


ELISHA S. ABERNETHY, was a son of General Russell Abernethy, of Torrington, born October 24, 1805. He entered Yale College when sixteen years old and graduated in 1825. Admitted to the bar and practiced in Waterbury, removed to Torrington and afterwards to Bridgeport, where he was the Clerk of the Superior Court of Fairfield County from 1859 to the time of his death in 1869.



ANDREW ADAMS, LL.D., was born in Stratford in 1736 and graduated at Yale College in 1760, settled in Litchfield. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the Revolutionary War, was a member of the Council of Safety two years, of the State Council for nine years, a member of the Continental Congress three years and Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1779 and 1780. He was an associate Judge of the Superior Court for four years and the Chief Justice from 1793 to the time of his decease, November 27, 1797.

The Litchfield *Monitor* mentions it as a sad and singular coincidence that Governor Wolcott and Chief Justice Adams (the two highest official dignitaries of the State), both residing in the same village and on the same street should be lying apparently at the point of death at the same time. Governor Wolcott survived his distinguished neighbor only three days.

Upon a rapidly crumbling marble slab in the West burying ground in Litchfield, is the following epitaph of this eminent man:

"In memory of the Hon. Andrew Adams, Esq., Chief Judge of the Superior Court, who died November 27, 1797, in the 63^d year of his age. Having filled many distinguished offices with great ability and dignity, he was promoted to the highest judicial office in the State, which he held for several years, in which his eminent talents shone with uncommon lustre, and were exerted to the great advantage of the public and the honor of the High Court in which he presided. He made an early profession of religion, and zealously sought to promote its true Interests. He lived a Life and died the Death of a Christian. His filial Piety and paternal tenderness are held in sweet Remembrance."

ELIJAH ADAMS, was a son of Chief Justice Adams. He studied law with Judge Reeve and was admitted to this bar in 1795, practiced his profession a few years in Litchfield and then moved to Geneva, New York.

SAMUEL ADAMS, was a native of Milford, Conn., but in early life went to Stratford, where he married Mary Fairchild. He became a prominent lawyer and a Judge of the Fairfield County Court. A few years before his death, which occurred November 12, 1788, in his 85th year, he removed to Litchfield and assisted his son, the Hon. Andrew Adams, in his extensive practice. His