



2003

## Front Matter

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## Front Matter

# ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



2003

Volume 9

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## Editorial Board

James P. Myers, Jr., editor  
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## Slaveholders and Slaves of Adams County

### 1. Captions to be amended. (Aug. 26, '03)

Fig. 2, line 1: "reads as follows:" [corrected in book]

line 3: "wench Named Nance"

Fig. 6, line 1: "Clerk of Courts"

### 2. Errors missed in final proofed copy. (late Aug./early Sep., '03)

p. 22, 6<sup>th</sup> line from end: "no... legislation nor record... that mentions" (

p. 57, Dobbin, Becky and Eliza; date of registration December 30, 1800

all bracketed lines indented 5 spaces

p. 59, line 7: "Adams County History" italicized, not underlined

p. 75, item 2, line 2: "Servant named Charles"

p. 83, last line: "however,"

p. 21: table heading not bold type

p. 80, lead-in to second act: "II" indented

### 3. The book. (Sep., '03)

passim: margins inconsistent, not measured as requested

\* p. 87, first 14 lines: wrong size type, altering following layout

p. 91, first 7 lines: alignment lacking

pp. 11, 16, 18: map orientation inconsistent

p. 77, prefatory remarks, line 2: "and" between titles of law volumes not italicized

\* Was this alteration intentional, to complete the job in 92 (a multiple of 4), not 93, pages?

Larry E. Bolin

## Statement of Purpose

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the presentation of the social, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of that history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains museum displays and a valuable library of publications and manuscript material which includes estate papers, deed books, land surveys, and newspapers. In addition, it publishes important historical studies and reprints of earlier studies on Adams county history, a monthly newsletter, and a journal.

The editorial board of *Adams County History* encourages and invites the submission of essays and notices reflecting the rich history of Adams county. Submissions should be typed double spaced. Generally, style should conform to that of either the *Modern Language Style Sheet* or the *University of Chicago Manual of Style*. Contributors should retain copies of the typescript submitted. If return is desired, a self-addressed envelope with postage should be included.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

James P. Myers, Jr., Editor  
*Adams County History*  
The Adams County Historical Society  
PO Box 4325  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-4325

## Editor's Note

Almost everywhere we set our feet in Adams county, we tread upon the dead. In an essay I once wrote explaining the history of the hill on which I live, I noted that I had discovered on my property traces of a burial ground for pre-historic Native Americans. By guess, they number about 30. I recorded in the same essay how after years of research I had identified the occupants of yet another graveyard on my land, one concealed in an overgrown stand of trees and once used as a pig-run. Local speculation had maintained that the latter's few remaining, uninscribed fieldstones marked the final resting place of Indians. Others speculated that African-Americans—freed slaves—lay there. In fact, I eventually determined that the site had brought together for the last time the remnants of the eighteenth-century Scots-Irish Anglican McGrews (as distinct from their Quaker relations).

This volume of *Adams County History* presents the meticulous record of research undertaken by Larry Bolin, well-known volunteer worker and researcher at the Adams County Historical Society. Culling extant archival evidence, Larry has resurrected from the county's past unimpeachable, overwhelming evidence to support his contention that today's Adams was in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries one of Pennsylvania's most important slave-owning counties. Larry's evidence may also be disconcerting to many, for who today has even an intuition that the site of the Civil War's most significant battle was also at one time profoundly dependent on the involuntary servitude performed by a now barely visible, all but forgotten population of human beings?

Reading through Larry's essay, examining his disturbingly long compilations of slave owners and equally disturbing lists of slaves (these last made more troubling because their relative brevity and generic names—"Cesar," "Jem," "Doll"—suggest near-invisibility), the reader cannot avoid asking, Where are their remains? Where are they buried? Does that field or, indeed, my backyard conceal a burial site for someone once summoned by the name "Pompey" or "Nero"?

Larry Bolin's essay—and others like it—reveals historical investigation at its most valuable, for it reminds us, if indeed we need such reminding, that our local past consists of far more than the memory of momentous battles or the achievements of men like James Gettys, Thaddeus Stevens, Abraham Lincoln: our history also derives from the actions and the deeds of hundreds, perhaps thousands, whose lives, actions, and beliefs our predecessors allowed to disappear, if they did not indeed purposely all but try to erase them—the slaves, the Tories, the social outcasts, the destitute.