

# Genealogy News

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## Alvin C. Adams Hall Dedication

On October 19, 2007, Ohio University dedicated its newest residence hall after an African American, Alvin C. Adams; the first black person to graduate from the Ohio University School of Journalism.

Adams, a rural American youth, dreamed of going to college, but like many of his time, did not think his dreams could come true. Times were difficult for his mother, Ada, who did housework to keep food on the table for two children and her four sisters and brothers she was also raising.

A teacher, Bonnie Kendall, saw the potential in Alvin. Knowing that the OU School of Journalism was having an open house, she took Alvin and introduced him to Professor J. L. Hortin. She requested that Professor Hortin look out for Alvin when he attended OU.

Hortin did look out for Al by demanding better from Alvin as compared to other students. Hortin told Al his chosen field was going to be difficult for him to break barriers to get a job and his skills had to be better than others. While his fellow journalism classmates had jobs lined up before graduation, Alvin was turned down by local job sources and took on a construction job after college.

Richard Prince's Journalism online column, stated: Alvin C. Adams, who died in 2004, wrote for the Chicago Defender after his 1959 graduation and later worked for Jet magazine. John Britton, who worked with Alvin at Jet stated, "He drew some of the most dangerous assignments of that era, covering the civil rights struggles in the Black Belt of Alabama and in the Delta of Mississippi."

During the Dedication Ceremony, Ohio University President, Roderick McDavis stated, "He left a wonderful legacy—a legacy of which we are very proud and of which we will always remember. Today is a great day for Ohio University. Today is a day that will live in our memories.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Kent Smith stated it was a precious moment when he called Ada Woodson Adams and informed her the University was considering naming a residence hall after her late husband. He said there was a very long silence—a minute or more—before he heard a cry and she said, "I can't believe it!"

Dr. Smith stated that OU students suggested naming the residence hall after a prominent African-American. Graduate student Will Tarter took on a leadership role in gathering forces and information to present to the OU Board of Trustee.

During the dedication ceremony Al's daughter, Amelia, stated, "My father began his life—as he like to tell it—in a coal mining shack at the foot of Carr Hill, which is in Morgan County just a step

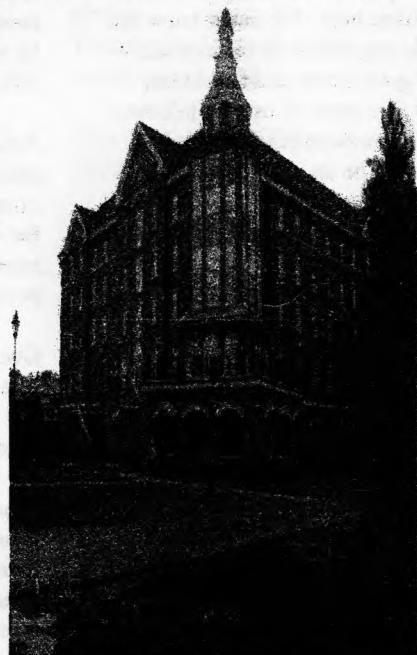
across the Athens county line. My brother Clay will tell you more about my Dad's beginnings and early history. For now understand that he started life in a poor, rural,

large extended family. He was a shy, reserved child who liked words far more than he liked farming and mining."

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## Adams Hall Dedication

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An OU Outlook article written by George Mauzy, October 22, 2007, quoted Amelia Marie Adams describing her father, "As a kind and caring man who always put others first. He was a thoughtful person, who never discouraged people," she said. "What mattered to him was that everyone followed their dreams—whatever made them happy". During the ceremony, she went on to say: "If he were here today, meeting each of you—the residents of this beautiful building, he would not tell you about himself, instead he would ask about you and the path you want to follow. He would want to know your hopes and dreams, and he would provide you with whatever encouragement he could, to help you along the path that is uniquely yours."

In the same article, Alvin's son, A. Clay Adams III, said, "Alvin C. Adams, Jr. was born a poor colored boy just down the road from here. He never knew his father. He was raised by his mother. They had good times and bad times, bad times that most of us couldn't even imagine now-a-days; but through it all he grew up to be an intelligent, respectful decent young man. But he didn't let those things discourage him; instead, he used them as a source of strength." Clay continued to say, "buildings are usually named after someone who gives a lot of money, but not in this case." He didn't live or die a rich man, but because of the greatness of his heart, the kindness of his words and the generosity of his spirit, he lived and died as the wealthiest man I have ever known".

"And my Father's belief that this institution—Ohio University, gave him a chance at a life that was simply unthinkable at the time he was enrolled—that Ohio University could still be the best chance for so many young people even today to better themselves, to lift themselves up and in so doing to lift up the generations that come after them, that will come after us all, that he spent some of his last days doing whatever he could to support his alma mater."

Well over 250 acquaintances, friends and family attended the dedication. They came from far and near. They came because Al had touched their lives in a way they wanted to honor.

Steve and Shirley Swarthout drove from Decatur, Illinois. "I never worked with anyone that I held in higher regard," said Shirley, who worked with Adams for more than 15 years at Illinois Power Co. "What a wonderful role model he is for college students."

Howard Rowe said, "Al Adams was a remarkable person. During his many years in Decatur, his integrity and his dedication made a significant contribution to our community. Certainly, too, the example of his life and career was a role model for young African Americans, or for that matter, anyone".

Al's niece, Nakea Butcher, showed how much Uncle Al meant to her and stated it by wearing a shirt she had designed with Al's picture on it.

Artist, Tad Gallenger's portrait of Alvin graces the lobby in Adams Hall. It is an outstanding likeness of Al and it captures the essences of the man. Al's eyes reflect intense interest in you as you glaze at the portrait.

Guests also had an opportunity to tour Adams Hall, which is designed to house 350 students. Located between Nelson Dining Hall and the enclosed tennis courts, it is the first residence hall to open on the Athens campus since 1972. Its unique configuration combines the convenience of suite living, the close interaction of a traditional corridor-style residence hall, and the community building that comes from shared living and learning spaces.

Many thanks to all the people who gave of themselves to give to Alvin's family a lasting memorial.

Ada Woodson Adams

## Zanesville Native Honored at Case Western Reserve

(Cleveland Public Library Necrology File)

An unveiling ceremony of a bust of Judge Perry B. Jackson was held at Case Western Reserve University Law School on November 29, 2007, in Cleveland, Ohio. The featured speaker for the event was Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones.

Perry Brooks Jackson, the son of Brooks Cary Jackson and Ida May Hogan Jackson began his life in humble circumstances in Zanesville, Ohio. He was born Jan 27, 1896 and graduated from Zanesville High School in 1914.

He moved to Cleveland in 1914 and entered Case Reserve University in 1915. Jackson was a graduate of Western Reserve University in 1919 and the WRU Law school in 1922 when he was admitted to the Bar. He was elected to the state legislature in 1929 and in 1933 to city council. From 1934 to 1941 he was the Assistant Police Prosecutor. In 1942, Governor Jow W. Bricker appointed Jackson to an unexpired term on the Municipal Court Bench; thus, making him the first African American judge in the state of Ohio. His tenure as judge lasted until this retirement in 1972. He continued to serve the court as a visiting judge and arbitrator until January of 1986 (age 90). He died March 20, 1986. Judge Jackson was also the Grand Treasurer of the improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World.

### Judge Jackson's Parents

Judge Perry Jackson's mother passed away at Highland View Hospital at age 85 in April 1959. She is survived by another son Roland E. and daughters Thelma Estell, Doris Grant, and Mildred Nelson.

Brooks Cary Jackson, father of Judge Perry Jackson, died in April 1946. He was 81 years old.

Submitted by Lace Lynch

## Goal is to Celebrate and Educate

Multicultural Genealogical Center of Southern Ohio, Inc. (MGC) founders Steve Smith, Gracie Hill, Ada Woodson Adams, Alvin Adams and Richard Wetzel in late 1999 began formalizing MGC for the purpose of preserving, interpreting, educating and celebrating the history and heritage of the multicultural/multiracial peoples that helped settle the Appalachian Ohio region. Their vision remains highly focused. Today, MGC continues to raise and manage private funds to create state-of-the-art facilities, secure tools for genealogical research, construct exhibits, and deliver programming that engages visitors of all ages from around the world.

Eighty-one MGC members from the states of Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia formally agree with MGC's incredible progress.

Leaders representing Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area via the Community Heritage Award, the Midwest Archives Conference via the President's Award to Ada Woodson Adams, and Practical Strategies Ltd's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of significant historical research, documentation, preservation and public education of multicultural/multiracial contributions to economic development and the well-being of Southern Ohio also have demonstrated their strong public support for MGC through formal presentation ceremonies.

During the seven years since those early discussions, MGC accomplishments and growth dictated the need to purchase a building to establish operational headquarters. Operations focus on five major programs:

- 1) Education Programs
- 2) the Capital Development Program
- 3) the Heritage Day and Festivals Program
- 4) the Community and Campus Day Program
- 5) the Website Development Program

Many dedicated volunteers have donated time, expertise and money to this endeavor because they also clearly believe in the importance of preserving and promoting the history and heritage of multicultural/multiracial peoples.

You can become an important part of this growing group by making a tax deductible, financial donation to help pay for a designated improvement of your choice.

Architect John Valentour donated more than \$5,000 in services by evaluating improvements that are needed for the headquarters house in Chesterhill, Ohio.

MGC leadership requests that you consider giving a tax deductible financial gift to help pay for improvements. Consider passing this request to folks who likely believe in the importance of multicultural/multiracial research, preservation and educational programming.

A great way of giving is via estate planning that designates MGC as one of your beneficiaries. Some prefer to donate while they are alive so that they can see the benefits of their donation. For those 70 1/2 years or older, advantage can be taken of the IRA rollover provision set to expire December 31, 2007. Others make convenient, scheduled bank draft donations. All methods qualify as tax deductible giving that helps reduce your taxes.

Contact MGC President Ada Woodson Adams for more information about giving.  
Telephone: 740-448-1305,  
email: [amadams@frognet.net](mailto:amadams@frognet.net).

This tax year ends December 31, 2007.

Russ Tippett

### ***Architectural estimates are:***

Electrical upgrade & distribution	\$14,000
Bilco door cover at basement stairs	\$ 1,400
New exterior door	\$ 1,100
New exterior front door	\$ 1,800
Floor supports	\$ 2,100
Modify interior doors	\$ 5,800
Renovation breakroom (bathroom)	\$18,000
Repair second floor structure	\$ 3,200
Repair and paint exterior	\$18,000
Install ADA ramp	\$12,000
Replace rear porch area	\$ 3,700
Insulation in attic	\$ 750
Landscaping	\$ 5,300
Fill cisterns	\$ 880
Plumbing	\$ 5,000

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*Wishing All  
A Happy Holiday Season  
and a  
Prosperous New Year*

**MGC Board of Directors**

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**Membership Information**

- Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31
- To become a member of MGC, simply fill out an application form (applications can be obtained by contacting the address below) and send it along with your dues to:

**The Multicultural Genealogical Center**  
P. O. Box 125  
Chesterhill, Ohio 43728-0125

Or bring it to the monthly meeting at The Friends Meeting House on St. Rt. 555 next to the fire station in Chesterhill. Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to take advantage of the installment plan for a lifetime membership, please contact **Mildred Vore, Treasurer**, at the monthly meeting.



**Website:**

[www.mgcenter.org](http://www.mgcenter.org)