

John Adams (1) was a large farmer in Rockbridge Co., Va., and his sons were:

1. James Adams, a prominent farmer, a man of fine mind, a student of history, intelligent and highly respected; m. Sarah McCroskey, a most industrious, practical woman and a devoted Christian.

2. Robert H. Adams, removed in early life to the State of Mississippi, where he soon became greatly distinguished as a lawyer, and after serving a year in the Legislature, was elected by a large majority to the Senate of the U. S., where he soon rose to a high position. He died early and was regarded as perhaps the most promising and prominent man of his age in the State of his adoption.

3. Hugh Adams was a large farmer and a prominent and popular man in his native County. He lived and died a bachelor and bequeathed his entire fortune to his slaves, who by his direction were freed and transported to Liberia at his death.

HUGH ADAMS, the son of James and Sarah (McCroskey) Adams, and grandson of John Adams, was born in Rockbridge Co., Virginia, Feb. 10, 1820. Married Amanda J. McCormick, daughter of Robert and Mary Ann Hall McCormick, of Rockbridge Co., Va., May 8th, 1845, and died March 10th, 1880, in Chicago, Ill. While a resident of Virginia he was a successful merchant and one of the most highly respected and popular business men of that State. No man ever removed from the State who carried with him more of public confidence and good will. Believing that the growing Northwest offered him a larger field and better opportunities to start his children in the battle of life, he removed with his family to Chicago in 1857. In 1859, with Cyrus H. McCormick, his brother-in-law, he established the grain and provision commission firm of Cyrus H. McCormick & Co., and became a member of the Board of Trade. Under his management this house rapidly grew into prominence and soon became one of the leading concerns in the great produce trade of the Northwest. For upwards of twenty years he was prominently identified with the commercial prosperity of Chicago; his reputation in commercial circles was of the very highest order, and his name was looked upon as the synonym of all that was honorable and upright in business transactions. He was one of the oldest and most highly respected members of the Chicago Board of Trade, which body at his death unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas, it has pleased The Divine Providence to remove suddenly from our midst, by death, Mr. Hugh Adams, for over twenty years a member and formerly a Director of the Board, therefore, Resolved: That in the decease of Mr. Adams, we recognize the loss of one of the oldest and most valued members of our Association, and one who, by his unswerving integrity as a Merchant, and by his genial disposition and pleasant demeanor endeared his memory to us in no ordinary measure."

He was a consistent member of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago and an ardent lover of its meetings, and of all its work for the Master at the time of his death. A man of simple, unostentatious tastes and habits, and of tender sympathy for the poor. After the great fire of October, 1871, *Cyrus H. Adams*, the second son of Hugh Adams was admitted to partnership in the business, and the firm name was changed to McCormick, Adams and Co. After the death of Hugh Adams this firm was continued, by Cyrus H. McCormick and Cyrus H. Adams, until the death of