The Slave Birth Register of Adams County

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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

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List C: The Slave Register

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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
Black, James Fra; Maria Norris f 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], 1800  

[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 slaveholder 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; Benjamin 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
Sweeney, 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

http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol9/iss1/6

59
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