

In July, 1824, within a year of his third marriage, Caroline Day was born. Over the next twelve years the third family would total seven children, of whom five would survive to adulthood. When his youngest son Franklin was born in 1836, James Day was 74, and his oldest son Aquila was 51.

These years were spent on a farm once known as the 'Parson Day Farm' and most recently as the Edward Burdette farm, located to the north of Bethesda Church Road, directly opposite the intersection with Purdum Road. When the land was advertised for sale at auction on October 26, 1867, after Sarah's death, it was described as a farm "under good enclosures...well wooded and watered, and improved by a comfortable Log Dwelling, a barn, two tobacco houses, and all other necessary out-buildings." The subsequent deed<sup>58</sup> described it as "153 acres, part of Solomon's Roguery, part of Flagpatch, and part of Resolution."

The Inventory<sup>59</sup> of James Day's property, made after his death in 1842, provides some glimpses of the objects with which the Parson Day farm was furnished. There were six beds and 'furniture.' For dining, there were a table, a half dozen yellow chairs, half dozen plates, half dozen tea spoons, and a half dozen knives and forks. There was a red corner cupboard and a blue chest.

The kitchen contained a bake oven, iron pots and pot hooks, scillet, tea kettle, and a pair of hand irons. Somewhere were to be found 17 earthen pots and 5 stone jars, along with four jugs and a churn. There was a kitchen table, bread tray, tin pan, rolen pin, iron stew pot, and 'kitchen cupboard and contents.'

Much of the clothing was undoubtedly home made, for included in the inventory was a spinning wheel and box, 2 yards of cloth, 3 straw baskets, 3 yards of fulled linsey, and a lot of yarn. Listed on the same line with the two yards of cloth is a candle stand and cradle: there emerges an inescapable picture of spinning and sewing continuing beyond the light of day, with an infant asleep nearby.

Though no record has been discovered of any formal schooling of James Day, he was no stranger to the written word. There is a desk and contents; one lot of books, and a looking glass.

chain, two stretchers, one slyde and barrow, three forks, two plows, a gig and harness, a wheat fan. Produce of the farm included rye and wheat.

Animals completed the scene. In addition to the horse, there were six cows, eight head of sheep, six large shoats and eight small, and a dozen fowls.

Even so, church, farm and family did not exhaust the purposes to which James Day addressed his time. He was a Justice of the Peace and his name appears in that capacity several times, one instance being in 1823.<sup>60</sup> In 1825 he was one of ten "appointed school commissioners to apply and distribute school funds for poor children."<sup>61</sup>

In 1835 he sold land to John Boyer, his son-in-law;<sup>62</sup> a year later he sold land to Luther M. Browning, husband of his son Luther's widow Harriet.<sup>63</sup> That same year he also drew up his will.<sup>64</sup>

### The Family Graveyard

Franklin, the youngest, was to live with his father only six years, for on February 19, 1842, at the age of 79, James Day died.<sup>65</sup>

He was buried in a family graveyard on his farm, and 81 years later in 1923 the grave was still visible from the road. At that time the headstone was located flat on the ground. "It was a flat field stone which mother said had been chiseled out by his youngest son Franklin, some years after his interment."<sup>66</sup> Later, a stone was erected in his memory at the Providence Church in Kemptown, where he had held his membership from the Church's inception until his own death,<sup>67</sup> in the plot of his son Jackson.

The deed, recorded in 1870, by which the land passed out of the family declares the property sold, "except the family graveyard thereon and a right of way."<sup>68</sup> Subsequent deeds failed to carry this exclusion and sometime around 1960 the graveyard was ploughed over. Dorsey W. Day (C45) had put a fence around the cemetery and taken care of it, but after his death it had grown up with bushes and briars. In 1975 the tombstones of John Boyer (mB1) and his daughter Sarah (B12) lay at the edge of a cornfield along a fence, amid the broken fragments of other stones.

The Biblical Book of Psalms, with which James Day must have been familiar, suggests (53:5) that it is the bones of the ungodly which will be scattered as a punishment for their evil. It appears a sad irony of time and circumstance that such a fate may await the remains of James Day.