



This is a photograph of

ROBERT ADAMS SR. (1769-1864)

not THOMAS KENT SR. (1747/48-1835)

PHOTO IDENTITY EXPLANATION

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THOMAS KENT, SR. (1747/48-1835) DIED BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHY WAS INVENTED. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE IN A PHOTOGRAPH.

Apparently quite some years ago, a photograph of Robert Adams, Sr. (1769-1864) was mislabeled as a photograph of Thomas Kent, Sr. (1747/48-1835). I do not know exactly when or how the error occurred, but unfortunately like any other genealogical error this one has been perpetuated by other researchers who did not know that a mistake had been made. Researchers who saw the mislabeled photograph in files at the Greene County Historical Society or Cornerstone Genealogical Society likely felt that they had no reason to doubt the name on the picture and innocently copied it into their research.

It is always unpleasant to have to tell a family that a photograph does not depict the ancestor that they thought was pictured and I know this notice will be disappointing to descendants anxious for their ancestor's photograph. All researchers are striving for accuracy in their research though and so I hope that this will be looked on as an improvement instead of a loss.

The fact is that the very first type of photograph, the daguerreotype, was invented in **1839**. Thomas Kent, Sr., died in **1835** and thus it is simply impossible for him to be in a photograph.

The **photograph in question is actually of Robert Adams, Sr. (1769-1864)**. His identity can be proven through a rational chain of custody as well as comparison to a second photograph of him. Additionally, this photograph is correctly identified in the Adams family files at both GCHS and CGS.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY: Two of Robert's daughters, Rebecca and Jane, married into the Sayers family that owned the photograph before its donation to the Greene County Historical Society. Rebecca Adams (1813-1873) married William W. Sayers (1805-1886) and Jane Adams (1822-1847) married William's brother, Ezra Mitchell Sayers (1812-1909). Jane predeceased her parents, but she bore four children prior to her passing, two of whom lived long enough to know their Adams grandparents well. The Robert Adams, Sr. Family Bible,

original photographs of Robert Adams, Sr., as well as his wife, Rebecca (Blackmore) Adams, and original photographs of the Adams family home (later owned by Sayers descendants) seem to have passed from Robert Adams, Sr. to Jane's eldest son, Henry Clay Sayers (1840-1926), to his son Henry Clay Sayers, Jr. (1872-1945) to his daughter Wilma (Sayers) (Wisecarver) Milliken (1899-2005) who donated them to the Greene County Historical Society.

Helen (Denny) Howard, a third great-granddaughter of Robert & Rebecca (Blackmore) Adams, made copies of the Robert Adams, Sr. Family Bible data pages and the ancestor photographs while Wilma owned them. Helen's copies were inherited by Farley Toothman who donated them to the Cornerstone Genealogical Society (144 E. Greene St., PO Box 547; Waynesburg, Pennsylvania 15370).

PHOTO COMPARISON: The photographs of Robert Adams, Sr. and his wife, Rebecca (Blackmore) Adams found with the family Bible provide positive photo comparisons for Robert's identity.