Lewis Austin Adams was born on November 12, 1886, in Booth Bay Harbor, Maine to Frank and Elizabeth Adams, both also of Maine.¹ He was the oldest of five children in a family of two sons and three daughters, although at some point prior to 1900 his mother had given birth to a child that by that year was no longer living.² By 1900, the family had moved from Maine to Boston, Mass., where his father was employed as a motorman.³ They lived at 90 Whitfield Street.⁴ At this time, 13-year-old Lewis was attending school.⁵

Around 1907, Lewis A. Adams enrolled at Suffolk Law School, graduating in 1910 as one of ten in the school’s second graduating class.⁶ At this time, he was still living with his parents and four siblings, although by 1910 the family had moved to 16 Westville Street in Boston.⁷ In April of 1910 he was working as a glassworker in a shop, but by 1917 he had his own law practice at an office on Tremont Street in Boston.⁸ Also by 1917 he had moved to 306 Washington Street in Boston, presumably with his parents and siblings since the entire family, except his sister, Florence, was living at that address in 1920.⁹ According to his draft registration card, Lewis A. Adams was not able to join the Armed Forces during World War I because his left leg was disabled and he was near-sighted.¹⁰

By 1920, 33-year-old Lewis A. Adams was still single and living with his parents and four of his siblings at 306 Washington Street, and still had his own law practice.¹¹

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¹ World War I Draft Registration Card 1241/70, June 5, 1917; United States Census 1900, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 1466, Sheet 3. Note: In the 1900 census, Lewis Adams’ mother name is unclear, but does not appear to be Elizabeth, although the 1910 and 1920 censuses both list her name as Elizabeth. Also, the 1900 census spells Lewis’ name as Louis, but the later censuses spell it as Lewis.
² United States Census 1910, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 1568, Sheet 8A; U.S Census 1900, Ibid.
³ U.S Census 1900, Ibid. Note: It is possible that the family moved to Massachusetts around 1899, since the 1910 census lists all of the children, ranging in age from 23 to 13, as being born in Maine, except 11-year-old Bernice, who is listed as being born in Massachusetts. The 1900 census, however, lists daughter Ella (Eleanor in the 1910 and 1920 censuses, b. 1888), as being born in Massachusetts, and the 1920 census lists daughter Bernice as being born in Maine.
⁴ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.
⁵ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.
⁷ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.
⁸ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.; WWI Draft Registration Card, Ibid.
⁹ WWI Draft Registration Card, Ibid.; United States Census 1920, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District D422, Sheet 16B.
¹⁰ WWI Draft Registration Card, Ibid.
¹¹ U.S Census 1920, Ibid.