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## Southeasterly Town Lot Histories of Fairfield, Pennsylvania

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# Southeasterly Town Lot Histories of Fairfield, Pennsylvania

## **Abstract**

Each lot history give the original lot number, original owner, the current address, the owner of the lot in 1860, a description of the lot or dwelling in 1860, a recital of ownership with as much detail as is known, a comprehensive lot history, any known residents in 1860 (may be different than lot owner), and any family notes on any residents mentioned in the lot history. The research is comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive. Thorough information for all lots was not always available to the researcher.

## **Keywords**

Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Fairfield, Town Lots

## Southeasterly Lot Histories

**Town Lot #1E:** Rufus C. Swope Residence. **Current Address:** 10 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Rufus C. Swope. **Description:** Two-story, frame, dwelling-house, still standing. **Recital:** William Miller, in 1801; James Hill, by 1821; David Blythe, by 1846; James D. Paxton, 1846; Rufus C. Swope, March 22, 1848.

**History of the Lot:** The early history of Lot 1E appears to be associated with the extensive tannery property which bounded this lot on the south and which is included in this study as “Outlying Lot F.” Rufus Swope purchased this lot in 1848 and was the owner throughout the Civil War. He must have encountered some financial trouble in 1875, because his property was put up for sale by an assignee. It was described at that time as a lot of ground 60 by 252 feet, fronting on York Street, bounded on the northeast by an alley, on the southeast by lot of Lewis Artzberger, and on the southwest by lot of Peter Shivley, improved with a two story frame roughcast house, filled in with brick, a frame stable, carriage house, an excellent well of water and fine cistern.

**1860 Residents:** Rufus Christian Swope (August 22, 1822-October 9, 1908); Evelyn Forest Swope (1822-1894); Elvira F. Swope (1847); Granville H. Swope (1849); Augustus S. Swope (1851); Ephraim Brinkerhoff Swope (1854-1944); Clayton M. Swope (1856); Edward McPherson Swope (October 17, 1857-January 14, 1942); Lydia A. Forrest (1834); Ephraim Dixon (1848); Harvey Carter (1840), black, tanner.

**Family Notes:** *Boyd's Business Directory* (1860), lists Rufus C. Swope of Fairfield as a tanner, but that was apparently just of his many talents. The *1886 History of Adams County* gave an extensive biography of Swope. “Rufus C. was born August 20, 1822, in Littlestown. His mother died when he was thirteen years old, and he was then sent to learn the trade of a tanner with Daniel Crome, at Littlestown, where he stayed until he was nineteen, when he rented a tannery in that place, which he carried on until 1852, at which time he bought a tannery in Fairfield, which he ran until 1866, when he sold it. . . . In 1862 he was appointed, by Gov. Curtain, draft commissioner of this district, and delivered a regiment to the authorities at Gettysburg

[The 165<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Drafted Militia]. In December, 1862, he was appointed by President Lincoln captain, assistant quartermaster, and remained in the service until August, 1866, being on duty in Washington for a year after the close of the war. In the fall of 1866 he was appointed internal revenue collector of the Sixteenth Congressional District, which position he held until March, 1867, when he failed to be confirmed by the Senate, in consequence of having identified himself with the Johnson administration.” Swope’s position as “draft commissioner,” made him unpopular with many young men in the area. This was evidenced by an incident that occurred following the extensive draft of men from this area in October of 1862 and just a week after J.E.B. Stuart’s raid. The *Adams Sentinel* reported that “the stable of Col. Rufus C. Swope, in Fairfield, near his tannery, was fired on Monday evening last, and consumed . . . . Suspicion at once fell upon two men named Joseph Saylor and David Bostick, who had been making threats of vengeance upon Col. S., the former having been drafted. They were arrested, and are now in prison.” A register of officers in the United States Army confirms that in November of 1862 Swope received a commission as assistant quartermaster in the United States Volunteers. He served in different capacity with the quartermaster’s department throughout the war. In March 1864, he was listed as the quartermaster of the Second Division, Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac, a division formerly associated with the First Corps. At the end of the war, he was recognized “for the efficient manner in which he has supplied the wants of the command; for the superior character of his transportation under all circumstances, and for his faithfulness in the discharge of his duties.” He was honorably discharged from service on August 4, 1866.

**Civil War Notes:** Lieutenant Christian Balder, Sixth United States Cavalry, met a tragic death in the streets of Fairfield on July 3, 1863. At the conclusion of the action east of Fairfield, Balder was one of those who attempted to escape pursuing rebels by riding through the village. Spectators witnessed the “lone cavalryman” as he “rode madly up the street with a capless, red-headed Confederate in close pursuit. The Union cavalryman suddenly wheeled his horse into an alley [today South Miller Street] and turned to meet his enemy. There was a sharp rifle report and Lt. Christian Balder fell from his horse critically wounded. He dragged himself to the porch of the Swope

house where members of the family took him inside to care for him. Knowing that death was near, Lt. Balder asked Swope to send his personal belongings to his family in Connecticut.” Another account stated simply that Balder “was shot through the body . . . and laid in the hall where he died.” Apparently, Balder had refused to surrender because of an incident earlier in the war: “two of his friends came to inquire about him [at the Swope house]. At some previous time, they said, he had been accused by his superior officer of cowardice. He declared then that never again would any man make such a charge.” Lieutenant Adna R. Chaffee was another member of the Sixth United States Cavalry wounded in the action and brought to the Swope house, where he was cared for by the family. He recovered and eventually rose to the rank of Major General, commanding the United States forces in the Boxer Rebellion. In August 1903, a “metal tablet” was placed on the Swope house to commemorate its use as a hospital. Edward McPherson Swope (son of Rufus and Evelyn) was just five-years old in 1863. Upon his death in Altoona, Pennsylvania, in 1942, the obituary made specific mention of his being a “witness of Lee’s retreat. “The family home was at Fairfield, Adams County, and the son many times recalled that he was just tall enough to get his elbows on the window sills and from there witnessed the remnants of the Confederate army making their way south toward Maryland after the battle which turned the tide against the south.”

**Sources:** H. C. Bradsby, *1886 History of Adams County*, Reprint (Knightstown, Ind.: The Bookmark, 1992), 447-448; “Valuable Tan Yard Property,” *Star and Banner*, February 4, 1848; “Fire,” *Adams Sentinel*, October 21, 1862; “Assignee’s Sale,” *Star and Sentinel*, October 7, 1875; “Saw Room where Chaffee lay Wounded,” *Compiler*, September 30, 1902; “Fairfield Items,” *Star and Sentinel*, June 24, 1903. “Col. Rufus C. Swope passes away at great age,” *Compiler*, October 14, 1908; Thriving Town can Cater to needs of Many,” *Gettysburg Times*, June 28, 1927; William Storrick, “The Cavalry Fight at Fairfield,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 10, 1934; “Witness of Lee’s Retreat Expires,” *Altoona Mirror*, January 15, 1942; “Officer Died in Swope Home,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951; “Southern Armies Thrice were Temporary Visitors as Events of the Civil War Engulfed Village,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951; “Fairfield Grew From Section of Maryland Province Known

Formerly as Carroll's Delight," *Gettysburg Times*, June 25, 1956; *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Reports of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Government Printing Office, Washington: 1889), 33: 774 and 46: 980; Francis Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, (Government Printing Office, Washington: 1903), 1: 941; *Boyd's Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).

**Town Lot #2E (Western Half):** Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 10 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** James D. Paxton. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** James Agnew, in 1801; Heirs of William Miller (Maria M. Paxton); Andrew Marshall, August 15, 1865.

**History of the Lot:** At some early date, Lot 2E was divided in half, the western portion apparently being retained by William Miller. Following his death, it was retained by his heirs, the last surviving of whom was his daughter Maria, married to James D. Paxton. In 1865, Andrew Marshall purchased the western half of Lot 2E from Maria Paxton, "in right of her father, William Miller, Esq., deceased," for \$120.

**Family Notes:** According to the family history, James Dunlop Paxton (June 11, 1796-February 10, 1864) "possessed intelligence and enterprise, and was proficient in mining and manufacturing iron. He erected the Maria Furnace [named after his wife Maria, daughter of William Miller] in Adams County, Pennsylvania, situated at the foot of South Mountain, ten miles from Gettysburg. He was a partner with Hon. Thaddeus Stevens in a rolling mill and furnace located in Caledonia, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, but this enterprise was destroyed in the Civil War." Paxton moved to Baltimore at some point and died there in 1864. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery.

**Civil War Notes:** In April of 1861, an American Flag was raised on or near this half lot. The following article appeared shortly thereafter in the *Compiler*: "The patriotic citizens of Fairfield and vicinity raised a Liberty Pole and unfurled to the breeze the American Flag on Monday afternoon, amid long continued, enthusiastic cheers. The pole is 110 feet long, and the flag a neat and graceful one, the handiwork of the ladies, who ever exhibit their true devotion to the

Union, and are ever willing to contribute all they can to their country.” The officers for the occasion were: President, Captain P. Dick. Vice Presidents, John Mickley, John Bennett, James H. Marshall, T. A. Marshall, Jacob Musselman. Secretaries, J. Stem, Charles Sefton. Chief Marshal, Thomas Marshall. The flag was later torn down by Confederates during J.E.B. Stuart’s October, 1862 raid.

**Sources:** ACDB Y-70; Adelaide Paxton Doran, *The Paxton Family, A Genealogy* (Glendale, CA; 1987); “Pole Raising,” *Compiler*, April 29, 1861.

**Town Lot #2E (Eastern Half):** Andrew Marshall Residence. **Current Address:** 10 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Andrew Marshall. **Description:** Two-story, frame, dwelling-house. **Recital:** James Agnew, in 1801; William Miller, in 1804; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Mary Wilson, March 7, 1857; Heirs of Mary Wilson, May 20, 1859; Andrew Marshall, February 2, 1860 and March 23, 1860; N. C. Trout, in 1919.

**History of the Lot:** According to the inset on the 1858 wall map of Adams County, James Wilson’s residence was located on Lot 2, but it is clearly shown on the western side of the lot instead of the east. It is uncertain if this is an error, but the history of the property is certainly very confusing. According to a biographical sketch, Andrew Marshall, “in 1860 . . . bought a property in Fairfield, which has ever since been his home.” In 1860, Marshall purchased the eastern half of lot 2 from the heirs of Mary Wilson in two different transactions, totaling \$1,200. The transfer of the eastern half of the lot from Wilson to Marshall is also noted in tax records as a house and lot worth \$250. In 1865, Marshall purchased the western half of Lot 2, and the value then increased to \$333. In 1871, the value increased once again to \$450. It appears that the house we see today was built at that time, or it is possible that the original structure was greatly enlarged. The 1872 *Atlas* indicates this lot as being the residence of “A. Marshall.”

**1860 Residents:** Andrew Marshall (November 18, 1818-November 16, 1904); Helen Knox Marshall (March 11, 1829- April 1, 1893).

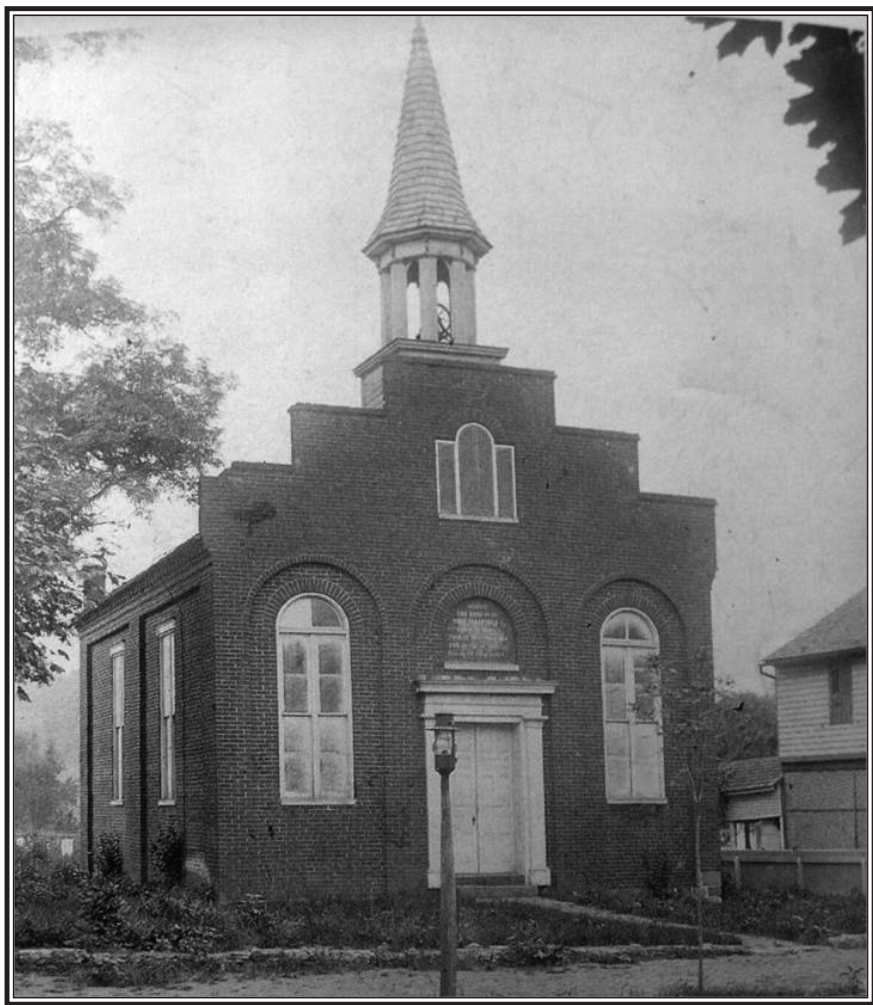
**Civil War Notes:** Following the Civil War, Andrew Marshall filed a claim, stating that the Rebels had taken from him one “Rockaway Buggy” valued at \$125. According Lewis McGlaughlin in an affidavit, “on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 1863 he was at his home in Fairfield, and on that day Lee’s Rebel army retreated through said town, that he saw the Rebels have the buggy of said Marshall and take it away with them, that he saw said Marshall in the buggy with a Rebel trying to get him to leave the buggy, but in spite of all his entreaties the Rebel took the buggy along with them.”

**Sources:** ACDB T-424, V-141, V-143; Civil War Border Claims Files, Andrew Marshall, PHMC; H. C. Bradsby, *1886 History of Adams County*, Reprint (Knightstown, Ind.: The Bookmark, 1992), 442-443; *Fairfield in the Civil War*, 75; “Public Sale,” *Gettysburg Times*, February 20, 1946.

**Town Lot #3E:** Saint Mary’s Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery. **Current Address:** 12 East Main Street. **1863 Owner:** Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church. **Description:** Large brick structure. **Recital:** James McCreary, in 1801; William Miller to James McCleary, April 28, 1804; Matthew Dill, 1810; Heirs of Matthew Dill, April 10, 1812; Heirs of Susanna Dill, November 19, 1816; William McClean, May 28, 1845; Trustees of Roman Catholic Church, March 26, 1852; Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, May 16, 1868.

**History of the Lot:** In 1804, William Miller issued a deed for this lot to James McCleary at a cost of \$6.67. However, McCreary is listed as the holder of this lot in the 1801 agreement, so he had already established some type of ownership prior to the issuing of the deed. In the 1802 tax records, he is listed with a house and lot valued at \$350. The 1810 tax list notes the transfer of a house and lot from McCreary to Matthew Dill valued at \$360, and in 1811 it was increased to \$400. Matthew Dill, a soldier of the American Revolution, died on April 10, 1812. His will mentions of “the house and lot I now live upon in Fairfield,” which he bequeathed to his wife Susannah. She died in 1816, and a public sale the following year described the property as “a house and lot in Millerstown, Adams County. The house is two stories high, with a back building attached to it—the whole conveniently laid off in rooms. There is also a good stable on





*St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (lot 3E), c. 1904, ACHS.*

the lot.” Perhaps the back building was added in 1811, as shown by a tax increase. The property remained as part of the estate of Susannah Dill for more than 30 years. The 1845 tax records note the transfer of a house and lot valued at \$250 from the heirs of the Widow Dill to William McClean. In 1852 the lot was purchased in preparation of the construction of the Catholic Church, and the original Dill house was removed. According to the *Gettysburg Compiler* of August 9, 1852, “The corner stone of the Catholic Church in Fairfield, in this county, will be laid on Sunday next, at 4 o’clock, P.M.” In 1904, the

church was greatly altered and expanded. Fairfield tax records for 1919 actually list the “Catholic Church” as being valued at \$6,000. The records of this church are in the collections of the Adams County Historical Society. Originally, there was a cemetery in rear of the church, but at some point it was removed.

**Family Notes:** Matthew Dill, a soldier of the American Revolution, and his wife are interred at the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, where their stones can still be seen.

**Sources:** ACDB B-314, Z-388; Estate Papers of Matthew Dill, ACHS; Notice in *Compiler*, August 9, 1852; Notice in *Star and Banner*, October 13, 1854; *Commemoration Book, Saint Mary’s Church* (Fairfield, 1966); *Fairfield in the Civil War*, 18-19.

**Town Lot #4E:** Abraham Hill McCreary Residence. **Current Address:** 14 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** A. Hill McCreary. **Description:** Two-story, frame, dwelling-house, still standing. **Recital:** John Miller to William Reed, February 22, 1787; Yost Arnold, January 14, 1812; Samuel Rife, 1815; Charles and Daniel McAllister, 1817; Samuel Rife, April 18, 1823; Jacob Bushey, June 11, 1825; James Reed, April 8, 1828; Thomas C. Miller, April 12, 1828; John McGinley, May 5, 1831; Heirs of John McGinley, by 1835; Zephaniah Herbert, April 6, 1836; Rufus Swope, March 29, 1849; A. Hill McCreary, March 29, 1855; Heirs of A. H. McCreary, 1882; William S. McCreary, May 4, 1901; Frank Moore, April 1, 1918.

**History of the Lot:** The house standing at this lot is one of the oldest documentable houses in the town, and it is one of a handful of properties whose recital states that the lot was purchased directly from John Miller. William Reed received a deed for this property in 1787, and he appears in the 1789 Hamiltonban Township tax list, assessed with a house and lot valued at 40 pounds and a lot valued at 4 pounds. So presumably, the house on this lot was built between 1787 and 1789, but it could be earlier, as a reminiscence written by Williams’s son, John Reed, in about 1850 states: “I was born in Millerstown in June, 1786.” In 1797, William Reed is taxed with a house and lot valued at \$100. Tax lists indicates the transfer of a house and lot in 1817, valued at \$650, from Samuel Rife to Daniel McAllister. An

1823 sheriff's sale describes the property as "a certain lot of ground situate in Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, adjoining lands of John McKesson and others, on which are erected a two-story log dwelling house and log stable—the estate of Charles and Daniel McAllister." The 1825 tax records list the transfer of a house and lot valued at \$400 from the heirs of Daniel McAllister to Samuel Rife, and in 1826 the value dropped to \$300. In 1828, the lot sold for \$300. A description of this property from the estate papers of John McGinley in 1835 notes "a certain lot of ground in the town of Millerstown, on which are erected a two story log rough cast house, stable, and other improvements adjoining lots of Ezra Blythe, the heirs of John Dill and others." In 1836 the lot sold for \$600. In 1855 the property sold for \$650, indicating that the house had not changed very much in previous decades. On the 1858 map this is shown as the residence of A. H. McCreary. And although references clearly place him there earlier, he is not taxed for the lot until 1858. Also shown on the map is a small shop or office just to the east of the house. Speaking of this small building, an 1853 advertisement mentions that Dr. Samuel E. Hall had relocated himself in Fairfield and set up a doctor's "office adjoining Mr. Hill McCreary's." According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, the office was later used by "two brothers, Warner and William McCreary, [who] conducted the same type of woodworking and undertaking business the early part of the century near the First National Bank." A notice for the estate of William S. McCreary in 1917 describes this as "A lot of ground . . . fronting 60 ft. on the south side of Main Street and running back 240 ft. to a public alley; adjoining lands of the Catholic Church on the west and lot of James Cunningham on the east. Said lot of ground being improved with a two-story frame dwelling house with all modern conveniences . . . also a large two-story frame store building . . . The rear of the lot contains a stable and large buggy shed." The two-story frame store building was later converted into a house (current 16 East Main Street). Fairfield historian Frank Moore, the grandson of A. Hill McCreary, purchased this property from the estate of William S. McCreary and lived on the lot for many years. In some deeds, the number for this lot is mistakenly identified as "No. 5 on said plot of the town," but from various descriptions it is clearly Lot 4E. At a public

sale years ago, Robert Fitez purchased a large collection of original unrecorded deeds for this property. He gratuitously made these deeds available for this project, greatly expanding our knowledge of the lot.

**1860 Residents:** Abraham Hill McCreary (1813 - 1882); Martha McCreary (1822 – October 11, 1900); Margaret McCreary (1848); Ann B. McCreary (1850); Robert W. McCreary (1852); Martha J. McCreary (1856); Warner H. McCreary (1858); Harriet McCreary (1859).

**Family Notes:** William , who purchased this lot in 1787, married Nancy Miller, the daughter of John Miller, about 1777. According to Reed's son, "My father received only an English education. He was a man of great energy of character of strong intellect. In 1778 he served one campaign in the revolutionary struggle. He was an ardent Whig. He served in the capacity of major of militia. He had thro' life a predication for military tactics, was for many years colonel of a regiment and afterwards a major general of a division composed of militia of York and Adams county. With Michael Slagel, he was a member of the convention from York County in 1790 which framed the first constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served four years as a senator in the state legislature, representing York and Adams County from 1806 till 1810. He was an active and influential member. When war broke out in 1812 with Great Britain, he was appointed adjutant general of the state by Gov. Snyder. He took an active part in procuring an organization of the militia so as to render them fit for service . . . . The great labor and exposure incident to this service produced in him a fatal disease of which he died in New Alexandria, Westmorland County, in October 1813. He was then in the 62 year of his age. He was buried in the church yard at Salem Meeting House in Salem Township, Westmoreland County, a marble slab with a suitable inscription marks the spot of his interment. My mother survived till 1828, when she died in Millerstown, Adams County, and is buried in the Marsh-Creek Burying ground."

**Civil War Notes:** A. Hill McCreary was the captain of a local militia unit, the Adams Dragoons, organized at the outbreak of the war in 1861. In 1862, he served as captain of this unit when it was temporarily called into Federal service at the time of the Maryland Campaign. During J.E.B. Stuart's Raid in October of 1862, it was

men of his command who engaged advance elements of Stuart's column in a small skirmish outside of the village of McKnightstown (or New Salem), resulting in the capture of a Rebel soldier. That same day, the Confederates ransacked Paxton and McCreary's store located on Lot 6E. In June of 1863 during the Gettysburg Campaign, many of his men (excepting McCreary) were again mustered into Federal service under Captain Robert Bell, eventually becoming Company B, Twenty-First Pennsylvania Cavalry. Of course, the most extraordinary story associated with the McCreary family during the Civil War concerns that of Martha who was pregnant and expecting at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. On the afternoon of July 5, during the retreat of the Confederate Army through Fairfield, elements of the Union Sixth Army Corps under General John Sedgwick shelled the Rebel rear-guard at the edge of the town. According to family legend, Martha went into labor and the child was born in the cellar of the home. In honor of the Union commander, the child was named William Sedgwick McCreary.

**Sources:** ACDB 89-265, 145-28, 146-61; Samuel Rife to Jacob Bushey, June 11, 1825, URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; Jacob Bushey to James Reed, April 8, 1828; URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; James Reed to Thomas C. Miller, April 12, 1828, URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; Thomac C. Miller to John McGinly, May 5, 1831, URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; John M. McGinly's Administrator to Zephaniah Herbert, April 6, 1836, URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; Zephaniah Herbert to Rufus C. Swope, March 29, 1849; URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; Rufus C. Swope to A. Hill McCreary, March 29, 1855, URD in possession of Robert Fitez, Fairfield; Civil War Pension Papers of A. Hill McCreary, ACHS; Estate Papers of John McGinley, ACHS; "Dr. Samuel E. Hall," *Compiler*, April 18, 1853; "Excitement in Gettysburg," *Star and Banner*, October 16, 1862; "More War Time Recollections," *Star and Sentinel*, September 5, 1907; Obituary of William S. McCreary, *Compiler*, January 6, 1917; "Administrators Sale," *Gettysburg Times*, August 25, 1917; "Properties Sold," *Gettysburg Times*, August 27, 1917; "Reminiscences Dedicated to My Children," *Gettysburg Times*, November 16, 1929; *Glimpses of Fairfield's Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee, 1976).

**Town Lot #5E:** Sarah A. Blythe Residence. **Current Address:** 18 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Sarah Amanda Blythe. **Description:** Two-story, weather-boarded, dwelling-house, still standing. **Recital:** William Miller to John McGinley, December 18, 1800; Heirs of John McGinley, August 23, 1811; Zephaniah Herbert, June 4, 1812; James McKesson, Jr., February 28, 1817; John A. McKesson, September 29, 1818; James Paxton, by 1823; Heirs of John Paxton, by 1827; Sarah Amanda McKesson, in 1828; Ezra Blythe, by 1831; Sarah Amanda Blythe, by 1856; John Paxton, 1876; James Cunningham, 1900 and 1919.

**History of the Lot:** Again, Lot 5E is the site of one of Fairfield's early taverns. In 1800 John McGinley purchased Lots 5E and 6E from William Miller for 350 pounds, which indicates that some structure stood there at the time of the sale. McGinley appears on the 1801 agreement as the owner of these lots, and the 1802 tax records list him with two lots valued at \$650. Advertisements in the *Adams Centinel* indicate that McGinley ran a store in Fairfield starting in 1803. An 1811 sale describes this as "Two lots of ground in Fairfield (alias Millerstown) late the property of John M'Ginly, deceased—on which are the following buildings: A large convenient dwelling house (which was long occupied as a tavern), a store house, stabling and sheds; a good well of water and garden near the kitchen." According to deeds, the two lots were purchased in 1812 by Zephaniah Herbert for \$1,085. In 1817, the property sold for \$3,000. The following year it sold yet again for \$3,500. It appears from advertisements that there were several attempts to divide the property and sell the dwelling house and store individually. It is possible that for a time, Lots 5 and 6 were separated and then reunited again later during the ownership of the Blythe family. An 1823 sheriff's sale describes "a certain two-story dwelling house and kitchen, stable and lot, situate in Millerstown . . . fronting on Main Street—late the estate of John A. McKesson." An 1827 advertisement for the property describes it as "A lot, containing one-third of an acre, in Millerstown, bounded by lots of Col. James Reid and others, on which are, a log weather-boarded house, with a back building, frame store-house, and frame stable—the estate of John Paxton, deceased." In 1832 it was again described as, "A lot of ground, situate in Millerstown—on which are erected a two-story double dwelling house—formerly the property



of John Paxton, dec'd . . . a reasonable credit will be given by John Hensel.” Regardless of Paxton’s association with the lot, the property stayed in the McKesson family, and adjoining deeds continued to refer to the lots as belonging to the heirs of John McKesson. In 1828 Sarah Amanda McKesson (daughter of John McKesson) is listed as the owner of the lot. In 1829 she married Erza Blythe. A very complicated matter arose when Erza fell into financial trouble, and his properties were assigned to his creditors. Initially, Lots 5E and 6E were taken from the couple, but following Ezra’s death and a lengthy court battle, the assignee deed (or indenture) was invalidated, and Sarah remained in possession of her property. Following her death in 1874, the property was described in the estate of Amanda Blythe as “two lots in Fairfield fronting on Main Street bounded on east and south by public allies, on west by lot of A. H. McCreary, two story frame dwelling house, with a one story addition on the west, wood house, large frame stable with room for six or 8 horses, a frame store house with sheds attached, a good well of water, cistern, choice fruit.” In the 1919 tax records, Lots 5E and 6E are referred to as one lot valued at \$2,250 and owned by James Cunningham.

**1860 Residents:** Sarah Amanda McKesson Blythe (1792 – October 31, 1874); Charles J. Sefton (February 11, 1834 – June 13, 1900); Isabella Sefton (February 26, 1839 – January 24, 1898); William Row (1840); Jemima Hull (1842).

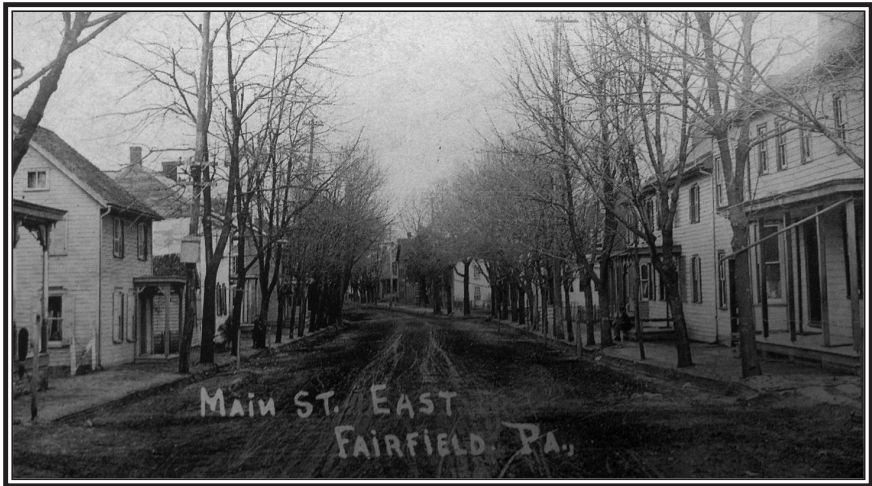
**Family Notes:** Sarah Amanda McKesson was the daughter of John McKesson. She married Ezra Blythe on December 30, 1829. Ezra died on August 25, 1844, and is today buried in the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery. James Cunningham, who later owned the property, was married to a daughter of Robert R. Blythe and was most likely a niece of Sarah McKesson Blythe. The Cunningham family owned the property for some time afterwards, so there was a continuous family connection with the house for over 100 years. Charles J. Sefton and his family are shown living with Mrs. Blythe at the time of the 1860 census, but in 1862 Charles purchased the property of Henry Overdeer (Lots 15S and 16S) and presumably removed to that location.

**Civil War Notes:** There are several articles pertaining to the Blythe House and its connection to Major Samuel H. Starr of the Sixth United States Cavalry, who was wounded in the fighting outside of Fairfield on July 3, 1863. A 1927 article reported that “Major Starr, who was in charge of the Sixth Regulars, was cared for at what is now the Cunningham place. His amputated arm for a time lay buried in the garden there, but when he recovered the doughty major took both arms with him!” According to a 1934 article, “Major Starr, who lost an arm, was removed to the Blythe house (now the James Cunningham house), where he and others were cared for. The Cunningham house bears the following inscription: Major Samuel H. Starr and other wounded officers of the Sixth U.S. Cavalry were cared for here, July 3, 1863.” The original plaque, believed to have been placed on the building in 1903, was a wooden sign. This was replaced by the current bronze memorial plaque in 1965. A 1951 article noted that “when the major was carried to the door, Aunt Amanda Blythe who had consented to the use of her house said rather tartly to the men who carried him, ‘Does he have lice?’ Their answer must have satisfied her for the major was carried into the house and later an arm was amputated there. The amputated member was buried in the garden but [physically] pained the major so much afterward that he had to have it taken up and placed in a more comfortable box.” The story of the arm buried in the back yard became something of a Fairfield legend. In 1957, local resident and historian Frank Moore related that the arm “later caused the major trouble. He said that the arm he had lost was hurting and he and some companions came here, dug up the arm, claimed they found it buried in a cramped position, reburied it, and as far as is known the major never had trouble with that arm again.”

**Sources:** ACDB A-274, F-368, F-394; H-394; “On Wednesday,” *Centinel*, November 26, 1811; “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Adams Centinel*, October 29, 1823; “Public Sale,” *Compiler*, March 14, 1827; “Public Sale,” *Star and Banner*, December 18, 1832; *Star and Sentinel*, September 2, 1875; “Fairfield Items,” *Star and Sentinel*, June 24, 1903; “Thriving Town can cater to needs of Many,” *Gettysburg Times*, June 28, 1927; “The Cavalry Fight at Fairfield,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 10, 1934; “Major’s Arm Buried in Blythe Backyard,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951; “Raid, Battle of Fairfield



are Related,” *Gettysburg Times*, August 23, 1957; “Plaque will be Dedicated at Fairfield,” *Gettysburg Times*, May 25, 1965; “A Guest House is Alive Again,” *Gettysburg Times*, July 31, 1981.



*Street scene in Fairfield, J. B. Waddle c. 1910, ACHS. The view is looking east, from a point between Lots 6N and 6E.*

**Town Lot #6E:** Paxton and McCreary Store. **Current Address:** Formerly 22 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Sarah Amanda Blythe. **Description:** Frame storehouse. **Recital:** William Miller to John McGinley, December 18, 1800; Heirs of John McGinley, August 23, 1811; Zephaniah Herbert, June 4, 1812; James McKesson, Jr., February 28, 1817; John A. McKesson, September 29, 1818; James Paxton, by 1823; Heirs of James Paxton, by 1827; Sarah Amanda McKesson, in 1828; Ezra Blythe, by 1835; Sarah Amanda Blythe, by 1856; John Paxton, 1876; James Cunningham, 1900.

**History of the Lot:** Lot 6E shares the same early history as Lot 5E. Advertisements in the *Adams Centinel* indicate that a dry goods store was being operated at this site by John McGinley starting in 1803. It appears that the structure on this lot was used for store purposes by various individuals throughout the early history of Fairfield and for many years following the Civil War. Ezra Blythe was postmaster of Fairfield starting in 1817 and may have operated the office out of this building. David Blythe and John Paxton were in business at this site from about 1850 to 1858. In 1858, Blythe's interest was purchased

by A. Hill McCreary, and it became Paxton and McCreary's store. A 1908 listing of the buildings in Fairfield described this as a frame structure, the general store, and post office of J. Cunningham. In 1921, a portion of the lot fronting on Main Street was purchased by the Fairfield National Bank (which had been established in 1908), and for many years the bank building (opened in 1924) stood at this site. Of interest is the fact that there was a bank robbery at this site on November 28, 1933.

**Civil War Notes:** On October 11, 1862 Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart and 1,800 of his cavalymen passed through Fairfield on their famous raid. According to the *Gettysburg Star and Banner* of October 18, 1862, "In the evening they reached Fairfield. The principal damage done there was to the store of Paxton and McCreary who they robbed of \$1,000 worth of goods . . . . The post office was destroyed, and the Postmaster Jno. B. Paxton, Esq., carried off a prisoner." In 1956, the *Gettysburg Times* published a story concerning Paxton and McCreary's store during J.E.B. Stuart's Raid. "At the present site of the First National Bank, Paxton and McCreary had a general store. In the rear of the store was the post office where John Paxton was postmaster. He was ill that day and had remained at home. Hill McCreary, his partner, learning that Stuart was approaching, locked the store and went home. They had known earlier that he would probably visit the town, so they had taken their supply of molasses, sugar, and tobacco to the Witherow Farm about a half a mile from the town where it was hidden in the cellar. The Confederates, finding the store door locked, went to the McCreary Home and demanded the key. They took from the shelves dry goods, and general merchandise. Bolts of Calico were opened and dragged through the street while other goods were scattered everywhere . . . . In some way the Confederates heard of the merchandise hidden in the Witherow cellar. When a detachment of cavalryman arrived there they found grandmother Witherow, dinner horn in hand, perched on the cellar door. She refused their admittance threatening to call the men from the field. The ranking officer proved his gallantry saying, 'lady, your white hairs had saved the situation and whatever lies behind those cellar doors.' They left the merchandise in the cellar but they took all the livestock they could find." The John Stewart Witherow Farm was located on Bullfrog Road, a short distance east

of the town. “Grandmother Witherow” undoubtedly refers to Nancy Stewart Witherow (1796-1873), who was living on the farm with her son and family at the time. Another story concerning J.E.B. Stuart’s Raid and a store in Fairfield was related by Confederate Captain Martin V. Moore of Company D, First North Carolina Cavalry in an 1891 *Philadelphia Times* article. No details of the exact location of the store were given, but there were only a few stores in the town: “Just before our column left Pennsylvania I had quite a thrilling experience in Fairfield, a village near the State line. With a single escort, I was the last man in the rear being left behind for the purpose of pushing forward any stragglers dropping out of line. Some of these stragglers in passing through the town, as I found, had acted in a most outrageous manner in violation of orders, and the citizens, wrought with fury, were ready to retaliate on any helpless ‘Reb’ upon whom they could lay their hands of vengeance. They surrounded me and the sergeant as we entered a store for the purpose of making some slight purchases and for which I was offering to pay in silver coin when the men came in on us. Fortunately for me, I found in the merchant before me a gentleman, with whom I had some community of sentiment, and to whom I revealed my relationship with his friend, Mr. John W., from whose house, only a mile away I had just come. I asked that this gentleman be sent for in necessary in my defense; but as I had manifested a spirit somewhat different from that exhibited by some of my comrades who had preceded me, myself and sergeant were permitted to proceed in peace—without further molestation, and without anything more than a big case of fright at the prospect of a lynching.” It is tempting to speculate that “Mr. John W.” is actually John S. Witherow and that he was the officer who encountered “Grandmother Witherow” in the preceding story. Of course, this would be mere conjecture. If the incident related by Moore did occur at Paxton and McCreary’s store, the attitude of the Fairfield citizens is quite understandable. The store had just been ransacked and Postmaster Paxton taken hostage.

**Sources:** ACDB A-274, H-394; *Adams Centinel*, November 1, 1803; *Adams Centinel*, May 17, 1803; “Fall Goods,” *Adams Sentinel*, October 17, 1804; “Venders of Foreign Merchandise,” *Star and Banner*, November 8, 1850; “Dissolution of Partnership,” *Adams Sentinel*, March 22, 1858; “List of Merchants,” *Adams Sentinel*, June

3, 1862; "Excitement in Gettysburg," *Star and Banner*, October 16, 1862; "Rebel Raid into Pennsylvania," *Adams Sentinel*, October 14, 1862; "The Rebel Raid into Franklin and Adams County," *Compiler*, October 20, 1862; "Stuart's Raid in '62," *Compiler*, July 7, 1891; "Fairfield Bank Buys New Site," *Star and Sentinel*, March 12, 1921; "New Bank Building Opened," *Compiler*, June 28, 1924; "\$400 Fairfield Notes Found in home of Bandit," *Gettysburg Times*, December 7, 1934; "Thriving Town can Cater to needs of Many," *Gettysburg Times*, June 28, 1927; "Fairfield Bank 30 years old," *Gettysburg Times*, August 31, 1938; "History of Fairfield extends from Indian Raid through 3 World Wars," *Gettysburg Times*, June 25, 1956.

**Town Lot #7E:** Dr. Abraham O. Scott Residence. **Current Address:** Formerly 24 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Robert M. B. Hill. **Description:** Two story, frame, dwelling-house, with kitchen attached. **Recital:** William Miller to James McGinley, April 3, 1799; Amos McGinley, by 1801; William Sidle, April 29, 1826; Andrew Thompson and William Johnson, February 17, 1829; William Johnson, May 5, 1836; David Horner, January 29, 1845; William D. Hill, October 2, 1857; Robert M. B. Hill, March 24, 1858; William McCausland, April 5, 1866; Charles Musselman, in 1905; Horace S. Neely, in 1919.

**History of the Lot:** A somewhat curious statement appears in the 1799 deed between William Miller and James McGinley, which states that the latter would be given ownership "all above the surface of said lot to the middle region of the air, and all under the said surface to the center of the earth." It is not known for certain whether this was a serious attempt to protect the mineral rights of the property or just an attempt at humor. The sale price of the lot in 1799 was given as 10 pounds, indicating perhaps that the lot was vacant at that time. An 1825 sheriff's sale described this property as "a lot of ground, in Millerstown, known by No. 7, on which are erected a two-story frame dwelling-house, a kitchen, (part log & part frame), frame barn and wagon shed—late the estate of Amos Maginly." An 1844 sheriff's sale described this as the property of William Johnson, "bounded by the lot of Samuel Eiker on the east, south an alley, west an alley, and fronting on Main street on which are erected a two-story weather-

boarded dwelling house, with a kitchen attached thereto; a double barn.” At some point (perhaps in 1825), this became a-lot-and-a-half, the rear portion of Lot 8E being associated with this property as indicated in the deeds and in the 1872 *Atlas*. The 1858 map shows this was an empty lot at that time, but that is clearly a mistake. Robert M. B. Hill owned Lot 7E in 1860, but the census of that year reveals that he lived in nearby Liberty Township, so the structure on this lot was a rental unit. A number of clues, including the census, suggest that the 1860 tenant was Doctor Abraham O. Scott. Deeds and tax records indicate that Robert Hill transferred this property to William McCauslin in 1866. He is shown as the resident of the house on this lot in the 1872 *Atlas*.

**1860 Residents:** Abraham O. Scott (February 21, 1825-1908); Jane R. Wilson Scott (1828-1919); David W. Scott (1854); Jane R. Scott (1858); Rebecca Wilson (1831).

**Family Notes:** According to the *1886 History of Adams County*, Dr. Abraham O. Scott “attended Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, and later Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, from which he graduated in 1850. He read medicine under Dr. David Horner, of Gettysburg [who was the owner of Lot 7E from 1845-1857], attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and graduated with the degree of M.D. in 1853. He began practicing in Hunterstown, this county, but in 1855 removed to Fairfield, where he has built up an extensive practice and acquired the reputation of being a skillful physician.” *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists A. O. Scott of Fairfield as a physician.

**Civil War Notes:** At the outbreak of the war, Abraham O. Scott enlisted as a surgeon in Second Pennsylvania Volunteers, a nine-month unit. Robert M. B. Hill, the owner of the property, filed a claim for damages following the war. In the claim there is an affidavit by Joshua Cease (who was operating Swope's Tannery at that time), which states "that he was living in the village of Fairfield in sight of said lots and that he saw the Rebel forces passing to and fro across said lots and also that he saw them (the Rebels) form in line of battle on said lots and . . . he saw a portion of the fencing broken down." Unfortunately, there is no date given, but if such an event did occur it was on either July 3 during the cavalry battle or on July 5 during the Confederate retreat through town.

**Sources:** ACDB B-4, Y-409; Civil War Border Claims Files for Robert M. B. Hill, PHMC; "Sheriff's Sales," *Compiler*, March 2, 1825; "Sheriff's Sales," *Adams Sentinel*, October 28, 1844; H. C. Bradsby, *1886 History of Adams County*, Reprint (Knightstown, Ind.: The Bookmark, 1992), 446-447; *Boyd's Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).

**Town Lot #8E:** Adam Tawney Residence. **Current Address:** Formerly 26 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Adam Tawney. **Description:** Two-story, frame, dwelling-house. **Recital:** Allen Ferguson, by 1795; William Miller to Allen Ferguson, April 28, 1804; Samuel McCollough, 1807; Amos McGinley, 1816; John Witherow, by 1839; Samuel Eiker, by 1844; Amos McGinley, 1851; John Mickley, Jr. and Maxwell Shields, 1852; Adam Tawney, by 1860; Henry Hull, 1867; Heirs of Henry Hull, March 31, 1905; Lewis E. Krise, August 25, 1905.

**History of the Lot:** Allen Ferguson is shown as the owner of this lot, as an adjoiner in 1799, and on the 1801 agreement. He also appears in tax lists with a lot as early as 1795, but the deed indicates that he did not gain clear title to the property until 1804. The sale price of the property in the 1804 deed was \$26.67. In 1802, tax records list him with a lot valued at \$300, which indicates that there was already a house there at that time. In 1807, tax records show that Ferguson sold a lot, valued at \$160, to Samuel McCollough. Tax records further indicate that McCollough sold a house and lot valued at \$500, a lot valued at \$80, and a tanyard valued at \$200, to Amos



McGinley in 1816. An 1824 sheriff's sale for the property of Amos McGinley describes Lots 7E and 8E as "two lots of ground situate in Millerstown, adjoining an alley on the west, a lot of McCullough on the east, and fronting on Main Street, on which are erected two frame dwelling-houses, frame barn and frame stable, tanyard and shop." Shortly after, Lot 8E was divided, the rear portion (103 feet, 9 inches) of the lot being associated with Lot 7E, and the front portion (136 feet, 3 inches) with Lot 9. In 1839 this was advertised as the property of John Witherow. "There is a lot and a half of ground; on which are erected a two-story frame house, a stable and slaughter-house;--also, a two-story shop, with a horse-power leather-rolling machine, 32 lay away vats, a bark-mill and bark shed, and all other appurtenances to a tannery." In 1851, this was advertised as "a house and one and a half lot of ground, property of Samuel Eiker, adj. William Johnson and Nancy Seabrooks." In 1852, it was advertised as the property of John Mickley, Jr. and Maxwell Shields: "a lot and a half of ground in Fairfield, Adams County, on which are erected a frame dwelling house, rough-cast and a stable; also a tan yard with 26 vats, 8 leeches, 2 limes, and 4 handlers; also a log shop, in which is a rolling apparatus, and bark-mill." As mentioned in the previous lot history, the rear of Lot 8E was associated with Lot 7E, while the front of Lot 8E was connected with Lot 9E adjoining this property to the east. In it unclear when tannery operations ceased at this site, but there is no evidence that Tawney was engaged in this profession at the time of the Civil War. According to tax records, Adam Tawney transferred his property to Henry Hull in 1867. Hull is shown as the owner of this lot in the 1872 *Atlas*. He owned the property until his death in 1905. In his estate papers, the tract contained "a house and lot of ground in Fairfield Borough fronting on Main Street and adjoining lands of C. E. Glenn and Chas. Musselman and running back to an alley, of the estimated value of -----\$900." A newspaper notice for the estate further described the lot as "fronting 60 feet on Main Street and running back 142 feet to a public alley, adjoining lot of Dr. J. E. Glenn on the east and lot of Charles Musselman on the west, improved with a two story frame house, back building attached,

frame stable, well of water and fruit trees.” Thus, at this time the lot was still divided, the rear portion probably still being associated with lot 7E. This was the site of the original Allison Funeral Home, which operated from about 1917 to 1941, when it was relocated across the street to 27 East Main Street (Lot 9N).

**1860 Residents:** Adam Tawney (1806-January 14, 1894); Margaret Myers Tawney (1807); Sarah Salina Tawney (July 17, 1836-October 13, 1916); Henrietta Tawney (1838); Van Buren Tawney (May 7, 1840-June 23, 1861); David Tawney (1842); John M. Tawney (1845); Adam M. Tawney (November 11, 1847-July 2, 1880); Mary Tawney (1850).

**Family Notes:** *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists Adams Tawney of Fairfield as a mason. The Tawney family left Fairfield in 1866 and moved to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they resided at the time of the famous flood in 1889. Initially, Adam and his wife were listed in newspaper reports as being victims of the flood, but they survived the tragedy.

**Civil War Notes:** Along with his neighbor (Abraham Scott), Van Buren Tawney enlisted in Company E, Second Pennsylvania Infantry in April 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War. Unfortunately, he also became one of the first local soldiers to give his life for his country when he died of typhoid in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on June 23, 1861. Today, he rests in Fairfield’s Union Cemetery, with a very patriotic motif on the stone over his grave. His younger brother Adam also suffered as a result of the war. According to the *Adams Sentinel* of June 21, 1864, “Mr. Adam Taney Jr., residing in Fairfield, met with a serious accident a few days ago whilst attempting to open a shell, found in one of the fields. The shell exploded while working with it, and some of the fragments struck him in the feet which may cripple him for life. This is another warning which we think it is time our people should begin to regard.” The younger Tawney was sixteen years old at the time.

**Sources:** ACDB B-308; “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Compiler*, August 11, 1824; “Tanyard for Sale,” *Adams Sentinel*, November 25, 1839; “Tanyard for Sale,” *Adams Sentinel*, November 30, 1840; “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Compiler*, September 22, 1851; “Valuable Property,” *Star and*



*Banner*, November 12, 1852; “Public Sale of Valuable Real Estate,” *Compiler*, August 2, 1905; “Love, Trust Anchor 70 year Marriage,” *Gettysburg Times*, March 23, 2000; “Times a-changing,” *Gettysburg Times*, March 11, 2013; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area’s Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee, Fairfield: 1976), 59; *Boyd’s Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).

**Town Lot #9E:** Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 28 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Adam Tawney. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** William Miller, in 1801 and 1804; Amos Maginly, in 1817; William Sidle, by 1829; Andrew Thomson and William Johnson, February 17, 1829; John Witherow, 1831; Adam Butt, in 1845; Shields and Mickley, in 1854; Adam Tawney, by 1856; Henry Hull, 1867; Dr. James E. Glenn, in 1905; Mrs. Ella Glenn in 1947.

**History of the Lot:** This lot was, for a long period of time, associated with Lot 8E and shares the same early history. It is shown as vacant on the 1858 wall map and also in the 1872 *Atlas*. But there were most likely structures located on the lot associated with the tannery business. The eastern half of Lot 9E, 30 feet along York Street and 60 feet deep, was associated with Lot 10E starting in 1830 and had a separate history for a time. The recital for that portion of the lot is as follows: William Lidle to Andrew Thompson and William Johnston, February 17, 1829; Jehu Hays, April 3, 1830; William Fream, April 1, 1831.

**Sources:** Jehu Hays to William Fream, April 1, 1831, URD, ACHS.

**Town Lot #10E:** Joseph Banty Residence. **Current Address:** 30 East Main Street. **1863 Owner:** Joseph Banty. **Description:** Small frame dwelling-house. **Recital:** William Miller, in 1801; Samuel Agnew, by 1814; William Miller, 1817; George McCullough, September 6, 1817; Samuel McCullough, Jr., April 25, 1821; Heirs of Samuel McCullough, December 9, 1829; Jehu G. Hays, April 3, 1830; William Fream, April 1, 1831; Barbara Bennett, April 5, 1839; Nancy M. Seabrooks, January 24, 1848; Joseph Banty, March 6, 1854; Heirs of Joseph Banty, June 18, 1905; Margaret Anna Doneldson, June 3, 1906; Charles B. Harbaugh, in 1919.

**History of the Lot:** Tax records indicate that in 1817 this lot was transferred from Samuel Agnew to William Miller and then to George McCollough, all in one year. It seems likely that Miller repossessed the lot. The 1817 deed between Miller and McCollough refers to this as “number ten, southeasterly.” At that time the lot sold for \$100. In 1831 it sold for \$450, indicating that there was clearly some improvement at that time. The 1831 deed also shows that Jehu Hays owned part of the eastern half of lot 9E, 30 feet in front and 64 feet deep. Nancy Seabrooks is shown as the owner of this lot in an 1851 public sale for the adjoining lot. On March 14, 1852, Nancy Seabrooks married William Upton Sprenkle. The 1855 tax list discloses that the property (valued at \$200) was transferred from Sprenkle to Joseph Banty. An unrecorded deed at the Adams County Historical Society indicates that Banty purchased the lot from Sprenkle and his wife Nancy on March 6, 1854 for \$225. An 1856 list of those owing ground rents shows Banty as the owner of one-and-a-third lots. Banty also owned a portion of the Lot 11E, the configuration of Banty’s property being indicated on the map in 1872 *Atlas*. The property was described in the estate papers of Joseph Banty in 1905 as being “a certain lot of ground situate in the said borough of Fairfield fronting on Main Street & adjoining lots of heirs of Henry Hull, decd, heirs of Lewis McGlaughlin & heirs of Jacob Musselman.” Quite likely several dwellings were located across the front of Banty’s property at the time of the Civil War.

**1860 Residents:** Joseph Banty (January 14, 1818-June 18, 1905); Lydia Banty (July 24, 1826-January 2, 1892); John Banty (1846); Henry Banty (1851).

**Family Notes:** *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists Joseph Banty of Fairfield as a carpenter.

**Sources:** William Miller to George McCullough, September 6, 1817, URD, ACHS; Jehu G. Hays to William Fream, April 1, 1831, URD, ACHS; William U. Sprenkle to Joseph Banty, March 6, 1854, URD, ACHS; Heirs of Joseph Banty to Margaret Anna Doneldson, April 3, 1906, URD, ACHS; Daniel Percy Polley to Lee C. McGlaughlin, April 14, 1947, URD, ACHS; *Boyd’s Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).



*Flood in Fairfield, J. B. Waddle, February 1908, ACHS.  
The view is looking east, from the intersection of current  
Balder and Main Streets.*

**Town Lot # 11E (A):** Fairfield Schoolhouse. **Current Address:** 10 Water Street. **1860 Owner:** Directors of the Hamiltonban Township Schools. **Description:** One-story, stone structure, still standing. **Recital:** William Miller to Joseph Hafleigh, April 2, 1814; William McMillan, September 5, 1816; John Grimes, March 22, 1834; School Directors of Hamiltonban Township, April 10, 1837; Jacob Musselman, February 20, 1869; Heirs of Jacob Musselman, June 25, 1884.

**History of the Lot:** The eastern edge of Lot 11E is also the eastern edge of John Miller's original tract. The designation 11E is not found on the 1801 agreement or on the map in the 1872 *Atlas*, but it is used in an adjoining deed, and I decided to use it to avoid confusion. It almost appears as if Miller had originally intended that the land west of 9E would be included as part of Lot 10E, oddly shaped as it may appear. An 1814 deed from William Miller to Jacob Hafleigh, as recorded in Adams County Deed Book F, page 497, indicates that this is the true Lot 10E, as shown on the original plan of the town. And so the town ended up with two Lot 10Es. This early mistake is carried through later deeds, making the descriptions of the property confusing, especially when deeds for this lot refer to the adjoining Lot 10E as Lot 9E. In 1837, the school directors of Hamiltonban Township purchased the land east of Lot 10E and built a school on the property. In 1839 the school directors divided it into three separate

tracts of land and sold off two lots fronting on Main Street. The 1858 map shows the “School H,” at its approximate location. In 1868, the school directors of Hamiltonban Township purchased Lot 10S and built a new school house on the other side of town. Soon after, they advertised the sale of the old “Pubic School House in Fairfield with the lot of ground upon which it stands.” In November of 1869, the *Compiler* notes that “Jacob Musselman who purchased the old school-house in Fairfield, is converting it into a dwelling--making it two-story and adding other improvements.” The 1872 *Atlas* shows this as the property of “J. Musselman.”

**Sources:** School Directors of Hamiltonban Township to Jacob Musselman, February 20, 1869, URD, ACHS; “Public Sale,” *Star and Sentinel*, July 31, 1868; “Improvements,” *Compiler*, November 5, 1869.

**Town Lot #11E (B):** Joseph Banty Rental Property. **Current Address:** 30 East Main Street. **Description:** Small dwelling-house. **Recital:** William Miller to Jacob Hafleigh, April 2, 1814; William McMillan, September 5, 1816; John Grimes, March 22, 1834; School Directors of Hamiltonban Township, April 10, 1837; Robert Campbell (black), April 13, 1839; James Wilson, January 6, 1843; Joseph Banty, April 21, 1845; Heirs of Joseph Banty, June 18, 1905; Margaret Anna Doneldson, April 3, 1906; C. B. Harbaugh, 1919.

**History of the Lot:** In 1849, this partial lot, which sold for \$175, was described in detail: “Beginning at York Street thence by lot number nine [really 10] (on the west) late belonging to William Fream now Barbara Bennett one hundred and thirty six feet to a stone near a post of the fence about six feet from the school house, thence in an easterly direction along the fence six feet from the school house, forty two feet to a stone near a post of said fence, thence along a division of said lot, now conveyed to Jonas Hemmens in a north direction to York Street one hundred thirty six feet to a stone at York Street and thence along the front twenty six feet to the beginning. And also twenty feet along number nine [really 10] aforesaid commencing at the back alley and ten feet along said back alley. And likewise the use and privilege of a passage of four feet along lot number nine [really 10] at the southwest end of the schoolhouse from the corner stone at the fence aforesaid near the school house to meet the twenty feet

mentioned above.” In the deed, Robert Campbell is referred to as “a man of color.” It is noteworthy that two of the earliest black/mulatto families of Fairfield purchased land from the School Directors of Hamiltonban Township. In 1845, this portion of Lot 11E was lot sold to Joseph Banty for \$150. The 1855 tax list indicates that this was a house and lot valued at \$100. It is unclear whether there were two houses side-by-side owned by Banty, or if this was one structure that straddled both Lot 10E and part of Lot 11E, as seems indicated in the 1872 *Atlas*. It is also possible that this was a duplex with separate histories and that Banty eventually just ended up owning both halves. A 1906 deed describes this as part of two lots fronting 87 feet along Main Street, then 240 feet back to a 12 foot alley, 70 feet along the alley, 107 feet to the corner of a 4 foot alley, 36 feet to the property of Lewis McGlaughlin, then 137 feet back to Main Street. This would seem to indicate that about 17 feet of the front of Lot 11E were associated with Lot 10E.

**Sources:** Heirs of Joseph Banty to Margaret Anna Doneldson, April 3, 1906, URD, ACHS; Daniel Percy Polley to Lee C. McGlaughlin, April 14, 1947, URD, ACHS.

**Town Lot #11E (C):** Jonas Hemmons Rental Property. **Current Address:** 32 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Jonas Hemmons. **Description:** One-story, log, dwelling-house. **Recital:** William Miller to Jacob Hafleigh, April 2, 1814; William McMillan, September 5, 1816; John Grimes, March 22, 1834; School Directors of Hamiltonban Township, April 10, 1837; Jonas Hemmons (mulatto), 1839; Lewis McLaughlin, 1865; Heirs of Lewis McGlaughlin, by 1905; Daniel Percy Polly, 1907.

**History of the Lot:** This portion of lot 11E was owned by Jonas Hemmons in 1839 and was likely transferred to Hemmons on the same day that Robert Campbell acquired the other section of the lot fronting on Main Street. However, it is clear from early deeds that a structure sat on lot 11E even before the property’s division in 1839. In 1814, the lot sold for \$120, strongly suggesting that a dwelling occupied the property. At that time, it was described as follows: “the said lot is said to contain half an acre be & is the same more or less containing two hundred & forty feet in depth one hundred on the back alley and fifty feet in front.” Tax records indicate that Hemmons

owned this lot throughout the Civil War. In 1860, the property was valued at \$100. In 1865, Lewis McGlaughlin appears in the tax records for the first time with this lot, which was valued at \$100. In addition, the 1872 map showed this as the property of “L. McLaughlin.” The estate papers of Margaret McLaughlin, describes this property in 1907 as being “a lot of ground, situate in the borough of Fairfield, Adams Co., Pa. at the corner of Main and Water Streets, adjoining lands of John Donaldson on west and land of Jacob Musselman heirs on the south—the same being improved with a one story log house and outbuildings and of the likely value of \$200.” According to the 1908 tax list, Lewis McGlaughlin transferred the property to Daniel Percy Polly. The value of the lot increased to \$800 at the same time, perhaps suggesting that major improvements were made to the house. It is possible that the current structure was built at that time.

**Sources:** ACDB F-497; Estate Papers of Margaret McLaughlin, ACHS; School Directors of Hamiltonban Township to Robert Campbell, 1839, URD, ACHS; James Wilson to Joseph Banty, April 21, 1845, URD, ACHS.