



---

Volume 9

Article 6

---

2003

## The Slave Birth Register of Adams County

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach>

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Cultural History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

**Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.**

---

(2003) "The Slave Birth Register of Adams County," *Adams County History*: Vol. 9 , Article 6.  
Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol9/iss1/6>

This open access article is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact [cupola@gettysburg.edu](mailto:cupola@gettysburg.edu).

---

# The Slave Birth Register of Adams County

## **Abstract**

This record is from a book, deposited in the Prothonotary's office, which shows the dates of birth and registration of 109 children born to slave mothers between 1799 and 1820. Several pages at the beginning of the book are missing, including the page on which are recorded the names of slaveholders whose surnames begin with A. That register might not be the original record, however. [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Slavery, Slave, Servitude, Freedom, Anti-Slavery, Bondage, Gradual Emancipation, Pennsylvania Emancipation

## List C: The Slave Register

This record is from a book, deposited in the Prothonotary's office, which shows the dates of birth and registration of 109 children born to slave mothers between 1799 and 1820. Several pages at the beginning of the book are missing, including the page on which are recorded the names of slaveholders whose surnames begin with A. That register might not be the original record, however.

At this juncture, the individual registrations of 66 of those slave children have also surfaced in the Clerk of Courts office. They adhere fairly consistently to a standard form, which suggests that they were the source of the details which were copied into the register. Among the 66 original registrations are 4 in which slave owners' surnames do begin with A. Occasionally, names and dates in the separate documents do not agree; in those instances, both are recorded here, the original in brackets following the book version.

Although the register contains additional information, namely, occupations of slaveholders and color of children, List C is limited to names and residences of slaveholders, plus names, sex, birth and registration dates of children. Slave names are as read.

Agnew, John Ham'b; Joe m February 15, 1801 May 28, 1801  
 Arnold, John B. Ber; Sinah f May 10, 1804 October 10 [15], 1804  
 Arnold, John B. Ber; Peter m December 29, 1806 April 21, 1807  
 Arnold, John B. Gett; Irenia f March 3, 1820 August 9, 1820  
 \_\_\_\_\_; Betty f January 1, 1802 March 15, 1802  
 \_\_\_\_\_; Hetty f April 14, 1803 July 14, 1803  
 \_\_\_\_\_; Jeffe m August 7, 1809 October 27, 1809  
 \_\_\_\_\_; Susey f November 5, 1811 December 6, 1811  
 \_\_\_\_\_; Madis m January 7, 1813 April 8, 1813  
 Binder, Peter Ber; Nelly f February 11, 1808 May 3, 1808  
 Black, James Fra; Maria Norris f about the middle of April, 1811  
 July 10, 1811

Brough, Peter Ber; Phebe f March 17, 1807 August 18, 1807  
Brough, Peter Ber; Charles m January 4, 1809 April 17, 1809  
Brown, Andrew Ham'b; Grace f March 16, 1803 June 23, 1803  
Brown, Andrew Ham'b; Joe m November 17, 1804 April 27, 1805  
Brown, Andrew Ham'b; Joshua m November 12, 1807 March 28, 1808  
Brown, Richard Str; Tom m August/September, 1801 December 24, 1801  
Brown, Richard Str; Betty f last week in May, 1802 August 10, 1802  
Brown, Richard Str; John m April 25, 1803 October 11, 1803  
Brown, Richard Str; Rosanna f last week in April, 1804  
September 1, 1804  
Brown, Richard Str; Nero m first week in September, 1805  
January 13, 1806  
Brown, Richard Str; Orlando m about September 5, 1808 January 18, 1809  
Brown, Richard Str; Jem m latter end of February, 1810 May 10, 1810  
Brown, Richard Str; Sam m May 4 or 5, 1812 August 22, 1812  
Campbell, Armstrong Str; Samuel m October 24 or 25, 1816  
December 14, 1816  
Carnahan, Alexander Ham'b; Dine f January 3, 1802 February 6, 1802  
Carnahan, Alexander Ham'b; George m February 5, 1803 March 7, 1804  
Carnahan, Alexander Ham'b; Philip m January 18, 1809  
February 24, 1809  
Chamberlain, Ninian MP; Tene f February 13, 1807 February 18, 1807  
Cobean, Samuel Fra; Hagey f November 5, 1799 April 14, 1800  
Cobean, Samuel Fra; Doll f August 3, 1802 October 12, 1802  
Cobean, Samuel Fra; Tom m September 30, 1804 January 14, 1805  
Cobean, Samuel Cum; Dinah f September 25, 1806 February 16, 1807  
Cooper, William MP; Isaac m August 18, 1806 October 2, 1806  
Dobbin, Alexander Cum; Becky and Eliza f December 27, 1800  
December 20 [November 25], 180

[In this instance, if the birth date is correct, the original registration, dated more than a month prior to the children's births, must be incorrect.]

Dobbin, Alexander Cum; Sall f August 20, 1803 September 10, 1803  
Dobbin, Alexander Cum; Amy f January 30, 1805 August [March] 5, 1805  
Finley, Margaret Ham'b; Jem [Jim] m November 30, 1800 May 12, 1801  
Finley, Margaret Ham'b; John m May 10, 1803 October 19, 1803  
Finley, Margaret Ham'b; Moses m August 9, 1805 January 7, 1806  
Finley, Margaret Ham'b; Ann f April 6, 1808 September 27, 1808  
Herman, John Ber; Samuel m May 2, 1801 October 29, 1801  
Herman, John Ber; Jonas m May 22, 1803 November 18, 1803  
Hersh, John Ber; Harry m June 15, 1811 November 4, 1811

[In the original registration, Hersh stated that he purchased the child from Caleb Beals, who provided the date of birth.]

Horner, Alexander Cum; Peter m October 23, 1804 February 22, 1805  
 Horner, Alexander Cum; Aaron m April 26, 1807 October 13, 1807  
 Horner, Alexander Cum; Tom m September 16, 1808 October 11, 1808  
 Horner, David MJ; Cyrus m May 19, 1802 August 20, 1802  
 Horner, Mary MJ; Ivory m July 17 or 18, 1805 January 14, 1806  
 Horner, William MJ; Abraham m April 8, 1808 August 4, 1808  
 Houlsworth, Samuel Str; Bob m January 14, 1803 January 28, 1803  
 Johnston, Lewis Gett; Stephen m January 4, 1816 March 8, 1816  
 [Recorded as a "man of colour," this is the only known black slave-  
 holder in Adams county. On December 7, 1814, he and Dolly Wilson,  
 both black and both of Gettysburg, were married by justice of the peace  
 Alexander Russell. Johnston, recorded only as a laborer, was taxed as  
 a resident of Gettysburg 1817-1825. On June 2, 1818, he purchased  
 property in Troxell's Addition (now near Middle and West Streets in  
 the borough). Almost exactly a year later he sold that property; the  
 deed of sale records his wife's name as Dorothy, surely the "Dolly" he  
 married. The 1820 federal census shows him as head of house, black,  
 aged 26-44; with him are two black males and one black female, all  
 under 14 years of age and all likely his children. But no wife is shown,  
 suggesting Dolly's death in the preceding twelve months. By the time  
 of the 1830 census, Johnston was no longer in the county, at least as  
 head of house. The information perhaps hints that Lewis Johnston  
 married a slave, then subsequently freed both her and son Stephen.]  
 Kellenberger, John Ham'b; Eliza f June 8, 1807 November 16, 1807  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Stephen m December 26, 1800 February 24, 1801  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Fanny f June 28, 1803 November 19, 1803  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Rachael f June 1, 1807 October 19, 1807  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Henry m July 21, 1809 November 21, 1809  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Benjimin m October 4, 1811 November 20, 1811  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Mary Ann f November 3, 1813 December 28, 1813  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Edward m March 11, 1816 June 29, 1816  
 Lilly, Samuel MP; Margaret f August 24, 1818 September 14, 1818  
 Long, Alexander Str; Pheb f May 30, 1812 August 25, 1812  
 Long, Jeanette Str; Julian f March 22, 1802 July 22, 1802  
 McClean, Moses Ham'b; Selee f November 7, 1802 May 3, 1803  
 McClean, Moses Fra; Amy f November 27, 1804 March 1, 1805  
 McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Jake m about September 18, 1803 February 2, 1804  
 McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Nell f April 7 or 8, 1806 August 22, 1806  
 McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Juley f July 20, 1809 November 15, 1809  
 McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Matty f June 1, 1811 October 1, 1811  
 McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Mint f April 13, 1814 September 27, 1814  
 McGimsey, Mary Lib; Venus f April 10, 1801 October 5, 1801

- McGinley, Sally Ham'b; Letty f August 21, 1801 February 8, 1802  
McKesson, Alexander Ham'b; Poll f December 24, 1799 June 16, 1800  
McKesson, Alexander Lib; Sidney f December, 1800 May 9, 1801  
[The child is perhaps the person known as Sidney O'Brien, who is now best recognized for her association with the prominent Gettys family of Gettysburg. For further information on Sidney O'Brien, see "On the Trail of Sidney O'Brien," Elwood W. Christ, Adams County History, Volume 5, 1999.]  
McKesson, James, Jr. Ham'b; Charles m November 15, 1810 April 19, 1811  
McKesson, James, Jr. Ham'b; Margaret f December 3, 1812 May 11, 1813  
McPherson, William Cum; Nany f April 12, 1803 August 18, 1803  
Mundorff, Jacob Lib; William m December 12, 1801 May 8, 1802  
Mundorff, Jacob Lib; Cesar m July 10, 1805 December 2, 1805  
Mundorff, Jacob Lib; Sally f March 6, 1807 May 28, 1807  
Neely, James Read; Lene f May 11, 1800 October 30, 1800  
Neely, James Tyr; Venus f January 1, 1800 June 10, 1800  
Neely, James Tyr; George m October 10, 1802 March 2, 1803  
Neely, James Tyr; Phillis f about the middle of July, 1809  
November 23, 1809  
Neely, James Tyr; Hannah f September 1, 1811 November 20, 1811  
Neely, Jonathan Tyr; Gustavus T. Ivory m September 5, 1800  
February 6, 1801  
Patton, John Hunt; Amos m March 12, 1811 August 27, 1811  
Porter, Jeremiah Lib; Sade f March 2, 1804 August 4, 1804  
Porter, Jeremiah Lib; George m September 28, 1805 November 28, 1805  
Porter, William Lib; Haney f August 3, 1800 November 25, 1800  
Rhea, Robert Ham'b; Elce f December 13, 1799 April 14, 1800  
Rhea, Robert Ham'b; Dinah f between March 1 and 20, 1804  
July 30, 1804  
Rhea, Robert Ham'b; Ruth f July 5, 1808 September 17, 1808  
Ross, John Fra; Bob m August 13, 1801 November 19, 1801  
Ross, John Fra; Jem m July 24, 1803 January 21, 1804  
Scott, James Cum; Joe m January 26, 1802 April 23, 1802  
Scott, James Cum; Sophia f about February 3, 1805 February 15, 1805  
Sherman, George Ger; Jem m November 29, 1806 January 21, 1807  
Sherman, George Ger; Sam m February 23, 1810 June 18, 1810  
Stewart, John Lib; Isaac m December 27, 1800 January 5, 1801  
Sweeny, Thomas Cum; Sylvina f November 15, 1800 March 7, 1801  
Waugh, David Lib; Phebe f July 12, 1803 October 26, 1803  
Waugh, David Lib; Jack m April 20, 1809 July 12, 1809  
Weakley, William Read; Betty f September 26, 1801 October 26, 1801  
Wilson, David Ham'b; Eli m July 23, 1808 January 11, 1809

Wilson, David Ham'b; Jude f January 21, 1814 June 16, 1814  
Wilson, Thomas Str; Peggy f June 11, 1813 December 4, 1813  
Worley, Joseph Gett; Harry m August 29, 1807 January 11, 1808

---