

## WILLIAM JOHN ADAMS



*Francis, William John, William Henry, Rosa, Christian, Lucy*

William John Adams was born on October 20, 1865 in Germany as found on his death certificate. At this point I do not have information on where in Germany he may have come from. I am also unable to determine presently what year he may have come to the United States. Different US Census reports have everything from 1880 – 1888. More research will be needed to determine which of those is accurate as well as where in Germany he originated from. His

marriage record in Pennsylvania does record that his parents are William Adams and Francisca.

The first official record I see for William is his marriage to Rosa Elizabeth Scheuffer. They were married on July 18, 1889 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

The first Federal Census that we see the family in (lacking a 1890 census as it was destroyed in a fire) is 1900. At this point they are in District 0114, Manor, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. William and Rosa list that they have 4 children with 4 living, and we see all four of them at home. Both William and Rosa list that they were born in Germany. Both William and Rosa list in this census that they came to the US in 1882 and that William is Naturalized. They report renting their home, and William lists his occupation as “Day Labor”.

The 1910 Federal Census shows the entire family at District 0189, Cross Creek, Washington, Pennsylvania. Now, both William and Rosa say they came to the US in 1888. William reports that he is a Section Boss for the Railroad. They also report renting this home.

The 1920 census finds that the family has moved to Ohio. Notes from family members state that they moved quite a bit with the railroad, and without really digging into records I am utilizing the census to track the gradual progression. They are enumerated in District 0597, Solon, Cuyahoga, Ohio. The two girls have married which leaves the boys at home with their parents. They report renting this home also. In this census William reports coming to the US in 1880 with Rosa in 1882. They do however both note that they were naturalized in 1890. Both William and Rosa report speaking German as well as English,

which fits nicely with the bio information I had for their daughter Francis. We see that William is now listed as the Section Foreman for the Steam Railroad. His son William is a Car Inspector and son Christian is a Laborer

The 1930 Census finds that they have moved again. Now we see William and Rosa in District 0056, Wayne, Jefferson, Ohio. They are renting this house. In this census William and Rosa report that they came to the US in 1883 and 1882 respectively. William continues to list his occupation as a Foreman at the Railroad.

By the 1940 Census many things have changed in the family. William is now living with his son-in-law Almond Carl who married Lucy Estella. In this census, 18-247, Orange, Cuyahoga, Ohio, on Brainard Road, both William and Almond report having completed through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in school. William reports that he was living in what looks like Solon, Ohio in 1935. William reports that his occupation is "other work", and it is anyone's guess what that may be at 73 years of age. Almond is a greens keeper at a golf course. Prior to this Rosa had died, but Lucy was enumerated at the Cleveland State Hospital.

William's death certificate reports that he died on June 29, 1955 in Orange Village, Cuyahoga, Ohio. He is buried in Highland Hills Cemetery in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

I have yet to locate an obituary or other newspaper pieces for William.

Knowing that Francis was baptized into the Lutheran Church, it would be logical to expect that they attended the Lutheran Church at least for a while.

William and Rosa had four children

- **William Henry Adams (1890-1949)**
- **Francis Magdalene Adams (1892-1962)**
- **Christian John Adams (1894-1924)**
- **Lucy Estella Adams (1899-1954)**

A couple of notes on the siblings of Francis.

William and his wife Mattie had two sons, Blair and William.

Christian was just shy of 30 years old when he died. I have seen a small copy of his death certificate, and while I can't read most of the details, it does say that he was also a section foreman at the railroad. I can't read the cause of death and can investigate further.

Christian was single at the time of his death

Lucy shows up on the Cleveland State Hospital list in the 1940 census. It also states that she was in the same place in 1935. Garnet Lobner Storer believed that Lucy was hospitalized for Tuberculosis. However, an online search of the Cleveland State Hospital

shows that this was a state supported psychiatric facility for long term care from 1852-1975. Sadly, it sounds like in the 1920's the conditions there deteriorated and by 1946 the Cleveland Press revealed brutality, neglect and squalid conditions for the residents. As Lucy was there at least from 1935-1940 and quite possibly longer she must have endured some tough conditions. A further research option I am working on is to see if her records can be found. Lucy and Almond appear to have had no children.

<https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-state-hospital>

## ROSA ELIZABETH SCHEUFFLER



*Lucy Adams and Rosa*

Rosa was born on March 26, 1864 in Wurttenburg, Germany as reported on her death certificate. Her husband was the informant, and I am assuming that he is correct. From her death certificate the names of Henry Scheuffler and Mary Wagner are provided as her parents. This is the only information I currently have on her family. As noted with William's information, her date of immigration to the United States also varies, and as of now, no records have been located that are specific.

The primary records I have for Rosa are the census records listed above with William.

In addition I do have her death certificate that states she died on November 7, 1937 in Knox, Columbiana County, Ohio and is buried in Highland Hills Cemetery in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.