your scalp.' "

After the departure of Captain Pipe Mr. Adams called the attention of his sons to the Indian's proverb as being truthful and wise. At the time Mr. Adams established his home on Wakatomaka Creek there were in that section four or five Indians to every white man. They were the remnants of the Delaware, Wyandotte, Ottawa, Mingo and Mohegan tribes. They lived on Owl Creek, Mohegan, Killbuck, Tuscarawas, Cuyahoga and branches, and wandered over the region between Lake Erie and the Ohio river. The tribes living in the northern part of New York State claimed Ohio as their hereditary hunting ground. When the power of the Indians was broken, and the remnants of the tribes driven back

from the settlements, they made Ohio their home until crowded out by the whites. On some occasions as many as 150 Indians would collect at Wakatomaka Creek and trade the skins of fur-bearing animals for whiskey, lead, powder, tobacco, rifles and trinkets of various kinds. The Indian braves were merely overgrown children.

Mr. Adams was a strictly temperate man and in principle was opposed to dealing in whiskey, but it was necessary to keep the article in stock in the West at that time. The Indians continued to trade at this post until the War of 1812, when they suddenly disappeared and never returned. It happened so in the case of Captain Pipe, who disappeared with another Chief known as Big Horn. It is worthy of note that in July, 1788, Captain Pipe with other Indian chiefs made a peace treaty with Governor St. Clair at the old Indian town on the right bank of the Muskingum. During the time of Mr. Adams' residence by Wakatomaka Creek, Indians frequently visited their old camping-ground on the Muskingum to look on the graves of their ancestors, which were located about three-fourths of a mile from the Adams' residence.

Mr. Adams was for the time, in many ways, what we today commonly term a progressive farmer. This is illustrated in the following case. After becoming established on the Wakatomaka, he repaired a dam that was out of condition, that was convenient to his residence. A sawmill had been erected at this dam in 1801 by a Mr. Russell. It was here that lumber was purchased by Joseph F. Munro, with which he erected his store building and residence in Zanesville, near the end of Main Street. After coming into possession of his property, Mr. Adams established a buhrstone grinder in his mill,

so that corn might be ground for himself and neighbors. No other mill was nearer than Zanesville, so it proved a great convenience in the community. The Wakatomaka Creek even then furnished more power through the dam than was necessary to operate the saw and buhrstone. So Mr. Adams rented water power to a Mr. Chesney, a settler from Connecticut, who erected a factory on the creek, in which to manufacture wooden bowls. Here he made bowls that ranged in size from a quart to the large ones used in bread making. This was the first factory of the kind established in this part of the country.

In connection with this mill occurred the following interesting experience. One day Thomas and John Adams, sons of Seth, were in the mill sitting on the carrier by which logs were moved up to the saw. A great cogwheel carried the log forward. These two boys were in conversation, and while thus engaged someone below set the mill in operation. John was sitting on the carriage next to the cog-wheel, and before he knew it the cogs had caught him by the thigh. Thomas at once saw the necessity for quick action, and he jumped to the first floor and stopped the mill. As it was the boy barely escaped having a crushed thigh. Even then the bone was fractured, and the flesh badly lacerated. The father, comprehending the dangerous nature of the wound, mounted a horse and rode with all speed day and night to Mt. Vernon, approximately 100 miles away. Here resided Dr. Hillier, a personal friend, and said to be one of the most skillful surgeons in the West. He returned to the Adams' home, cared for the injured boy, and remained with the family for several days, until serious results were passed. At the time the Doctor in-

formed the father that the injury might render his son, in after years, liable to rheumatism and swellings. Such proved true, and in later years John Adams suffered greatly from these ills of the flesh.

Mr. Adams' brother William had lived in Louisiana for some time, and in 1808 he came back north up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers in a boat from New Orleans. He called upon his brother on the Wakatomaka, and brought with him some agricultural seeds, and especially of the tomato and asparagus. At this time the tomato was unknown in the West. William Adams had eaten tomatoes as prepared for the table in New Orleans and looked upon them with favor. At this time horticulture was an unknown art in Ohio. The pioneers of that day had given no attention to the raising of fine vegetables for the table. They had been satisfied with corn, potatoes, cabbage and pork. The limited land cleared was needed for standard products, such as corn, wheat, potatoes, cabbage or pumpkins. It was then too early for experiments with new crops.

The eloquence of William Adams in behalf of the tomato, had caused Seth to plant the seed in the rich soil of the Wakatomaka, and from it he grew a fine crop, the first tomatoes raised in south-eastern Ohio. How to prepare them for the table was the important question. No one but William Adams had before seen a tomato, and he was not a skillful cook. It was finally concluded that the best way to do would be to boil the tomato, then squeeze out the juice, and put it on bread. The dish so prepared was not palatable. Seth Adams was not disposed to give up on a first trial, so the family continued experimenting until they finally cooked the

tomato so that it was palatable. Of course over a century ago this vegetable was unimproved in comparison with the tomato of today. However, this was the beginning of tomato-culture among the pioneers of the West.

The part played by Seth Adams in early American sheep husbandry, is, however, the more notable and creditable episode in his life, whereby he assumed a place in agricultural history such as to justify a permanent place among the great American pioneers in this phase of livestock husbandry. As a prelude however, to this subject, it may be said that for several centuries the people of Spain had bred a class of sheep that had been known as the Merino. On account of their very superior fleece, the Spanish government had prohibited their exportation. However, in spite of this fact, sheep had been taken from Spain to Germany, France, England and Australia prior to 1800. In 1786 Louis XVI of France asked the King of Spain for permission to import a flock to be established on his farm at Rambouillet, which request was granted.* As a result, on October 12, 1786, there were delivered at Rambouillet 41 rams, 318 ewes and seven wethers, all of superior breeding. From this flock has descended the Rambouillet breed of sheep of today.

In 1793 William Foster of Boston smuggled from Spain a ram and two ewes, which he presented to a friend, Andrew Craigie of Cambridge. The recipient did not realize their value, and used them for food. These were the first Merinos brought to America from Europe.

* Origin Rambouillet fold of sheep. *American Rambouillet Record*, Vol. I, 1891, p. 7.

Under the subject of the introduction of Merinos into the United States, Mr. Adams is credited with the following statement.*

"I imported in the brig *Reward*, Captain Hooper, which left Dieppe in August, 1801, and arrived in Boston in October following, a Merino ram and ewe. These, I believe, were the first *pair* of Merinos imported to the United States." In this connection it may be stated that a variety of unauthorized statements have been published relative to this importation, but the one quoted is the only one accredited on good authority to Mr. Adams. The following very interesting item on this subject was published in a Columbus paper at the time of his death.**

"Fifty years ago he was a (prominent) business man, and extensively engaged in trade with France. During the period when American goods were seized by Napoleon under some of his orders, Adams lost all his property, and since then has been one of the claimants for damages, which our government, by the Rives treaty, assumed to settle and pay. A bill making appropriations to pay off these claims was passed during Polk's administration, but was vetoed by him on the ground that we wanted all our money to carry on the war with Mexico.

"It is stated that Mr. Adams was the first man that introduced Merino sheep into this country. Our Minister at St. Cloud was about returning, and as there was a severe law against exporting fine-wooled sheep, Mr. Adams got a few on board the vessel *as stores* for the Minister's use on the passage home. It so happened that

* Quoted in "The American Shepherd" by L. A. Morrell, New York, 1846, p. 70. (From the *American Cultivator*.)

** *Ohio State Journal*, September 21, 1852.

they were not eaten, and were the first of the kind that had been imported." That Mr. Adams was in the trans-Atlantic trade is evident, from his advertisement in the *Boston Advertiser* (see p. 4), but it is very doubtful if he would import on other than one of his own vessels, on which the American Minister would not be likely to travel. Further the difficulty in securing sheep applied to Spain rather than France. This quotation gives no specific number, but mentions "a few," while Mr. Adams has stated specifically that two was the number.

In 1802 Colonel David Humphreys imported from Spain 21 rams and 70 ewes to his home in Derby, Connecticut. These were shipped from Lisbon, Portugal, on April 10, on the ship *Perseverance*.

Both Seth Adams and Colonel Humphreys were made aware of an offer by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture relative to special recognition for importing sheep.

In his letter to the *American Cultivator* in 1846, Mr. Adams made the following statement:

"The Agricultural Society of Massachusetts having offered a premium of \$50.00 for the importation of a pair of sheep of superior breed, Colonel D. Humphreys imported a flock of Merinos, and sent some of them to Massachusetts, and he, or some one for him, applied to the Society for the premium. Knowing from report that his sheep did not arrive before the spring season *after* mine, I applied at the same time for the premium, and after having examined the sheep and wool, and compared with those of Colonel Humphreys, the Society awarded me the premium, and awarded to Colonel Humphreys a gold medal for having imported a larger number. My

sheep were from the flock imported by Bonaparte, and distributed through France to improve the flocks of that kingdom."

In view of controversies which had arisen relative to the awards made by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, referred to as the Agricultural Society of Massachusetts by Mr. Adams, a special study was made of this subject by Mr. John Bruce McPherson,* from which the following facts are brought out.

On page 6 of the "Papers on Agriculture," consisting of communications made to the Society, published in 1801 by the trustees, the offer in question is set forth as below:

"An annual premium of thirty dollars for five years, to the person who shall introduce into the State of Massachusetts for the purpose of propagation, a ram or ewe of a breed superior to any now in the State; if from a foreign country, fifty dollars. Claims to be presented on or before 1st of October annually.

"General Francis H. Appleton, Secretary of the Society, finds from the records that on October 20, 1802, a letter was received from Seth Adams, perhaps written nearly a month previous, informing the Society of his importation of two sheep—Merino breed—prior to October, 1802. The matter was referred to a committee composed of Dr. Aaron Dexter, and Joseph Russell, Esq., to ascertain if Mr. Adams was entitled to the premium for the introduction of said sheep into the State *for the year 1801*. Upon stating this as a fact they were au-

* "The introduction of Merino sheep into New England." By John Bruce McPherson, Secretary. The *Bulletin National Association of Wool Manufacturers*, September, 1905, pp. 224-256.

thorized to draw upon the treasurer for the amount. In the papers published in 1804 by the Society is the account of Thomas Lindell Winthrop, treasurer, on page 60. Among the credits claimed were these:

Dec. 9, 1802. Paid for a gold medal presented by the Society to the Hon. David Humphreys.....	\$48.00
June 3, 1803. Paid Seth Adams the Society premium for importing sheep	50.00

“If Mr. Adams was awarded the premium for the importation of sheep of an improved breed for the year 1801, as General Appleton informs us, and if Colonel Humphreys was awarded a gold medal and not a premium for his importation of 1802, was Mr. Adams not mistaken when he wrote that Colonel Humphreys sent some of his sheep into Massachusetts presumably for the purpose of claiming the premium? Is it not well nigh conclusive that neither he nor any one for him applied to the Society for the premium? And is it not also clear from the dates in the treasurer’s account that there could have been no competition between the two for the premium?” This investigation of the payments in question, seems to have been made clear by the research of Mr. McPherson, in which it is shown that the Adams sheep preceded those of Humphreys in coming to America.

Mr. Adams’ real experience as a breeder and handler of sheep began with his farming operations in Ohio. Not much is known regarding his experience with sheep prior to coming to Ohio. When he removed to this State, it is related by his daughter, Mary Ann, later Mrs. W. M. Lyons, that William Gregory drove overland for him between 25 and 30 Merinos that were descended from

the pair imported in 1801. This seems an extravagant statement. If there were that many sheep brought west, some of these must have been the result of using the ram on grade or native ewes. This statement is supported in the contents of the following letter written by Mr. Adams in 1810 to William Jarvis of Wethersfield, Connecticut, noted as an importer of Merinos, as well as being a famous American breeder.*

“I have had the breed of sheep a number of years, and am continually applied to for the full-bloods, and know almost every person in this State and Kentucky who is in want of them; and I have conditional engagements for the next year. I imported in the year 1801, a pair of these sheep, the first pair imported into the United States, but I have but a small number of the full-blooded, and I intend rearing them; and as I am known to have the stock, I have a great advantage over any person on this side of the mountains.” These sheep, according to Mrs. Lyons “were pure white and very beautiful, unlike the common sheep.” The wool was close, fine and oily, caught the dust easily and became quite dirty. The boys of that day used to run after the flock and called them ‘Adams’ Renos.’ **

In 1807 the Merino sheep owned by Mr. Adams in Massachusetts were in November started for the West in charge of William Gregory, the hired man who came west with him and assisted him in getting settled. These sheep were taken to Pittsburgh, presumably being driven overland, at which point they were placed on a boat on

* *Register Ohio Spanish Merino Sheep Breeders' Assoc.*, Vol. I, 1885, p. 48.

** *Ibid.*, p. 50.

the Ohio River, and thus shipped to Marietta. The boat on its course down-stream stopped at Wheeling and while lying there Mr. Ebenezer Zane purchased a ram for \$750, says Mr. E. H. Church.* Captain John Dulty (now [1879] living in Marietta), informed Mr. Church at this time that he had a distinct recollection of seeing these Merino sheep on the boat while docked at Wheeling. The boys of that day looked upon these Merinos with big, long, twisted horns, as great curiosities. On arriving at Marietta, the sheep were taken off and driven up the river to the farm of Mr. Adams on the Wakatomaka. Thus arrived the first flock of Merino sheep to Ohio and the first to pass west of the Alleghany mountains.

Due to the newness of the country, wolves were very common in Ohio at this time, and whenever possible they killed sheep. For this reason Mr. Adams found it necessary to put his sheep each night in a strongly constructed sheep shed, to save them from the wolves. Mr. Church states that he housed his finest sheep during the winter under a section of the family residence which was not in use. The sheep entered or left their pen by a door on a level with the ground. The common sheep were separately housed in strong pens. At night the wolves would prowl about, barking and howling like dogs. One night in the summer of 1811 the sheep were left out of doors, and according to his daughter, Mrs. Lyons, wolves killed 35 of the flock. "This greatly discouraged my father. He sold the balance and moved to Zanesville, Ohio."* It is worth recording here that the Ohio Leg-

* Zanesville *Courier*, February 1, 1879.

* *Register Ohio Spanish Merino Breeders' Assoc.*, Vol. I, 1885, p. 50.

islature in 1810 passed a law permitting County Commissioners to pay \$2.00 for the scalp of each wolf produced.

Mr. Adams' daughter, Mary Ann, related this interesting incident to Mr. Church relative to her experience with the sheep.** When she was a little girl on the farm at Wakatomaka, with her father, on a cold day she found a lamb nearly frozen. This she took to the house where she warmed it and fed it milk from a bottle. The lamb showed great affection for its mistress, and grew to be a great pet. After it had attained a suitable age for service, her father sold it in Kentucky for \$500. This was a ewe and carried a very fine quality of fleece. It may be mentioned here that Mr. Adams' custom was to sell his wool to the Steubenville Woolen Mill, the first concern of the kind established in this part of the country.

According to Ezra A. Carman*** a number of these sheep or their immediate descendants were sold to residents of Kentucky. Judge Todd, the father of the wife of President Lincoln, and resident of Kentucky, paid Mr. Adams \$1500 for a pair. This occurred in 1809, and these Merinos were the first sent into that State. Following this sale he sold a number of ewes in Kentucky for \$500 each.

An article in the *National Intelligencer*, dated at Marietta, July 17, 1810, says "The enterprising Mr. Seth Adams arrived at this place on the 9th inst. on his way

** Zanesville *Courier*, Feb. 1, 1879.

*** *Special Rept. on Hist. and Present Condition Sheep Industry in United States*, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau Animal Industry, 1892, p. 137.

to Kentucky and Tennessee with 176 Merino sheep from the flock of Colonel D. Humphreys of Connecticut." A letter written at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, dated June 12, 1810, says, "that 203 Merino sheep belonging to Colonel Humphreys of Connecticut passed through this borough on Saturday last, on their way to Kentucky. They were all males, and none less than half-blooded. We understand that Mr. John Ranfrew of Guilford Township, and Mr. John Hetich of this borough, each bought one of these valuable animals, which had become lame from traveling, the only ones the agent of Colonel Humphreys was authorized to dispose of." The agent in this case must have been Mr. Seth Adams. It seems almost incredible that this drove of 203 sheep should all be males, as ewes were much in demand for breeding purposes at that time. It is stated in the history of Stark County, Ohio,* that the first Merinos brought into Ohio were doubtless by Mr. Adams, and were Humphrey Merinos, "undoubtedly the best ever imported into the United States, by whatever name called." They were kept for some time in Washington County, where Marietta is the county-seat, and afterwards removed to Muskingum County, near Zanesville. Quoting this history of Stark County, "He had a sort of partnership agency with Humphreys for keeping and selling them. They were scattered, and had they been taken care of and appreciated, would have laid a better foundation of flocks in Ohio than any sheep brought into it from that time until 1852." Of such great importance did it appear to the settlers of the western country that this breed of

* *History of Stark County with an Outline Sketch of Ohio.* Edited by William Henry Perrin, Bastin & Battey, Publishers, Chicago, 1881.

sheep should be widely distributed, says Mr. Carman, that in the latter part of 1807 and early in 1808 the newspapers proposed that every bank having national encouragement should be obliged to give assistance in procuring them and providing for their care and increase.

According to William E. Hunt,* "the first Merino sheep of thorough blood brought into this county (Coshocton) were bought by Major Robinson and Major Simmons from old Seth Adams, who, as partner or agent of Colonel Humphreys, brought to the Muskingum valley some of Colonel Humphreys' importation from Spain, and had them in Muskingum County, near Dresden, as early as 1812. They were not cared for and no trace of them is now left."

One naturally is interested to learn if any line of breeding back to the flock of Mr. Adams were possible in more recent days. One flock was for many years perpetuated near Marietta, Ohio, writes Mr. Stephen Powers in 1887.** "In 1809 Rufus Putnam of Marietta, Ohio, bought of Seth Adams some full-blooded Merinos, and founded a flock, which was continued by his son, L. J. P. Putnam, substantially to the present time, but without registration."

Negotiations for the sale of a Merino ram in 1810 are of such a remarkable character, that they are here given as a part of early Ohio Merino history, in which Mr. Adams is one of the negotiators.*** The following letter explains itself:

* *Historical Collections of Coshocton County, Ohio, 1764-1876*, p. 85.

** *The American Merino; for Wool and for Mutton*.

*** From Manuscript in possession of Marietta College library, reproduced by the author of this biographical sketch.

Marietta, September 24, 1810.

“Col. David Humphreys:

Sir: You probably have been informed by your agents, Mr. Elier Ives and Mr. Seth Adams, that they left with us a full-blood (yearling) Merino ram on the following terms, viz: We are to put 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ blood & 60 $\frac{1}{4}$ blood ewes to the ram. For the former we are to pay 300 dols. & for the latter are to give half the lambs, which may proceed from the 60 ewes. The $\frac{1}{4}$ blooded ewes are spring lambs & it is not expected they will all breed the first year.

Being very desirous of owning one of this most valuable race of animals we take the liberty of making you the following offer for the ram in question.

On condition of being exonerated from paying the above mentioned \$300 and from delivering half the lambs of the 60 $\frac{1}{4}$ blood ewes, we will give you for the ram, one section & four fractions of land in the Ohio Company purchases, containing in the whole sixteen hundred & eighty-eight acres. We make our offer in land because cash, in this new country, is almost out of the question.

This property is not at this time saleable, but there is no doubt but the lands of the Ohio Company will shortly be in demand, as most of the land surrounding it, which belonged to the United States, is sold and settled. In the event of our purchasing this animal, we should expect a certificate that he is a full-blood Merino & on our part, we would warrant the land free of incumbrance.

It was our intention to have made our application

through your agent, Mr. Ives, but we are informed that he has returned to Connecticut. We will thank you for an answer, as soon as convenient, for should we not purchase this ram, we intend to endeavor to buy of Chancellor Livingston, or in some other quarter.

We own the following lands, any of which we are willing to part with to accomplish the object in view.

Range	15	Township	11	Section	31	Acres	640
"	15	"	11	Fraction	31	"	262
"	11	"	6	Section	25	"	640
"	11	"	6	Fraction	34	"	262
"	11	"	6	"	25	"	262
"	11	"	6	"	31	"	262
"	11	"	6	"	17	"	262
"	15	"	13	"	11	"	640
"	14	"	6	"	22	"	262
							<hr/>
							3492"

This offer was made by B. J. Gilman and Paul Fearing of Marietta in Mr. Gilman's writing, showing how much a Merino sheep was worth when first introduced into the valley of the Ohio. According to Mr. C. W. Burkett,* in 1811 Colonel Humphreys sold a ram for 1600 acres of land in Ohio, to Paul Fearing and B. J. Gilman of Marietta, Ohio, and this ram laid the foundation for a flock which was kept up for many years. This purchase of 1600 acres was apparently in reply to the above quoted proposition.

Mr. Adams being greatly disappointed in his farming operations, and in the damage to his sheep caused by the wolves, sold his farm and moved to Zanesville on December 31, 1811. Here he at first occupied with his good-sized family a cabin a story and a half high, on

* *History of Ohio Agriculture*, 1900, p. 127.

the corner of Second Street and Fountain Alley. The following spring he moved into a comfortable frame house on the southeast corner of Second Street and Locust Alley, where he resided until his death.

After settling in Zanesville, Mr. Adams purchased a piece of farm land extending from Seventh Street, north to Elm Street. This included what has long been known as Blandy's Hill. He brought his sheep with him from the Wakatomaka farm, and pastured them on this land. He still believed in sheep husbandry, if the wolves could be kept away. At the foot of Blandy's Hill he built long, open sheds in which to furnish his sheep shelter and protection.

In 1812, Mr. Adams issued the following advertisement concerning his sheep, and this is probably the first document of the sort published in Ohio. The following is copied from an original in possession of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Zanesville.

Zanesville, January 7, 1812.

Sir: Believing that you have a wish to increase and improve the internal resources of the country; and as the improvement of our sheep is of the first importance to the country at large, and more especially to this western part of it, I enclose you a sample of wool from a full-blooded Merino ewe, that you may compare it with any that may be offered for sale in your neighborhood; and also show it to such as wish to examine it, or compare it with the *finest* wool from the common breed of this country. I would also inform you that I have for sale a number of $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, and some full-blooded Merino rams and ewes, which I will sell on such terms as cannot

fail to give satisfaction to those who wish to improve their flocks. I will sell the $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{7}{8}$ on a credit of six months, from \$10 to \$25 and take my pay in neat stock; or I will dispose of them, to receive, for the $\frac{3}{8}$ from 6 to 8 of the lambs that may be produced by the rams, to be delivered to me at the age of six months; and for the half-bloods, to receive from 6 to 10 of their lambs, delivered at same age. I will also dispose of higher bloods (except the full-blooded) on the same terms—the price will vary as they are for goodness.

I will also furnish to your friends, either $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{7}{8}$ blooded rams, for the use of their flocks, to have a certain proportion of the lambs for their use; the degrees of blood furnished, will depend upon number of ewes that they will engage to be put to him.

My terms are $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ the lambs produced to be delivered at weaning age at the place where the ram is kept; and as the person who keeps him will have some trouble and considerable care, I will give to him one-sixth part of my part of the lambs as compensation therefore.

I will also furnish full-blooded Merino rams to breed ewes that are part Merino blood, either for five dollars each ewe, or one-half of the lambs, delivered at the place where the ram is kept; and if 120 ewes (good) of the common breed can be engaged, I will furnish a full-blooded Merino ram. As I have but a few full-blooded my first applicant will have them. I am in hopes to make all my arrangements for the rams I have to let the next season, by the first of May, that they may be at their stands in season. Should you or your friends wish one, please write me at this place, naming the number of

ewes that may be depended on, and I will as speedily as possible, inform you what degree of blood can be sent. Should your friends wish to purchase, I will forward samples of wool from the rams of blood wanted, that they may select one. I shall send three samples of each, viz. one from the shoulder, one from the mid-rib and one from the thigh; where I send only one sample from a sheep, it will be from the mid-rib. Any ram purchased from me I will deliver at the residence of the purchaser in their State, unless it should be some extreme part of it. I have in this town a few full-blooded rams and ewes, and some part-blooded, which I shall be happy to show you at any time you will please call at my house.

I am with respect,

Your humble servant,

SETH ADAMS.

Just what returns came from this advertisement there is no means of knowing. However, his financial situation did not justify an extended campaign with high-priced sheep. He disposed of his sheep in the course of time, and settled down to become a useful citizen of Zanesville. A few years following his locating in Zanesville, old claims are said to have been made against Mr. Adams,* caused by the seizure and loss of his three merchant vessels in international trade, and captured by the French, then at war with England. These losses left Mr. Adams a comparatively poor man.

In 1822 or '23, he opened a meat stall in the new market-house, and continued to operate it for about a year and a half. He also had a vegetable garden at the

* Zanesville *Courier*, Feb. 1, 1879.

foot of Market Street, and raised vegetables for the Zanesville market, his land being where the railway station is now located. He cultivated tomatoes, asparagus and other vegetables not commonly cultivated in the west at that time. He appeared in market each year with peas, beets, radishes, lettuce, and other vegetables. This business yielded him a reasonable profit.

Mr. Adams during his residence in Zanesville was one of the leading citizens of the town. He served as its Mayor in 1828 and 1829, and had many terms in the City Council. He was a public-spirited man, and worked to develop the resources of the city and county, and assisted in shaping and moulding their future. He always took a great interest in agriculture, and was a pioneer in its promotion, and in getting the farmers to meet cooperatively in handling their farm products, to compare opinions as to livestock merit, and the best mode of cultivating wheat, corn and vegetables. He was the prime mover in establishing the Muskingum County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. According to J. Hope Sutor,* he was a representative citizen of Muskingum County, well known as a merchant, farmer and justice of the peace. He erected one of the first houses built in Zanesville. His political allegiance was given to the Whig party. At the organization of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on October 17, 1816, he was chosen a warden.

Mr. Adams died September 5, 1852, aged eighty-four years, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Zanesville. His wife Elizabeth died in August of the same

* *Past and Present of the City of Zanesville and Muskingum County, Ohio*, 1905, p. 403.

year. A plain marble monument about ten feet high, crowns a lovely slope where the subject of this sketch lies in the sleep that has no end.

The following is the inscription on the tombstone:

Seth Adams

Born in Boston, Mass.,

2 April, 1767.

Died in Zanesville, Ohio,

5th Sept., 1852.

Elizabeth

Wife of Seth Adams

Born in Boston 22 Feb., 1770

Died in Zanesville, 2d Aug., 1852

This family monument has inscriptions on all four sides, some parts of which are more or less illegible, due to the weathering of the marble.

A Memorial to Seth Adams at the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University, was proposed by the writer late in 1902. In a circular prepared at the University in 1903, after making a brief statement regarding Mr. Adams' part in sheep husbandry in Ohio and the West, was the following: "In view of the great work which Seth Adams rendered to Ohio and even the nation, it has been proposed that the sheep-breeders and feeders of Ohio erect a memorial to his name and fame. It has been further proposed that this be in the form of a structure to be known as 'The Seth Adams Memorial Building,' to be located on the campus of the Ohio State University among the buildings of the College of Agriculture, and to be devoted to sheep-husbandry. This to be a beautiful structure containing a lecture-room, sheep-judging auditorium, museum, library of sheep

literature, and a Seth Adams Memorial Room in one part, with wool rooms, shearing-room, dipping-room, hospital, and feeding-paddocks in another part—the latter to be connected with the farm fields; this building to be a central point in Ohio, for the free use of all organizations in the State for promoting sheep husbandry, in annual or special sessions, if they so desire.”

This proposed plan met with the unanimous and official approval of the Ohio Wool Growers’ and Sheep Breeders’ Association at their annual meeting in January, 1903.

On the basis of this circular, which was given a wide distribution, it was hoped to obtain a sufficient sum of money to carry out the contemplated plans. It was specified that sums in any amount would be acceptable. The writer on various occasions addressed groups of Ohio stockmen, and solicited their cooperation. Suffice it here to state that the response to this appeal fell far short of what was desired. Contributions ranging from ten cents to \$25.00 were received from 260 persons. A record was kept of the name and address of each giver and the sum contributed. After a year or more of solicitation, in view of the difficulty in carrying the plan through, the matter was held in abeyance. The funds collected were placed in charge of the Office of the Board of Trustees, from which they were placed in savings, to draw interest. In a statement from the University Accountant in April, 1933, the sum at interest on the Seth Adams Memorial account amounted to \$2761.59.

Here it may be said that, from one viewpoint, it was fortunate that such a building was not erected on the campus of the University. In 1903 a large acreage south,

west and north of the livestock building at the University, bordered on the west by the Olentangy River, was used for pasturage and cropping by the College of Agriculture. In 1906-'07, the University erected on this same land, fronting on Neil Avenue, a group of three livestock buildings, at an expense of \$80,000, for some years regarded as the finest buildings for their purpose in the United States.

The growth of the University since 1903, however, has been so rapid and great that it was found necessary for its progressive development, and placing of new buildings, gradually to take possession of the agricultural lands on the east side of the Olentangy. As a result, appropriations were made whereby in 1924 the University moved the headquarters of this Department across the river upon new lands purchased by the University. Here a large group of buildings was erected, including one devoted to sheep husbandry.

Thus it may be seen that the plan for using the Seth Adams Memorial money, was seriously disturbed, with the necessity for a sheep building as a Memorial quite minimized.

After due consideration in the summer of 1933 by the Animal Husbandry Department and Dean Cunningham of the College of Agriculture, a plan was submitted to President Rightmire of the University, which met with his approval for the use of the income from the Seth Adams Memorial in support of a Scholarship, under the following designation:

The Seth Adams Sheep Husbandry Scholarship.
This plan was submitted to the Board of Trustees by the

President with the following action by this body on August 18, 1933:

"There is hereby established a scholarship in Animal Husbandry, known as the Seth Adams Sheep Husbandry Scholarship, the holder of which shall enjoy the same for one year, and shall be a senior student in the four-year course, specializing in Animal Husbandry. The student selected for this scholarship must have a good scholastic record and must show distinct ability and aptitude for sheep husbandry in his class work. While holding the scholarship he shall in conference with the instructional staff, plan and carry out a trip in the State of Ohio in which he shall visit and study carefully ten farms in which sheep husbandry is a specialty. This will constitute a field trip and the holder of the scholarship shall make observation on the methods of breeding, of the care and management of the flock, and secure and record such information as may be possible. At least two of these farms must breed Merino sheep. A report of this inspection and study trip is to be submitted to the Department of Animal Husbandry, under such conditions as that department may prescribe."

By action of the Trustees, one-half of the interest accruing annually on this Seth Adams Memorial Fund shall be devoted to increasing the principal of the fund; the other half of the said annual interest to be used for the support of the scholarship above specified. When this fund has been increased to \$5,000 by the addition of the interest annually, as above noted, the entire income shall be devoted to a scholarship under such conditions as may be recommended by the Department of Animal Husbandry at that time and as may be approved by the Board of Trustees.