THE EADS OF ARGYLE

Upon a hill at the northwest corner of the little city of LeClaire, some twenty miles up the Mississippi River from Davenport, stands a dignified old house, prim and modest and well kept in spite of the hundred years and more since it was built. It stands at the end of a winding lane, hidden away from other houses by the hills and trees; strangers must be told how to find it. The people of LeClaire know it as Argyle Cottage, but not many know the story of its making and of its christening. The very shape of it speaks of the period when it was erected.

The long, low, gracefully sweeping roof of the front comes down over the full length porch. In the roof are set two dormer windows, the upper parts of which are semi-circles. At the back is an ell, with a side door and an end window with a similar half circle at the top. The old cottage is now the property of Carl LeBuhn of Davenport, who grew up on the adjoining farm. He has pride in maintaining it in good repair and prosperous appearance; and excellent tenants realize that they are living in an atmosphere of history — a history that began with the beginnings of LeClaire.

Thomas C. Eads, known as Colonel Eads,[1] built this house in the winter of 1836-1837 and moved his family into it that spring. That is, he moved in with his wife and perhaps one daughter. He had a son, James, sixteen years old, who came and went; and neither the parents nor the neighbors nor the folks in St. Louis knew that this young man was destined to become one of the world's most famous engineers, known in both hemispheres and

[1] The source of this military title has not been found.

consulted on innumerable engineering problems. He became Capt. James B. Eads, builder of bridges and jetties, inventor of the diving bell, the genius who salvaged sunken boats and their cargoes from the Mississippi and helped clear the mighty stream of trees and snags and stumps.

The story of the Eads family[2] goes far back in United States history, and back of that to England. According to a family tree owned by Miss Genevieve Eads of Davenport, a grandniece of Col. Thomas C. Eads, the name is found in England as far back as 1404. A William Edes came to Naumkeag, now Salem, Massachusetts, in the *Lion's Whelp* in 1629. He dropped out of sight; but there was a John Edes in Charlestown,[3] who in 1674 married Mary Tufts of Malden. Her name suggests Tufts College. John was a ship carpenter. He and Mary[4] had a considerable family, among whom was a son, John, born in 1680 who married Grace Lawrence. Their sixth child was Benjamin Edes, a rather famous man in Boston in the latter part of the 1700's. He was the Edes of Edes and Gill, printers and publishers of *The Boston Gazette,* organ of Samuel Adams, James Otis, John Hancock, and their party, neighbor and friend of Paul Revere. It was either at the Green Dragon Tavern or at Edes' shop close at hand that the "Indians" put on their disguises the night of the Boston Tea Party; and it was Edes who kept locked in a secret place whatever record in writing, including a list of "The Mohawks", there may have been of that ex-

[2] The name derives from the Latin, *aedes,* temple or edifice. It appears in various spellings, as Eades, Eedes, Eads, Edds, Eeds, Edes, Eddes, Edees. In New England it persisted as Edes. Memoranda of the Eads family may be found in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.*

[3] John may have been a son or grandson of William.

[4] From whom "all persons of the name Edes or Eades, now living in this country, are probably descended".—*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register,* Vol. XVI, p. 16.

citing night. This record was, as he requested, destroyed by Benjamin Austin after Edes' death in 1803.[5]

Benjamin Edes got out of Boston just in time when Gen. Thomas Gage clamped down on the Whigs in that town after the Bunker Hill fight; he loaded his printing press into a rowboat and got to Watertown, the temporary capital of the Colony of Massachusetts where he continued to print *The Gazette*. His nineteen-year-old son, Peter, however, was put in jail. When the British left Boston in March of 1776, Benjamin and his press came back with Revere and the others.[6] A Thomas Edes was another neighbor of Revere's; in his house Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson and his daughter took refuge that night in 1765 when a mob sacked the Hutchinson residence.[7]

In those Revolutionary days there were Edes in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and on Long Island. By the middle of the same century some of them had found their way into Virginia. The records in the State Land Office in Richmond show entries of grants to several men of the name, in 1739, 1751, and later.[8] The name crops up in many regions north and south after the beginning of the nineteenth century.[9] A Benjamin Edes was a printer

[5] Descendants of Benjamin and Mary Starr Edes claim to own the punch bowl from which the "Indians" drank on the eve of the party.—*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XVI, p. 16.

[6] Edes continued *The Gazette* until 1798, but after Boston came under the continuing control of the Colonials other patriotic papers sprang up. Gill parted company with Edes and went off on his own, and *The Gazette* gradually declined. Both Benjamin Edes and John Gill died in obscurity and poverty.—Frank L. Mott's *American Journalism: A History*, pp. 15, 75, 76, 81.

[7] For references on some of these points see Esther Forbes's *Paul Revere & the World He Lived In.*

[8] The Eads Family Genealogy, in possession of Miss Genevieve Eads.

[9] The first newspaper in Florida after the United States took possession was *The Florida Gazette*, established in 1821 by Richard W. Edes, a grandson of

in Baltimore at the time of the War of 1812 and according to one report, printed the first copies of "The Star Spangled Banner" at his shop at the corner of Baltimore and Gay streets.[10]

Col. Thomas Clark Eads came from one of these southern families. He was born on June 29, 1794, near Lexington, Kentucky, the son of James and Hannah Clark Eads. They had lived previously in the region of Hagerstown, Maryland, where their older children were born. Thomas was the tenth of their family of eleven children, and the last surviving one. James and Hannah and their family went to Indiana in 1799, where James died in 1808.

Thomas C. Eads married Nancy Buchanan, also a native of Kentucky. She was a cousin of James Buchanan, then a young lawyer who was making his mark in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and in the same year that he was first elected to the United States House of Representatives, Nancy's son was born. She named the boy James Buchanan Eads. That was in 1820. By the time James Buchanan became President of the United States, his namesake was well started on his career to fame as a master of the Great River.

James B. Eads was the third of Thomas and Nancy's children, two sisters having preceded him. He was born near Lawrenceburg, Indiana, on May 23, 1820. The family moved around after that, to Cincinnati, to Louisville, and finally to St. Louis in 1833. On this last move Nancy Buchanan Eads and the three children preceded the colonel. As the steamer docked at St. Louis, it caught

Benjamin Edes of *The Boston Gazette*. He died soon afterwards of yellow fever.—Frank L. Mott's *American Journalism: A History*.

[10] Oscar George Theodore Sonneck's "*The Star Spangled Banner*" (Library of Congress, 1914), pp. 70, 73, 76. According to another report, the words were printed on a broadside, the type being set by a young apprentice named Samuel Sands, who worked in a newspaper office.

fire and the Eads' family goods were practically all destroyed. Mrs. Eads set about earning a living for herself and the children by renting a house and taking boarders; and for a time young James sold apples on the street. Then he became a clerk in the Barrett Williams drygoods store.[11] Here the boy attracted the attention of Mr. Williams, who allowed him the run of his bookshelves. Young Eads had an early passion for machinery, and as a small boy a steamboat was his greatest attraction. He continued as a clerk in the store for five years; then in 1838 he became a purser on a Mississippi River steamboat.

In the meantime the family had moved again; at least Thomas C. Eads had. In 1836 he came up the river to the place where Eleazer Parkhurst had made a claim; and Eads entered into partnership with him to develop the townsite that Parkhurst planned. That was adjacent to the north boundary of Antoine LeClaire's Reserve, given to him along with another section of land where Davenport is now, by virtue of Article VI in the Black Hawk Purchase Treaty of 1832. LeClaire had organized a partnership to develop a townsite on this reserve, his partners being George Davenport, Enoch C. March, and John Reynolds, a former Governor of Illinois. March sold out his share to James May, a river man hailing from Pittsburgh, and thereby started a lot of trouble for LeClaire and the executors of his will long years later. The two little villages, LeClaire and Parkhurst, struggled along side by side for twenty years before they were merged into the present LeClaire.

Eads built the cottage in LeClaire in the winter of 1836-1837 and in 1837 he built a larger two-story frame building near the river front, which served as a hotel and meeting place in the village of Parkhurst. He served as postmaster at Parkhurst, also known for a time as Berlin.

[11] Louis Eads How's *James Buchanan Eads.*

Colonel Eads and Nancy Buchanan Eads had two daughters, both older than James, Eliza Ann, born in 1817, and Genevieve, born in 1818. It is doubtful if either ever lived in LeClaire. Genevieve died in 1836 and Eliza in 1837. James, who was nearing seventeen when his parents settled up the river, was working in the store in St. Louis, until he became a steamboat clerk. How much he actually lived in LeClaire is not clear; but, according to old newspaper clippings in scrapbooks which are deposited in the library of the Davenport Public Museum, "he called Argyle home". And he was known personally both in LeClaire and Davenport. An old ledger of Charles Eames, merchant in LeClaire, of the early 1840's, shows both Eads, father and son, as customers against whom small charges were made.

The clippings in the old scrapbooks carry on traditions of Argyle and of the Eads. They tell of Mrs. Eads as a handsome woman of poise and of sweetness of face. Some thought "she resembled Queen Mary of Scotland". They tell of the colonel as a handsome man, always well dressed, with high hat and cane, and dignified. In a well-known reproduced group of photographs of old settlers of Scott County both Eads, father and son, are shown as arrivals of 1836. Evidently, Colonel Eads was a handsome old man, with a strong face, a mass of white hair, and a thick, white beard cut quite short. There is also a story of a large picture in Argyle Cottage representing the battle of Waterloo.

Colonel Eads was an active Whig in the 1840's and early 50's. The *Davenport Gazette* has numerous references to him as a delegate to county and State conventions. On June 2, 1842, he announced himself as a candidate for recorder of Scott County on the Whig ticket; but James Thorington received the nomination.

Louis Eads How, in his short biography of his grand-

father, James B. Eads, says of Col. Thomas C. Eads that "he never was very prosperous". There is plenty of evidence of that in his early life when he moved frequently from place to place and again in his later years. Yet it appears that after only three years in St. Louis, from 1833 to 1836, where his wife ran a boarding house after that steamboat fire and young James had to go to work at the age of thirteen, the colonel could build Argyle Cottage and the Berlin House in the new town of Parkhurst, where tradition says he maintained an attractive home and entertained distinguished guests.

The strangest element of the story is that Col. Thomas C. Eads built Argyle Cottage, lived there for sixteen years or more, gave deeds for the transfer of the property, advertised it as his property, yet he may never have owned it. Reference has been made to his early partnership with Eleazer Parkhurst. According to the original agreement on file in the Scott County recorder's office, dated November 17, 1836, Parkhurst sold to Eads all of Parkhurst's interest in an undivided half of forty acres, beginning at the Mississippi River and extending to the west. Eads was to pay $2000, "$200.00 in merchandise in liquors from said Eads' store when called for"; four successive installments of $200 each, and $1000 "out of the proceeds of the first lots sold after the said Parkhurst and Eads shall have laid out a town on said land and the above named forty acres to be held in surety by Parkhurst until $2000.00 is paid." Eads was allowed possession equally with Parkhurst and control of the land in conjunction with Parkhurst in selling lots. This agreement was witnessed by Archibald Allen and attested before Nathaniel Belcher, justice of the peace, both of Rock Island, Illinois.[12] But

[12] Original papers on file in the Scott County courthouse. Archibald Allen came west from New York in 1827, and the next year settled near the present

in 1836 there were no surveys, no lines had been run, no forty acres were measured, and no patents had been secured from the government.

A man named Ralph Letton of Cincinnati was admitted to the Parkhurst-Eads partnership on October 27, 1837. A disagreement over ownership of lots was referred to arbitrators in March, 1840, and these arbitrators assigned certain lots to each partner, the survey having been made in 1837. Parkhurst evidently was not satisfied with this arrangement for on February 15, 1841, he brought suit against Colonel Eads, with Judge James Grant of Davenport as his attorney. A large collection of the original papers remain in the files at the courthouse in Davenport, showing that this suit dragged along until April, 1846. Parkhurst charged Eads, who was represented by Judge G. C. R. Mitchell, with making no payments on the last $1000 stipulated in the agreement of November, 1836, of disposing of certain lots to his son, J. B. Eads, to George Davenport, to Laurel Summers (Parkhurst's son-in-law), to two minor sons of Letton, all without consideration, the deeds being executed when the grantees were not present. He further charged that Summers went, at Eads and Letton's behest, to Dubuque to arrange for the patent at the United States land office, without Parkhurst's approval. Eads' answers seem to have been frank and honest. He explained that the transfers of lots were in payment of debts; that Parkhurst had never demanded a settlement under the original contract; nor had Parkhurst taken any steps to secure the patent.

The argument went on with numerous petitions, answers, and exceptions, in justice of the peace courts; finally, on

Port Byron, Illinois. His place was attacked by the Indians in the Winnebago outbreak of 1829. He became one of the prominent residents of Rock Island County. The present Archie Allen Camp for Girls (Y. W. C. A.) is on the original Allen farm.

April 17, 1846, Parkhurst asked the district court to establish and certify the award of the arbitrators of March, 1840, and withdrew the case. District Judge Thomas S. Wilson ordered that award as final with costs charged against the plaintiff, Parkhurst.

In the midst of all of this confusion, Argyle Cottage and its site had come into the possession of George Davenport through Laurel Summers. After Colonel Davenport's death in 1845, the younger Eads received a deed for it from the Davenport estate, and that is the first definite evidence of any Eads ownership. He, in turn, executed a lease for the property to his father in 1845 that his parents might continue to occupy it.

Colonel Eads apparently still thought of it as his property. On April 29, 1852, in the *Davenport Gazette* he offered for rent for one year or more the "farm on which he lives, together with the dwelling, Argyle Cottage, some 150 acres. The undersigned and wife expect to spend a part of the coming fall and winter away from home and if arrangements can be made to board with family the balance of the year, it would be a privilege".

Mrs. Eads died on July 16th of that year at Argyle Cottage.[13] She is interred in a mausoleum in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, erected by her son after the death of his first wife, which occurred later that year. His sisters' ashes were removed from their first resting places and placed in the mausoleum. On August 26th the *Gazette* has a reminder of Colonel Eads' sale set for the 28th; and on October 7th there is another advertisement in which

[13] *The Davenport Gazette* of July 22, 1852, says of her: "The subject of this notice was an estimable lady, a sincere Christian, kindly and affectionate in all her relations. She was a woman of marked intelligence, whom to know was to admire and to love. Her loss will be sadly felt by a wide circle of friends and deeply deplored by those whose relationship brought them in constant association with her."

he offers the place for sale on good terms or for rent to a suitable tenant.

After the death of Mrs. Eads, Colonel Eads moved to Davenport,[14] where he extended his real estate operations. His name appears in the first directory of the city, in 1856, and thereafter until 1866, a part of the time as of the firm of Eads and Stewart, real estate dealers. Among other ventures he leased of W. H. F. Gurley and George L. Nichols, in 1855, six lots on the west side of Brady Street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets for a period of nineteen years. Eads agreed to pay all taxes and assessments and gave in consideration eighteen promissory notes, each for $150, the interest being payable semi-annually. It was also agreed that Eads was privileged to build houses on the lots, the possession of which should be adjusted later. In 1864 he quitclaimed this lease to his son. Those houses are noted in the old directories as "Eads Row". In 1861 and 1866 Colonel Eads' residence is given as Twelfth and Brady streets, Davenport; but generally during those ten years he was living at hotels.

A story records that several years later when the houses were owned by Joseph Ochs, who lived across the street, he let a contract to have the house on the south corner raised and repaired. While it was up on jacks, a rainstorm hit hard one Sunday morning, the jacks sank into the wet ground, and the house collapsed into a jumble of bricks, with considerable interruption to the service in Trinity Episcopal Cathedral across the street.

James B. Eads also was interested in the development of Davenport. He became the owner of a considerable tract of land at what is the extreme west end of the city,

[14] Colonel Eads evidently had an early friendly interest in Davenport as he presided at the first Fourth of July celebration held there in 1837.—Harry E. Downer's *History of Davenport and Scott County Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 157.

platted it, and sold lots. The addition and one of the streets in it bear the name of Eads.

There were others of the Eads family who came to Davenport. Luther Travis Eads came from Champaign, Illinois, in 1863, and engaged in real estate and war-claim business. He was a nephew of Col. Thomas Clark Eads, being the son of John Eads and his second wife, Jane Turner, and a half-brother of Elijah C. Eads. Luther T. Eads was an active citizen of Davenport for many years. He was one of the organizers of the Davenport Academy of Science, now the Davenport Public Museum, on December 14, 1867, and was its first treasurer. The organization meeting was held in his office, which continued to be the headquarters until larger quarters were found in the library.[15] He was a member of the city council in 1869-1870. Of his seven children there still live in Davenport Miss Genevieve Eads, to whom reference has already been made, and Charles S. Eads. Luther T. Eads died in Davenport in April, 1907, and his wife, Martha A. Cox Eads, of Ottawa, Illinois, in January, 1926.[16]

Others of the Eads name in Iowa include Dr. J. W. Edes (the New England spelling), who came from New Hampshire and lived in Cedar Rapids, and Dr. James D. Eads, who lived in Fort Madison. Dr. James D. Eads had a stormy term as Superintendent of Public Instruction in Iowa, to which office he was elected in 1854.[17]

[15] The Davenport Public Museum possesses a large photograph of Luther T. Eads.

[16] A Miss Eads advertised in *The Iowa Sun* of Davenport in 1840 that she was opening a school for misses and children. Her announcement says that she was "late of St. Louis".—Harry E. Downer's *History of Davenport and Scott County Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 925. In the early 1840's there was an Eads' Grove near Strawberry Point in Clayton County.—*The Palimpsest*, Vol. XII, p. 63.

[17] See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XII, pp. 205–244.

After the death of his first wife, Col. Thomas C. Eads seems to have had a variegated marital career. On the second of December, 1853, he married Mrs. Ann R. Rea, formerly of Norfolk, Virginia, in the Christ Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.[18] Her name appears on numerous papers in his real estate transactions for the next two years. They evidently did not have smooth sailing, for a strange agreement, made on December 1, 1855, provided that they were to continue to live and appear publicly together as man and wife and that Eads was to act towards Ann in public in every way as though there were no difficulty between them; but on the following Monday morning she was to leave Davenport for Norfolk, Virginia, and Mursfreesboro, North Carolina. He was to accompany her and defray all expenses, and then he was to leave her there and return to Davenport. He relinquished all dower rights in her property and she pledged herself not to incur debts against him.[19] Many years later, on March 18, 1891, Ann R. Rea executed a document in Como, Hartford County, North Carolina, intended to set right a signature to a deed of land in Davenport. In this she describes herself as "having been formerly married to one T. C. Eads and he having been divorced from me". That divorce does not appear in the Scott County records.

There is also a record of the marriage of Colonel Eads to Harriet Requa on December 29, 1856. They were married in Davenport by William Burris, then county judge.[20]

[18] *The Davenport Gazette*, January 5, 1854.

[19] According to a tradition current in LeClaire years ago, the lady already had a husband living when she married Colonel Eads in Indianapolis, the gentleman being a restrained guest in an Indiana State prison. After his release he turned up in the vicinity of Davenport, to the embarrassment of the lady who decided to go to Virginia.

[20] *The Davenport Gazette*, December 30, 1856, says of the wedding: "At the residence of the bride's mother, December 29th, by The Hon. Wm. Burris,

Among the records in the Scott County recorder's office is an instrument dated March 17, 1860, executed by Harriet, who was then in Dutchess County, New York, giving the colonel power of attorney for her. On November 3, 1864, Colonel Eads instituted a suit for divorce against Harriet, charging desertion without reasonable cause. The petition shows that they had lived together until October 12, 1862.

Mrs. Eads contested the case with an answer and a counter petition, raising some unpleasant issues. In answer to her plea for alimony, the colonel alleged that he had no property whatever, no source of revenue, no occupation which produced any income, that he was dependent on his son, James B. Eads. The case dragged along until May 24, 1866, when it was heard before Charles Whitaker as referee, and the decision was given to Mrs. Eads by default. The decision was certified by Judge J. Scott Richman.

The colonel did not appear at the hearing. He had become ill, and his son had had him taken to St. Louis where he was under constant care until his death on October 25, 1868.[21] The *Missouri Republican* for October 26th announced: "The funeral will take place from The Planters' House Tuesday the 27th at 10 o'clock A. M. Friends of the family are invited to attend. Davenport, Iowa, papers please copy".[22]

The *Davenport Democrat* for October 28, 1868, gave Colonel Eads' passing a dozen lines, including a complimentary reference to his energy and business ability, and

Col. Thomas C. Eads of Davenport to Miss Harriet Requa, late of New York. The happy pair have left on a tour for the sunny south. Our best wishes attend them as their last thoughts seemed to be of the winter."

[21] Information from Miss Genevieve Eads.

[22] For this and the other local memoranda from St. Louis I am indebted to the generous helpfulness of Miss Stella Drumm of the Missouri Historical Society and to the ready courtesy of my friend, Judge J. Hugo Grimm of that city.

added: "He was in this city a few weeks since, though in a low state of health, yet counting upon several years of old age". The *Gazette* gave him four lines, but it did not mention Argyle Cottage. The Grant-Seymour presidential campaign was nearing its climax; and both papers were excited over politics. The editors were using up their vocabularies in their diatribes against their political opponents and against each other.

In 1845, after a considerable period of time necessary to persuade the young lady's father to consent to the marriage, James B. Eads married Martha Nash Dillon, daughter of Patrick Dillon, a wealthy trader of St. Louis.[23] Mr. Dillon thought young Eads' prospects were too thin and perhaps too visionary to merit the young lady's hand. Two daughters were born to Captain and Mrs. Eads — Eliza Ann in 1846 and Martha in 1851. When Martha was just past one year old, Mrs. Eads died, three months after the death of Nancy Buchanan Eads.[24]

[23] Patrick Dillon's second wife, stepmother of Martha Nash Dillon Eads, was Eliza Eads, daughter of William Henry Eads and Jane Adair Eads. William Henry Eads was an older brother of Col. Thomas C. Eads who moved to Missouri, near St. Louis, about 1835, where he was engaged in the wood and steamboat business. Mrs. Dillon's older sister, Margaret Eads, married Alexander McGregor in Cincinnati. After her death in that city McGregor became one of the first settlers in what is now Davenport, arriving in 1835.—The Eads Family Genealogy, in possession of Miss Genevieve Eads.

This Alexander McGregor was a member from Scott County of the Second Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory which met in Burlington in 1837. He introduced a measure giving a franchise to John Wilson to operate a ferry from Davenport across the river. Charges of bribery were brought against McGregor, which were supported by Wilson. The House of Representatives instituted a hearing. Among McGregor's evidence was an affidavit signed by W. H. Eads (apparently McGregor's father-in-law) purporting to show that the note for $300 held by McGregor and signed by Wilson, which Wilson claimed McGregor had demanded of him in the matter of the proposed legislation, had been made and given to McGregor for an entirely different consideration and in an entirely different transaction.—Ruth A. Gallaher's *Guilty or Not Guilty* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XIX, pp. 53–56.

[24] *The Davenport Gazette* of October 21, 1852, contained the following statement: "Mrs. J. B. Eads, returning from the Water Cure Establishment at

In 1856 Captain Eads married Mrs. Eunice S. Eads (nee Hegeman), the widow of his cousin, Elijah Clark Eads, son of John (an older brother of Col. Thomas C. Eads) and his first wife, Sarah Russell, of Lexington, Kentucky. Eunice had three daughters — Genevieve, Josephine, and Adelaide — to add to the family Martha Dillon had left. In after life, Eliza married James F. How and became the mother of James Eads How, noted in his after life as "the millionaire hobo", who for some peculiar religious notion did not want to use his patrimony and who in his will left a large sum of money to found a home for down and outers. Another son was Louis Eads How, who wrote a short biography of James B. Eads. Martha became Mrs. Edward Switzer and had four children. Genevieve married John A. Ubsdell and lived in Southhampton, England; Josephine married Estell McHenry of St. Louis; and Adelaide became the wife of a Mr. Hazzard of New York.

The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* for Sunday, June 27, 1943, tells of the discovery of the body of a man of aristocratic appearance found the preceding Thursday in a cheap furnished room in north St. Louis. It was identified two days later as that of John Hardin McHenry, fifty-nine years of age, a grandson of James B. Eads. He is spoken of in the newspaper story as "a kind of a mystery man around the neighborhood, who spoke often but without bitterness of earlier days when he was a man of considerable wealth". A brother, Wallace E. McHenry, of St.

Brattleboro, Vermont, contracted cholera and died on the Steamer Franklin #2 near Evansville, Indiana, on Wednesday last (Oct. 13). Mrs. Eads was well known to our readers from her occasional writings in THE GAZETTE under the signature of 'Martha'. As a poetess she was inferior to no female writer whose effusions grace the columns of the magazines of the day. As a woman, she was educated and highly accomplished, admired and loved by all who knew her. We sympathize with our friend in his loss but, alas, he must look to a higher source for consolation".

Louis, and a daughter, of Rockport, Massachusetts, were listed as survivors.

After his marriage to Martha Dillon in 1845, James B. Eads left his river work and engaged in the business of glass-making. This soon became unprofitable, leaving him heavily in debt, and he returned to the wrecking business in which he had already begun to attain fame with his self-devised diving bell. He first tried out this bell in raising a sunken barge loaded with lead at Keokuk, using a forty gallon whiskey barrel for this purpose.[25] He patented the idea in 1842. He worked incessantly up and down the river from Galena to the mouth and on the tributaries until his health gave way and he retired in 1857.

In the meantime he had proposed to Congress that he could clear the river of snags with proper equipment for which he asked a Federal appropriation. In 1861 he proposed his neighbor, Edward Bates, to Abraham Lincoln as Secretary of State, arguing strongly for a Missouri man as an influence against the possible secession of that State. William H. Seward became Secretary of State, however, and Bates became Attorney General. It was through Bates's recommendation that Eads was put in charge of the creation of iron-clad steamboats for use on

[25] *The Davenport Gazette* for November 28, 1850, says: "The newly invented steam diving bell built recently at Paducah, Kentucky, is accomplishing wonders in the western states." The article then tells of steamers that have been salvaged on the Cumberland River, from which the steam diving bell went to the Ohio and did a succession of jobs there. The article is taken from the *National Intelligencer*. It tells about salvaging the steamer *Neptune* a short distance below Cairo, Illinois, where the boat had sunk thirty years before. Among the articles salvaged was a jar of butter "decidedly the oldest now in extant". The jar was described as a curiosity in its way with the attendant saucer on the mouth to prevent the contents from injury. *The Gazette* goes on to say "the above boat was constructed by Messrs. Nelson and Eads. A sample of the butter is, we understand, in the possession of Col. Eads of this county".

the Mississippi. He first ordered seven of these boats to be equipped, then others, using his own capital and embarrassing his own financial position seriously, until a tardy government repaid him.

After the war came the famous Eads Bridge at St. Louis, which was authorized by act of Congress in 1865. It was built in conjunction with Col. Henry Flad and was completed in 1874. Next there was the job of the jetties at New Orleans.[26] The self-taught boy who had sold apples on the streets in St. Louis had become one of the famous engineers of the world, consulted by representatives of many countries. He was never wholly well after that break-down in 1857; and recurring attacks of illness took him out of activity from time to time. In 1884 he removed to New York to be nearer his business consultations. In the winter of 1887 he went to the Bahamas to recuperate, and died there on March eighth of that year. Now he lies with Martha and Eunice and his mother and sisters, who had become faint memories, and the old colonel, in that mausoleum in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. And the great bridge still arches over the Great River and carries its load of traffic where George Rogers Clark crossed in a canoe to look into the dark eyes of a Spanish girl and where the Eads family saw their possessions go up in smoke.

And now, finally, as to Argyle Cottage. In 1847, James B. Eads conveyed the house and ten acres to Dr. Charles W. Stevens in trust, subject to the life lease to Thomas C. Eads and wife dated on the same day. The trust deed included also some property in St. Louis. This was about the time the glass business was petering out. The trust was established evidently to protect the property from

[26] For further discussion of Eads' work at New Orleans and below see the recent book, *Lower Mississippi*, by Hodding Carter, pp. 418 ff.

liens. Dr. Stevens was James B. Eads' brother-in-law, Mrs. Stevens also being a Dillon.

In 1860 Captain Eads brought suit both in St. Louis County, Missouri, and in Scott County, Iowa, to have the trust set aside in the interest of his daughters, as Dr. Stevens had neglected his responsibilities and had allowed the properties to deteriorate. On June 11, 1860, the courts removed Stevens as the trustee and substituted Eads. Argyle Cottage was included in all of this procedure. As the Eads girls reached their majority, the property became theirs.[27] On June 10, 1869, Eliza Eads How conveyed her share of the ten acres and the cottage to Robert Lowrey. Her sister, Martha, also sold her share to Lowrey in the same year. From Lowrey the Argyle property passed to a man named McCaffrey, and thence to Herman LeBuhn, from whom it was conveyed to the present owner, Carl LeBuhn.

All this is only part of the story of a family of trailmakers which produced a son whose pioneering was in the way of the creators. The woman who mothered him did not live long enough either to see her cousin become President of the United States or to see her son become known on both hemispheres for his creative ability drawn from many generations of daring men and women. Some inherited impulses stirred in the mind of Nancy Buchanan Eads and recalled to her Scotland's tongue, and she named her home on the hill above the Mississippi, Argyle, after the ancient home of the MacDonalds of the Isles and of the Campbell clan. There is history and there is music in that word.

CHARLES E. SNYDER

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[27] Numerous quitclaim deeds were made and recorded to clear the title, including one from Laurel Summers.