

The ADAIRS can trace their lineage to the plains of Troy. Troy, or Ilium, a famous ancient city in the northwestern part of Asia Minor, the capitol of TROAD, a region lying on the coast of the Aegean Sea at the entrance to the Hellespont (the Dardanelles).

The fame of Troy rests upon the two Homeric epics, the "Illiad and the Odeyssey," which gave an account of the long war in which the city was finally destroyed. The date of the latter event is generally placed at 1184 B.C.. The cause of the war was the abduction of Helen, the wife of the King of Sparta, by Paris, son of the Trojan King, Priam.

After 10 years trying to enter the City of Troy and failing, the placed outside the walls a large wooden horse in whose interior a number of Greek heroes were concealed. The rest of the army retired to the ships as if they had given up the siege.

The Trojans, in exultation, dragged the horse within the walls, and during the night the Greeks came forth and were joined by the main army which came back from the ships.

Among the Trojans who escaped was Aeneas, who reached Italy, and, according to legend, was the first Roman king.

In the 6th Century B.C. a new Troy was built on the old Troy site and is now called Hissarlik. Excavations show that nine cities have been built there. Troy was the second. Parts of the colossal outer walls still remain, as well as a number of silver and gold ornaments.

The House of Gherardini is probably Tuscan or Roman and fled with Aeneas from the fallen City of Troy. It was one of the families on which the Florentine Republic was erected. The possessions of this Florence, Italy family, with quarters and strongholds about Florence, may still be seen. Their abode was near the Ponte Vecchio, the first circle of the city, where stands their tower, taller than that of the House of Girolami, which stands next to it.

The earliest notices of the Gherardini date back to 910. They were the most powerful in the year 1300 until 1400, mentioned by historians of Florence with great praise. They held high offices in civil and military affairs, and the Church of St. Stephens in Florence records the valor of this great house.

This family emigrated to various countries and some passed over to Ireland. From that branch descends the House of Fitzgerald. Others went to Cracovia and the Canary Islands. Some remained in Italy and are recorded in the Doges Book 1652.

Maurice Gherado and his brother, Thomas, went to Normandy and helped William the Conqueror defeat England. Henry II had them help him conquer Ireland later.

Maurice, the most famous, after the conquest was given great possessions and was made Viceroy. From him springs all the family of Leinster, Kildare and Desmond. They changed their name to Fitzgerald in the yea 1440 with the consent of the Florentine Gherardinis. John, of the House of Gherardinis in Italy, was sent to Ireland bearing good wishes to the Fitzgeralds.

Quoting a book of memoirs signed by B.D. Anton dOttaviano de

Rossellini Gherardini -- "I recollect that in the month of October, in the year 1413, there passed through Florence an Irish Bishop and an Irish Priest of the Catholic Church of Ardfert, called "Maurice" who was of the family of the Gherardini settled in Ireland. He was seeking to know some member of the old Florentine House. They introduced him to us and he acknowledged us as relatives, and told of their status in Ireland. He said, "A long time ago, Thomas Gherald or "Gheraldo" and Maurice Gherardini, having left Florence on account of civil dissensions there, accompanied the King of England to the conquest of Ireland. Having served with fidelity and great valor, they were left as his governors on that island and rewarded with gifts of many lordships. He said their chief representatives were of Gherado, and another Gherado, Earl of Kildare; of Thomas, another Thomas, Earl of Desmond; and of Maurice and five barons."

In the footnotes of his memorandum he had written that the writer had received a similar account of the Earl of Kildare from Anthony deGiovanni Monni, one of the Florentine merchants who had been to Ireland.

Christofono Sandino, in his preface to Dante Alleghiari poem "Commedia," says:

"There were in England three brothers, Thomas, Gerald and Maurice, of the very ancient family of Gherardini, of Florence, Italy, who were exiled because of civil dissensions. These brother, at the time of the invasion of Ireland, offered such bold, ready and devoted service to the King of England, that when it was conquered, were rewarded with the Lordships of all Ireland, wherever there were large populations. The Earl of Kildare and Earl of Desmond carry the amorial bearings of the House of Gherardini of Florence, Italy."

A letter was written 27 May 1507 by Gerald "Chief of Ireland of the House of Gheradini, Earl of Kildare, Vice Roly of the most serene King of England "to relatives in Italy asking of histories of his forebearers and where others of the family are scattered, and what they all were doing. (From "London 1640 Geraldines Book by Father Dominic O'Daly.)

In the foreward dedication of this book is written, "In the land of Hetruria there flourished a mighty vine, thether transplanted from the desolate plains of Troy. Florence, Italy, claims this beauteous plant her own; and well she might glory in it, for "it's branches stretched forth unto the sea, and it's boughs unto the River." From the banks of the Arno, and the shores of the blue Tyrolene Sea, the branches of that great tree extended themselves to the far off land of ERIN. That three was the noble race of the Geraldines. Five hundred years did the Florentine plant bloom and flourish on our soil (Ireland). Oh, how deeply treasured in my heart are the memories of that beloved race!" by Father Dominic O'Daly.

Maurice, a youth high in adventure, was the most distinguished in battle, given large grants of land by Henry II of England to hold forever in their posterity. Descendants of Maurice for seven generations became very wealthy, and powerful Irish Chieftains conspired to destroy him.

Maurice the son, killed along with Maurice, leaving a nine month old son, Thomas, to rule (son of the son). He avenged

his father and grandfather's murder and enriched the fortunes of his House. His son was Maurice Fitz Thomas, first Earl of Desmond, created by Edward III. He married the daughter of Jeoffry Morrison (Judiciary of Ireland) and her dowry was the beautiful island of Kerry and surrounding territory. He rose to command the English fleet which kept England safe. He left his holdings to Maurice Og (two years of age) who later drowned on a voyage to England in 1358 A.D. John Fitzmaurice, brother of the deceased held the title until 1369. Thomas, John's son, succeeded his father. For some reason he, Thomas, rebelled against England and was summoned to appear before the Lord Judiciary. He was compelled to give 12 English-Irish Barons as hostages for his appearance. Soon afterwards he was charged with treason, and not daring to appear, his bails were heavily meted. The entire property of the Earl of Desmond was forfeited to the English crown, and he himself wandered around Ireland, and finally destitute of friends and money he fled to France, where he died in exile in 1420 A.D.--20 years after he succeeded to the Earldom of Desmond.

James Fitz Garrett, an uncle to Thomas, recently dethroned and deceased, was given the lands of Thomas by the King of England. He was famed far and wide for his war-like character, great prudence and civil administration. For thirty years he was the Earl of Desmond, dying in 1450, and bequeathed all his possessions to his son, Thomas.

Thomas was well beloved by Edward IV and fought nine battles beside the King. When the House of Lancaster, in the War of Roses between York and Lancaster, had been defeated Edward resolved to raise him to the highest honors. He created him Viceroy of Ireland. During a private interview he asked Thomas if there were any suggestions as to how he could rule more effectively as King. Thomas told him he felt he should divorce his wife and marry the daughter of a greater King that could benefit him more.

About eight years later the King told the Queen about Thomas' advice. She secretly began to plot the death of Thomas and not long after his death was proclaimed throughout England. Thomas had five sons, all great warriors, who drew their swords and avowed to avenge their father's murder. Thus it was that the House of Desmond grew in disfavor with the Kings of England.

The Fitzgeralds were all devout Catholics (coming from Italy that would be expected) and they called upon the Pope to tell them what to do. The Pope, of course, told them to fight for the Church and its beliefs and made one of the five brothers, John, the General-in-Chief of War and Peace for the Catholics in Ireland.

As a family they suffered for their beliefs. John was killed in 1579. The death of this great warrior caused great mourning for all Catholics. Now the prime mover of the Catholic faith was gone, and Queen Elizabeth of England, was elated. But it took a relative, Fitzgerald and his family, the Duke of Ormond and his three sons, to finally destroy the House of Desmond. They did it to get money and Desmonds lands.

If they had fought together England probably never could have defeated the Irish. (The Earl of Ormond lived to regret he destroyed the Desmonds) In 1652 the Commissioners of Ireland and

England assembled in Dublin and ordered a decree of banishment of all the "popes, priests, friends and encouragers." The persecutions did not come upon the Irish Catholics until the Gheradines were prostrated into the dust.

THE FIRST ADAIRS

Athdare (meaning ford by the Oak Tree) was a place in Limerick in Ireland. The anglicized name was "Adair." It was on the River Maigue. At one time the town of Athdare was an important place with Catholic Abbeys, churches, and castles. Now it is only a railroad station.

In the 1300s (XIV century) while the Fitzgeralds still held sway, Robert Fitzgerald de Adair (he lived there) in consequence of the Fitzgerald family feuds, decided to leave Ireland and move to Galloway, Scotland. In Scotland he dropped his noble name of Fitzgerald, and wrote himself "ADAIR."

The story goes that Thomas, the Earl of Desmond, met and married a commoner, Catherine, daughter of William McCormick. He was banned to France where he died, his sons Maurice and John, in France too. Maurice's grandson, Thomas, showing the abilities of battle as his forebearers returned to fight for his lands. He slew Gerald, the White Knight, in trying to regain some of the lands of his grandfather Thomas. This took place at Athdara.

Because he had made enemies he left for Scotland, where he married Arabella Campbell, daughter of the Lord of Argyle. We know he was a Fitzgerald and a mighty leader and fighter. We know he slew a kinsman at Athara, because of the coat of arms. It proves it because it's crest shows a man's head, couped and dripping blood. It supports the claim that Robert Adair was the victor. This all took place in the late 13870s. The circumstances corroborate Robert Adair's marriage to a daughter of the noble house of Argyle. Arabella is an Argyle name, and so is Neigello, his oldest son's name.

I. Robert Adair m. Arabella Campbell

Progeny

1. Neigello, who settled Portre
2. Robert, settled in Kildomen
1. Niegello Adair m. wife's name unknown

Progeny

3. I William
- II Thomas
- III Robert
- others?

(this line of descent Naomi has until 1659 when Robert Adair 2nd was born. He took part in the Battle of Bayne having raised a regiment of horsemen and soldiers for King William II and was knighted by the King on the field of battle. Shortly before this he sold the Galloway estates and went to live on the Adair estates in Bellamena, Ireland, where so many Adairs had gone before him.)

I believe our first ancestor to America was John Adair. There were two Johns that came to America in 1775, and thence on

to Augusta County, VA. I am still doing research to determine just which one was our ancestor. I am inclined to believe that it was the soldier, John Adair, who was compelled into the British Army and brought to America to fight against the American rebels. He left the British to join the American forces along with several other British deserters who encouraged the Americans to fight for the the high advantage grounds of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill in Boston, and try to get the British out of Boston. This battle was a very costly battle for the British, but the Americans ran out of ammunition and had to flee with the Britishers firing at them to the end of the "neck" in Boston. John Adair was severely wounded in this battle, and had to leave the army.

He was then found in Augusta County, Virginia, and married ~~Jane Ross~~ at Stauntonville, Virginia (as they called it in those days) in 1783. They had a son, John, before she died. In 1791 he married Elizabeth McKnight. They had (1) Samuel b. 13 Oct. 1791, William, Joseph, and possibly McKnight Adair. I believe this McKnight Adair is really our Robert McKnight Adair, as they didn't call him Robert, I don't believe, but by his middle name and usually by "Mac." Since our Robert McKnight Adair says he was born in Virginia he must have been born about 1798 or 99 before his parents left Virginia.

Many of the Revolutionary War soldiers were given land in Kentucky, and it may have been that they went there to take up lands first. Since the lands of Kentucky are very poor and rocky and rugged, they could trade it for other government lands in other locations. Since Ohio was just opening up and there was lots of military lands, he could have traded for the Ohio land which was much better for raising crops.

Each soldier received 100 acres for each year he served during the Revolutionary War. So far I haven't found any land records, but since the books say he first went to Chillicothe, Ohio, where land officers were, before going on to Madison County, Ohio. There were many Adairs of Virginia that went to Chillicothe, Ohio, and also Rosses, possibly all relatives. We next pick up the history of our line of Adairs from the Madison County Historical Society Book - Ohio, 1880," in Deer Creek Township.

"This township occupies a central position in Madison County, Ohio, and was one of the early organized townships. A meeting of the Commissioners of Madison County, on petition being presented, ordered that the line between Deer Creek Township and Union Township be altered to run as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of Jefferson Melville's land, and southwest corner of John Adair's land, and to run westerly to strike the La Fayette Road; ten poles south of the Glade, between B. Bowdery's and D.J. Ross, thence the same course continued until it strikes the present line which divides said townships, so as to include D.J. Ross into Union Township."

Deer Creek surface and soil "the township is generally flat and level and the soil deep rich, black loam, especially those acres which were originally prairie, with a gravel sub-base and substrata of limestones. When the pioneers first settled upon the lands they found many portions destitute of timber and covered with a course grass, and generally very wet, some of which was

covered with water a greater portion of the year and was considered uninhabitable and called "Barrens." Hence we find the first settlements along the banks of streams and on the more elevated lands, which were drained. Later on settlers dug ditches and drained the lower lands to make them habitable. Deer Creek runs through the township.

The following were the early settlers of Deer Creek Township who located here between 1800 and 1830 --

Mr. Adair was probably the first to locate in this township. He camped overnight on the banks of Deer Creek, and then selected his location. This was about 1800. John Adair settled on land now owned by James Wilson in 1806. William Blair, John Blair, John Barr, John McCaul and Charlie Ewing came next. John and Adam Coon settled on Deer Creek just below John Adair, and William Blair settled below his land also, and near the town where Lawrenceville later was laid out. (No longer exists) Angus, John, Daniel and Alexander Ross located here about 1816. Angus kept a tavern at Lawrenceville. Benjamin Garrett with his family located on Coniac Run in 1808 where he built a block house to protect his family from the Indians. Soon after he located on the Garrett farm where he died. He was a native of Virginia, emigrated to Kentucky in 1805, came to Chillicothe, Ohio in 1807, and from there to Madison County. Other early settlers who came prior to 1820 was Nite Adair. (Could this be Knight or McKnight Adair?) Wilborn Minter laid out the town of LaFayette. This town still exists 1988) west of Columbus, Ohio.

Sickness and death in their various forms were constant visitors to the early settlers. This flat, wet land was full of the germs of Miasma. But one of the most dreaded of diseases of that day was the "trembles" or "milk sickness" which carried off many. Of those who died of this disease we mention William Adair and his wife, Mrs. Samuel Adair and Mrs. Joseph Adair. As the county improved this terrible disease disappeared. (Note: It seems like the "trembles" might have been caused by mosquitoes rather than "milk.")

July 12, 1810, John Adair's mark for cattle, sheep and hogs is -- "an upper half crop in each ear."

In early elections of Deer Creek Township

1841 - 1843 - Treasurer - A.K. Adair

1822 - Constable - Alexander Ross & Joseph Adair

1814 - Supervisor - Angus Ross

1822 - Supervisor - Joseph Adair

The elections were held in "Limerick" (really named Lawrenceville but everyone called it Limerick, which makes me wonder if these Adairs came from Limerick, Ireland.) Elections took place in Limerick until 1837. Now they are held in LaFayette, the only village in the township.

In 1827 there were finally six county schools and their districts are listed with their families. In school district #4 the Pikes, MacDonalds, Sideners, Plimells, McNutts and John Adair, 19 families were listed. School district #5, in 1827, listed Alfred Garrett, Robert M. Adair, Jessie Stout, and Elizabeth Adair, Edward K. Adair, John and William Davidson, a total of seven families listed. These districts have since been

changed.

Deer and turkeys were plentiful. Also black wolves, wildcats, foxes, coons, polecats, minks, porcupine, possums, and wild hogs. By 1827 there were 103 families in Deer Creek township.

Church meetings were the strengthening force in the community of Deer Creek Township, as it was in most all other pioneer areas. For many years the more devoted opened their homes for socials and meetings until church buildings could be erected. The first church organized in Deer Creek township was that of the Upper Glade, known as the McDonald Church. Further below, on the Glade, was a settlement of Methodists. It was hard for those of the Upper Glade to get there, so in 1812 a Methodist class was organized at the Upper Glade, with the following members: John McDonald, Jacob Sidener, Samuel and John Ewing, Daniel Wright, and John Adair, with their wives. They met in the schoolhouse at McDonald's farm until 1836. Then they built their first building on the site of the present church, which was 1873.

In going over the early cemeteries I couldn't find where the Adairs were buried. The Garrett's family burial ground was on their farm. In 1880 it was still enclosed and in good repair, but some may have been removed to a more permanent resting place as some of the families were meditating doing this. One of the earliest and still well preserved in 1880 was the Upper Glade or McDonald Cemetery on the farm of John McDonald, and contains most of the early settlers of the neighborhood, which certainly would include John Adair and Elizabeth McKnight Adair. However, they were not listed on any of the cemetery lists, so perhaps the records of, or the stones of the graves, are gone as to just where these two are buried in Deer Creek township. There were other early cemeteries besides these.

Some of the early listings of marriages of Deer Creek Township were: Bartholomew Melvin to Miss Adair, Samuel Adair to Miss Byers, George Stout to Miss Garrett, Joseph Adair to Mrs. Coon, Edward Adair to Miss Frederick, James Johnston to Miss Adair.