

## ANN ADAMS/BONES FAMILY

General/Background Information: Most of the letters from America were written to the Rev. William John Staveley, Covenanting (or Reformed) Presbyterian minister, at Kellswater, ca. Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, or to his son, of the same name, who was minister to the Covenanting congregations at Dervock and Ballymoney. The elder Staveley was peripherally involved with the United Irishmen and imprisoned for a short time in 1798.

In 1798 James Bones, a small farmer in Ballyportery, Co. Antrim, and a relative of Rev. Staveley, was arrested and imprisoned for being a United Irishman. He escaped from prison and fled with his family to Jamaica. After two years there, they returned to Co. Antrim, where they lived at Chequer Hall, Loughguile, Co. Antrim, which was the ancestral home of the Adams family. James Bones was married to a daughter of the Adamses, which means that Ann Adams and her sisters were nieces of James Bones and cousins of his children (see below) in America.

In 1810 James Bones, his wife Mary, and their five children--Samuel, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Ann emigrated to America. This time they went to Savannah, Georgia, and most of them settled in Augusta, GA, although the letters indicate that some of them lived on plantations in Fairfield Co., South Carolina.

One of James Bones's sons, John Bones, was 18 when the family emigrated for the second time. He became an apprentice in a hardware store in Augusta, GA. In 1818 he married Maria Eve, seventh daughter of Capt. Oswell Eve of Georgia. One of her sisters married a man named John Strong Adams, but I do not know if he was related to Ann Adams--although he was from Co. Antrim. John Bones prospered in the hardware business and built a beautiful house for his parents (in Augusta? or in Fairfield Co., S.C.?), called Cedar Grove. In 1833 John Bones's first wife died. In 1835 he visited Co. Antrim and married Mary Brown of Garvagh (this accounts for the subsequent influx of Brown in-laws from Co. Antrim to Augusta, to join the Bones business). Both marriages were childless. By 1850 John Bones (aged 58) was one of Augusta's leading citizens: director of the Bank of Augusta, of the local canal company, and of the Georgia Railroad. Also, he inaugurated the first cotton mill (water-powered, from the canal) in Augusta. When John Bones died in 1870, he was worth \$500,000

Thomas Bones, John Bones's brother, had a plantation 80 miles from Augusta (probably in Fairfield Co., So. Carolina, perhaps at Monticello). He died there on 11 September 1823 after a short and severe suffering of three days ("too much liquor was the cause of his illness, it is said"). "He left a widow, Mary, who was the sister of Rev. William Staveley"--but I wonder if that is correct, and that his wife wasn't the former Mary Adams, sister of Ann Adams?

The rest of the information below is from the letters themselves:

April 1815: John Bones (cousin of Ann Adams) lived in Augusta, Richmond Co., Georgia.

Is partner in business with his uncle William (Bones?) in Augusta. It appears that his parents (James and Mary Bones) live outside Augusta, perhaps on a plantation in Fairfield Co., So. Carolina.

Mentions a Mr. Adams in or near Augusta. Also mentions his brother, Thomas Bones. Was Mr. Adams related to Ann Adams (she hadn't emigrated yet)?

April 1817: Mary Adams (sister of Ann Adams; cousin of John Bones). Living at Monticello, Fairfield Co., So. Carolina.

Mary Adams, her mother, (Father?), and sisters--incl. Ann Adams--have immigrated very recently. Through the patronage of the Bones family, Mary Adams had secured a good position as a schoolteacher.

Feb. 1818: Mary Adams, still at Monticello, Fairfield Co., So. Carolina.

Members of the Cathcart family, relatives or friends from Co. Antrim, have just immigrated and lived in or near Winnsboro, Fairfield Co., So. Carolina.

May 1818: Mary Adams, still in Monticello, Fairfield Co., So. Carolina.

Still teaching school. She appears to be living with or near the Bones family, or at least those branches which lived in Fairfield Co.

She reports that her cousin, John Bones, married Maria Cox (Eve?) on 8 April 1818. Also, Eliza Bones married Mr. Moore, a very wealthy merchant of Augusta, on 30 April 1818. The latter wedding was very lavish.

Mentions Rachel Thompson (from Co. Antrim) of Winnsboro, Fairfield Co., S.C. Rachel married a man named Girty, who died of yellow fever 10 days later.

Feb. 1819: ANN ADAMS (sister of Mary Adams, cousin of John Bones, and niece of the Rev. William Stavely in Ireland). Living at Millcreek (Mill Creek), Fairfield Co., So. Carolina, ca. 6 miles from Winnsboro.

Occupation: Like her sister, Mary, Ann Adams is a schoolteacher. She and Mary earn \$250 per year apiece. Their sister, Eliza, has been too sickly to work.

Family: Her mother has died of yellow fever. Still under the protection of the Bones family.

Religion: She and her sisters are Covenanting (Reformed) Presbyterians. That sect has no churches or ministers in the area, so sometimes they attend Mr. Reily's sermons at the Seceding Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. However, she is afraid that doing so will cause a "break" with the Bones family, or at least with its elder members.

She wants to return to Ireland (and does so, see below).

Feb. 1823: John Bones, Augusta, Richmond Co., GA.

Reports the death of his brother, Thomas Bones, on his plantation (in Fairfield Co.?).

At this time, his business in Augusta was called "John & Thomas Bones," they appear to be cotton brokers and merchants. In one form or another, this business continued at least through 1860, when it was known as "Bones, Brown, & Co."--the new partners being his second wife's relatives, William and/or John Brown (William Brown immigrated in 1838).

Sept. 1829: Ann (now written "Anne") Adams. Now living at "Chequerhall", near Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

The letter is written to James Bones, in Augusta or in Fairfield Co., So. Carolina. There are indications that her two sisters, Eliza and Mary, remained in the U.S. and married into the Bones/Brown family.

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