

SUMMARY of BOOK FOUR,

MANSION IN THE WILDERNESS- Historic Architecture of Adams County, Pennsylvania.

This work is the fourth in a series of FIVE works that are to become a permanent record of HGAC's efforts at preserving historic structures. Hopefully, others will be inspired to explore their history and its remaining built environment. The book begins with a patriotic, hopeful and ambitious American scene that is personified by leaving the iconic "Lady Liberty" behind as the national symbol and adopting the "**American Eagle.**"

The front cover of this publication features the dignified and imposing front door and surround of Middlekauff Manor. Its appearance is at once "plain," yet speaks of the wealth and station of a yeoman farmer who has reached the epitome of success at the dawn of the 1800's when Adams County was in its infancy.

This publication contains photographs of buildings that received the prestigious Preservation awards from HGAC. The awardee dwellings are located in Arendtsville, Aspers, Bendersville, Biglerville, Cashtown and Littlestown. Several Honorable Mentions have been included in this work, because of the history or architectural merits of the structure. While we cannot include every dwelling and structure in this publication, the author has taken license to include Honorable Mentions. The work is aimed at a regional audience that will purchase this work. This "**Heritage Series,**" will be a valuable resource for the casual reader and serious historian, since it makes a nice coffee table item and yet contains a generous amount of foot notes to scholarly articles. This series will become a collector's item and serve HGAC well into its future as its "flagship publication." The Planning Commission of Adams County has already requested and received copies of our important publications for their library.

BOOK FOUR is the capstone publication for HGAC. The work features for the first time the works of an obscure early nineteenth century water colorist from Union Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania named Johannes Bart/Bard (1797-1861). Some of his works reside at the prestigious WINTERTHUR MUSEM in Centerville, Delaware. The other work was displayed within a publication by the late, Dr. Fred Weiser. However, our HGAC publication features all the known works of this important artist which our county can now celebrate. York County has its Lewis Miller and we have Johannes Bart. Book Four of this work, contains photographs of the artists home and some of the churches that relate to his artistic subject matter.

Our publication reveals to the public the most significant Federal period dwelling house in Adams County, **Middlekauff Manor (c. 1810)**, that rivals President James Buchanan's home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania called Wheatland. Middlekauff Manor, has been lovingly restored by Suzanne Youngblood and the many photographs cannot duplicate the serenity of this ethereal site. It literally was and is a "Mansion in the Wilderness." To visit this site and experience the vast expanses of farm land in every direction is to step back in time. Interestingly, Middlekauff Manor has links to the Buchanan/Buchanan family. The dwelling house and out buildings speak of the apogee of success of a gentlemen farmer and businessman in the early nineteenth century. The Mansion in the Wilderness intimates rank, station and largesse of a yeoman farmer in the earliest period of the greatest growth and identity of Adams counties elite.

Another section of this work showcases three (3) outstanding **master stone masons** who constructed some of the most imposing buildings in Adams County. The most striking photograph of the date stone that is placed on the Mill in Huntington Township forms the back cover of this work. Its significance is that C. E. Crowel carved an American Eagle within this date stone at the **George Smith Mill, c 1805.**

The Roman Catholic **Conewago Chapel c. 1785** is featured in this work disclosing its history and connections to the Calvert, Carroll and Delaney families. Maryland proprietors began issuing warrants well into modern day Adams and York counties beginning in 1719. The date of 1719 is the same date that the first stone dwelling house was constructed by Hans Herr, a Mennonite minister in modern day Lancaster County [then Chester]. This time period [1719] is ten years before Lancaster County was formed. It would not be until 1726 that three Quakers, Wright,

Barber and Blunston, would arrive at modern day Columbia [Shawana Town]. The Walking Purchase of 1736 was ten years distant before the Penn's and Governor Keith concluded the acquisition of Indian lands west of the Susquehanna River.

Finally, our southern neighbor, Maryland, was chartered by English King Charles I in 1632. In this publication, this author has identified and tied the strands of Maryland's history to Pennsylvania and connected them to the earliest periods before the Penn proprietorship issued warrants for lands west of the Susquehanna River.

BOOK FIVE, will be the last in the series and its title is, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT & GLOSSARY.

James Fritz



GEORGE SMITH
MASON BUILT
THIS HOUSE
FOR GEORGE
SMITH IN THE
YEAR 1805



