

What lies behind us and
what lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within us.
And when we bring what lies within us
out into the world, miracles happen.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Considered Life

Memories, dreams, reflections. These are the building blocks of *A Considered Life*, as told by Howell E. Adams, Jr. Part personal journey and part historical record, the videos tell the story of a practical yet visionary man and the large extended family into which he was born. Their deep bonds began in 18th-century Northern Ireland and continue today as new generations live into a legacy of kindness and courage.

DVD 1. **A Considered Life** (80 mins.)
A full-length documentary featuring the life
and times of Howell E. Adams, Jr.

DVD 2. **Safe Haven** (35 mins.)
Selected stories from *A Considered Life*

A co-production of *Ancient Marble Productions*
and *Pathway Communications Group*.

Produced by Jonathan M. Harris and Barbara R.
Thompson. Design by Terah Cox with Barbara
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Howell E. Adams, Jr.



A Considered Life



Howell Elliott Adams, Jr.

A Considered Life



HOWELL
ELLIOTT
ADAMS, Jr.



It was the fall of 2016 when filmmaker Jonathan Harris and I left the Collins River Valley and drove up the mountain to Beersheba Springs, Tennessee to interview Howell Adams. Our goal was to capture something of his life experiences and reflections as a husband, father, friend, businessman, philanthropist, and man of faith.



Howell brought to the making of this video a near photographic memory and an attention to detail that made for a rich telling of his family's history. We learned that his spirit of adventure



is rooted in the safe haven provided by a large and extended family that has gathered in Beersheba Springs for almost 150 years. On hiking trails, in swimming holes, and around the dining room table of the legendary White House, new generations of cousins are still forging relationships as they weave the past and present into an enduring family story.



We arrived in a golden cloud of falling leaves, a burst of color that was a brilliant metaphor for the work that followed. We spent multiple days with Howell and his wife, Madeline, as he looked back on his life from the vantage point of more than eight decades. 'In many ways,

my twilight years are the best years of all,' Howell told us. 'They allow more time for deepening my relationships, and for reflection and prayer.'

We quickly learned that for Howell the glass is seldom half full or half empty, but instead running over with delight and gratitude. For him, each new conversation and experience becomes an opportunity for a joyful, enriching encounter.



The character traits that Howell developed in childhood were carried into adulthood—an abiding faith in God, loyalty to family, a willingness to take decisive action, and to 'give until it feels good.'

These qualities provided a foundation for business success as well as philanthropy. It was his faith in God that supported him through the illness and death of his daughter, Madeline.





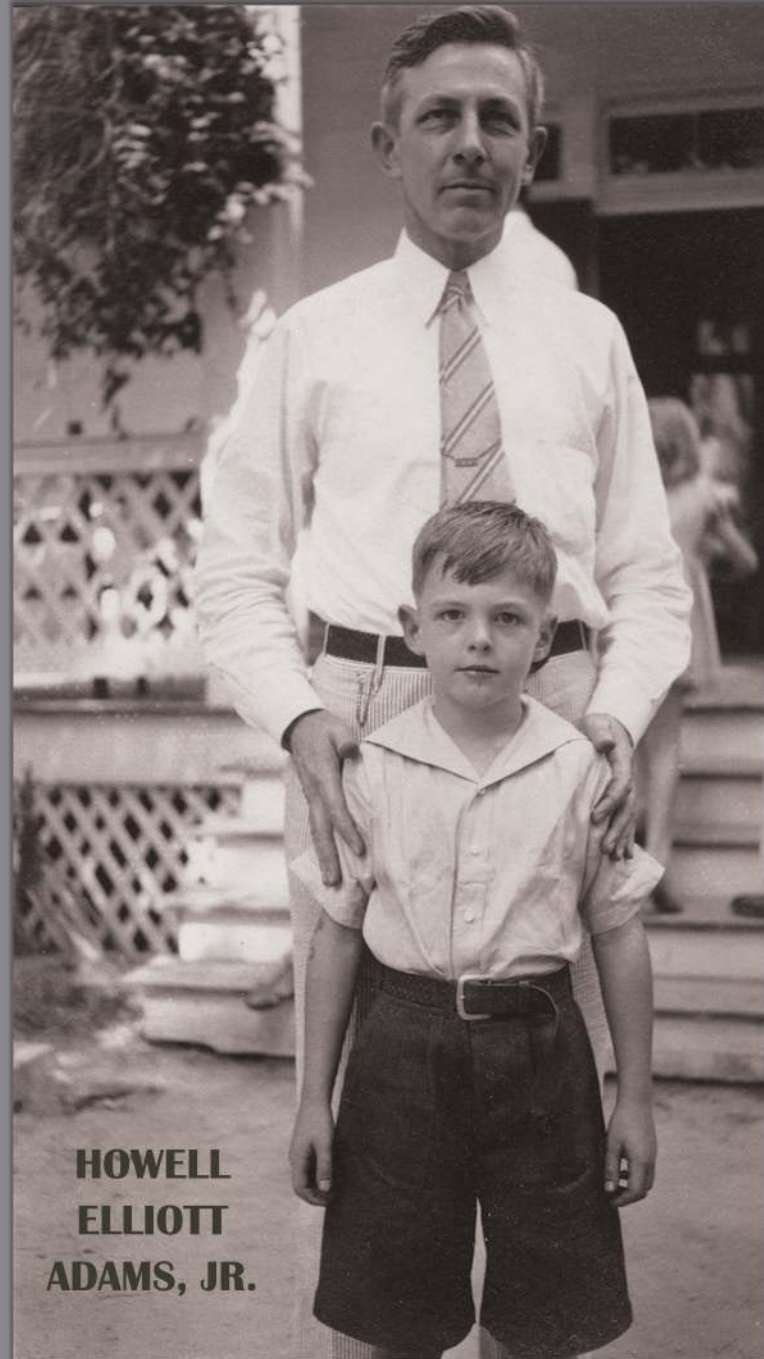
The extended time Jonathan and I spent with Howell to produce this documentary became the gift of a profound encounter with a remarkable man. We have come away with a deeper understanding of the qualities of kindness and courage, and the joyful expectancy that makes of life a grand and fulfilling adventure.

Barbara R. Thompson
January, 2020

Includes: ***A Considered Life***, a full-length documentary about the life and times of Howell E. Adams, Jr., and ***Safe Haven***, selected stories.

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