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The Slaves of Adams County

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The Slaves of Adams County

Abstract

This compilation of named slaves surely does not represent anything near the total number who toiled in the county; without a doubt many are now irretrievable. Of those who can be isolated, a large number may be identified to some extent by age or sex or name of owner, or by a combination of those definers. This list, however, comprises only those slaves whose names are recorded. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

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

List D: The Slaves

This compilation of named slaves surely does not represent anything near the total number who toiled in the county; without a doubt many are now irretrievable. Of those who can be isolated, a large number may be identified to some extent by age or sex or name of owner, or by a combination of those definers. This list, however, comprises only those slaves whose names are recorded.

Sources for the huge majority found have been three: the slave register (List C); the Pennsylvania septennial censuses of 1800, '07, '14, and '21; and individual estate documents, limited here to wills and inventories of personal property. A very few names are from newspaper accounts, deeds, or federal census records.

When possible, each slave is tied to his/her owner, whose name and place of residence appear first, followed by slave name (spelled as found), sex, age, year and source of information, plus anything else uncovered which adds to the identification. Those slaves whose owners are not named, with the exception of the slaveholders whose surnames are known to begin with A, are grouped under the letter U (owner unknown).

Agnew, David Lib; Bill m 35 1807 SC
Agnew, James Ham'b; Jack m 1770 W
Feabe f 1770 W
Philip m 1770 INV
Bill m 1770 INV
Tom m 1770 INV
Agnew, James Ham'b; Beck f 1798 W
Joe m 1798 W
Alice f 1798 W
Bill m 1798 W
Agnew, John Ham'b; Joe m 1801 SR
Amos m 1814 INV
Alexander m 1814 INV
Agnew, Martha Lib; Ealse f 55 1807 SC

Arnold, Dr. John Ber; Sinah f 1804 SR
Peter m 1806, 07 SR
Gett; Irenia f 1820 SR
Read; Vilet f 1822 INV
Jeff m about 12 1822 INV [See List C and below,
surnames A, Jeffe, born 1809.]
Heranna f about 2 1822 INV [Surely this is the
above Irenia, born 1820.]

A____; Betty f 1802 SR
A____; Hetty f 1803 SR
A____; Jeffe m 1809 SR
A____; Susey f 1811 SR
A____; Madis m 1813 SR

Beals, Caleb Hunt; Harry 1811 SR [Beals sold the child, and presumably
the child's mother, to John Hersh, who
registered the child.]

Binder, Peter Ber; Nelly f 1808 SR
Bittinger, Nicholas Ber; Peter m 28 1800 SC
Black, James Fra; Maria Norris f 1811 SR
Black, Robert MJ; Sucy f 1799 W
Brinkerhoff, George Str; Sam m 1807 W
Nick m 1807 W
Poll f 1807 W

Brough, Peter Ber; Jack m 33 1800 SC
Phebe f 1807 SR
Charles m 1809 SR

Brown, Alexander Tyr; Phillis f 1799 W
Will m 1799 W
Kate f 1799 W

Brown, Andrew Ham'b; Grace f 1803 SR
Joe m 1804, 05 SR
Joshua m 1807, 08 SR

Brown, Richard Str; Violet f 1789 W
Brown, Richard Str; Tom m 1801 SR
Betty f 1802 SR
John m 1803 SR
Rosanna f 1804 SR
Nero m 1805, 06 SR
Orlando m 1808, 09 SR
Jem m 1810 SR
Sam m 1812 SR

Campbell, Armstrong Str; Samuel m 1816 SR

Campbell, Hugh Str; Jack m 1798 W
 Carl, Michael Ber; Susie f 1780 W
 Carnahan, Alexander Ham'b; Dine f 1802 SR
 George m 1803, 04, SR
 Philip m 1809 SR
 Carney, James Lib; Jack m 35 1807 SC
 Chamberlain, John Read; Nell f 1810 W
 Bets f 1810 W
 Seb m 1810 W
 Chamberlain, Ninian MP; Tene f 1807 SR
 Clingan, George Ham'b; Dinah f 1777 W
 Cobean, Alexander Gett Biggs 60 1814 SC [The sex of Biggs is not
 given. In the 1807 SC for Gettysburg,
 however, a Biggs, aged 48, is shown to be
 female.]
 Cobean, John Fra; Tom m 35 1807 SC
 Cobean, Samuel Fra; Hagey f 1799, 1800 SR
 Doll f 1802 SR; 1804 W
 Tom m 1804, 05 SR
 Cum; Dinah f 1806, 07 SR
 Fra; Doll f 1804 W
 Feb f 1804 W
 Walt m 1804 W
 Cochran, James Lib; Sall f 63 1807 SC; about 64 1810 INV
 Sam m about 16 1810 INV
 Tom m about 14 1810 INV
 Sal f about 14 1810 INV
 Cooper, William MP; Isaac m 1806 SR
 Gett; Peg f 1818 W
 Cross, Thomas Fra; Mat f 50 1807 SC
 Dickson, James Str; Bess f 1794 W
 Cato m 1794 W
 Cato m 1794 W
 Lucy f 1794 W
 Jeremy m 1794 W
 Peter m 1794 W
 Dobbin, Rev. Alexander Cum; Becky f 1800 SR [Twin of Eliza.]
 Eliza f 1800 SR [Twin of Becky.]
 Sall f 1803 SR
 Amy f 1805 SR
 Lett f 1808 W
 Douglass, Thomas Cum; Hannah f 1801 W

- Dunwoody, David Cum; Molly f 1802 W
Dunwoody, Hugh Ham'b; Joe m 1776 W
Jem m 1776 W
George m 1776 W
Dunwoody, Jane Ham'b; Violet f 1806 W
Finley, Margaret Ham'b; Jem/Jim m 1800, 01 SR
John m 1803 SR
Moses m 1805, 06 SR
Ann f 1808 SR
Finley, Michael Ham'b; Peet m 1785 W
Finley, William Ham'b; Hamilton m 1794 W
Forney, Mark Cum; Tom m about 40 1803 D [According to Deed Book
B-300, Forney purchased Tom from Abraham
Scott, who had bought him from Thomas Latta.
The date of acquisition from Latta is not
known.]
Galbraith, John Men; Tom m 1811 W [Galbraith's will was probated in
1814; he was also taxed for a slave that year,
the charge then being deducted because the
slave had died. Tom's death can reasonably
be placed about 1813.]
Geisel, Leonhard Con; James m 1805 W
Gettys, James Gett; Sidney f 1815 W [See List C, under McKesson,
Alexander: Sidney, born 1800.]
Gettys, Isabella Gett; Doll f 70 1814 SC
Hamilton, Hance Men; Syros m 1772 INV
Cain m 1772 INV
Vilet f 1772 INV
Ben m 1772 INV
Pompe m 1772 INV
Hatton, Leonard Hunt; Heek/Keck m 1815 INV [Almost certainly, this
is Hack, husband of Patience
immediately below.]
Patience f 1815 INV [Two Gettysburg
newspapers, the *Compiler* of
December 27, 1858, and the *Sentinel*
of January 3, 1859, reported the
death on the previous November 4 of
Patience Hack of York Springs, at
the age of nearly 100 years. Known
as "Old Tacey," she was perhaps the
last slave in the county and perhaps

the last in the state. She was the last of a family of slaves formerly owned by Leonard Hatter (doubtless properly Hatton), her husband and sons having died long before. She had last been cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stephens.

Patience appears in the 1850 federal census in the household of Phebbly Pearson of York Springs. There she is called Patience Sibb, aged 85, black, slave. Quite likely she is also the female slave, aged 55-100, in the household of Thomas Ross of Huntington township, as seen in the 1840 census.

The birth year of Patience may be estimated with some degree of assurance. Hatton and then his widow were taxed for at least one slave often between 1779 and 1819. Tax and census records place the birth of the person who probably was Patience at roughly 1754-1765. The 1807 septennial census for Huntington township, although it does not name slave owners, includes only a man aged 62 and a woman aged 47 "held as servants." They are here taken to be Patience and her husband, she born about 1760.

Tying Patience Hack to Leonard Hatton is supported by the fact that Hatton's daughter Margaret married Thomas Stephens. He and Phoebe ("Phebbly") Pearson are not counted as slaveholders in this work, their roles considered actually to have been care givers.

Dinah f 1815 INV

Hayes, Patrick Gett; Deb f 1808 W

Herman, John Ber; Diney f 36 1800 SC
Samuel m 1801 SR
Jonas m 1803 SR

Hersh, John Ber; Harry m 1811 SR [The child, and presumably the
child's mother, were purchased from Caleb Beals.]

Hochdale, Hezekiah MP; Thomas m about 60 1814 SC

Horner, Alexander Cum; Peter m 1804, 05 SR
Aaron m 1807 SR
Tom m 1808 SR

Horner, David MJ; Cyrus m 1802 SR

Horner, John MJ; Richard m 75 1814 SC

Horner, Mary MJ; Ivory m 1805, 06 SR
Lill f 50 1814 SC

Horner, William MJ; Abraham m 1808 SR

Houlsworth, Samuel Str; Bob m 1803 SR

Johnston, Ephraim Ham'b; Keat f 1780 W
Ben m 1780 W
Pheab f 1780 W

Johnston, Ephraim Men; Ivory m 1782 W

Johnston, Lewis Gett; Stephen m 1816 SR [For further information, see
List C.]

Kellenberger, John Ham'b; Eliza f 1807 SR

Kerr, George Ham'b; Mash f 1813 W
Penn m 1813 W
Feb f 1813 W
Jim m 1813 W

Kerr, Mary Ham'b; Mash f 1815 W

King, Victor Tyr; Tom m 1774 W

King, William Tyr; Jack m 1792 W
Old Will m 1792 W
Young Will m 1792 W
Dinah f 1792 W

Kitzmiller, George Con; Richard Drover m 43 1814 SC; 1815 W
Winkey Drover f 41 1814 SC; 1815 W
William Drover m 38 1814 SC; 1815 W

Knox, Samuel Ham'b; Fawn f 1803 W

Knox, Samuel Ham'b; William Groce m 1818 W

Lashells, Ralph Gett; Nan f 42 1814 SC

Latta, Thomas Cum; Tom m about 40 1803 D [According to Deed Book
B-300, Latta sold Tom to Abraham Scott,
who then resold him in 1803. But the date
of Latta's sale is not given.]

Lilly, Samuel MP; Stephen m 1800, 01 SR
Fanny f 1803 SR
Rachael f 1807 SR
Henry m 1809 SR
Benjamin m 1811 SR
Mary Ann f 1813 SR
Benn Lilly m about 40 1814 SC
Edward m 1816 SR
Margaret f 1818 SR
Long, Alexander Str; Pheb f 1812 SR
Long, Jeanette Read; Julian/Julianna f 1802 SR; 1824 W
Long, William Str; Lid f 1801 W
Furtune m 1801 W
Rue f 1801 W
McAllister, Richard Heid; Cato m 1795 W
Jack, son of Cato m 1795 W
Jonathan m 1795 W
Poll f 1795 W
Grate m 1795 W
Jack, son of Grate m 1795 W
McClellan, Moses Ham'b; Selee f 1802, 03 SR
Fra; Amy f 1804, 05 SR
McClellan, William Ham'b; Benn m 1786 W
McClellan, William Cum; Charlotte f 1828 W
McConaughy, David Men; Phillis f 1809 W
Abby f 1809 W
McFerrin, Ann Ham'b; Jake m 1803, 04 SR
Nell f 1806 SR
Juley f 1809 SR
Matty f 1811 SR
Mint f 1814 SR
McGimsey, Mary Lib; Venus f 1801 SR
McGimsey, Robert Ham'b; Dinah f 1799 W
James m 1799 W
Pheby f 1799 W
Cuff m 1799 W
McGinley, Sally Ham'b; Letty f 1801, 02, SR
McGrew, William Men; Maria Scott f 1814 W
Grace f 1814 W
McKesson, Alexander Ham'b; Poll f 1799, 1800 SR
Lib; Sidney f 1800, 01 SR [For further
information, see List C.]

Philip m 42 1807 SC
McKesson, James Ham'b; Charles m 1810, 11 SR
Margaret f 1812, 13 SR
McKinley, Benjamin Cum; Tom m about 9 1781 INV
McPherson, Agnes Cum; Nanny f 1802 W
McPherson, Robert Cum; Fill m 1792 W
Gregg m 1792 W
McPherson, William Cum; Nany f 1803 SR
Jack m about 55 1814 SC
Tom m about 55 1814 SC
McSherry, James Ger; William/Bill Wapping m 30 1807 SC;
35 1814 SC
Jean/Jinney Bolton f 32 1807 SC;
35 1814 SC

Maxwell, William Gett; Molly f 1816 W
Mundorff, Jacob Lib; William m 1801, 02 SR
Cesar m 1805 SR
Sally f 1807 SR
Neely, James Read; Lene f 1800 SR
Neely, James Tyr; Venus f 1800 SR
George m 1802, 03 SR
Phillis f 1809 SR
Hannah f 1811 SR
Neely, Jonathan Tyr; Gustavus T. Ivory m 1800, 01 SR
Nelson, William Men; Will m 1790 D [According to York County Deed
Book HH-65, Nelson purchased Will from
James Finley of Maryland. By law, when
brought into Pennsylvania, Will became
free. So, by this release, Nelson
relinquished all claims to Will, who was
known thereafter as William Barnhill.]
Patton, John Hunt; Amos m 1811 SR
Porter, Jeremiah Lib; Sade f 1804 SR
George m 1805 SR
Porter, William Lib; Haney/Heney f 1800 SR; 1803 W
Rose f 1803 W
Reed, Benjamin Ham'b; Harry/Henry Butler m 1826 W
Reid, William Lib; Titte m 55 1807 SC
Rhea, Robert Ham'b; Elce f 1799, 1800 SR
Dinah f 1804 SR
Ruth f 1808 SR
Ritter, John Cum; Mary f 1843 W

Ross, John Fra; Bob m 1801 SR; 1805 W
 Jem m 1803, 04 SR; 1805 W
 Green f 1805 W

Russell, Alexander Gett; Deff f 42 1814 SC [See Speer, Robert.]

Russell, Jane Fra; Ned m 1807 INV
 Sall f 1807 INV
 Bets f 1807 INV

Russell, Joshua Fra; Jean f 1806 INV
 Ned m 1806 INV [See Russell, Jane.]
 Jame m 1806 INV
 Jacob m 1806 INV
 Dinah f 1806 INV
 Sall f 1806 INV [See Russell, Jane.]
 Betz f 1806 INV [See Russell, Jane.]

Russell, Samuel Fra; Betsey f 1806 W [See Russell, Jane and
 Joshua.]
 Jam m 1806 W [See Russell, Joshua.]
 Dinah f 1806 W [See Russell, Joshua.]

Scott, Abraham Lib; Tom m about 40 D [According to Deed Book B-300,
 Scott, who had bought Tom from Thomas
 Latta, sold him to Mark Forney.]

Scott, James Cum; Joe m 1802 SR
 Sophia f 1805 SR

Shakely, George Fra; Ket f 40 1807 SC
 Barbara f 1811 W

Sherman, George Ger; Jem m 1806, 07 SR
 William m 28 1807 SC; 1822 W
 Sam m 1810 SR
 Nancy Swoyer f 1822 W

Sherman, Jacob Ger; William m 45 1814 SC

Slagle, David Ber; William m 23 1800 SC

Slagle, Jacob Ber; Barbara f 1789 W
 Thom m 1789 W

Sloan, Samuel Cum; Lucy f 1832 W
 Benjamin m 1832 W

Speer, Robert Lib; Deff f 35 1807 SC [See Russell, Alexander.]

Stewart, John Lib; Isaac m 1800, 01 SR

Stewart, William Cum; Rachel f 1806 W

Sweeny, Thomas Cum; Sylvina f 1800, 01 SR

U Cum; Abby f 90 1807 SC [See McConaughy, David.]
 Str; Ann f 26 1800 SC
 Str; Barbara f 60 1800 SC

Ham'b-Lib; Beck f 28 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Benn m 22 1800 SC
Read; Bess f 65 1821 SC
Gett; Biggs f 48 1807 SC [See Cobean, Alexander.]
Cum; Brickens m 24 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Charley m 30 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Charley m 22 1800 SC
Lib; Daniel Reid m 37 1814 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Dann m 21 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Darby m 21 1800 SC
MP; Darky f about 35 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Deff f 41 1800 SC
~~Ham'b-Lib; Dick m 45 1800 SC Ham'b; 65 1821 SC~~
MJ; Dick m 50 1800 SC; about 56 1807 SC
Cum; Dina f 21 1800 SC
Lib; Dina f 49 1814 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Dinah f 40 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Dinah f 21 1800 SC
Str; Dinah f 26 1800 SC
Str; Dinah f 50 1814 SC
Cum; Doll f 45 1800 SC Gett; about 50 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Doll f 38 1800 SC Lib; 53 1814 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Doll f 35 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Esther f 22 1800 SC
Str; Febe f 25 1800 SC
Cum; Fill m 38 1800 SC [See McPherson, Robert.]
Str; Forton m 44 1800 SC Read; Fortune 65 1821 SC
[See Long, William.]
Str; Grace f 56 1800 SC
MJ; Isaac m 25 1800 SC; about 29 1807 SC
Cum; Jack m 27 1800 SC
Cum; Jack m 45 1807 SC
Str; Jack m 50 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Jacob m 28 1800 SC
Ham'b; Jane f 70 1821 SC
Fra; Jane Umpstead f 70 1814 SC
Str; Jean f 50 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Jinn f 50 1800 SC
MJ; Judah f 52 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Jude f 28 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Kate f 35 1800 SC
Cum; Kity f 30 1800 SC Gett; Kate 35 1807 SC

Cum; Lemon f 17 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Lette f 20 1800 SC
Str; Lid f 26 1800 SC Read; Lyd 45 1821 SC
[See Long, William.]
MJ; Lilly f 34 1800 SC; about 43 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Mash f 45 1800 SC [See Kerr, George and Mary.]
Cum; Mick m 36 1800 SC; 45 1807 SC
Men; Mills f 20 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Mint f 44 1800 SC
MJ; Nan f about 32 1807 SC
Cum; Nancy f 49 1800 SC
Str; Ned m 40 1814 SC
Tyr; Nel f 44 1814 SC
Str; Nicholas m 45 1800 SC
Str; Peet m 23 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Pegg f 22 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Peter m 40 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Phebe f 24 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Phebe f 22 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Philip m 30 1800 SC
Cum; Phillis f 75 1807 SC [See McConaughy, David.]
MP; Plim m about 30 1807 SC [See Wolford, Barbara.]
Gett; Poll f 45 1807 SC
Str; Poll f 43 1800 SC
Ber; Pomp m 60 1807 SC
Cum; Rachel f 29 1800 SC Gett; 40 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Rachel f 22 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Rose f 22 1800 SC [See Porter, William.]
Str; Rue f 24 1800 SC [See Long, William.]
Cum; Sall f 28 1800 SC
Str; Sam m 60 1800 SC
Str; Sambo m 47 1800 SC
Str; Samuel m 45 1814 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Seth m 31 1800 SC
Cum; Suff f 27 1800 SC
MJ; Susan f about 51 1807 SC
Str; Tab f 70 1800 SC
MP; Thomas m about 57 1807 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Tite m 49 1800 SC [See Reid, William.]
Ber; Tom m 33 1807 SC
Cum; Tom m 25 1800 SC
Cum; Tom m 40 1807 SC

Ham'b-Lib; Tom m 35 1800 SC
Ham'b-Lib; Tom m 30 1800 SC
Men; Tom m 60 1807 SC
Read; Vilate f 40 1821 SC
Ber; Vilet f 32 1807 SC
Cum; Vilet f 36 1800 SC
Waugh, David Lib; Phebe f 1803 SR; 1816 W
Doll/Dolly f 40 1807 SC; 1816 W
Jack m 1809 SR; 1816 W
Waugh, William Ham'b; Jack m 1817 W
John Marshall m 1817 W
Weakley, William Read; Betty/Bess f 1801 SR; 1813 W
Weems, Thomas MJ; Will m 1796 W
Catty f 9 1796 W
White, James Fra; Bill m 1838 W
Wilson, David Ham'b; Eli m 1808, 09 SR
Jude f 1814 SR
Wilson, James Ham'b; Will m 1775 W
Rose f 1775 W
Tom m 1775 W
Jule f 1775 W
Wilson, Jane Ham'b; Benjamin m 1798 W
Sambo m 1798 W
Hack m 1798 W [Is this possibly the husband of
Patience Sibb/Hack? See Hatton, Leonard.]
Dina f 1798
Jack m 1798 W
Wilson, Thomas Str; Peggy f 1813 SR; 1817 W
Witherow, John Ham'b; Dinah f 1774 W
Ben m 1774 W
Witherow, William Ham'b; Dinah f 1781 INV
Wolford, Barbara MP; Plim m 1825 W [By her will, the widow Wolford
freed Plim and bequeathed him \$100, to be
held for him until needed. In 1854 Plim,
known also as Benjamin Craig, petitioned
the court to appoint a trustee to replace
the original holder of his bequest, who was
by then deceased.
Plim's age was given as "about 40" in the
1814 septennial census (see Wolford, Peter
and U: Plim). Federal censuses show Blim
Craig, 36-55, MP, in 1830; Benjamin Plim,

58, Gett, in 1850; Benjamin Craig, 80, Cum,
in 1860. The *Compiler* of November 24, 1869,
reported the death of Benjamin Craig of
Franklin township, reputedly aged 106
years and 9 months.]

Wolford, Peter MP; Plim m about 40 1814 SC [See Wolford, Barbara.]
Worley, Joseph Gett; Harry m 1807, 08 SR
Young, James Ham'b; George m 1797 W
Jack m 1797 W
Hannah f 1797 W

Addenda

The following items were discovered too late to appear in the foregoing lists.

Evidence that slaves were indeed registered prior to 1800 can be seen on a slip of paper, undated but likely in the handwriting of a family member, in the Chamberlain Family file at the Adams County Historical Society. Recorded are the names and registration dates of the slaves of two Chamberlain individuals; one list also shows the slaves' ages. (For comparison, see both Chamberlains, List D.)

James Chamberlain Read; George October 17, 1780

Joe March 30, 1789

Bett March 30, 1789

Bell March 30, 1789

George March 30, 1789

Nell January 28, 1791

Sall November 27, 1792

Seb December 8, 1795

Ben November 24, 1796

John Chamberlain, Esq. Read; Jean 4 October 17, 1780

Teen 25 October 17, 1780

In separate transactions, both on April 9, 1817, recorded in Deed Book H, pp. 113 and 114, James McSherry, Esq., of Germany township emancipated slaves Jean Bolton, aged about 38 years, and William Exaverias, also aged about 38 years and game in one leg. (See McSherry, James, List D.)

On January 23, 1866, the *Sentinel* reported the death on that January 15 of Hetty, aged 86 years and 3 months, "a relict of Pennsylvania slavery," at the residence of J.R. Henry, Abbottstown.

In the 1850 census for Berwick Town (Abbottstown) appear Joseph R. Henry, 60, druggist; Samuel, 22; Mary, 59; Charlotte, 40; and Hett, 70. Hett is designated as black, but not as a slave. The 1860 census for Abbottstown has not survived. Nevertheless, Hetty's given age in the two instances shown do agree with her birth having occurred just before the 1780 abolition act.

Henry is never listed as a slaveholder.

As can be seen in Deed Book H, p. 217, on January 6, 1818, Samuel Sloan of Adams county manumitted "my Negro Servant names Charles." Sloan was long-time deputy surveyor for Adams county, appointed for terms beginning in 1800, 1815, 1818, 1824, and 1827; he lived in Franklin and Cumberland townships. (See Sloan, Samuel, Lists A and D.)

According to the *Sentinel* of September 2, 1903, Miss Maria Cowen, aged 94 years, died the previous Friday [August 28]. Known as Aunt Maria, in earlier times she had been a slave.

Censuses of 1850 and 1880 agree with her obituary that she was born about 1809. The latter census also leaves blank the spaces for recording the birthplaces of her parents, perhaps a clue that her mother at least was indeed a slave.

No Maria born in 1808 or 1809 appears in the Adams County Slave Register, so it is likely that she was born in another Pennsylvania county. Nevertheless, by 1837 at the latest, she would have attained freedom.

Among the possessions of the Adams County Historical Society is the 1831 manumission of a slave named Clem Johnson by Francis Scott Key, composer of our national anthem, who at the time was an attorney in Washington, D.C. Apparently unable under District law to free Johnson there, Key brought him to Gettysburg precisely for that purpose. What became of Clem Johnson thereafter is not known.

On file at the Adams County Historical Society is a copy of a 1790 bill of sale of "Nagro wench" Nance and her daughter Heneretta by Patrick McSherry to Thomas Laurimore (Larimer). McSherry laid out the town named for him, although by the time of this transaction he lived in Germany

township; Larimer lived in Mt. Joy township.

Copies of the estate documents of James Ewing of Franklin township, who died in 1786, are held at the Adams County Historical Society. They show that by his will, signed on that March 12, Ewing ordered much of his personal property to be sold. An inventory of his property, dated April 18, 1786, included "one Negro Man" and "one Negro Woman," together valued at £137-10-0. The final account of the estate, submitted August 30, 1799, reveals that the executors had to allow £145-10-0 from the estate to the buyers of "a Negro Man & Woman Sold at Vendue & who were not Registered according to law & in Consequence were set free." That was in strict accordance with a stipulation of the 1780 gradual abolition act.