

## Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

### The Polydore and Adjua DeWolf Family Genealogy

The following information contains information on those descendants that can be documented by original primary sources. Boldfaced names are those people whose genealogical lines continue, while unboldfaced names represent the end of that line. Italicized names are individuals whose lines are likely to continue with further research.

#### Generation I

##### 1

**Polydore DeWolf** c. 1795 – Nov. 1876                      m.            Adjua c. 1795- Mar. 1868

2. Isabella DeWolf, born c. 1827.<sup>1</sup>

3. Alice DeWolf, born c. August 1834, married Stephen A. Greago June 30, 1851,<sup>2</sup> died March 14, 1905, of arteriosclerosis, hardening of the arteries.<sup>3</sup>

**4. Ann DeWolf**, born c. 1839,<sup>4</sup> married Carrington Palmer Slade February 16, 1869, died September 27, 1931.<sup>5</sup>

Brought to Bristol in 1803 by Captain James DeWolf, Polydore and Adjua DeWolf were married April 16, 1826. Per this marriage record, they were described as the “free persons of colour; late servants of the Hon. James DWolf.”<sup>6</sup> In the documentary record, their names take many variations, from Polladore and Adjuary, and “Poll and Aggie”<sup>7</sup> to Pauledore and Adjue and several others in between. Even their last name saw variations between D’Wolf, D. Wolf, and DeWolf.

Both born in Africa, their years of birth are estimated to have been about 1795. Unlike some enslaved individuals who were given an anglicized name or renamed by their enslaver, Adjua kept what was a traditionally Ghanian name that was bestowed upon girls born on a Monday.

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<sup>1</sup> Birth year was calculated based on her age documented in the 1850 United States Census.

<sup>2</sup> *Arnold’s Vital Records, Vol. 8, page 569.*

<sup>3</sup> *Bristol Record of Deaths, Vol. 6, 1903-1921, page 15.*

<sup>4</sup> Birth year was calculated from United States Census Data and her death Record.

<sup>5</sup> *The Bristol Phoenix, September 29, 1931.*

<sup>6</sup> *Bristol Births Deaths and Marriages, Vol. 1, 1784-1842, page 133*

<sup>7</sup> *The Bristol Phoenix, August 16, 1935.*

The primary source record documents the birth of two children of Polydore and Adjua, and alludes to the birth of one more, a daughter. While there is speculation that the couple had others, those births were not recorded.

Adjua passed away March 28, 1868,<sup>8</sup> of “dropsy chest”, which would today be considered symptoms of congestive heart failure. She was buried in the private cemetery owned by James DeWolf on Woodlawn Avenue. Polydore lived with his daughter, Anne, during his final years and passed away on November 24, 1876, of pneumonia.<sup>9</sup> He is buried in an unnamed private cemetery speculated to be the James DeWolf Cemetery.

Little is known about daughter Isabella beyond her appearance on the 1850 census. Alice married Stephen A. Greago of Bristol, the half-brother of Ann’s husband, Carrington Palmer Slade. Alice and Stephen moved to Providence where they remained until her death. Stephen returned to Bristol and lived there until his death on April 19, 1911.<sup>10</sup> The couple had one child who passed away shortly after their birth.

Other than Polydore and Adjua, all family members are buried at the North Burial Ground, 1081 Hope Street, Bristol, RI.

## Generation II

### 4

**Ann DeWolf** m. Carrington Palmer Slade

5. Frances Slade, born June 8, 1870, died December 27, 1948, of long-term illness.

6. Alfred Slade, born c. 1872, died February 25, 1927.

7. Isabel Slade, born c. April 12, 1874, died July 28, 1890<sup>11</sup> of consumption.

Ann married Carrington Palmer Slade of Bristol, son of Daniel and Amorette, on February 16, 1869. The couple remained in Bristol their entire lives, residing at 250 Franklin Street with their three children.

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<sup>8</sup> *Bristol Record of Deaths, Vol. 5, 1850-1902, page 54.*

<sup>9</sup> *Bristol Record of Deaths, Vol. 5, 1850-1902, page 84.*

<sup>10</sup> *Bristol Record of Deaths, Vol. 6, 1903-1921, page 45.*

<sup>11</sup> *Bristol Death Records, Vol. 5, 1850-1902, page 136.*

Carrington served in the Civil War.<sup>12</sup> A member of the U.S. Navy, he enlisted in July, 1863, at age eighteen and was discharged from the Navy in October, 1864.<sup>13</sup> Serving on the *Housatonic*, *Perry*, and *Wabash*<sup>14</sup>, Carrington was stationed on the *U.S. Sloop Housatonic* along the coast of Charleston, South Carolina, in February 1864, when it was targeted by Confederate forces<sup>15</sup>. Re-enlisting February 1, 1865, for a term of three years,<sup>16</sup> he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, H Company, and was discharged October 1865.<sup>17</sup> Returning to Bristol, he worked as a laborer and a farmer. He passed away April 18, 1918, in Bristol, following a battle with Bright's Disease,<sup>18</sup> a chronic kidney infection. His death record lists his age as 73 years, two months, and two days, which puts his date of birth roughly around February 16, 1845.

Frances (Frank) Slade, the oldest son of Ann and Carrington, was born June 8, 1870<sup>19</sup> and was described as 5'7-1/2" tall, with brown eyes, curly brown hair, and a "black complexion", with a scar on his left cheek.<sup>20</sup> He held a plethora of jobs, serving as chef, chauffeur, and butler for private families before retiring due to old age. In one such position, he travelled to France with his employers, Isoline and Harriet Barnes, of Windstowe, and their vehicle to drive them through the European city. He died on December 27, 1948,<sup>21</sup> after a long illness.

Alfred A. Slade was born c. 1872,<sup>22</sup> the second child of Ann and Carrington. He married Elizabeth H. McBurnett<sup>23</sup> and the two worked together for the family of Cyris P. Brown, of 95 Tolce Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island.<sup>24</sup> Elizabeth passed away May 6, 1911, at age 36.<sup>25</sup> On February 12, 1914, Alfred married Mary E. Marshall.<sup>26</sup> They moved to East Providence where he worked as a cotton mill pressman and an apartment janitor. The couple owned a home at 125 Lyon Avenue. Alfred passed away at age 55 on February 25, 1927, in East Providence, Rhode Island, following a long illness.<sup>27</sup> Mary did not remarry after his death. There are no recorded children from either marriage.

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<sup>12</sup> Rhode Island Historical Society <https://www.rihs.org/carrington-p-slade-patriot-of-bristol-r-i/>.

<sup>13</sup> 1890 Veterans Schedule of the United States Federal Census.

<sup>14</sup> National Park Services Sailor Details, Carrington P. Slade, <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-sailors-detail.htm?sailorId=SLA0015>.

<sup>15</sup> Rhode Island Historical Society <https://www.rihs.org/carrington-p-slade-patriot-of-bristol-r-i/>.

<sup>16</sup> The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; *Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: Artillery Organizations*; Microfilm Serial: *M1818*; Microfilm Roll: *210*.

<sup>17</sup> 1890 Veterans Schedule of the United States Federal Census.

<sup>18</sup> *Bristol Death Records, Vol. 6, 1903-1921*, page 90.

<sup>19</sup> *Bristol Record of Births, Vol. 2, 1850-1902*, page 181.

<sup>20</sup> United States Passport Application, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; Roll #: *147*; Volume #: *Roll 0147 - Certificates: 61192-62091, 02 Oct 1911-25 Oct 1911*.

<sup>21</sup> *The Bristol Phoenix*, December 31, 1948.

<sup>22</sup> Birth year was estimated based on United States Census Data.

<sup>23</sup> *The Providence Journal*, October 4, 1903.

<sup>24</sup> 1910 United States Federal Census.

<sup>25</sup> *The Providence Journal*, May 9, 1911.

<sup>26</sup> *Rhode Island, U.S. Marriage Index, 1851-1920*.

<sup>27</sup> *The Bristol Phoenix*, March 1, 1927.

Ann and Carrington's third child and only daughter, Isabel, was born c. April 12, 1874. She passed away in Providence, July 28, 1890,<sup>28</sup> where she was being treated for consumption.

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<sup>28</sup> *Bristol Death Records, Vol. 5, 1850-1902*, page 136.