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.

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.
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

This article is available in Adams County History: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol9/iss1/6
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 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Male/Female</th>
<th>Birth/Death Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McGinley, Sally</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>August 21, 1801/Feb 8, 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson, Alexander</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>Dec 24, 1799/June 16, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson, Alexander</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Dec 20, 1800/May 9, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[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 &quot;On the Trail of Sidney O'Brien,&quot; Elwood W. Christ, Adams County History, Volume 5, 1999.]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson, James, Jr.</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>Nov 15, 1810/Apr 19, 1811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson, James, Jr.</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Dec 3, 1812/May 11, 1813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McPherson, William</td>
<td>Cum</td>
<td>Apr 12, 1803/Aug 18, 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundorff, Jacob</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Dec 12, 1801/May 8, 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundorff, Jacob</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Jul 10, 1805/Dec 2, 1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>May 11, 1800/Oct 30, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1800/June 10, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Oct 10, 1802/Mar 2, 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Jul 12, 1803/Aug 18, 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Sep 26, 1799/Apr 14, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, James</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Sep 26, 1801/Oct 14, 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neely, Jonathan</td>
<td>Tyr</td>
<td>Oct 25, 1801/Nov 5, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patton, John</td>
<td>Hunt</td>
<td>Mar 12, 1811/Aug 27, 1811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter, Jeremiah</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Mar 2, 1804/Aug 4, 1804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter, Jeremiah</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Sep 28, 1805/Nov 28, 1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhea, Robert</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>Dec 13, 1799/Apr 14, 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhea, Robert</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>Nov 26, 1801/Oct 26, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross, John</td>
<td>Fra</td>
<td>Aug 13, 1801/Nov 19, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott, James</td>
<td>Cum</td>
<td>Jan 24, 1803/Jan 21, 1804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott, James</td>
<td>Cum</td>
<td>Jan 26, 1802/Apr 23, 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman, George</td>
<td>Ger</td>
<td>Nov 29, 1806/Jan 21, 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman, George</td>
<td>Ger</td>
<td>Feb 23, 1810/June 18, 1810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart, John</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Dec 27, 1800/Jan 5, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweeney, Thomas</td>
<td>Cum</td>
<td>Nov 15, 1800/March 7, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waugh, David</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Jul 12, 1803/Oct 26, 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waugh, David</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Apr 20, 1809/Jul 12, 1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakley, William</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Sep 26, 1801/Oct 26, 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson, David</td>
<td>Ham'b</td>
<td>Jul 23, 1808/Jan 11, 1809</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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