

Frederick Upham Adams Biography



Frederick Upham Adams, b. December 10, 1859 - d. August 28, 1921 - graduated from Elgin High School in 1876.

He was an American inventor, writer, and editor. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, he was the son of an American Civil War veteran and mechanical engineer. He died on August 28, 1921, at Larchmont, New York. In 1886 he invented the electric light post, now standard in the U.S. In 1887 he invented electric light towers

Late in 1896 Adams wrote a social reform novel published by Charles H. Kerr & Company of Chicago. He was co-editor of the monthly reform magazine *The New Time* in 1897 and 1898. He wrote exclusively for the magazine, which was also published by Kerr, according to the publisher mid-1897.

He specialized in improvements to heavy-duty engines for harvesting and locomotion, and author whose *Near Future Utopia, President John Smith: The Story of a Peaceful Revolution* (Written in 1920), elaborates upon the right of the electorate to choose the American Cabinet, and to earn a living wage without qualification. *The Kidnapped Millionaires: A Tale of Wall Street and the Tropics* (1901), though not a utopia as such, does present the tycoons of Wall Street as a doomed race.

His invention of a streamlined train and a patent issued in 1893, was actually preceded by a Samuel R. Caltrop who also patented a streamlined train in 1865. Both however were preceded by European inventors many years before. Both designs were patterned after ships in that the front was pointed like the bow of a ship with the tender tapered to meet the train and “vestibuled by hoods completely encircling the space between the tender and the cars. Each car of the train would also be “vestibuled” and a false bottom would extend beneath the cars, dropping within three inches of the track. In 1886 he also invented the electric light post.